

Thru the Rockies · not around them · ·

*Rio Grande*  
**GUIDE**  
TO  
*Romantic*  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
WONDERLANDS

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**DENVER & RIO GRANDE  
WESTERN RAILROAD**



## THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD

**T**HE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, reaching loftiest heights and sublimest beauty along the crest of the Continental Divide, have exerted a profound influence upon development of transportation in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. The horse, first brought to amazed Indians by Coronado when he rode north from Old Mexico in 1542, became a pack animal because the crude travois (an Indian tepee stretched across poles fastened at one end to the sides of the horse) was not suited to mountain trails. Horses, mules and burros remained the sole means of commerce in the mountains until 1822, when wheeled vehicles appeared at Santa Fe, New Mexico, then the most populous western trading post. When the Mormon migration in 1847 and the California gold rush in 1849 established the two great cross-continent wagon routes, both touched the eastern corners of Colorado territory. But the Overland Trail veered north and the Santa Fe Trail turned south around the Rockies.

The blue horizon of distant peaks was a mysterious veil isolating this vast mountain empire when the first transcontinental railroad followed the Overland Trail around Colorado. Though the gold discoveries of 1858 and 1859 had lured treasure hunters, rail transportation into the mountains did not come until 1870, when General William J. Palmer conceived the idea of a trunk line beginning at Denver and terminating at Mexico City, capital of the Republic of Mexico. Since the projected route was quite clearly defined along the Rio Grande del Norte, it was natural that the name should indicate the initial point and some principal objective. Hence the original designation, Denver and Rio Grande.

Sometimes transportation leads, sometimes follows the march of civilization. Between Denver and Pueblo, a territory then populated by less than 500 persons, the Rio Grande led. Grading started in March 1871, the road extending to Colorado Springs January 1, 1872; to Pueblo June 15, 1872. General Palmer founded Colorado Springs to become a national recreation center, a destiny richly fulfilled. He was responsible for formation of the Colorado Coal & Iron Co., predecessor of the modern Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation, top-ranking industrial organization of the Intermountain West. First steel rails rolled at Pueblo were purchased by the "baby road."

Called the "baby road" because its builders had decided upon narrow gage track (3' 0" wide) instead of standard gage (4' 8½" wide), the Rio Grande was able speedily and economically to push its lines west and south, reaching Canon City in 1874 and El Moro (four miles from Trinidad) in 1876. It was now ready to lay rails over Raton Pass and tap the Rio Grande river valley, but prominence of the Leadville district as a mineral region created a clamor for rail transportation which could no longer be ignored. The Rio Grande chose to follow the march of men into the Rockies, and all efforts were centered on extension west from Canon City.

Both the Rio Grande and the Santa Fe were struggling for a southern outlet through Raton Pass and a western outlet through the Royal Gorge. (See detailed description page 17.) By agreement Raton Pass was left to the Santa Fe, but clash of ambitions on the western front finally terminated in the Royal Gorge War, a

vivid chapter in railroad history. On the same day that Rio Grande graders started work in the Grand Canon of the Arkansas, a local subsidiary of the Santa Fe also began construction at the same place. A hand-to-hand conflict was precipitated, fortunately without casualties, and three weeks later, May 8, 1878, the U. S. Circuit Court handed down an opinion upholding the Santa Fe company. An appeal was taken to the U. S. Supreme Court, which on April 21, 1879, reversed the decision of the lower court and confirmed the rights claimed by the Denver & Rio Grande. Final settlement of the controversy came in February, 1880, when an agreement was executed prohibiting the Santa Fe, for a period of ten years, from building west from Canon City and prohibiting the Rio Grande for a like period from building south from Trinidad, or south from Espanola, New Mexico. Thus was the course of the Rio Grande permanently turned west.

In the meantime, construction engineers in the heart of the Royal Gorge answered the roaring challenge of the Arkansas River with one of America's outstanding railroad engineering achievements. Finding nothing but the raging torrent of the river between sheer walls just thirty feet apart, they suspended a bridge paralleling the river and hanging to walls of the canon on either side. Considered one of the engineering marvels of the age, the Hanging Bridge has been a major factor in firmly establishing the Royal Gorge as America's best loved travel wonder.

Once the eyes of its founders had been turned west, every possible location through the mountains was surveyed, as the Rio Grande laid rails to almost every spot in the mountain region where mining development demanded transportation. The spirit of high adventure lightened hardships, the romance of achievement bolstered bold courage, the empire of the Intermountain West was reclaimed from a territory described in the '60s as an "impenetrable wilderness." Serving more of Colorado than any other railroad, the Rio Grande blankets southwestern Colorado and north central Utah with a network of steel highways.

Progress was rapid after 1881. The line from Leadville was extended west over Tennessee Pass to Glenwood Springs, but the original main line crossed Marshall Pass at an elevation of 10,856 feet, following the Gunnison River to its confluence with the Colorado at Grand Junction near the Utah border. In Utah, the Rio Grande Western, closely affiliated with the parent company, was formed in 1881. Small disconnected lines in the Salt Lake City region were unified and new lines were pushed east toward the Colorado border. The through narrow gage railroad, Denver to Ogden via Marshall Pass, 756.6 miles in length, was placed in operation May 21, 1883. It was thoroughly equipped with elegantly appointed passenger cars, including both standard and tourist Pullmans. So well was the new service received, that travelers christened the Rio Grande "Scenic Line of the World" a designation now universally recognized.

Standard gaging was imperative as it became evident that the Rio Grande was destined to become an important transcontinental railroad. The Royal Gorge Route, a through standard gage railroad, Denver to Ogden (Continued on inside back cover)

# COLORADO

COLORADO, 38th to gain statehood, was admitted in 1876. The popularly called the Centennial State, it is more fittingly described as the Mountain State of the Union, since the highest peaks of the U. S. Rockies lie within its borders. There are 1,078 mountains rising higher than 10,000 feet above sea level, 624 above 13,000 and 50 peaks towering over 14,000 feet.



With an area of 103,948 square miles, Colorado ranks seventh in size, but in population (1,123,296—1940 census), it ranks 33rd. Almost a perfect rectangle, Colorado is about the same size as New York, Ohio, Connecticut and New Hampshire combined.

The discovery of gold in 1858 started the development of Colorado, soon found to possess vast mineral resources. Practically all the useful minerals are found within its borders. From 1858 to

1940, total production of gold, silver, lead and zinc approximated two billion dollars. Gold has yielded \$821,013,544. Silver output is estimated at \$553,181,518. Colorado ranks first in production of radium and molybdenum; second in tungsten. Among non-metallic minerals, coal is first in value, with a total production from 1864 to 1940 of \$854,110,359—exceeding the income from gold. The state ranks first in coal reserves, according to metallurgical engineers of the Colorado School of Mines.

Although known as a mining state, Colorado's annual agricultural and livestock production value is almost seven times that of its mines. Normally, the total annual crop, livestock and livestock products income exceeds \$145,000,000. Colorado leads all states in the production of sugar beets. Other crops in order of importance are wheat, truck crops, potatoes, hay, corn and fruits. Livestock and livestock products, listed in order of importance, are cattle, sheep, dairy products, poultry and eggs, hogs and wool.

Manufacturing, with products averaging about \$200,000,000 yearly, is rapidly increasing. Packing plants, flour mills, sugar factories, iron and steel mills, and plants making explosives and chemicals lead in production.

Colorado has a wonderfully invigorating climate because of its high altitude. The air is dry, exhilarating and healthful. Nights are cool even during warm summer months. Mean annual precipitation is 16.38 inches. Colorado is rightfully known as the Playground of America—summer or winter. Summer and fall there is lake and stream trout fishing, bird and big game hunting, horseback riding, hiking, swimming, boating. With snow, sun and mountain slopes ideal for skiing, and with a high altitude area six times that of Switzerland, Colorado is rapidly gaining fame as the nation's favorite winter sports center.

There are two national parks, Rocky Mountain and Mesa Verde, six national monuments and 15 national forests in Colorado.

The Denver & Rio Grande Western, the all-season Scenic Line of the World, serves more of Colorado than any other railroad.

# NEW MEXICO

NEW MEXICO, forty-seventh state of the Union, was first explored by the Spaniards in 1536-37, nearly two and a half centuries before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Santa Fe, ancient capital of far-flung Spanish America, was founded in 1610. New Mexico was ceded to the United States as a part of Texas in 1848, and admitted as a state in 1912. Population in the census of 1940 was 528,687, ranking forty-second in size.

With an area of 122,634 square miles, New Mexico consists of a series of high, level plateaus and fertile



# UTAH

UTAH, admitted to the Union in 1896 as the 45th state, has an area of 84,990 square miles, ranking 10th in size, and 41st in population (550,310—1940 census). The greater part of the state is a plateau averaging 6,000 feet above sea level, broken by canyons and narrow valleys. Principal mountain ranges are the Uintas extending east and west, and the picturesque Wasatch Range stretching north and south down the center of the state.

The history of Utah, the state that arose from a desert, is dramatic and stirring. Two Franciscan friars first explored the region in 1776. Jim Bridger in 1824 discovered the Great Salt Lake. Kit Carson and Gen. Fremont explored Great Salt Lake in 1843. All these explorers declared the region unfit for settlement. Then on July 24, 1847, Brigham Young and his 143 Mormon emigrants arrived at the site of Salt Lake City and successfully began to make "the desert blossom as the rose."

Although first settled by an agricultural people, the principal wealth of Utah is in its minerals—gold, silver, lead, copper, manganese, gypsum, petroleum, sulphur, zinc, salt and coal. Since 1864 the total mineral production has exceeded \$2,000,000,000. Utah, until 1932, was first in the production of silver, is third in copper and sixth in gold. The coal resources of Utah are enormous, with one-fifth the state underlain by coal, estimated to be enough to supply the entire United States for 250 years. An apparently unlimited supply of iron ore gives Utah high rank as a steel state.

Grouped within 50 miles of Salt Lake City are concentrating mills and smelters—the largest non-ferrous smelting center in the world. Utah attains industrial prominence thru petroleum products plants, iron and steel works, sugar factories, flour mills, and canneries. Manufactured products have an annual value in excess of \$200,000,000.

First to develop modern irrigation, Utah has over 1,300,000 acres of irrigated land. The average annual value of all crops, livestock and livestock products approaches \$55,000,000. Hay is a leader, both as a cash crop and as feed for thousands of dairy and beef cattle. Sheep raising is a major industry, with the average crop of lambs and wool yielding more than \$20,000,000 annually. Dairy and poultry products are next in importance, then wheat, cattle, vegetables, sugar beets and fruit.

The climate is dry, stimulating and wholesome. Skies are remarkably clear. Average annual precipitation is 16.23 inches.

Most unique of Utah's many natural wonders is Great Salt Lake (for detailed description see page 56). In Utah there are two national parks, seven national monuments and nine national forests. With natural attractions of unique beauty and ideal conditions for summer and winter recreation, Utah is truly a Western Wonderland.

valleys, separated by mountain ranges. The climate is dry and stimulating. Annual rainfall ranges from 12 to 16 inches. Mining, agriculture and stock raising are principal industries.

New Mexico has about 30,000 Indians on government reservations. On every hand are relics of pre-historic races, the Cliff and Cave Dwellers, the Aztecs and later Indian tribes. Carlsbad Caverns, an underground fairyland with 35 miles of fantastic caves and corridors, is one of the most spectacular natural phenomena in the world.

Historic Santa Fe and Taos are popular with tourists as well as artists and writers interested in depicting the many Indian and Spanish types.





The Municipal Building, a \$5,000,000 structure, dominates Denver's far-famed Civic Center.



Gigantic, spectacular Red Rocks out-of-doors theatre (seating 9,000) in Denver Mountain Parks, boasts perfect natural acoustics.



This sandstone mass just west of Palmer Lake has weathered into Elephant Rock.



Picturesque red sandstone Cathedral Spires in the Garden of the Gods.

[Abbreviations: D—distance from Denver; D-R—distance from Denver, Royal Gorge Route; D-M—distance from Denver, Moffat Tunnel Route.]

## Royal Gorge Route

Denver to Ogden 782 miles.

Route of The Scenic Limited. All regularly assigned cars air-conditioned—coaches, diners, Pullmans, lounge-observation cars.

For Description of Moffat Tunnel Route, see p. 23.

**DENVER, COLO.**—Elev. 5,280. Pop. 322,412 (Greater Denver over 385,000). Denver, the capital of Colorado, has grown from a prospectors' settlement in 1858 to the "Little Capital of the United States," second only to Washington, D. C. in the number of government offices. Denver is a distinctive city, with broad tree-lined streets, far famed for its beautiful parks and public buildings. As the commercial, manufacturing and distribution center of a vast agricultural, stock-raising and mining region, the city serves the Rocky Mountain empire from northern Wyoming to southern New Mexico, an area one-fourth the size of the entire United States.

With the completion, in 1934, of the Dotsero Cutoff, the famous Moffat Tunnel Route of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad was established, giving Denver a long-sought position of importance on a direct trunkline connecting the East with the far West.

Denver started in 1858 when the lure of gold brought a band of Cherokee Indians, together with many white prospectors, to Cherry Creek. Its early history is filled with color, adventure and romance. Gold rush days brought picturesque frontier characters. Fortunes were made and lost.

Because of its equable, health-giving climate and its proximity to vast natural resources, Denver grew rapidly

into the modern, cultural city of today. The high altitude atmosphere is dry, clear and exhilarating. The sun shines on an average of 304 days a year. Winters are mild. Government reports show that the average winter temperature over a period of 60 years has been **above freezing**. Summers are delightful. The high, dry air of Colorado has been found especially beneficial to tuberculosis and kindred diseases and Denver has become a famed health resort. Splendid hospitals and sanitariums afford the finest facilities.

