

# **COLORADO—**

## **Rocky Mountain Empire**



**Colorado is moving along  
at a good clip in setting  
up a well balanced economy**

**By RALPH W. ATER**

## THE COVER

The Denver City and County Building, seen here through an arch of the state capitol across the civic center, is the work of 35 Allied Architects of Denver, and is one of the finest public buildings in the West. It houses besides offices the Denver Art Museum, and the slender clock tower holds the Mayor Robert Speer Memorial Chimes. The Union Soldiers' Monument in the foreground is the work of Civil War Captain John D. Howland. Denver, northern terminus of Santa Fe's Colorado lines, has many beautiful parks and public buildings, and has so many Federal offices that it is known as the Western Capital of the United States.



Pike's Peak, seen here from the entrance to the Garden of the Gods near Colorado Springs, is the most noted Colorado mountain although there are 27 higher peaks in the state. On very clear days it can be discerned from the Santa Fe lines at Las Animas. A cog railway and an automobile road lead to a summit house from which the plains and surrounding mountains can be viewed in unsurpassed beauty.

**A**LTHOUGH Colorado has one of the most distinctive geological and archeological records of any of the United States, it has much of the feeling of a new land, unspoiled and fresh.

As a state, Colorado is young—the thirty-eighth state—but human life in the area is traced back to antiquity. Back when the great ice sheets were melting and receding to the north, those little-known hunters, the Folsom and the Yuma man, fashioned ingenious arrow heads on the Colorado plains to hunt the animals of their day.

Ages after these prehistoric hunters had vanished, the Basket-Maker and Cliff Dweller came to Southwestern Colorado and built their remarkable homes on the mesa tops and in the great caves in the cliffs.

The Spaniards occupied the area for awhile and are responsible for the state's name, which is Spanish meaning "red" or "ruddy" and which they applied to the waters of the Colorado River.

The first white men found the Ute Indians holding the mountains when they arrived. Most of the Indians vanished along with their food supply, the great herds of buffalo that were slaughtered ruthlessly for their hides. Today only a few more than a thousand abide on two Ute reservations in Southwestern Colorado.

Prior to the gold discoveries there was little white settlement in the Rocky Mountain region. With the discovery of gold on Cherry Creek and the South Platte River in 1858, began the

largest migration in American history, reaching its apex in 1859 when gold was discovered in the vicinity of Pike's Peak.

An estimated hundred thousand goldseekers set out for Colorado in '59 yelling "Pike's Peak or Bust" and while many returned home disil-



Colorado's statehouse is, like the national capitol, inspired by the architecture of ancient Rome. The top of the dome is covered with pure leaf gold. The interior is magnificent in its simplicity and all material used in the building is native.

lusioned and "busted" many of them stayed, settled the territory, and mining for many years was the basis of the state's economy.

The territory of Colorado was organized in 1861. Admitted to the Union in 1876, the 100th anniversary of American Independence and the year Alexander Graham Bell produced his first practical telephone, Colorado became known as the Centennial State.

What is Colorado like? To many it is synonymous with the mountain country which Dr. LeRoy R. Hafen, state historian, describes as "high rugged mountains, gem-like lakes in conifer settings, glacier-fed streams tumbling down rocky canyons, endless stretches of piled-up hills bright with aspens or dark with evergreens. . . ."

Colorado, trapezoidal in shape, was carved by surveyors without regard for natural boundaries from the four then-existing territories of Kansas, Nebraska, Utah and New Mexico. It is about the same size as New York, Ohio, Connecticut and New Hampshire combined—the seventh largest state in the Union—and has a land area of 103,658 square miles and a water area of about 290 square miles. Louis Agassiz, famous Swiss naturalist called it America's Switzerland, although it is seven times larger than Switzerland and has about six times the mountain area. The majority of peaks in America taller than 14,000 feet are found in the Colorado Rockies, and there are 1,500 peaks over 10,000 feet. The state's lowest point is at Holly, a Santa Fe community near the Kansas

line, altitude 3,385 feet, and the mean altitude of the state is 6,800 feet.

