LeCain Response

Answer the following questions with evidence from Timothy LeCain, *Mass Destruction: The Men and Giant Mines That Wired America and Scarred the Planet* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2009), 24-63.

All responses must be typed and submitted on Blackboard on the date listed in the course calendar.

Respond in a thorough, detailed manner. Provide page numbers for all responses in the form of a parenthetical citation (11, 13-15).

1. LeCain describes copper as the "metal of modernity." What made Americans around the turn of the century place such hopes on copper? What advantages would a nation in which copper was widely used have, in their opinion

Edison invented bulb, and bulbs need electricity. To supply electricity, the industry needed more copper (25-27). Demand of copper increased while the technology was advancing (28). People thought use of electricity will reduce the pollution (29).

2. What environmental challenges did Butte pose for miners? How did mining engineers create new kinds of environments in Butte? How do the environmental changes they created compare to the other kinds of environmental changes that we have looked at in this unit?

It was dark inside the mine, there was lack of oxygen as the miners go deeper. Engineers figured the structure of mine and mapped it, and they used pump for fresh air (38-44).

This shows how advance of technology can contribute the change of destruction. Before, destruction was about near the surface of earth. However, the destruction got into deeper now, so pollution is less visible. However, there still is pollution such as air pollution.

Miners could survive more, but they were demanded to go deeper, so work became harder and safer.

3. How did mining engineers view their work? What role did gender play in the creation of their identity as engineers? How did Butte's organization of labor compare with the other examples we have examined in this unit?

Mining engineers had passion, but they were also skeptical. As mining is a hard task, mining engineers had to live tough life. Tough life made them masculine, and it eventually made the stereotype that engineering is men’s job (54-59). Before, mining was dependent on slave labor or exploitation of miners. The miner became a regular job now. Miners have their union, and they are moved by their economical decisions.