The State Capitol building of native granite and marble, with its gleaming dome plated with pure leaf gold from Colorado mines, stands on a hill overlooking the city, exactly one mile above sea level. Below is Denver's famed Civic Center, adjacent to the main business district. Here are the Public Library, the Greek Theatre, Voorhies Memorial and distinctive statues. Across from Civic Center is the semi-circular City and County Building of white granite, completed in 1932 at a cost of \$5,000,000. The United States Mint, one of three, now houses the second largest store of gold in the world, exceeded only by the Federal Gold Repository at Fort Knox, Ky. Other noteworthy buildings include a Municipal Auditorium with seating capacity of 12,000; an imposing Post Office of Colorado marble; the United States Customs buildings and many modern business and office buildings.

Denver is known as a cultural center boasting many art galleries, unusual museums and three civic symphony orchestras. Eighty public schools, six colleges and many private schools offer a wealth of educational opportunities. Thousands of visitors may be accommodated by Denver's 300 hotels. So popular is the mile-high city that it has been called the "Convention City" of America.

Denver University is the largest institution of higher education within the city, which also boasts two Catholic colleges of high rank, Regis for men, Loretto Heights for women. Colorado Woman's College draws students from many states. Four of Colorado's state schools are within a radius of 60 miles—University of Colorado at Boulder, School of Mines at Golden, State College of Education at Greeley, State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Fort Collins.

Lowry Field, adjacent to Denver to the East, and its suburb Fort Logan, ten miles southwest of Denver, are the location for a branch of the United States Army Air

The tonic of Colorado sunshine and the inspiration of ever-present snow-clad peaks give golf a brand new meaning.





Pikes Peak (14,110 feet elevation), America's most famous mountain, as seen looking west on Platte Ave., Colorado Springs.



Seven Falls, South Cheyenne Canyon, 20 min. from Colorado Springs.



Famous Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun, on Cheyenne Mountain, near Colorado Springs



Cave of the Winds, Manitou Springs, Stalactites and stalagmites in profusion lend weird beauty to this remarkable cavern.

Corps Technical School. Instruction is given in aerial photography, armament, and air corps technical work.

Lowry Field was established on land and buildings donated to the government thru the City of Denver by former United States Senator from Colorado, Lawrence C. Phipps. The property was formerly the site of the Agnes Phipps Sanitarium. Expansion has been rapid since the field was founded in 1938 and by 1941 its valuation had reached between 15 and 20 million dollars. Nearly every type of army airplane is represented at Lowry Field.

Denver is renowned for its beautiful parks and variety of recreational facilities. The carefully planned system of parks and boulevards includes 35 improved parks and 25 directed playgrounds. City Park, containing 400 acres, is the largest. Here is the picturesque lake with its magnificent electric fountain which sends brilliantly illuminated sprays toward the sky in ever-changing forms—a sight long to be remembered. The Colorado Museum of Natural History and the Zoo with more than 2,000 animals and birds attract thousands of visitors to City Park. With splendid golf courses, tennis courts, bridle paths, swimming beaches and broad highways to nearby mountain resorts Denver always provides a delightful variety of "things to do."

A chain of twenty-five mountain parks, comprising 20,897 acres, and threaded by over 160 miles of improved highways, is owned and operated by the city of Denver, offering a great playground with shelter houses, camp sites and open-air fireplaces. In acquiring, improving and opening to public use this vast park system, Denver found no precedents to follow. The idea was unique, never before considered by any municipality and no other American city has since undertaken a similar project. At the very top of Lookout Mountain is the grave of Col. Wm. F. Cody, better known as "Buffalo Bill." Close by is a museum of the relics of his career, giving a vivid picture of the "wild and woolly West" of early days.

Fifteen miles from Civic Center is Denver's Park of the Red Rocks with its hundreds of acres of fantastic formations. Here is a large natural amphitheatre, with perfect natural acoustics and a seating capacity of 9,000, used for summer concerts, entertainments, and conventions.

Colorado is the sportsman's paradise. A few miles from Denver are rushing streams alive with trout, beck-

oning mountain trails and abundant game for hunters. With the development of ski courses, bobsled runs, and toboggan slides Colorado is fast becoming known as a great winter sports center, with nearby Berthoud Pass and Winter Park especially popular with Denverites.

Although Denver is a city of beautiful homes and a natural summer and winter playground for tourists, it is also an important manufacturing center. Meat packing is the largest industry. Sugar production, mining and railroad machinery and flour products are other important manufacturing interests. Denver is the leading livestock center of the West and the world's largest sheep feeder market. Farmers, stockmen, miners and merchants, distributors and manufacturers of the entire Rocky Mountain region look to Denver as the principal market for sale of their products and for purchase of their materials and supplies.

**LITTLETON, COLO.**—D.-R. 10.3 mi.; pop. 2,244; elev. 5,372. County seat of Arapahoe County, named from a tribe of Indians which originally inhabited this region. A modern, progressive town, attractively located in a rich agricultural section, the chief industries of which are farming, livestock and poultry raising. The oldest operating flour mill in the state is here. Littleton is popular as the suburban home of Denver business men and many beautiful country estates are in the vicinity.

**LOUVIERS, COLO.**—D.-R. 20.7 mi.; pop. (precinct) 307; elev. 5,675. Douglas County. Shipping point for the DuPont Powder Co., manufacturers of high explosives. Above Louviers Plum Creek swings eastward, bordered by bluffs and mesas of white sandstone, a formation of particular interest to geologists.

**CASTLE ROCK, COLO.**—D.-R. 32.5 mi.; pop. 580; elev. 6,218. County seat of Douglas County, named for Stephen A. Douglas. In 1820 the explorer, Maj. Long mentioned Castle Rock because of its resemblance to an

It is a unique travel thrill to ride to the summit of Pikes Peak in modern streamlined cars operating daily thruout the summer season over the famous Cog Railway.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





Minnequa Steel Works of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation at Pueblo.



Lake of the Clouds, San Isabel National Forest, southern Colorado playground reached thru the Pueblo gateway.



From irrigation and Colorado sun comes the sweet flavor of apples grown in Canon City's fragrant orchard district.

old castle ruin. The mesa, 300 feet high, topped with a cap rock 60 feet thick, served as a lookout and signal station for Arapahoe Indians in early days. Formerly noted for its stone quarries, Castle Rock is now the trading point in a stockraising section.

**PALMER LAKE, COLO.**—D.-R. 52.2; pop. 269; elev. 7,237. El Paso County. This scenic lake and village nestles in the gap between the headwaters of East Plum Creek on the north and those of Monument Creek on the south, the highest point on the Rio Grande between Denver and Pueblo. A well-known pleasure resort, Palmer Lake is composed largely of cottages for summer guests seeking health and recreation. Dairying is the principal industry of the region.

The lake and town were named after Gen. William J. Palmer, organizer, inspiring genius and first president of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. Gen. Palmer was a Philadelphian by birth who had received his early railroad training on the Pennsylvania Railroad. After serving with distinction in the Civil War, he became managing director of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, in charge of the last division from Kit Carson to Denver. Like the true empire builder he was, he saw wonderful possibilities in a transportation system THRU the Rockies. It was a gigantic and daring proposition but he was able to procure the necessary capital to finance the undertaking and the Denver & Rio Grande was incorporated Oct. 27, 1870.

A contemporary writer said of him: "The task to which so few men were equal found in William J. Palmer one who mastered it with an ease that astonished his most ardent friends. His mind was everywhere and he himself almost omnipresent. Along the located lines, where the graders were at work; among the pineries of the Divide, where ties were being cut; among the rolling mills of Pennsylvania, where the steel rails were being

made; in the banking houses of St. Louis, New York and Philadelphia, where money was being drawn and even across the Atlantic among the capitalists, the presence and influence of Palmer was felt and acknowledged. Wm. J. Palmer stands without a rival in any of the great requirements necessary for the building and completion of a Continental railway."

**COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.**—D.-R. 74.9 mi.; pop. 50,316 including residential suburbs (reaching 75,000 in tourist season); elev. 5,989. County seat El Paso County. This noted recreation and health resort is a beautiful city with wide, tree-bordered streets, handsome residences, magnificent hotels, and nationally known sanitariums. Located at the foot of mighty Pikes Peak, it lies at the junction of Fountain and Monument Creeks.

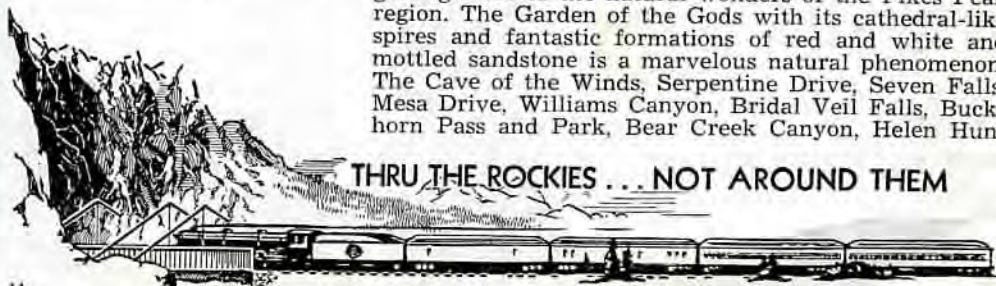
In 1871 when the Rio Grande railroad was built into the valley, Gen. Palmer, envisioning a model city in the Rockies, planned and started Colorado Springs. It has far outgrown the most optimistic dreams of its founder and has become one of the great recreation and tourist centers of the country. As a cultural and educational city, Colorado Springs ranks high, with fine public schools, privately endowed Colorado College and a distinguished Fine Arts center. Recreational and sports activities include hiking, swimming, golfing, riding, polo, tennis, skiing and skating, with splendid trout fishing and big game hunting in the nearby mountains.

Among the major industries of the Colorado Springs region are film production, metal ore reduction plants, coal mining, livestock and poultry raising. Lignite coal production approximates 300,000 tons annually. High grade beef and dairy cattle are raised extensively. Dairy products are the source of substantial income. Corn and beans are major farm crops.

Visitors in Colorado Springs find a wealth of interesting things to do and places to go. Numerous sightseeing companies provide facilities—buses for large parties and fleets of comfortable open-top sedans for small groups—for a score of reasonably priced Scenic Drives. One hour, or a full day, or several days, may be happily spent in getting close to the natural wonders of the Pikes Peak region. The Garden of the Gods with its cathedral-like spires and fantastic formations of red and white and mottled sandstone is a marvelous natural phenomenon. The Cave of the Winds, Serpentine Drive, Seven Falls, Mesa Drive, Williams Canyon, Bridal Veil Falls, Buckhorn Pass and Park, Bear Creek Canyon, Helen Hunt



Luxurious air-conditioned comfort inside; spectacular mountain scenery outside the high, wide windows of Rio Grande lounge-observation cars.





Second oldest in the United States is the Florence, Colo., oil field, a steady producer since 1862.



Many varieties of terrazzo, popular flooring material, are shipped from Canon City.



World-famous Hanging Bridge clings to the walls of Royal Gorge, only 30 feet apart at this point.



The Chandler Coal Mine near Canon City, is one of Colorado's heaviest producers of high grade bituminous coal.

Falls, Silver Cascade Falls, Temple Drive and Rampart Range are some of the spectacular drives which thread the Rockies in this scenic region. Ute Pass is a famous scenic attraction along U. S. 24, the noted Pikes Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway.

The Will Rogers "Shrine of the Sun," a memorial of simple and dignified beauty upon Cheyenne Mountain, is attracting thousands of visitors. Pike National Forest, comprising 1,500,000 acres of virgin forest, mountain and stream country, with many sparkling blue lakes at high altitudes, lies immediately west and northwest.

Pikes Peak stands at an altitude of 14,110 feet, more than 1½ miles above Colorado Springs. This most famous of America's mountains was named for its discoverer, Lt. Zebulon Pike, who first saw it in 1806 and called it the "Great White Mountain." Fired with ambition, he attempted to scale it, but failed. It was not until 1820 that Dr. Edwin James of Major Long's expedition succeeded in reaching its lofty pinnacle. The summit of Pikes Peak is now reached by a wide, surfaced, toll-free automobile road which ascends to the very crest, or by the unique Cog Railroad. Sunrise on Pikes Peak is an unforgettable experience.

**Manitou Springs, Colo.**—Pop. 1,462 (several times this number in summer); elev. 6,318. Six miles west of Colorado Springs, at the very foot of Pikes Peak, is Manitou, far famed for its curative springs. The Indians believed the bubbling springs were caused by the breath of the Great Spirit and named the place Manitou, the Indian name for Great Spirit. Sixteen health-giving springs differ widely in their mineral composition. Some of the waters are strongly impregnated with soda, others with iron and magnesia, still others with lithia, lime, sulphur, potash and other minerals. These beneficial waters are bottled and shipped to all parts of the world. Manitou is a popular recreation and health resort.

The historic old town of Colorado City, the booming camp of the "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold rush of 1859, lies midway between Colorado Springs and Manitou. It is now incorporated in Colorado Springs.

**Cripple Creek, Colo.**—Pop. 2,358; elev. 9,375. County seat Teller County. This famous gold camp, built on hillsides, surrounded by great dump heaps of the old mines, is replete with historic spots and romantic tales of thrilling gold rush days of the 'nineties, unparalleled in history. An active mining center, Cripple Creek is one of the na-

tion's leading gold producers. The all-time production record of Teller county gold mines is \$385,460,527. Stock-raising and the production of potatoes and lettuce are now noteworthy industries. The historic Ute Pass Highway from Colorado Springs, formerly scene of many an Indian fight, is breathtaking in its scenic grandeur.