Colorado is not all jagged mountain peaks, however. The Continental Divide splits the state roughly in half. The eastern half is comprised of rolling plains rising gradually in elevation towards the mountains and devoted to agriculture, stock raising and horticulture. The western half is mountainous with deep basins, wide valleys and high plateaus cut by deep valleys and canyons and great river gorges, with a high, dry climate except in the valleys where fruit raising flourishes. Western mesas are heavily timbered, wild country, little changed since the 1880's.

Cleaving the state are the majestic mountains, and nestling high in them is a chain of four "parks" or basins behind the front ranges of snow-capped peaks. These are great level expanses, or mountain meadows, devoted to farming and ranching. Headwaters for two-thirds of all the water supply in the United States are in these mountains, with streams flowing in all directions. Ice in Colorado's four living glaciers—Arapahoe, St. Vrain, Isabelle and Fair—was formed before Columbus discovered America.

The average annual rainfall is 17 inches. The temperature covers a wide range, with practically no spring season, winter giving 'way abruptly to summer. Clear skies and abundant sunshine predominate.

Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune*, for whom Greeley, Colo., was named, made a



The waters of South Cheyenne Creek, near Colorado Springs, fall over the ledges of a narrow gorge in cascades known as Seven Falls. A staircase of 295 steps leads to the top for the convenience of tourists. This is one of the state's natural wonders.



The Santa Fe General Office Building at LaJunta, Colo., situated at the corner of 4th and Santa Fe Ave. LaJunta (The Junction) marks the point where the railroad building east from Pueblo, Colo., met the crews building west from Granada, Colo., in 1876.



Typical of the mining camps in Colorado is Telluride, once a roaring town of 5,000 and one of the liveliest of the state's gold camps. By 1909 this district had produced more than \$60 million in precious metals. The town now profits from a few gold mines still operating and from summer tourists as well as trade with nearby farms and ranches.

visit to the state in the early days and popularized with his enthusiasm the slogan: "Go West, young man; go West, and grow up with the country!"

Rails were heeding this trend, and as the first transcontinental railroad snaked westward, the citizens of Colorado sponsored a costly survey to persuade the builders to go through Denver, but the mountains were a barrier and it went through Cheyenne, Wyo., instead. Other lines, however, reached into Colorado, with the Santa Fe crossing the Kansas line in 1873.

For two years, due to financial difficulties, the Santa Fe terminus was Granada, but with the aid of bonds voted by Bent and Pueblo counties, the road built into La Junta (the junction) in December, 1875, one year before statehood.

Pueblo, where the Santa Fe was known as the "banana line" because of its yellow cars, was reached in March, 1876, and the existing communities of Las Animas and Rocky Ford in that year moved to sites beside the rails. With the rails came new towns, and the railroads organized colonizing groups.

The discovery of silver-bearing ore at the head of the Arkansas River near Leadville, where hayfever is unknown at the 10,140 foot altitude, started a race between the Denver & Rio Grande railroad and the Santa Fe to build

through the Royal Gorge to tap the rich silver traffic. Actual battles were waged by construction gangs, with no loss of life, fortunately, but the fight legally was decided in favor of the D.&R.G. The Santa Fe stopped at Canon City, near the entrance to the Gorge, and a branch down to Kenwood was added in 1888.

Other skirmishes with the D.&R.G. took place over the route through Raton Pass into New Mexico, which resulted in Santa Fe's securing the route by right of prior construction.

In 1887 the Santa Fe built from Pueblo to Denver. In 1890 it bought the Colorado Midland which it operated until 1896 westward from Colorado Springs, through Leadville and Aspen to Rifle Creek and Grand Junction, connecting with the Rio Grande Western.

In 1908 a line from Holly to Swink on the north side of the Arkansas River was completed, and in 1927 a branch from Satanta, Kan., was extended to Pritchett, in the southeastern corner of Colorado. Crossing this line at Springfield, a branch from Las Animas south through Boise City, Okla., to Amarillo, Tex., was completed in 1937, giving Denver a direct freight line to the Gulf of Mexico. This completed Santa Fe construction within the state.

