

CutBank

Volume 1
Issue 46 *CutBank* 46

Article 27

Summer 1996

Gas City

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Recommended Citation

Martone, Michael (1996) "Gas City," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 46 , Article 27.

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GAS CITY

Here in the last century, extensive deposits of iodine ore were discovered near an unnamed, sleepy crossroads village. The discovery started the Tincture Boom of 1869 and led to the naming of the resulting metropolis of wooden shacks and Civil War surplus canvas tents known as Gas City. The name was inspired by the many violet plumes of pure iodine gas which continually hung over the town. The gas, a by-product of the smelting process which utilizes the sublime property of iodine to metamorphose from a solid to a gas when heated, was often so thick as to force the lighting of the halogen lamps at noon. The resulting purple atmosphere was said to have medicinal properties and toward the turn of the century, its iodine mines played out, the city enjoyed a brief revival as a spa, catering to visiting wealthy elites who would take the airs. The grand hotels of this era and the palatial mansions of the iodine barons, many now renovated as bed and breakfasts, line Antiseptic Avenue. Each summer, using the traditional methods, Gas citizens still cut dry ice from the Dioxide river, loading the steaming blocks in box cars for shipment to ice cream vendors of major cities.