Increased production for the Cripple Creek-Victor mineralized area was assured by the completion in 1941 of the Carlton Tunnel, a six-mile bore eleven feet high and ten feet wide with a portal elevation of 6,893 feet. Driven by the Golden Cycle Corporation at a cost exceeding one million dollars, the tunnel will give from 250 to 1,100 feet of virgin ground that can be mined before pumping of water is required.

**Victor, Colo.**—Pop. 1,784; elev. 9,900. Teller County. Three miles from Cripple Creek is Victor, companion mining camp which shared in the wealth and romance of the gold strikes. The region is one of magnificent scenery and wild beauty. Phantom Canyon is five miles away; the Petrified Forest 15 miles distant. Over 100 miles of fishing streams beckon ardent anglers. Elk, deer, bear and mountain lions entice hunters. Bordering is Pike National Forest.

**PUEBLO, COLO.**—D.-R. 119.4 mi.; pop. 52,162; elev. 4,668. County seat Pueblo County. Colorado's second ranking city, Pueblo, most important manufacturing center in the state, is often called the "Pittsburgh of the West," having the largest steel plant west of Chicago. Following the completion of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad to Pueblo in 1872, Gen. Wm. J. Palmer, founder and president of the road, organized the Colorado Coal and Iron Co. The first steel rails rolled were used in the branch line of the Rio Grande at Silverton. The company, now known as the Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation, is nationally recognized as a foremost producer

Coaches on Rio Grande's Diesel-power Prospector feature full-cushion reclining chairs; individual fluorescent lights; blue night lights; porter service; free pillows; commodious dressing rooms.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





Powerful mountain type locomotives maintain speedy freight schedules along water level grades thru the Rockies via the Royal Gorge or Moffat Tunnel.



Salida (Spanish for "outlet"), at the outlet of the upper Arkansas river basin, is at the junction of the Royal Gorge route and the Marshall Pass narrow gauge route.



The Snow Angel of Shavano stands in bold relief on the slopes of Shavano Peak, 14,179 feet elevation.



Monarch ski course near Salida, one of many found in Rio Grande territory.

of steel rails, structural steel, fencing, nails and similar products in large volume. Foundries, machine shops and flourishing brick plants are located here. Large jobbing and wholesale houses, canning factories, tent, awning, bedding and broom factories, a flour mill, furniture factory, packing plants and chemical plants are among the industries which place Pueblo first in the state as a manufacturing center.

The Pueblo Junior College is the senior institution in an excellent public school system.

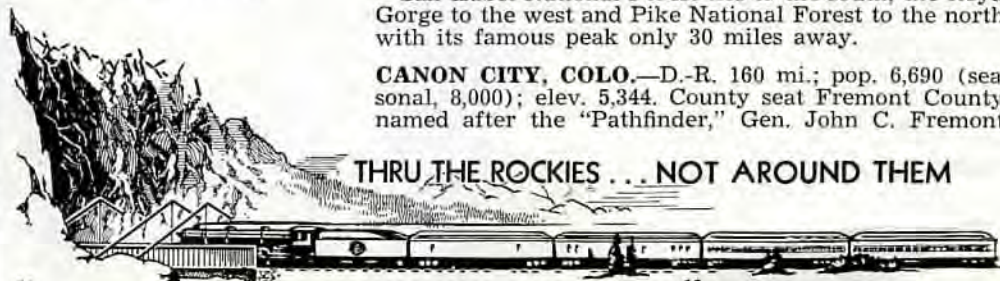
Pueblo is also the center of an important agricultural territory, 50,000 acres of irrigated land lying adjacent to the city within Pueblo county. Leading products are alfalfa, sugar beets, corn, melons, vegetables, fruits and small grains. From the high altitude sections come delicious lettuce, peas and cauliflower.

San Isabel National Forest, containing 651,200 acres of indescribably beautiful country, lies to the west. The Sangre de Cristo range, with its rugged array of peaks, rises in sheer beauty above a wide plain. Crystal clear lakes at high altitudes, rushing trout streams, magnificent stretches of heavily timbered slopes, natural parks and meadows, combine to make this forest reserve one of the most popular tourist regions in the Rockies. The St. Charles recreational area, recently established in the heart of the forest 45 miles from Pueblo, provides ample facilities for San Isabel visitors.

First authentic record of a white man at the present site of Pueblo relates that Lieut. Pike made temporary camp there in 1806, while exploring interior of the Territory of Louisiana. Pueblo's first house, built in 1824, was described as "a stone house and horse pen on the bank of the river where it would not be in the power of any enemy to approach from the river side." The territory around Pueblo was, paradoxically, a neutral zone between the various Indian tribes and a battle ground for all.



The Royal Gorge Incline Railway, operating at an angle of 45 degrees, runs 1550 feet from the Hanging Bridge to the World's Highest Bridge.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM

In 1859, on the north side of the present city of Pueblo, the town of Fountain City was organized, but soon became secondary in importance, and later a part of Pueblo, incorporated in 1870. With the coming of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad in 1872, Pueblo began a rapid and consistent development which it has continued to the present.

Pueblo's official records and the files of one of Colorado's oldest newspapers, established in 1868, furnish an authentic account of the dramatic and colorful history of the pioneer West.

(For description of Walsenburg - Alamosa line see page 61.)

**PORTLAND, COLO.**—D.-R. 145.8 mi.; pop. 337; elev. 5,051. Fremont County. Noted because of its thousands of acres of limestone which are used in the manufacture of cement. Main plant of the Colorado Portland Cement Co., controlling the oldest cement plant (built in 1899) west of the Mississippi River. To the south is San Isabel National Forest.

**FLORENCE, COLO.**—D.-R. 151.9 mi.; pop. 2,632; elev. 5,199. Fremont County. This community, rich in natural resources, was one of the earliest sections of Colorado to be developed. The first settlement was in 1840. Here was grown the first alfalfa with seed hauled from California at \$40 a pound. Coal mining, now the leading industry, with nearly 500,000 tons shipped yearly from Fremont county mines, had its beginning in 1860.

The Florence oil field, which has been producing since 1862, is second oldest in the United States. Of the 1,100 wells drilled 60% have been producers. The largest made 460 barrels per day. A total of 13,360,000 barrels of oil have been produced. The daily average at present is 175 barrels. Other minerals include aluminum, bismuth, feldspar, mica, copper, gold, iron, lead, lithium, silver, columbite and zinc.

Florence is on the Arkansas river. Fertile irrigated lands produce celery, lettuce and other vegetables and also fruits in abundance.

San Isabel National Forest lies to the south, the Royal Gorge to the west and Pike National Forest to the north, with its famous peak only 30 miles away.

**CANON CITY, COLO.**—D.-R. 160 mi.; pop. 6,690 (seasonal, 8,000); elev. 5,344. County seat Fremont County, named after the "Pathfinder," Gen. John C. Fremont.





The town of Monarch, Colo., clings to the mountainside in the typical fashion of many mining communities.



Monarch Pass, elevation 11,312 feet, twenty miles west of Salida, offers a magnificent view of Colorado's highest mountain ranges.



The Collegiate Peaks, all over 14,000 ft. in elevation, are NOT a part of the Continental Divide.



Mt. Princeton, 14,177 ft. elevation, one of the Collegiate Peaks (Harvard, Princeton, Yale), dominates the upper Arkansas Valley.

Aptly christened, Canon City stands at the entrance to the Royal Gorge. This region was the scene of several early explorations; first by Lt. Pike in 1806, then by Dr. James and Capt. Bell of the Long party in 1820. Fremont, returning from his second expedition in 1842, emerged from the mountains at the present site of Canon City. During the gold rush of 1859 the first settlement was made at Canon City. Because of Indian raids the town was abandoned in 1862, only one family remaining. Two years later new settlers came in. The Territorial Penitentiary, established in 1868, was predecessor of the Colorado State Penitentiary, now housing more than 1,500 convicts.

Coal mining is an important industry, with almost 500,000 tons produced annually in Fremont County coal mines. Non-metallic minerals, yielding substantial revenues, are feldspar, extensively used in glazing china-ware and pottery; dolomite and ganister, used as a flux for steel. Canon City is famed for the variety of its terrazzo, a kind of cement flooring including fragments of colored stone, commonly not set in patterns.

Numerous reservoirs supply water for irrigation, with truck gardening ranking first among agricultural activities. Cattle raising is next in importance. Fruits include apples, cherries, strawberries, and raspberries. Poultry raising is extensive.

San Isabel National Forest lies to the south. There are over 50 miles of trout fishing streams immediately adjacent. Deer are plentiful in the region.

**HANGING BRIDGE.**—D.-R. 166.2; elev. 5,494. Fremont County.

## THE ROYAL GORGE

The Royal Gorge, dominant factor in establishing the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad as Scenic Line of the World, fully merits its position as America's best loved travel wonder. The Scenic Limited, westbound or eastbound, makes a 10-minute stop every day at Hanging Bridge, so that passengers may alight to glimpse the marvels of this intriguing western wonder spot.

The Hanging Bridge, an outstanding railroad engineering achievement, is suspended between sheer canyon walls, just 30 feet apart at this point. For more than 50

years this bridge has attested the skill and daring of engineers who conceived the remarkable structure when the roaring waters of the Arkansas river threatened to make the narrow canyon forever impassable.

The World's Highest Bridge, across the Royal Gorge 1053 feet above the railroad tracks, is 1250 feet in length and has an automobile thoroughfare 18 feet wide. Completed in 1929, the bridge cost \$250,000.

The Royal Gorge Incline, recognized as the world's steepest railway, runs on an angle of 45 degrees 1550 feet between the Hanging Bridge and the World's Highest Bridge. This funicular was built by a leading elevator manufacturer, and operates two cars with a capacity of 21 passengers each. The ride up or down the narrow defile between towering canyon walls is a scenic delight.

Scientific evidence is conclusive that the Royal Gorge was cut by the Arkansas river, its water loaded with sand ceaselessly grinding away the rock. That the gorge is the result of a great fissure opened up by an earthquake is an entirely erroneous idea sometimes expressed by those who do not fully understand the cutting power of sand-laden water.

Viewed either from its depth, or from the canyon rim, the Royal Gorge presents an inspiring sight. Nowhere else does man come closer to realization of the Infinite.

**SALIDA, COLO.**—D.-R. 215.1; pop. 4,969; elev. 7,050 ft. County seat of Chaffee County, named for Jerome B. Chaffee, who secured the cession of right-of-way for the Denver & Rio Grande. He was largely responsible for Colorado's admittance to statehood in 1876, and was its first United States Senator.

Located almost in the exact geographic center of Colorado, surrounded by rugged peaks, many towering over 14,000 feet, Salida is one of the most picturesque towns

It's always fair weather aboard air-conditioned Rio Grande passenger trains, pulled by fleet, powerful locomotives.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





Colorado's highest mountains, Mt. Elbert (14,431 ft.) and Mt. Massive (14,418 ft.), form a beautiful skyline overlooking Leadville.



Fortunes taken from metal mines in the Leadville district laid the sturdy foundation upon which Colorado's prosperity has been built.



Climax, Colo., location of the world's largest molybdenum mine, producing nearly all the molybdenum mined in the United States.

in the west. Salida (from the Spanish word for outlet), stands at the outlet of the upper Arkansas Valley. Naturally situated as the hub of six mountain passes and the converging point of the Royal Gorge Route with the Marshall Pass-Gunnison and Poncha Pass-Alamosa narrow gage lines, Salida is in the heart of a large trade territory. Farming, stockraising, mining, railroading, granite and travertine quarrying are important industries. Only travertine deposits of any size in the world, outside of Italy, are those just six miles east of Salida.

Cochetopa, Pike and San Isabel National Forests are adjacent. Most famous nearby peaks are Hunts (12,466 ft.) in the Sangre de Cristo range, Mt. Ouray (13,955 ft.) and Mt. Shavano (14,179 ft.) both in the rugged Sawatch range. The Angel of Shavano is an amazingly realistic eternal snowy white symbol etched on the massive slope of Mt. Shavano. Crystal clear high altitude lakes are within easy driving distance. Fishing and hunting conditions are excellent and numerous hot springs make swimming a favorite sport.

The Arkansas river was the dividing line between French and Spanish territory before the Louisiana Purchase. The site of Salida, part lying on each side of the river, has been under the flags of four nations—France, Spain, Texas and the United States of America.

(For description Marshall Pass-Gunnison line, see page 73; Poncha Pass-Alamosa line, page 73.)

**BUENA VISTA, COLO.**—D.-R. 240.3 mi.; pop. 779; elev. 7,968. Chaffee County. Fully exemplifying its name, (beautiful view), it lies close to the famous Collegiate Peaks, strangely not a part of the Continental Divide. Rising in regal splendor are Mt. Princeton, 14,177 ft.; Yale, 14,172 ft.; Harvard, 14,399 ft. Farming, stockraising and growing of crisp high-altitude vegetables are im-

portant industries. Fishing and hunting dominate sports, with nearby hot springs aiding development of attractive resorts. In Chalk Creek Gulch, 22 miles above Buena Vista, nestles picturesque St. Elmo, a popular vacation spot with well equipped tourist accommodations.

**MALTA, COLO.**—D.-R. 271 mi.; elev. 9,580. Lake County. Gateway to Leadville, four miles east. Discovery of gold in 1859 by California-bound treasure seekers gave its name to California Gulch, entering the Arkansas Valley at Malta. Oro (Gold) City by the end of 1860 had 10,000 population and \$5,000,000 was washed from its golden sands in the few brief years of its existence.

