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# THE WRITERS' PROGRAM



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THE WRITERS PROGRAM

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Work Projects Administration

WHAT IS THE WRITERS'  
PROGRAM?

The Colorado Writers' Program operates as a unit of the Community Service Division of the Work Projects Administration. The Federal Government furnishes the wages, which constitute the major part of project expenses. Other costs of operation are met by local, county, and state agencies, as well as tax-supported groups and non-profit organizations. The official program sponsor is Governor Ralph L. Carr; co-sponsors include the Colorado State Planning Commission, the Denver Public Schools, the Secretary of State and the State Historical Society of Colorado.

## SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

The chief task of the Colorado Writers' Program, heretofore, has been to write the state guide book, Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State, which as one of the American Guide Series was published in January 1941. The by-products of this activity have been numerous and diversified. Short guides to points of interest have been prepared, together with studies of ethnology, folklore, history, and other subjects of social and cultural value. From research done in the preparation of these works, the Colorado project has been able to widen its range of activities to include preparation of text material for use in the schools, and to act as consultant with writers, students, and research workers. Contemporary material has been made available to the general public, through publications and use of the extensive project files.

P U B L I C A T I O N   O F   W O R K S

Publications of the Writers' Program must meet recognized professional standards. They are produced by arrangement between sponsors and established publishers. All profits from the sale of publications are returned to the Work Projects Administration.

For other information write or call:

HARRY SIMONSON, STATE SUPERVISOR  
COLORADO WRITERS' PROGRAM  
ROOM 320 STATE MUSEUM TAVOR 5042  
DENVER, COLORADO

Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State

(Hastings House, N. Y., \$2.50), on sale at all book stores throughout the State. Mile by mile, this guide covers every major and branch highway, with descriptions of towns and villages, historic shrines, landmarks, national monuments and parks, recreation areas, contemporary and historical points of interest. Separate chapters present the major cities and the varied background of Colorado -- its history, archaeology, industrial development, labor movements, geology, climate, newspapers, architecture, literature, and arts. A calendar of annual events, a selective bibliography, and comprehensive index facilitate the use of the book. The 114 carefully selected gravure illustrations give a composite picture of the State and its people; eight maps of the state show where to go and how to get there. Sponsored by the Colorado State Planning Commission.

Colorado, American Recreation Series

(Bacon and Wieck, Inc., Northport, Long Island,  
N. Y., \$.15)

This is a paper-bound booklet and is now on sale at book stores -- together with the booklets of all other 48 states; these may also be obtained directly from the publisher. Interesting facts, general tourist information, a calendar of annual events, and general descriptions of sports and recreation areas are in this condensed guide book to the "highest" state. The 40-page booklet is crammed with information planned to guide and help the tourist or the sports enthusiast. In concentrated form is given the location and description of ski-runs, skating rinks, swimming beaches, golf courses, picnic grounds and good fishing streams; costs of admission -- where such are made -- are also noted. The American Recreation Series is sponsored nationally by the Virginia Conservation Commission.

Life in Denver Series (mimeographed by the Denver Public Schools for use in Denver's ten junior high schools). The series, consisting of eleven units of study in story form, cover the following subjects:--

- I. A Short History of Denver: a concise 83-page historical record of Denver from the first explorations in Territorial days to the present time; complete with detailed bibliography and outline for study.
- II. Government in Denver and Colorado: a 59-page review of how government functions describing municipal, State, and Federal activities in the Denver area; with bibliography and outline.
- III. Welfare and Social Service in Denver: deals with welfare and social problems in our community. Trends in public and private welfare, health work, and hos-

pitalization are traced in this unit. With 57 pages, bibliography, and outline.

IV. Public Utilities in Denver: traces the development of Denver's water system, gas and electric service, tramway, telephone, and telegraph facilities; with descriptions of modern plants and their plans of operation. With 60 pages, bibliography, and outline.

V. Industry and Commerce

VI. Religion and Religious Activities

VII. Theater, Music, Literature, and the Arts

VIII. City Planning and Housing

IX. The Youth

X. Education

XI. Its People

Units I through IV are in use; the remaining seven units are being prepared by program writers and research workers. The first two units are in process of revision and will be published in permanent form during 1942.

Place Names in Colorado, published bi-monthly in the Colorado Magazine (official publication of the State Historical Society of Colorado. Single copies, \$ .50).

This is an alphabetical classification of all past and present Colorado towns about which authoritative information has been unearthed. Considerable research in old newspapers, old histories and pamphlets, together with interviews from local residents have gone into the stories; they give general information about the source of the town's name, location of the town and its population, as well as facts concerning growth, historical and economic background, and any unique feature of importance or interest.

Ghost Towns of Colorado, a highly colored, nontechnical history of the mining region. The rise and decline of the three great mining periods of the state are traced by the interwoven individual histories of the ancient camps still dotting the mountain country; some are but partly deserted and await only a new strike to awaken to life, but most of them have fallen into such complete ruin that their very sites are matters of speculation. The stories of these camps, and the sometimes tragic, often comic, doings of the bizarre personalities who flourished in them, are told in fast-moving narrative style. The volume will be illustrated with old prints and photographs, pictures of the contemporary scene, and maps. At the publishers.