The 1940 census chalked up 1,123,296 inhabitants. Approximately a fourth of the state's

The Santa Fe Railway provided much more than transportation and freight service in the early days of La Junta. Whether the residents needed a church or even a funeral cortege, the railroad always provided.

Until there was a church in town the railroad set on a siding each Sunday a coach that was used as a chapel by a visiting clergyman.

Two-thirds of Colorado's population live within a belt 40 miles wide, extending at the eastern base of the foothills from New Mexico

Into this band are concentrated the bulk of the state's commercial activities—vegetable canning plants, meat processing plants, coal mines, steel mills and forges, stockyards, factories, large wholesale and retail houses and most of the 18 sugar beet refineries.

Mining was for years Colorado's chief industry and it still is a major factor in the state's economy. Mineral wealth to the extent of \$37,429,060 was extracted in 1947. Colorado leads the world in the production of the rare molybdenum (two-thirds of the entire U.S. output, from one big mine at Climax, near Leadville) and is first in the production of vanadium and uranium. Vast acreage in San Miguel and Mesa counties, western Colorado, have recently





**The Minnequa Steel Plant of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Corp. covers 600 acres in southwestern Pueblo. Products range from heavy steel rails to chemical fertilizers. Pueblo is Colorado's second largest city and an important division point on the Santa Fe.**

been withdrawn from public entry by the Atomic Energy Commission for diamond drill tests for uranium.

Thirty-five useful minerals are extracted for the market, among them lead, zinc, copper, iron, gold, silver, tungsten, radium, mica, fluorspar, feldspar, carbon dioxide, sulphur, scoria and vermiculite.

Stone in a variety of kinds and colors, sand, gravel, cement and volcanic ash are found in abundance. Colorado is famous for its Yule marble. Lincoln's Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington are built of this stone. The state capitol is of Colorado gray granite and in 1910 the dome was completely covered with Colorado gold leaf at a cost of \$40,000.

Coal came into large-scale production in Colorado with the introduction of the smelters and the coming of the railroads. Trinidad and Walsenburg became important coal mining centers. Colorado ranks first in coal reserves. At the present rate of consumption, it is estimated that the reserves will last seven centuries.

Colorado appears to be the new frontier for petroleum. Geologists indicate that Colorado is the last state with good development prospects and deep well drilling now is under way. Florence, on the Santa Fe lines, has the second oldest continuous producing field in the nation, and there are 12 sizeable fields in the state. Federal oil reserves in shale found on the western slope are estimated to equal the nation's

normal consumption for 50 years.

At the turn of the century, industrial leadership shifted from mining to agriculture. Six centuries ago the primitive Cliff Dwellers proved the high tablelands and moist valleys would grow produce. Colorado agriculture has marched steadily onward to reach the high

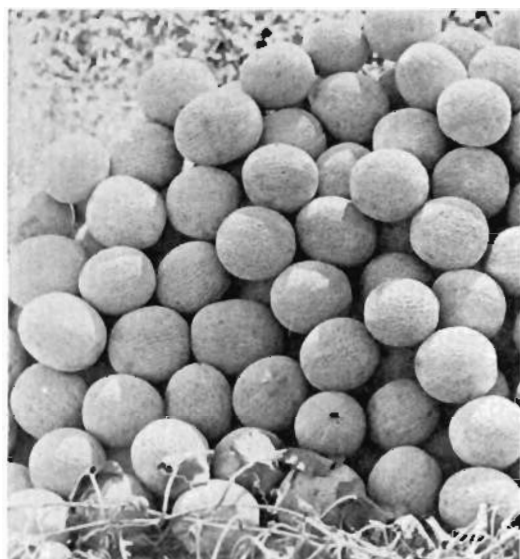


**Outstanding among parks surrounding Denver is the Park of Red Rocks—Nature's amphitheater in the Rockies.**

# Colorado Livestock and Produce



Colorado's western slope is the main sheep range in the state. For marketing the sheep and lambs are usually sent to Denver Union Stockyards, the largest receiving point for sheep in the country.