**LEADVILLE, COLO.**—D.-R. 275.8 mi.; pop. 4,774; elev. 10,200. County seat Lake County. Standing nearly two miles above sea level, Leadville is highest incorporated city in the United States. Following collapse of Oro in 1865, prospectors sank myriad shafts on surrounding mountain slopes, and by 1877 had discovered rich silver-lead ore in great quantities, precipitating the "rush" of 1878, and giving a characteristic name to Leadville, soon known as the world's greatest silver camp. The Denver & Rio Grande reached Leadville in 1880, the camp rapidly attaining a population of 30,000. Production of the first 10 years passed \$120,000,000. With silver demone-tization in 1893 the camp slumped, but attention was turned to gold, copper, lead and zinc with profitable results. Total mineral production from 1859 to 1941 is recorded at \$453,061,665, giving Leadville first place among Colorado's mining districts. Huge quantities of ore, providing a steady, reliable output, maintain Leadville's position as one of the nation's foremost mining centers.

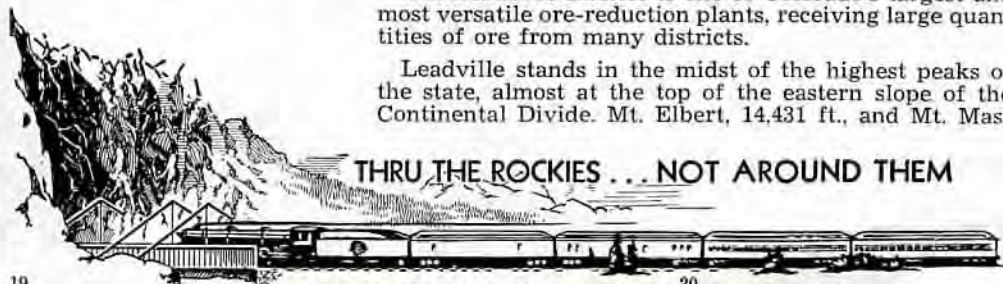
At Climax, just 13 miles from Leadville, is the largest molybdenum mine in the world, producing 70 per cent of the molybdenum mined in the United States. With a daily production of 15,000 tons of ore, the Climax mine ships four cars of molybdenum concentrates a day to eastern steel plants. A considerable quantity of Climax molybdenum concentrates is exported.

The Leadville smelter is one of Colorado's largest and most versatile ore-reduction plants, receiving large quantities of ore from many districts.

Leadville stands in the midst of the highest peaks of the state, almost at the top of the eastern slope of the Continental Divide. Mt. Elbert, 14,431 ft., and Mt. Mas-



Only on Rio Grande diners is pageantry of the Rockies added to the pleasure of good meals, courteously served and moderately priced.





Tennessee Pass, 10,240 ft. elevation, thru which Rio Grande trains cross the Continental Divide.



Mount of the Holy Cross, 13,996 ft. in elevation, now a National Monument, is fast becoming enshrined in the hearts of American pilgrims.



Powerful mountain type locomotives pull long Rio Grande freight trains across the direct central transcontinental route.

sive, 14,418 ft., highest peaks in Colorado, second and third highest in the United States, give Leadville an inspiring skyline. Within 18 miles are Twin Lakes, 9,190 feet above sea level. Trout fishing and big game hunting top sports activities, with skiing and skating favorite winter recreation.

A glamorous and stirring history is behind Leadville. Fortunes dug from surrounding mountain sides laid the sturdy foundation upon which Colorado's prosperity has been built.

**TENNESSEE PASS, COLO.**—D.-R. 281 mi.; elev. 10,240 ft. Divides Lake and Eagle counties. Rio Grande trains on the Royal Gorge Route cross the Continental Divide here—highest standard gauge railroad in the U. S. Water from eternal mountain snows divides at this point, part flowing east into the Arkansas river on its way to the Atlantic Ocean; part into the Eagle, thence into the Colorado river, and Boulder Dam's Lake Mead to the Pacific.

**PANDO, COLO.**—D.-R. 288.7 mi.; pop. 100; elev. 9,209. Eagle County. Located at the terminal moraine of an old glacier, Pando is the present-day site of a huge natural ice plant, where the Denver & Rio Grande Western annually harvests about 40,000 tons of ice.

**RED CLIFF, COLO.**—D.-R. 293.9 mi.; pop 715; elev. 8,608. Eagle County. Established as a trading post by John Jacob Astor in 1820, Red Cliff attains present-day prominence through daily shipment of 1,200 tons of zinc ores and concentrates from the **Belden** mine of the New Jersey Zinc Co., just two miles away. The **Belden** mine, with seven miles of tunnels and drifts, is one of the largest zinc mines in the world, unique in that its elaborate concentration plant is underground.

Colorful Eagle River Canyon in this region has a double track railroad, one track on each side of the rushing mountain stream.

The vicinity is well timbered and affords excellent summer sheep range. Eagle river, and the 100 well-stocked nearby lakes, attract fishermen. Both deer and bear are plentiful.

Red Cliff is the focal point for the annual trek to the Mount of the Holy Cross, fast becoming enshrined in the hearts of American pilgrims.

**MINTURN, COLO.**—D.-R. 302 mi.; pop. 596; elev. 7,825. Eagle County. Surrounded by Holy Cross National Forest, Minturn is rail gateway to **Holy Cross National Monument**. Mount of the Holy Cross, 13,996 ft., is so named because snow on the east slope clings thruout the summer in great vertical and horizontal clefts which cross each other, forming a huge and well proportioned white cross.

**AVON, COLO.**—D.-R. 308 mi.; pop. 200; elev. 7,465. Eagle County. Here is located an experimental farm operated by the Colorado State College of Agriculture, responsible for marked advance in high-altitude farming methods. Splendid views of the Holy Cross range attract train passengers.

**EAGLE, COLO.**—D.-R. 329 mi.; pop. 518; elev. 6,598. County seat Eagle County. Hay, grain, and potatoes are chief crops. There is excellent pasture for livestock on surrounding uplands. Rivers and lakes provide sportive fishing. Deer are numerous. Local hunters wage relentless war on mountain lions. **Gypsum**, just seven miles distant, is another thriving Eagle County community.

**DOTSERO, COLO.**—D.-R. 341.9 mi.; D.-M. 166.8 mi.; pop. 110; elev. 6,155. Eagle County. At the confluence of Eagle and Colorado rivers, Dotsero is located at the junction of the Royal Gorge and Moffat Tunnel Routes of the Rio Grande. It is the western terminus of the Dotsero Cutoff, a 38-mile railroad joining tracks of the Rio Grande at Dotsero and the Denver & Salt Lake Railway, the well known Moffat Road, at Orestod (Dotsero spelled backwards). Completion of the Dotsero Cutoff in 1934 brought into existence the Moffat Tunnel Route of the Rio Grande, shortening by 175 miles the Rio Grande distance between Denver and western Colorado, Salt Lake City, Ogden and the Pacific Coast.

Rio Grande passenger train in Glenwood Canyon where red walls brightened by countless evergreens present a brilliant spectacle.



## THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM

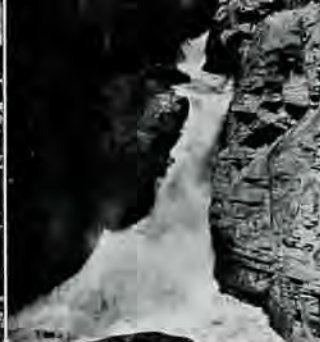




Spectacular is the view of fertile fields and thriving cities of the Colorado plains from high front range slopes along the Moffat Tunnel Route.



Thru a shoulder of James Peak, 13,260 ft. in elevation, the Moffat Tunnel is bored.



Eternal snows feed Ousel Falls, scenic gem in the Grand Lake region.



The railroad follows the Colorado River, sheltered by the mighty walls of rugged Gore Canyon.

# Moffat Tunnel Route

Denver to Ogden 606.9 miles

*Route of the Exposition Flyer, thru train between Chicago and San Francisco. All regularly assigned cars air-conditioned—coaches, diners, Pullmans, lounge-observation cars.*

*Route of the Prospector, Diesel-power, streamline train, overnight, every night, between Denver and Salt Lake City.*

**For Description of Royal Gorge Route, see p. 7.**

**Scenic Shortcut Thru the Rockies**, the Moffat Tunnel Route is the only direct transcontinental railroad serving Denver. (For detailed description of Denver see page 7).

**PLAINVIEW, COLO.**—D.-M. 24.5 mi.; elev. 6,782. Jefferson County. As the name indicates, it is from here that the magnificent view of far sweeping plains on the east includes almost one-fourth the total area of Colorado.

**TOLLAND, COLO.**—D.-M. 46.9 mi.; elev. 8,886. Boulder County. From Tolland, beautifully situated in verdant Boulder Park, the well-known Mammoth Gulch, there is a remarkable view of the "Giant's Ladder," marking the old course of the Denver & Salt Lake Railway to the summit of Corona Pass, 11,666 ft in altitude. This difficult and costly operation was abandoned upon completion of the Moffat Tunnel.

**EAST PORTAL, COLO.**—D.-M. 49.6 mi.; elev. 9,197 ft. Gilpin County.

## THE MOFFAT TUNNEL

One of America's great engineering feats, the Moffat Tunnel extends 6.2 miles under the Continental Divide.

The bore is 4,021 feet under the summit of James Peak, which rears its lofty crest 13,260 feet above sea level.

The eastern portal is on the south fork of Boulder Creek, waters from which make their way to the Atlantic Ocean. The western portal is on the upper reaches of the Fraser river, waters from which flow to the Pacific through the Colorado river and Boulder Dam's Lake Mead. Both streams follow glacial channels, the erosive work of the vast ice sheet that drifted down the sides of the Continental Divide.

The apex, in the center of the tunnel, is the highest point on the Moffat Tunnel Route, 9,239 feet above sea level. The railroad tunnel, 16 feet wide by 24 feet high to the intrados of its semi-circular roof, is the maximum for American railroads. The water tunnel, driven as a pioneer bore for the railroad tunnel, has been enlarged and lined for carrying water to a diameter of 10 feet 6 inches. With an annual capacity of 100,000 acre feet this tunnel brings Denver a trans-mountain water supply from the Fraser river on the Pacific slope. The two tunnels are 75 feet apart.

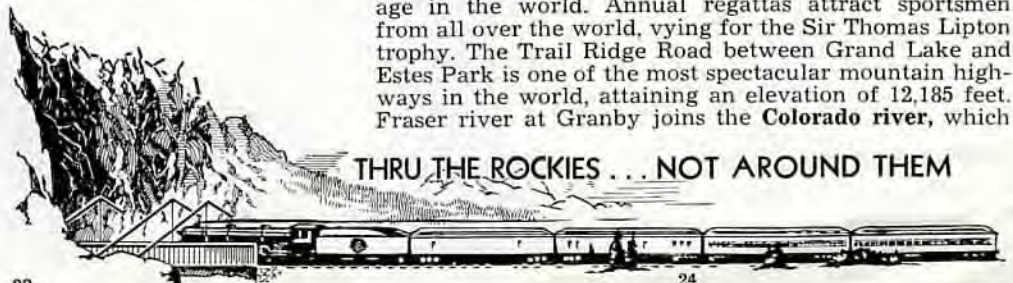
The permanent tunnel lining is reinforced concrete of varying thickness. The railroad through the tunnel is laid with continuous jointless welded 112 pound rail, providing unusually smooth riding qualities. An elaborate ventilating system, together with air-conditioning of passenger cars, entirely eliminates smoke.

Total net cost of the tunnel construction was approximately \$18,000,000. Work started in August, 1923. Completed in February, 1928, it was then the longest railroad tunnel in the western hemisphere.

**WINTER PARK, COLO.**—D.-M. 56.9 mi.; elev. 9,076. Grand County. Here, at the west portal of Moffat Tunnel, ideal snow conditions, six trails and a large open slope converging at shelter, a tow and snow tractor, and lodge facilities combine to make Winter Park a favorite with ardent skiers.

**GRANBY, COLO.**—D.-M. 75.5 mi.; pop. 251; elev. 7,937. Grand County. Granby is the gateway to beautiful **Grand Lake**, 16 miles distant, the highest yacht anchorage in the world. Annual regattas attract sportsmen from all over the world, vying for the Sir Thomas Lipton trophy. The Trail Ridge Road between Grand Lake and Estes Park is one of the most spectacular mountain highways in the world, attaining an elevation of 12,185 feet. Fraser river at Granby joins the **Colorado river**, which

Competition is keen for the Sir Thomas Lipton cup, awarded at the regatta held annually on Grand Lake, the world's highest yacht anchorage.





Maroon Bells mirrored in Maroon Lake add to the enchantment of the picturesque Glenwood Springs vacation region.



Ice cold water from the drift-covered slopes of Hagerman Peak constantly feed Snowmass Lake—two beauty spots of the Elk Mountains in the Glenwood Springs district.



Health-giving waters of Yampah Hot Springs pour into the world's largest open-air warm water pool at Glenwood Springs.

rises in the Grand Lake region. High altitude vegetables flourish in this section, a notable livestock center in the vast Middle Park of Colorado.

**HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS, COLO.**—D.-M. 86.1 mi.; pop. 235; elev. 7,662. County seat Grand County. Taking its name from the hot springs which have been famous for more than a century with red man and white man alike, this little town is the thriving center of Middle Park, a ranch area noted for its hay crops, cattle herds, lush meadows and high grazing land.