Vocational or Career Bulletins (mimeographed by the Denver Public Schools for use in Denver junior high schools.

These monographs cover a wide range of job possibilities -- from employment as cowboys to highly specialized jobs in aviation, National occupational trends, wage scales, and fluctuations in fields of employment are indicated. The studies are designed to give an accurate picture of training centers in and near Denver. Information used in the publications was secured from people of recognized standing in the profession rather than from books, so that students could benefit from the experiences of trained, successful workers. Out of print.

Eugene Field in Denver, a brief biography of the irrepressible writer-poet-humorist during his two years in Denver as managing editor of the old Denver Tribune (1881-1883), recounting some of his better-known pranks, showing his writing style, and giving a thumb-nail sketch of the man and his activities. Mimeographed for experimental use in Denver Junior High Schools.

City Tours of various points of interest, such as City Park, Cheesman Park, and the State Capitol, have been prepared for use in Denver Public Schools, travel bureaus, and other non-profit groups. Plans for writing a tour of the Denver Mountain Parks and a guide to the City and County of Denver are being considered.

Colorado Oddities, a series of curious facts about the State, its people, towns, phy-

sical background, and history. For distribution as "filler" items in Colorado newspapers.

Colorado, A Profile in Pictures (Fleming Publishing Co. N. Y.), tells by interdependent text and pictures the story of life in the "highest" state. Because of difficulty of coverage in such a brief volume, only the outstanding features will be presented. A 300-word preface outlines the plan of the book. Carefully selected gravure illustrations portray Colorado industries, racial groups, scenic and recreational areas for the tourist, student, or armchair traveler. In preparation.

Jargon of the Cow Country, a compilation of cowboy terms and expressions that are the outgrowth of the cattle industry in the western United States. The terms are of Spanish, French, and cowboy origin. Phonetic pronun-

ciations are given for non-English words; and anglicized pronunciations are differentiated from native forms. In cases where the word serves as either noun or verb, definitions for both uses are given. This type of dictionary is valuable to writers, students of Western lore, and the lay person who wishes to add "tang" to his own speech. To be published in the near future.

Encyclopedia of Place Names, an alphabetical arrangement of the 45,000 place names in Colorado; locations are given by range and township to facilitate finding any point on a State map in a few minutes time. Towns, villages, hamlets, mining camps, colonies, and settlements are listed, with their locations and physical descriptions. Creeks, streams, rivers with their tributaries, gulches and draws, mountains, ranges, hills, promontories, passes, trails, lakes, and

reservoirs are included. Under a miscellaneous heading are locations and descriptions of historic markers, railroads, toll roads, named rocks, counties, parks, tunnels, valleys, falls, basins, and mines. As reference material, it is of great value to Chambers of Commerce, travel agencies, engineers, research workers, map makers, surveyors, and governmental agencies.

1,000 Colorado Towns, gives a thorough and comprehensive coverage of the State and 1,000 of its towns. An average write-up of 500 words is given each place listed; more than five million words have been compiled in this work. The information on each includes altitude, population, location (railway and highway), and climate. The general historical development -- founding and incorporation, government, transportation facilities, important annual events, industries, and cultural background of the com-

munity -- is included.

Colorado Rivers, a detailed description of Colorado's 115 rivers and their forks. Written in a narrative style, the work gives the history of each stream, how it was named, and its use to the State as a source of water supply or water power. A physical description of the river, its source and mouth with altitudes, tributaries, important towns along the course, its possible use to the community, and historic or scenic points of interest, are featured.

The United States of America: A Pictorial Guide to a Democracy (Fleming Publishing Co., N. Y.), originally planned as a book of general interest for an Americanization program. The book is developed upon a regional plan, selected State offices having charge of collecting and organizing materials and pictures from states in their section of the country. It will tell by

word and photograph, the story of each of the 48 states -- its past and present, industry, natural wealth, and its way of life. Plans for publishing the volume in English, Spanish, and Portuguese are being worked out by officials of the National Writers' Program and representatives of the Division for Furthering Commercial and Cultural relations between the American Republics, an important unit of the National Defense Council.

United States Travel Atlas, is a collection of 48 maps representing each of the 48 states. The condensed listing of points of interest, keyed to a highway map of each state, serves to make this volume a complete travel atlas of the United States. Each state project has prepared the map and points of interest for its own state. It is sponsored by the U. S. Travel Bureau of the

National Park Service, this is a national undertaking of the Writers' Program. To be published for 1941 summer sale.

Skiing in the West, a companion work to Skiing in the East, is being prepared by the Oregon Writers' Program. Descriptions of skiing possibilities in Colorado, telling the location of ski courses, accommodations, and events such as ski tournaments, exhibitions, etc., were compiled by workers on the Colorado Project. Probable price \$2.00; to be released in 1941.