The widely popular Rocky Ford cantaloupe, developed by George W. Swink, is produced in great abundance about Rocky Ford, Colo.



Pasture lands—approximately 32 million acres—are provided for livestock grazing in Colorado's beautiful national forests.

Colorado grows more sugar beets than any other state. It also ranks first in tonnage manufacture of beet sugar. By-products of the industry — pulp, syrup and beet tops—are used as sheep and cattle feed.





Looking for an ideal vacation spot? Here it is — Colorado Springs, Colo. — nestled at the foot of Pike's Peak and on Santa Fe's picturesque run from Pueblo to Denver. Prominent in the foreground is Broadmoor Hotel, famous the world over and meeting place of renowned leaders in all walks of life.

place it holds today, with almost four million acres of cultivated land watered by a network of ditches and canals. Only California has a larger area in irrigated farm lands.

Colorado is one of the leading states in the production of quality flowers. Carnations are shipped to points as distant as London, and roses, chrysanthemums, sweet peas, and gladioli are quantity-grown for commercial markets. Large shipments of orchids leave Denver daily for New York, Chicago and Hollywood.

Seeds for cucumbers, cantaloupes, lima beans, onions, squash, and pumpkins are produced commercially in a great quantity.

Livestock raising ranks close to agriculture in dollar value. Cattle kings reached their greatest economic power in the 1870's and for 20 years ran herds of 35,000 to 50,000 head. Overstocking of ranges and the need for agricultural products eventually divided the land and displaced the barons, but cattle, sheep and horses, and dairy cattle, still are economically important. Colorado is one of the leading states in lamb feeding.

In various stages of its struggle for identity, the growth of Colorado has been based on one or another predominant activity, and only recently has it begun to level off with a semblance of a balanced economy. Colorado planners today recognize that the fundamental basis for expansion and higher individual incomes is the establishment of new industries based on processing of raw materials. With its assured wealth in oil, coal, coke, natural gas and oil shale reserves, Colorado has a bright fuel picture. Electric power is abundant. Raw materials from the ranges, forests, mines and fields

are available in Colorado through complete transportation facilities and a plentiful supply of labor.

Gigantic water projects tunneling through the mountains to bring water from the western to the eastern slope, have been worked out. Snow, a valuable ally, melting in the high mountain country, sends steady streams into the great basins of the Arkansas, Colorado, Gunnison, Platte and Rio Grande Rivers, where tributary streams complete the job. This vast irrigation system is regulated by a state engineer, and a unique feature of the system is the use of "return water" which seeps from irrigated uplands back into the main stream beds. Special canal and reservoir systems have been devised to put this water back in use, particularly along the Platte and Arkansas Rivers where water is used as many as three times over.

Great crops of sugar beets, melons, fruits, vegetables, grains, hay and alfalfa are grown in the state, with thousands of small gardens adding to the commercial output of vegetables. Paschal celery and Rocky Ford melons are nationally famous.

Today the sugar beet industry, developed in the 1880's is the largest industry based upon irrigation, and Colorado leads all states in beet sugar production. Besides producing sugar, the beet pulp and other by-products are fed to sheep and cattle.

Subsequent planned development of new irrigation areas will open farm settlement opportunities in the near future. The largest of these is the proposed trans-mountain diversion of water from the Gunnison River on the west-

ern slope of the Arkansas Valley. In addition to water for irrigation, this project is proposed to provide additional water for industries and develop power in the process.

Being near the center of the nation, far from the danger of coastal attacks, Colorado anticipates an era of industrialization, given impetus by the truism that labor is more productive when it is happy. A friendly people, an attractive all-year climate, and the location of industrial centers close to the mountains for summer and winter recreation, pack an appeal for the Eastern industrialists.

Based on the latest United States census figures, the value of manufactured goods produced per wage earner in Colorado is 29.6 per cent above the national average. New plants are producing identical articles at costs 20 to 25 per cent lower than formerly, even though wages paid have, in many cases, been increased.