Indian, cowboy, stage-coach driver and cattle baron—each has played his part in writing the history of the Middle Park region. The hot springs section was purchased by Wm. N. Byers of Denver from the Utes in 1864, but they continued to use the water for whatever ailment distressed them. The celebrated Indian chieftain, Ouray, was brought to these springs ill from inflammatory rheumatism in the fall of 1866. He was carried in a litter, swung between two poles and dragged by mustang ponies. Completely cured, he wrote in charcoal on the door of Byers' cabin: "Hep good, Ura."

**Byers Canyon**, bordering Hot Sulphur Springs on the west, is just three miles in length, but is nevertheless a canyon of entrancing beauty. The Colorado River, at this point a sparkling mountain stream, rushes in white-capped haste thru a deep-cut channel, while sheer granite walls once again emphasize the might of the Rocky Mountains.

**KREMMLING, COLO.**—D.-M. 103.3 mi.; pop. 567; elev. 7,322. Grand County. Another thriving town delightfully situated on the Colorado River, close to its junction with the Blue River, Kremmling marks the eastern entrance to impressive Gore Canyon. Stockraising is the principal industry; hay and grain the principal crops.

### GORE CANYON

Its massive walls indelibly recording the intensely interesting geological history of the making of the Rocky Mountains, Gore Canyon has been described as the strait through which ocean waters entered thousands of years ago to form an inland sea, covering Middle Park. There is ample evidence of the various geological periods; the effects of glacial action are plainly seen in rounded and smooth rocks on the mountain slopes of Gore Range.

Gore Canyon and Gore Range are named for Sir

George Gore, a rich Irish sportsman who camped in Middle Park in 1855, and for more than two years hunted, with Jim Bridger as companion and guide and interpreter to the Indians. Gore brought an expedition of fifty persons, secretaries, stewards, cooks, dog tenders, hunters and servants. He had a train of thirty wagons besides numerous saddle horses. Grizzly bears, elk, deer, antelope and 2,500 buffalo were killed.

Possessing a distinctive primeval beauty, Gore Canyon is longer, more broken, and deeper than most western canyons. Lights and shadows, constantly shifting, enhance its wild majesty. Rugged Upper Gore Canyon extends for about five miles west of Kremmling, opening into a small park at **Azure**. The Colorado River roars thru a narrow channel in Lower Gore Canyon, a chasm two miles in length where the rim reaches a height of more than 1,500 feet above the railroad.

As a final scenic delight in this spectacular section Red Gorge presents an entrancing mile of highly colored canyon walls.

**BOND (Orestod), COLO.**—D.-M. 129.3 mi.; pop. 200; elev. 6,710. Eagle County. Bond, Rio Grande station adjoining Orestod, junction of the Rio Grande and Moffat railroads, came into existence with completion of the 38-mile Dotsero Cutoff in 1934. Major scenic attraction of the Dotsero Cutoff is **Red Canyon** of the Colorado river, a brilliantly colored passage which is destined to become another scenic favorite with American travelers. The Pagodas, chiseled by the elements in the likeness of Buddhist temples, are a strange, many-hued rock formation which have withstood the onslaught of time to bring vivid beauty to Red Canyon.

**BURNS, COLO.**—D.-M. 144.6 mi.; elev. 6,502. Center of a large stockraising region, Burns is midway across the Dotsero Cutoff between Bond and **Dotsero**.

Myriad trails thru the national forests, and along sparkling mountain streams, become fascinating bridle paths for horseback riders.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





Redstone, western guest ranch 28 miles south of Glenwood Springs, lies in a setting of incomparable natural beauty.



After strenuous, thrill-packed hours on the slopes, skiers relax in the comfortable surroundings of Highland-Bavarian Lodge, near Aspen, Colo.



Hanging Lake daringly projects from a lip of the Colorado River Canyon.

## Royal Gorge and Moffat Tunnel Routes

### GLENWOOD CANYON OF THE COLORADO RIVER

From junction of the Royal Gorge and Moffat Tunnel routes at **Dotsero**, Rio Grande trains all pass through the colorful Glenwood Canyon of the Colorado river, which extends practically the entire distance of 18 miles between Dotsero and Glenwood Springs. Its red walls brightened by countless evergreens, Glenwood Canyon possesses rare and distinctive beauty. The Colorado river, first wide and smooth, becomes an uneasy stream, gathering power to rush and boil over jagged boulders. Shoshone Dam, in the heart of the canyon, furnishes light and power for many Colorado cities, and gives a hint of the gigantic task imposed upon the Colorado river miles further down this turgid stream, where its waters are trapped by the towering man-made walls of Boulder Dam.

**GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLO.**—D.-R. 360.1 mi.; D.-M. 185 mi.; pop. 2,253 (seasonal, 5,000); elev. 5,758. County seat Garfield County. Nestled in the very heart of the Rockies despite its relatively low elevation, and surrounded by towering snow-crested peaks, this picturesque city is renowned as a pleasure and health resort. The climate is remarkably salubrious, the sunshine exhilarating. Here the far-famed Yampah Hot Springs, first discovered by the Indians, pours health-giving mineral waters into the world's largest warm water, open air pool, where swimming is enjoyed the year around. Here Nature excavated her own caves, supplying vapor baths and almost 50 hot springs with rare medicinal qualities. Bath houses offer many kinds of curative treatments.

Beautiful hotels and inviting cottage camps provide delightful accommodations for tourists.

Vacationers find many delightful "things to do" in Glenwood Springs and vicinity. There are splendid golf courses and tennis courts. More than 30 one-day trips may be taken to different scenic spots—by auto, horseback or hiking. Roaring Fork, Frying Pan and Crystal Rivers are well stocked with trout. Birds, big game and small game, all plentiful, make it the mecca for hunters the year around.

Ski experts from Switzerland have selected the Glenwood Springs region as America's best possibility for winter sports development. Altitude, sunshine, temperature, powder snow and vast slopes of infinite variety—every condition is ideal for the greatest winter playground of the nation. Highland Bavarian Lodge, 49 miles from Glenwood, the first unit of development, is already attracting winter sports enthusiasts from the world over. Ski in the morning at Aspen, swim in the afternoon at Glenwood Springs—this unusual combination of outdoor sports is found nowhere else in the west.

Principal industries of the region are farming and stock raising. Potatoes, sugar beets, small grains and hay are important crops. Natural resources include coal, oil shale and mineral hot springs. Over 100,000 tons of bituminous coal are produced annually in the Glenwood region.

### ASPEN BRANCH

*Glenwood Springs to Aspen 41.2 miles*

**CARBONDALE, COLO.**—D.-R. 373 mi.; D.-M. 197.9 mi.; pop. 437; elev. 6,181. Garfield County. Originally a stage station, Carbondale was organized in 1885 and has become famous for the high-quality potatoes raised in nearby valleys. One thousand carloads of potatoes, 500 carloads of livestock and 100 cars each of hay and grain are shipped yearly. Holy Cross National Forest lies south and east. Roaring Fork, Frying Pan and Crystal Rivers, and Thompson Creek supply many miles of excellent trout fishing. High-altitude mountain lakes are also well stocked with fish. Skiing and skating are popular winter sports.

**ASPEN, COLO.**—D.-R. 401.3 mi.; D.-M. 226.2 mi.; pop. 777; elev. 7,844. County seat Pitkin County. Formerly one of the west's most prosperous mining towns. Aspen is on its way to new fame as the center of the greatest winter playground in the country.



Powder snow, clear skies, invigorating atmosphere—this is what the skier finds on high slopes of the Rockies.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM



Raised from the unsullied depths of the Colorado Yule quarry, the pure white marble Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a shrine at Arlington National Cemetery.



Completely surrounded by high mountain ranges, Glenwood Springs, elevation 5800 feet, has a delightful climate which attracts visitors all seasons of the year.



Mt. Sopris, elevation 12,823 feet, dominates the landscape to the south along beautiful Crystal River valley between Carbondale and Redstone, Colo.

In 1887 the first Denver & Rio Grande train pulled into the booming mining camp of Aspen, then boasting a population of about 15,000. For years Aspen was a ranking silver-producing camp, with an all-time record of \$103,313,181. Beautiful homes were built amid the aspen trees for which the town was named. The panic of 1893 demonetized silver and Aspen's fortunes declined.

In 1936 European ski experts and international sportsmen conducted an exploring trip to find a winter playground comparable to the best in the Old World. Six miles from Aspen, they found ideal sites for ski courses, bobsled runs, toboggan slides and the perfect powder snow for skiing. Here, surrounded by 14 peaks over 14,000 feet and 31 peaks over 13,000 feet, America's finest winter sports center is in the making. The atmosphere is clear and dry. Winter days are sunny. The Highland Bavarian Lodge, six miles south of Aspen, is the first unit in development of the playground. A Swiss village at the ghost mining camp of Ashcroft, is planned to encompass all the facilities of an Alpine resort.

Aspen is one of the few places in the world ideal for both winter and summer sports. The Roaring Fork and its tributaries are the native haunt of gamey trout. Myriad trails invite the horseback rider or hiker into pine forests or along rocky ridges. The big game hunter finds the "promised land" in this country.

The mining of silver, lead, zinc and copper is the leading industry. High-altitude farming is being developed.

**Redstone, Colo.**—Pitkin County. Just 28 miles south of Glenwood Springs, in the valley of the Crystal river, Redstone is located in a setting of incomparable beauty. Originally built as a private estate at a cost of almost \$2,000,000, Redstone bids fair to become a ranking favorite among western guest ranches. Redstone Inn, patterned after a famous Holland inn, is unique in that it combines all the activities of a resort hotel with the charming informal atmosphere of a country estate. A hundred pleasantly appointed cottages are delightfully located near the inn. Splendid fishing, both lake and stream, tempt the angler. Deer, elk, bear, mountain lion and grouse abound in the nearby mountains, promising thrills galore for ardent sportsmen. Safe, quiet saddle horses await those who want to ride into a high country of unsurpassed scenic beauty.

**Marble, Colo.**—Gunnison County. Location of the famous Colorado Yule Marble quarry, Marble is just 12 miles

from Redstone. The Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, beloved shrines at the national capital, were constructed of pure white Colorado Yule marble. Extensively used, not only at Washington, D. C., but for distinctive public buildings throughout the nation, "America's most beautiful marble" is nationally renowned.

*(Finis Aspen branch and Glenwood region; back to Royal Gorge and Moffat Tunnel Routes).*

**RIFLE, COLO.**—D.-R. 386.6 mi.; D.-M. 211.5 mi.; pop. 1,373; elev. 5,310. Garfield County. Rifle is an important shipping center for cattle, sheep, and hogs raised in a far-flung livestock empire. Agricultural products include sugar beets, potatoes, hay and grain. Fruits are raised successfully on the irrigated lands adjacent. Rifle is the gateway to **Meeker**, county seat of Rio Blanco County, and principal trade center of the productive **White River** region, notable Colorado livestock area. Sportsmen find the White River country a paradise, with unexcelled trout fishing and big game hunting. Deer and elk are unusually numerous.

**GRAND VALLEY, COLO.**—D.-R. 404 mi.; D.-M. 228.9 mi.; pop. 230; elev. 5,104. Garfield County. Situated in an agricultural area, with good grazing land nearby, Grand Valley is largely supported by farming and stockraising. With climatic conditions right, poultry raising is gaining impetus. Grand Mesa National Forest is adjacent.

**DE BEQUE, COLO.**—D.-R. 416.6 mi.; D.-M. 241.5 mi.; pop. 280; elev. 4,945. Mesa County. Scientists persistently strive to find profitable means of retorting oil from mountains of oil shale surrounding De Beque. Principal industries are stockraising and farming. The numerous lakes of nearby Grand Mesa afford splendid trout fishing. The town, founded in 1879 by Dr. W. A. E. De Beque, is land-marked by an old stone fort once used for protection against the Indians.

A passenger train filled with pleasure-bound vacationists pulls into the Rio Grande station at Glenwood Springs.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





Rio Grande trains pass thru a 12-mile lane of peach trees in the vast orchard district between Palisade and Grand Junction.



Dams and irrigation ditches combine to furnish the water which has made Mesa County, Colorado, one of the West's richest agricultural districts.



In this rich belt are 500,000 bearing trees which annually yield 1,000,000 bushels of peaches.

**CAMEO, COLO.**—D.-R. 432.6 mi.; D.-M. 257.5 mi.; pop. 100; elev. 4,774. Mesa County. At this coal mining camp the walls of Palisade Canyon attain a maximum height of 1,500 feet to form gigantic pyramids of alternating layers of red sandstone with soft shale filling, giving the appearance of mortar in a great red wall. Here is the Cameo coal bed with a thickness of 10'11", of which 9'8" is pure coal.

**PALISADE, COLO.**—D.-R. 437.2 mi.; D.-M. 261.9 mi.; pop. 855 (seasonal 3,500); elev. 4,739. Mesa County. Between Palisade and Grand Junction Rio Grande trains pass through a 13-mile lane of peach orchards. Palisade is the center of this rich fruit belt, containing 500,000 bearing peach trees which annually yield 1,000,000 bushels of peaches. During the average 30-day picking season, when Palisade's population is more than trebled, Rio Grande fast freights carry more than 2,000 cars of peaches from the Palisade area. Peaches head the list of orchard products. Pinto beans, tomatoes and sugar beets are also ranking crops. Palisade, which gets its name from the natural palisades bordering the town, is in a region where coal is commercially mined. Palisade is one of several important gateways to **Grand Mesa**. From a tent village of 25 people in 1900, Palisade has become a thriving modern town.

**CLIFTON, COLO.**—D.-R. 442.7 mi.; D.-M. 267.4 mi.; pop. (prec.) 1,712; elev. 4,713. Mesa County. In the heart of the Grand Junction orchard region, Clifton is the shipping point for an important agricultural section. In addition to peaches and pears, Clifton is the center of a cantaloupe district, rapidly attaining prominence.