History of Grazing (a tentative title), undertaken at the suggestion and with the cooperation of the Grazing Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. The Writers' Program of the seventeen westernmost states are compiling material for exciting story of the range and livestock industry. Material will be gathered from 17 States; from North Dakota to Texas on the east, and from

Washington to California on the west. While the history and problems will vary throughout such a great territory, a general pattern will be discernible in all States where the range has been a vital influence in the economic development of that State. The objectives of this history are to provide accurate, significant, and comprehensive data on the western range country; and to present the facts in graphic and readable form. Such work will be informative, colorful, and dramatic, and will serve to acquaint an ever-increasing number of people with the problems of the range and livestock industry, its history, forceful personalities, songs, and stories. Approximately 600 pages. Probable price \$2.50. To be published in 1941.

History of the Colorado Press Association.

A history of the association itself, containing many interesting facts and stories of newspapers and newsmen since Territorial days. Primarily, this volume will be of interest to newspapermen; however, it will have a strong appeal to laymen because of its colorful background. Sponsored and to be published by the Colorado Press Association.

Labor History of Colorado, a comprehensive story of labor in the United States and Colorado. Trends in industry, labor relations, and legislation are traced in this 25,000 word narrative. In manuscript.

Colorado Folklore, a collection of Indian, Spanish, and other legends, compiled from interviews and research by writers on the program. Future plans provide for publication of this material in pamphlet form under the heading of:

Spanish-American Folklore

Indian Stories

Stories of Racial Groups

Colorado Indians, a study of Colorado tribes since historic times, their customs, physical characteristics, culture groups and history. To be illustrated with pen drawings of representative tribal types.

State Factbook, one of the national series of factbooks and a future publication of each State Writers' Program. Compiled in response to a demand for a comprehensive, inexpensive factbook that is capable of frequent revision. It will include historical chronology, state constitution and state documents, summary of services and activities of federal agencies, functions of state departments of government, incorporated communities, biographies of all governors and U. S. senators, highly condensed summaries of social, economic, and public health trends, lists of museums and other centers of cultural activity, addresses of state-wide organizations with basic information about each, outstanding sports events, lists of places that have provided locale for novels and motion pictures, and lists of motion picture and stage stars born in the state.

A History of Denver's Theaters (a tentative title) from the days of '59 to the present time. The story tells of popular players who entertained Denver audiences, of the rise of successful stars from the honkytonks of our city, and trends in entertainment on the legitimate stage. This is the first detailed study made of the subject; all the research has been done from newspaper files from 1859 to 1941.

A History of Metal Mining in Colorado is the story of Colorado and its mining activities since the days of Green Russell, Gregory, and Jackson in 1859 to the present time. The discovery of gold, the development of other mineral deposits, the ups-and-downs of mining, and the growth of industries as a result of mining activities, are told. Of particular interest are those chapters devoted to the story of

mining in the Cripple Creek, Leadville, Central City, and mountain parks areas. Anecdotes of the discovery of many of the claims, descriptions of the colorful personalities who made mining history, along with comparative statistical information, contribute to the interest of this history. Sponsored by the Colorado Metal Mining Association. In preparation.

W. H. Jackson Photo Album, now being compiled. Rare, early day photographs by William H. Jackson, official photographer for the Hayden Surveys in the '60s, '70s, and '80s, provide the basis for this book. For the pictures pertaining to Colorado, text is being prepared by the Colorado Writers' Program.

United States National Parks, a popular volume on our national parks. The Colorado project will prepare the sections on Rocky Mountain and Mesa Verde National Parks, the 14 national

forests, and the 6 national monuments in the State. In preparation.

Social-Ethnic Studies of Globeville, Pueblo, and Northern Colorado, resulting from surveys of racial groups in these districts. Waves of immigration, settlements, customs, folklore, and integration of the various racial groups in the community are traced in these studies. To be published in pamphlet form under the titles of:

- I. The Poles, Slovenians, and German-Russians of Globeville
- II. The German-Russians of Northern Colorado
- III. Pueblo, A Melting Pot of Nationalities

## PUBLIC SERVICES AVAILABLE

Editorial Assistance, given to nonprofit groups or individuals desiring editorial help or suggestions. The office files, containing alphabetically arranged documented information, are open for public use. Trained workers give advice as to source material and research possibilities.

Radio Scripts, prepared by project writers, give factual history in fictional form. The themes of the 12 scripts cover a wide range of subjects from the days of the Gold Rush to the story of Colorado's government. We are prepared to produce scripts, scenarios, and continuities on the development of communities and the State as illustrative of the American way of life, as well as on a variety of other subjects.

By the end of May 1941 all but one of the 51 volumes of The American Guide Series, produced by the WPA Writers' Program over a period of the last five years, will be off the presses. They constitute, on the evidence of many competent critics, the most comprehensive series of tour books and compendiums of historical and cultural Americana ever assembled.

The total product of the WPA Writers' Program since its inception in 1935 runs to more than 800 titles and some three and one-half million published copies; included are approximately a half million copies of state and regional guides in The American Guide Series, a similar number in the Life in America Series, and more than two and one-half million other booklets, pamphlets, and leaflets distributed free by various local sponsors of writers' projects.

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