Colorado is credited with 182 different types of industrial enterprise. Mining machinery manufacture centers in Denver, and an influx of steel fabricating plants to Pueblo is predicted by industrialists. Estimated 1947 value of Colorado's manufactures is \$731,500,000.

Why do visitors like Colorado? There are many reasons. Besides the invigorating climate and magnificent scenery, Colorado offers great open spaces for relaxation and recreation adjacent to cosmopolitan communities of beautiful homes and gardens. Millions of acres in Colorado have been set aside for eight national monuments, two national parks and 15 national forests, easily accessible from the cities.

Outstanding is Denver's mountain parks system embracing more than 120,000 acres, offering 25 natural playgrounds and featuring an outdoor theatre of the Red Rocks, seating 10,000 people under the stars.

In the streams and lakes Walton's followers by the thousands have matched wits with some

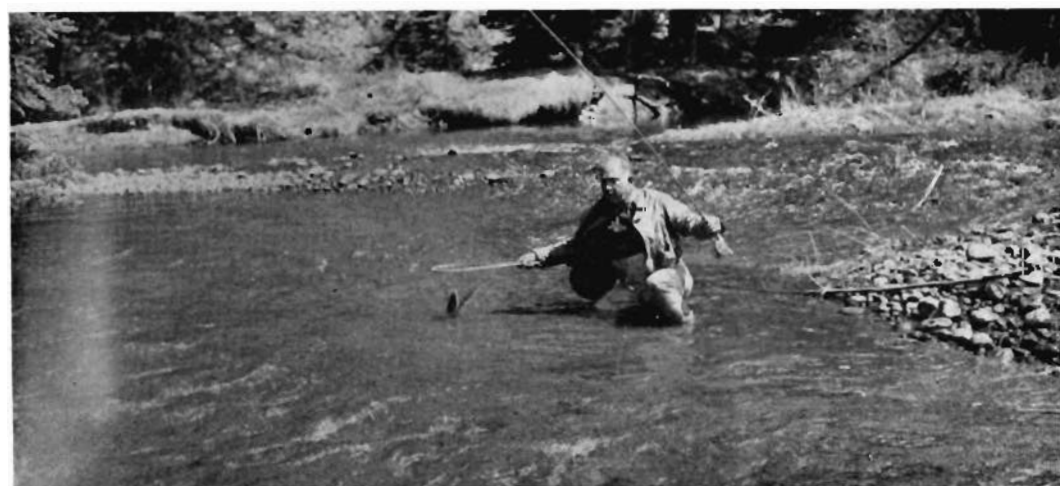
of the 30 million wily trout planted annually, hard to catch because they never close their eyes (they have no eyelids) and hear in the water by vibration. Hunters of big and little game have found these regions some of the best in the nation.

Resorts, hotels and dude ranches dot an outdoor world of color and rodeos, round-ups, fiestas, polo and golf matches on championship courses keep Colorado's visitors entertained.

Not everyone comes to Colorado to play, however, as its colleges, universities and professional schools attract many serious students, especially to their summer sessions. Colorado State College of Education at Greeley is ranked second in the United States as a leading professional teacher preparation institution. The University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado College at Colorado Springs, the University of Denver, the School of Mines at Golden (oldest institution of its kind in the country and one of the foremost mining schools in the world), and the A. and M. College at Ft. Collins offer higher education to Colorado's citizens and many out-of-state students.

For many years the Denver Post masthead carried the slogan "Tis a Privilege to Live in Colorado." So feel Colorado's million-plus friendly, progressive residents who, with the grim determination of the Canon City penitentiary inmate who swallowed 19 tacks, two needles, a crushed quart bottle and a pint of lye disinfectant and still lived, are about to make their Rocky Mountain Empire state one of the strongest in the nation.

Santa Fe is an integral part of this ambition, and its Colorado transportation plant is geared to the pace of empire building which the railroad has maintained since it pioneered the West, bringing the markets of the East and its finished products to the opening and developing frontier.



Sportsmen come to Colorado. Somewhere in its 6,000 miles of trout-fishing streams, or 2,000 timberline lakes, there is found a favorite spot to which they return year after year.