**GRAND JUNCTION, COLO.**—D.-R. 449.6 mi.; D.-M. 274.5 mi.; D. via Marshall Pass 424.2 mi.; pop. 12,479; elev. 4,583. County seat Mesa County. Division point and central terminal of the Rio Grande system. Grand Junction,

located at the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers, is the trading center and shipping point for a wealthy agricultural empire, is the largest city on the vast Western Slope of Colorado, and is the rail gateway to **Mesa Verde National Park** (see page 70), **Colorado National Monument**, and **Grand Mesa**.

Fruit production is led by peaches, but cherries, apricots, pears and apples are abundant. Pinto beans and tomatoes, cattle, sheep and wool come next in order on the agricultural and livestock list. Industrially important are canneries, a beet sugar factory and a plant manufacturing insecticides. Production of vanadium, uranium and carnotite tops the mineral list. There are more than 180 jobbers in Grand Junction, doing an annual business in excess of \$28,000,000. A splendid elementary school system is supplemented by the Grand Junction Junior College.

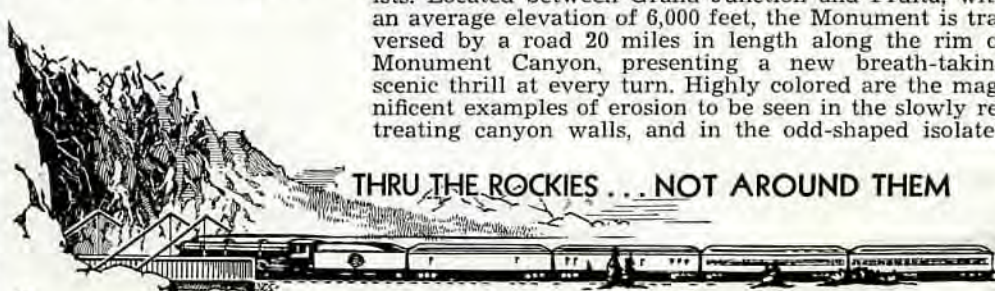
Records show that Escalante and Dominguez explored the region in 1776, and that Marcus Whitman forded Grand River (now the Colorado) in December, 1840, on his historic trip to Washington, D. C., to arouse the government to the folly of ceding the Pacific Northwest to Great Britain. After the Meeker Massacre in 1879, when Meeker and his men were killed at their post, the women and children, held as hostages, were kept in safety in Plateau Valley, through friendly intervention of Chief Ouray and his squaw Chipeta. The Indians finally signed a treaty relinquishing all claim to land in this section and were removed to the Uintah reservation in Utah. Grand Valley was opened to settlers in September, 1881, and Grand Junction was incorporated in 1882. Gunnison County was divided in 1883, creating Mesa, Delta and Montrose Counties from territory which formerly was Ute Indian reservation.

## COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

Embracing 18,188 acres, **Colorado National Monument**, created in 1911, with completion of an excellent federal highway, has become extremely popular with vacationists. Located between Grand Junction and Fruita, with an average elevation of 6,000 feet, the Monument is traversed by a road 20 miles in length along the rim of Monument Canyon, presenting a new breath-taking scenic thrill at every turn. Highly colored are the magnificent examples of erosion to be seen in the slowly retreating canyon walls, and in the odd-shaped isolated



Descendants of the mighty herds that once roamed western plains, buffaloes graze peacefully in Monument Canyon.







Shipped Rio Grande, western Colorado peaches reach far-away markets fresh and firm, original flavor retained.



The beauty and productivity of western Colorado peach trees is enhanced by this ingenious method of pruning.



Brightly colored giant monoliths, Colorado National Monument, are among America's most impressive specimens of the ageless work of erosion.

monoliths carved out of the sandstone cliffs during a period of millions of years. The marvelous vista of verdant Colorado River valley, with Grand Mesa and the Book Cliffs (only east-west range in Colorado) in the background, enhances the scenic beauty of Colorado National Monument. A large herd of buffaloes is enclosed in Monument canyon, while deer and elk are native in the region. A great dinosaur bed near Fruita has been uncovered, and record of the prehistoric reptiles is being graphically perpetuated on the massive hill sides.

### GRAND MESA

**Grand Mesa**, highest flat top mountain in the world, embraces 34,200 acres, or an area of about 53 square miles. At an altitude of 10,500 feet, it stands like a great sentinel guarding the entire area between Grand Junction and De Beque in the Colorado River valley; between Grand Junction and Delta in the Gunnison River valley. According to geologists, Grand Mesa has retained its flat contour because it is protected by a hard cap of basalt, or hardened lava. A vast wooded table land, Grand Mesa has more than 200 lakes, nearly all utilized as storage reservoirs for irrigation purposes. Easily accessible by road or trail are 166 miles of stream and 57 lakes well stocked with native, rainbow and brook trout. From Alexander Lake, 33 miles from Delta, it is 11 miles across Grand Mesa to Mesa Lake at Skyway, 48 miles from Grand Junction. The road twists and turns between quivering-leaved, silver-trunked aspens on to shaded lanes of spruce and alpine fir. The Land's End Road, reached via **Whitewater**, is a rim drive of remarkable scenic beauty, and has opened up a winter sports area of great promise.

### MONTROSE MAIN LINE

*Denver to Montrose via Moffat Tunnel Route 347.2 miles  
Route of the air-conditioned Mountaineer*

**DELTA, COLO.**—D.-M. 325.9 mi.; D. via Marshall Pass 372.8 mi.; pop. 3,717; elev. 4980. County seat Delta County. So named because it stands on the delta formed where Uncompahgre river enters Gunnison river, Delta is the center of an important agricultural area. Cattle and sheep produce greatest revenue. Sugar beets, onions, apples, peaches, alfalfa and small grains rank in order named. Industries include a beet sugar factory, creameries, cheese factories, flour mills and canneries. Grand

Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests are adjacent, with consequent excellent outdoor recreational opportunities.

### NORTH FORK BRANCH

*Delta to Somerset, 42.5 miles*

*Daily Bus Service Provided by Rio Grande Motor Way, unit of National Trailways System.*

**HOTCHKISS, COLO.**—D.-M. 350.8 mi.; D. via Marshall Pass 397.8 mi.; pop. 653; elev. 5,369 ft. Delta County. Hotchkiss is a thriving trade center in an agricultural and livestock district.

**PAONIA, COLO.**—D.-M. 359 mi.; D. via Marshall Pass 405.9 mi.; pop. 1,117; elev. 5,694. Delta County. Pleasantly situated on the North Fork of the Gunnison river, with Mt. Gunnison, 12,688 ft., dominating an impressive skyline, Paonia is best known for its orchards, which cover approximately 11,000 acres immediately adjacent to the town. Agricultural products and livestock, in order of importance, are apples, peaches, cherries, apricots, other tree, bush and vine fruits, cattle, sheep, hogs and bees. Paonia is the principal trade center for an extensive coal-producing area immediately adjacent to the northeast. Mines at **Bowie**, **Somerset** and **Oliver** annually produce an average of 180,000 tons of high grade bituminous coal.

Gunnison and Grand Mesa National Forests are contiguous, with Black Canyon National Monument only 30 miles away. Nearly 300 miles of trout fishing streams are found in the surrounding mountain area, where deer, elk, bear, grouse and sagehens abound.

**OLATHE, COLO.**—D.-M. 336.5 mi.; D. via Marshall Pass 362.2 mi.; pop. 750; elev. 5,365. Montrose County. The far-reaching effects of a great reclamation project are graphically portrayed here, where a barren expanse of dry, adobe soil has been transformed into a rich agricul-

Cold Shivers Point is the appropriate name given this towering monolith in Colorado National Monument.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





One of the more than 200 lakes which dot the 53-square-mile area of Grand Mesa.



Mesa Lake, near Skyway, Colo., is close to the top of Grand Mesa (10,500 feet elevation) highest flat top mountain in the world.



Western Colorado pinto beans, because of high vitamin content, attain remarkable nutritional value.



Registered herds of dairy cattle are responsible for Colorado's growing importance in this industry.

tural community through the magic of water supplied by the Gunnison Tunnel, placed in service years ago as the first unit of the Uncompahgre Reclamation Project, now assured of a perpetually adequate water supply through completion of the Taylor Park Dam and Reservoir, high in the mountains above **Gunnison**. (see page 73). Olathe is notable for the excellence of its onions and potatoes.

**MONTROSE, COLO.**—D.-M. 347.2 mi.; D. via Marshall Pass 351.5 mi.; pop. 4,764; elev. 5,811. County seat of Montrose County. Farming and stockraising are principal industries, although uranium, vanadium, carnotite, and radium in commercial quantities are important mineral resources. Famous Western Slope potatoes take top rank, followed by alfalfa, sheep and cattle, sugar beets, small grains and fruit. Uncompahgre National Forest lies close by, and within 30 miles are several of Colorado's most famous mountain peaks, including Sneffels, 14,143; Uncompahgre, 14,306; and Wilson, 14,026. Montrose offers much to sportsmen. There are 150 miles of nearby trout fishing streams, with deer, bear, grouse, sage hens, ducks and pheasants to entice hunters.

Prior to 1881 the Ute Indians held undisputed possession of the Uncompahgre valley. Head of all their tribes was Chief Ouray, who for many years ruled with such equity that he was known as the "White Man's Friend." Born in Taos, N. M., in 1833, he took a Tabeguache maiden, Chipeta, as his wife in 1859. The \$10,000 home of the famous chief was erected by the government near Montrose in 1878, just a few years before the Utes were moved to Uintah Reservation in Utah. Ouray died in 1881; a monument in Montrose Memorial Park honors his memory. Chipeta's remains are buried near a spring where the Indians camped along the Uncompahgre just a few miles south of Montrose. The spring is covered by an artistic concrete tepee erected in memory of the famous Indian couple.

## BLACK CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT

Major scenic attraction of the region is **Black Canyon National Monument**, created in 1923. Black Canyon, through which the turbulent Gunnison River flows, is 55 miles in length, but only ten miles of the more spectacular part is included in the Monument, which embraces an area of 11,157 acres, ranging in width from one to three miles. Depth of Black Canyon varies from 1,500 to 2,800 feet; width at the rim varies from 1,075 to 2,000 feet, at the bottom from 28 to 300 feet. At one spot in the canyon geologists have discovered a puzzling phenomenon. The basic rock, a hard volcanic formation, was formed during the Archeozoic period, while directly above it is a softer, sedimentary rock laid down during the Cretaceous period. Between the two periods scientists say there is a lapse of 455,000,000 years. What happened during the time between rock deposits will probably forever remain a mystery. Animal life in Black Canyon National Monument includes all the well known small mountain animals, together with deer, bear, mountain sheep, a few elk, and coyotes. There are 48 varieties of birds.

(Finis Montrose Main Line; back to Royal Gorge and Moffat Tunnel Routes).

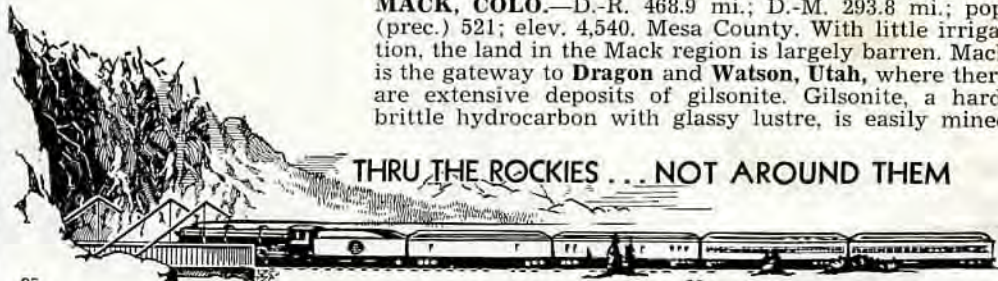
**FRUITA, COLO.**—D.-R. 460.5 mi.; D.-M. 285.4 mi.; pop. 1,466; elev. 4,510. Mesa County. Fruita, as its name implies, is located in a fertile agricultural district. Early potatoes of exceptional quality find a ready market, promoting rapid development of the potato industry. Beans and sugar beets are produced in large quantities, while extensive orchards indicate the importance of fruit raising. Fruita has assumed a place of prominence on Colorado's recreation map because of the close proximity of **Colorado National Monument**, with its striking and picturesque monoliths, fantastically carved.

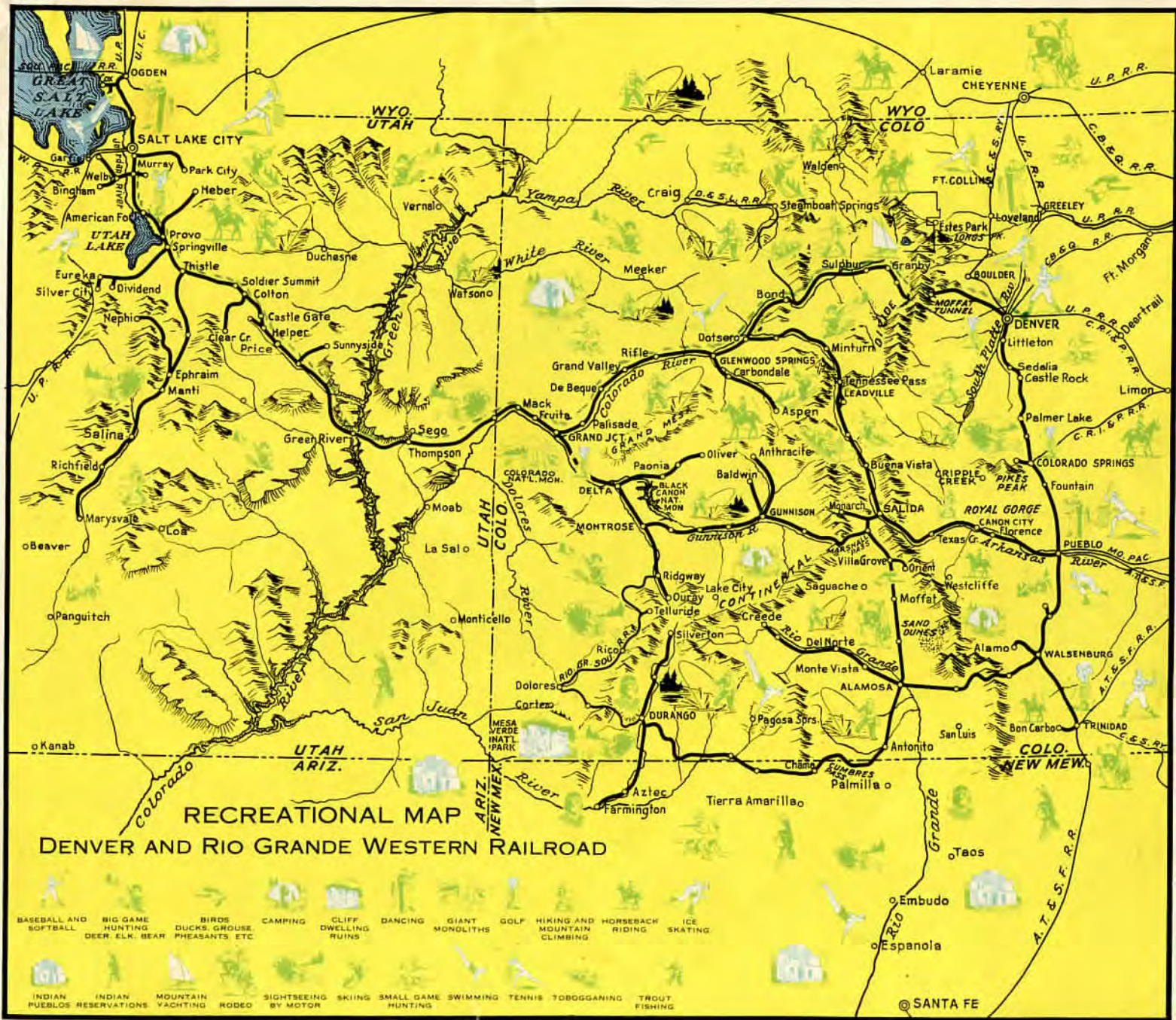
**LOMA, COLO.**—D.-R. 465.6 mi.; D.-M. 290.5 mi.; pop. 396; elev. 4,525. Mesa County. The High Line canal of the Reclamation service provides ample water for irrigation of land which has been found suitable for production of high quality potatoes, the major crop in the Loma district.

**MACK, COLO.**—D.-R. 468.9 mi.; D.-M. 293.8 mi.; pop. (prec.) 521; elev. 4,540. Mesa County. With little irrigation, the land in the Mack region is largely barren. Mack is the gateway to **Dragon and Watson, Utah**, where there are extensive deposits of **gilsonite**. Gilsonite, a hard, brittle hydrocarbon with glassy lustre, is easily mined

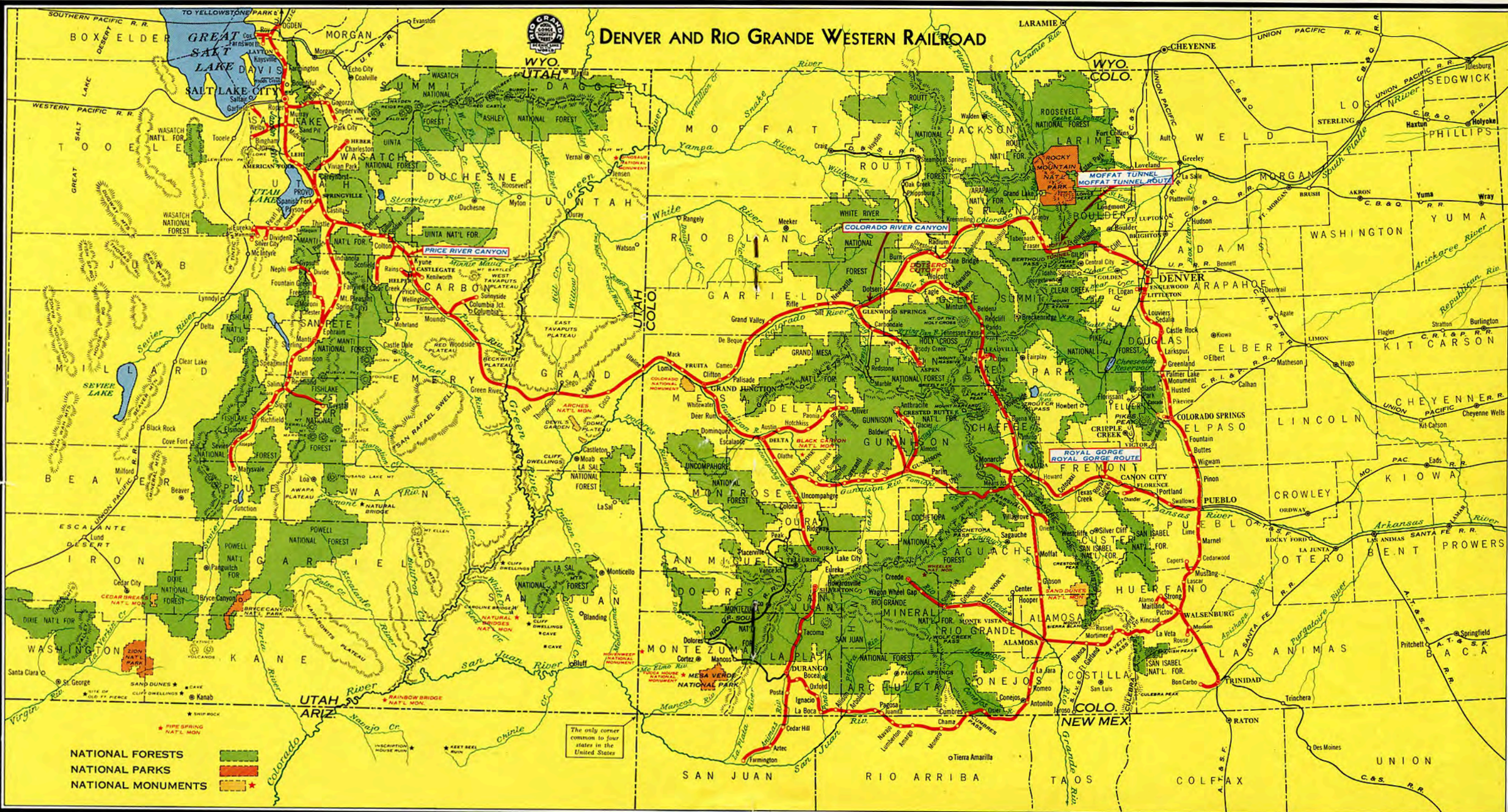


Dreaming of catches like this, 100,000 anglers annually buy Colorado fishing licenses.



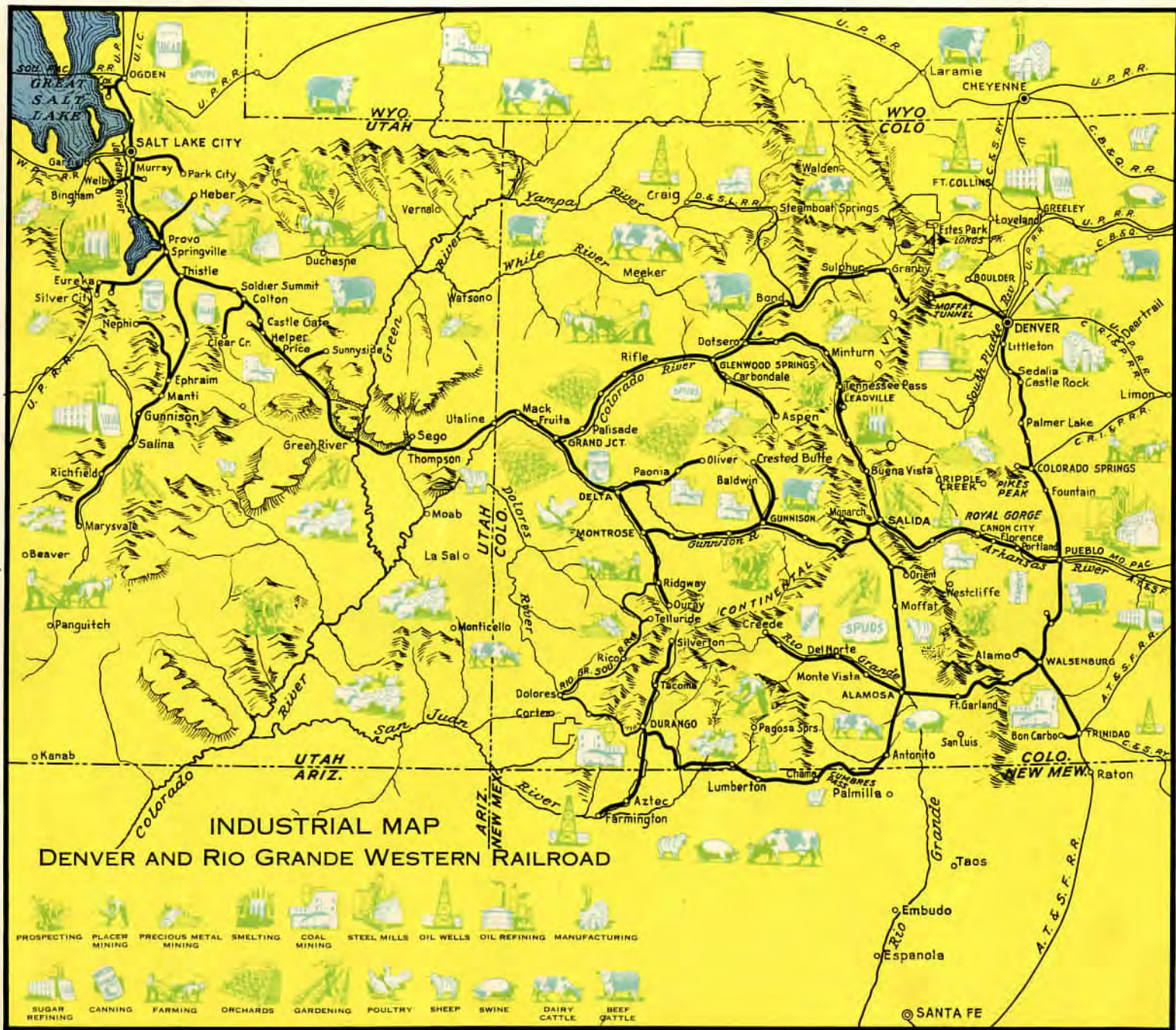


# DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD



NATIONAL FORESTS  
NATIONAL PARKS  
NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The only corner common to four states in the United States





Typical onion field in the Uncompahgre Valley near Olathe.



Erosion required 455,000,000 years to etch the awesome depths of Black Canyon.



Lamb feeding is a big-scale industry in the Uncompahgre Valley section of Montrose county.



Montrose county annually produces 259,000 bushels of wheat. This field yielded 87 bushels to the acre.

with hand picks. The veins are rarely more than 10 feet in width, but extend to unknown depths, with some of the workings as deep as 300 feet. Used extensively in the manufacture of linoleum products, gilsonite is also utilized in making paints, varnishes, roofing materials, and rubber substitutes.

**UTALINE**—D.-R. 483.4 mi.; D.-M. 308.3 mi.; elev. 4,344. Located directly on the line dividing **Colorado** and **Utah**, Utaline boasts a boundary monument with the state names prominently displayed.

**WESTWATER, UTAH**—D.-R. 488.4 mi.; D.-M. 313.3 mi.; pop. 50; elev. 4,340. Grand County. Here the Rio Grande leaves the Colorado River, which it has followed from headwaters high on the west slope of the Continental Divide. In the 238 miles between Granby, Colo., and Westwater, Utah, the Colorado has changed from a sparkling mountain stream to become a wide, restless, powerful river. Along no other railroad in the United States is the story of a major river more dramatically portrayed. From Westwater the railroad continues west, but the course of the river turns south and its waters, once largely wasted, are trapped by Boulder Dam to form Lake Mead, furnishing water for irrigation and domestic use, as well as electric power.

**CISCO, UTAH**—D.-R. 504.4 mi.; D.-M. 329.3 mi.; pop. 248; elev. 4,375. Grand County. In the heart of a vast sheep-herding country, Cisco is an important sheep-shearing and wool-shipping point.

**THOMPSON, UTAH**—D.-R. 528.1 mi.; D.-M. 353 mi.; pop. (prec.) 113; elev. 5,160. Grand County. An oasis on the desert, Thompson first came into existence because of the springs which were chief source of water for early-day travelers. A supply and shipping point for sheep owners in the region, Thompson is the rail gateway to **Moab**, county seat of Grand County, 32 miles to the southeast on the Colorado River. Moab was established as a Mormon colony during the period of heavy Mormon migration to Salt Lake City in the years immediately following Brigham Young's dramatic arrival in 1847. Between Thompson and Moab is **Arches National Monument**. The "window section" of this fascinating area includes 144 arches, or natural "windows" ranging in size from peepholes in the rock walls to great openings 153 feet in height. Thompson as the rail gateway and Moab as the highway gateway, are destined for future prominence as improved highways lead travelers

into southeastern Utah for a glimpse of the inspiring wonders of the vast **Natural Bridges National Monument**, where handiwork of the Master Engineer presents an inspiring sight. Not far from Natural Bridges National Monument is **Hovenweep National Monument**, on the Utah-Colorado border, notable for its excellently preserved ruins, consisting of four groups of prehistoric towers, pueblos, and cliff dwellings.

**GREEN RIVER, UTAH**—D.-R. 555.2 mi.; D.-M. 380.1 mi.; pop. 470; elev. 4,080. Emery County. Located on the banks of the river from which it takes its name, Green River boasts the lowest elevation of any point on the Rio Grande system. Summer temperature is almost torrid, and precipitation is slight. Water has been taken from Green River for the irrigation of a relatively small area that will produce almost all kinds of crops and fruit. Green River cantaloupes, although introduced to national markets just a few years ago, have already won a commanding position. A much larger area can be reclaimed by creation of a storage reservoir in Green River canyon far above the town and by constructing irrigation canals; once this has been accomplished, it is freely predicted that Green River valley will rival Grand Junction in the acreage under cultivation and in the abundance of its products. Alfalfa tops the present list of general farm crops, while cattle and sheep raising are important industries in the region. Carnotite and manganese, used as a flux for steel, are found nearby in commercial quantities. Green River affords good fishing, while ducks, geese, pheasants and deer provide excellent hunting.

Historically, Green River is steeped in the romance and adventure which characterized settlement of the West. It is said that Father Escalante sailed down the Green River in 1776, naming it Rio Buenaventura, "the river of good venture." The Rocky Mountain Fur Trad-

Black Canyon of the Gunnison River, 28 feet wide at the bottom, 2800 feet wide at the top, measures 2600 feet from rim to water edge.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





**Cathedral Towers**—twenty-five miles from Moab, Utah. Cliffs in this region are highly colored and rise to a height of about 1500 feet.



Cantaloupes and watermelons of superior flavor are grown in the magic soil of eastern Utah. Packing cantaloupes, Green River.



The Master Engineer built this Natural Bridge, an enduring structure located in the San Juan region of southeastern Utah.

ing Company in 1824 maintained trappers along the river, and it became the rendezvous for Indians and fur traders, among whom Jim Bridger was best known. Captain Gunnison, on his ill-fated survey of a route for a Pacific railroad, crossed Green River Sept. 30, 1853, and a short time later lost his life in an encounter with the Indians after he had crossed the Wasatch Plateau. Beckwith Plateau, not far distant, was named for Lieut. Beckwith, Capt. Gunnison's companion and successor. Originally called Blake City, the typical western frontier town became Green River in 1888. For years previous it had been the trading post for the notorious Wild Bunch or Robber's Roost gang of outlaws, whose hideout was about 65 miles away. Zane Grey's "Robber's Roost" is a tale of this vicinity. In 1883 the railroad bridge across the river was completed. The Ute Indians went on the war path in 1886, and the Rio Grande sent guns and ammunition in to the harassed settlers, holding a narrow gauge train in readiness to carry out the people, if necessary.

**MOUNDS, UTAH**—D.-R. 603.2 mi.; D.-M. 428.1 mi.; elev. 5,442. Emery County. A branch line of the Rio Grande leads to **Sunnyside**, one of the largest coal mines in the district, about 18 miles distant. Coal has been mined extensively at Sunnyside since 1900, with daily output averaging about 2,000 tons. From **Columbia Junction**, the Columbia Steel Company's branch railroad runs to **Columbia**, supplying coal for the company's steel mills.

**FARNHAM, UTAH**—D.-R. 608.7 mi.; D.-M. 433.6 mi.; elev. 5,313. Carbon County. A natural well of carbon dioxide gas supplies a large plant for compression of the gas and manufacture of dry ice.

**PRICE, UTAH**—D.-R. 619.1 mi.; D.-M. 444 mi.; pop. 5,214; elev. 5,546. County seat Carbon County, so named because of the great beds of coal found in the Book Cliffs.

This attractive, modern city is a large shipping and distributing point for sheep, wool, and agricultural products. Chief industry is mining of Utah rock asphalt, a perfect natural paving mixture of bituminous sandstone containing about 90 per cent siliceous material in saturated combination with approximately 10 per cent of pure natural asphalt.

Price is the center of an important agricultural area, with 40,000 acres of tillable ground immediately adjacent. Alfalfa, wheat, oats, barley, corn, potatoes, sugar beets and fruits are all raised in commercial quantities. With numerous active coal camps nearby, there is an excellent year around local market.

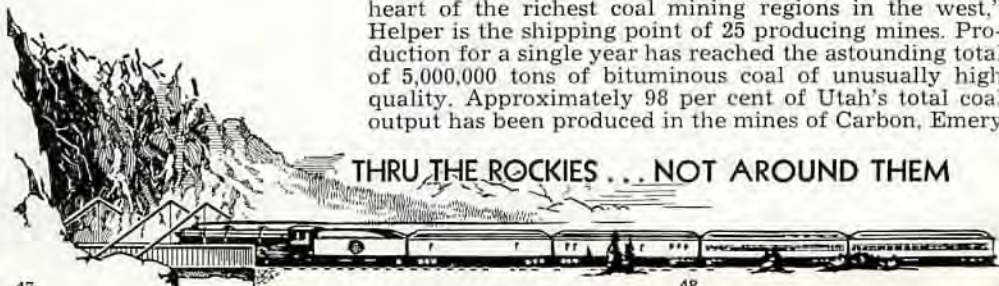
Price is strategically located at the gateway to an empire between the Rockies and the Wasatch ranges; this section of eastern Utah represents one-fourth the area of the state and about one-tenth its population. As the trading center for the vast Uintah Basin, Price is the logical commercial center about which future development of this great territory abounding in natural resources must revolve. Great beds of asphaltum, gilsonite, elaterite and other hydrocarbon minerals are practically untouched. Vastness of the territory is illustrated by the fact that government garages at Price service the longest U. S. Star mail route in the nation. A short distance from Price are attractive fishing and hunting areas, at Scofield, Huntington Canyon, and Joe's Valley.

Price is the rail gateway to **Dinosaur National Monument**, at Jensen, in Uintah County on the Green River. Bones of prehistoric reptiles that roamed 150,000,000 years ago, lived in shallow water and fed on water plants, have been recovered from Dinosaur National Monument, where extensive excavations are directed by the National Park Service. *Apatosaurus louisae*, 71'6" long, 14'8" high, has been reconstructed and is on exhibition at the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**HELPER, UTAH**—D.-R. 626.5 mi.; D.-M. 451.4 mi.; pop. 2,843; elev. 5,840. Carbon County. Book Cliffs tower 1,500 feet above the station in Helper, a lively, progressive town built at the mouth of the canyon cut by the Price River. Accurately described as being located "in the heart of the richest coal mining regions in the west," Helper is the shipping point of 25 producing mines. Production for a single year has reached the astounding total of 5,000,000 tons of bituminous coal of unusually high quality. Approximately 98 per cent of Utah's total coal output has been produced in the mines of Carbon, Emery



Loved ones may be entrusted to the safe security of Rio Grande sleeping cars.





Green River Geyser spouts every 45 minutes to a height of 100 feet.

Pictograph stories of prehistoric man, carved on the rocks of eastern Utah, lift but little the veil of mystery thrown about early American history.

Delicate Arch, Arches National Monument near Thompson, Utah.

Looking into Colorado River Canyon from Dead Horse Point near Moab, which is 3000 feet from rim to floor of canyon.

and Grand counties; workable coal deposits are practically inexhaustible, since scarcely 1/10th of one per cent of the total coal resources have been exhausted during the 50 years in which records have been kept. Helper is the shipping point for such important coal mines as **Spring Canyon, Standardville, Latuda, Mutual, Kennilworth, and Castle Gate.**

Helper's importance to the adjacent mining district does not cease with shipping point service, for the community is the principal trading, religious, social and amusement center for the numerous camps situated in canyons adjoining.

**CASTLE GATE, UTAH**—D.-R. 630.3 mi.; D.-M. 455.2 mi.; pop. 851; elev. 6,120. Carbon County. The Castle Gate group of coal beds lie near the tops of the ridges at the mouth of Price River canyon, the coal being lowered by long inclined tramways to the tipples. Castle Gate takes its name from that of the spectacular high projecting points of gray sandstone which close in on the valley about two miles from the town, leaving only a narrow passage resembling a gateway in the walls of an ancient castle. Castle Gate is the imposing entrance to **Price River Canyon**, where ever-changing lights and shadows present an enchanting sight in their play on the weird formations of the mighty cleft, walls of which attain a height of 1,500 feet above the river bed.

**COLTON, UTAH**—D.-R. 644.5 mi.; D.-M. 469.4 mi.; pop. 26; elev. 7,170. Utah County. Colton, well up the slope of the Wasatch Plateau, is located in a vast grazing area, which furnishes grazing for thousands of sheep. From Colton the **Pleasant Valley Branch** extends 21 miles to **Clear Creek**, Carbon County, serving coal mines at **Scofield** and **Clear Creek**.

**SOLDIER SUMMIT, UTAH**—D.-R. 651.5 mi.; D.-M. 476.3 mi.; pop. 69; elev. 7,440. Wasatch County. Here, at the crest of Wasatch Plateau, the Rio Grande reaches its highest Utah elevation. Soldier Summit is so named because several U. S. soldiers were buried here in 1860. President Buchanan had dispatched soldiers to Utah because of trouble between territorial officers and the Mormon settlers, but the armed force was not needed, as the difficulties were amicably settled by a personal representative of the President. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, who left Utah in 1860, was given a command in the Confederate Army the next year.

**THISTLE, UTAH**—D.-R. 680.9 mi.; D.-M. 505.8 mi.; pop. (prec.) 318; elev. 5033. Utah County. From Thistle, lying at the foot of the west slope of the Wasatch Plateau, the **Marysvale** branch line (see description page 59) extends 132.2 miles south thru the rich Sanpete and Sevier valleys to Marysvale.

**SPRINGVILLE, UTAH**—D.-R. 695.8 mi.; D.-M. 520.7 mi.; pop. 4,796; elev. 4,555. Utah County. Taking its name from the hot spring emanating from the base of the mountain in nearby Hobbles canyon, Springville marks the real beginning of the vast and fertile Salt Lake Valley. The shimmering surface of Utah Lake adds to the beauty of this land of peace and plenty. This flourishing town is surrounded not only by fields of grain, alfalfa and sugar beets, but by orchards that stretch out mile after mile. Sugar factories, flour mills and canneries are major industrial activities in this section of Utah county.

### THE TINTIC BRANCH

*Springville to Silver City, 43 miles*

**SPANISH FORK, UTAH**—Springville 3.8 mi.; pop. 4,167; elev. 4,582; Utah County, and—

**PAYSON, UTAH**—Springville 10.8 mi.; pop. 3,591; elev. 4,610. Utah County. These thriving towns, each an important community in a remarkable agricultural empire, attest the fertility of Utah soil, and graphically show the magic wrought by adequate irrigation. Uintah National Forest, to the northeast, and Manti National Forest, to the southeast, provide excellent outdoor recreation centers. Both towns are served daily by Rio Grande Motor Way, unit of the National Trailways System.

**DIVIDEND, UTAH**—Springville via Pearl 34 mi.; pop. (prec.) 347; elev. 5,913; Utah County, and—

**EUREKA, UTAH**—Springville 39.1 mi.; pop. 2,292; elev. 6,452; Juab County, and—

Comfortable reclining chairs that swing to any position permit maximum enjoyment of America's finest scenic panorama.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM







The Castle Gate mine is one of the largest in Carbon County, Utah, which takes its name from vast deposits of bituminous coal underlying its surface.



Castle Gate, formed by giant projecting gray sandstone battlements, is the imposing entrance to Utah's Wasatch range.



Columbia Steel Plant, Provo, Utah.

**SILVER CITY, UTAH**—Springville 43 mi.; pop. (prec.) 111; elev. 6,100. Juab County. Eureka is the major community in the rich Tintic mining district, which boasts precious metal mines of high rank. Records reveal all-time production totaling \$367,955,105.

(*Finis Tintic Branch; back to Royal Gorge and Moffat Tunnel Routes.*)

**PROVO, UTAH**—D.-R. 701.2 mi.; D.-M. 526.1 mi.; pop. 18,071; elev. 4,512. County seat Utah County. Third largest and one of the wealthiest cities in Utah, Provo is a testimonial to the vision and perseverance of the Mormons, who transformed a desert into an agricultural empire, creating material wealth from natural resources. Hay and grain top the list of agricultural products, with fruit, sugar beets and vegetables next in order. Poultry and poultry products form a substantial industry, while dairying has been extensively developed. Sheep and lambs head the livestock list, ranking ahead of cattle.

Steel and iron plants, coke and gas works, plants for manufacture of pressure pipe for water and gas, foundries, machine works, brick and tile plants, candy factories, and creosote plants give Provo industrial prominence. It is the hub of a region rich in mineral resources.

Provo River flows through the city into Utah Lake. This lake, 30 miles long and six miles wide, is the largest fresh water lake in Utah. Center street, with its attractive flowered parkway, cuts a straight line from the shore of Utah Lake three miles through Provo to the base of Mt. Timpanogos. Headquarters of Uintah National Forest is located here. Close to the city are 135 miles of trout fishing streams. In abundance are pheasants, quail, ducks, and geese, with deer and elk in the immediate neighborhood. Skiing, skating, and tobogganing are winter sports enjoyed in the mountains just 15 miles from Provo.

**Timpanogos Cave National Monument**, a veritable fairyland, is reached by the fascinating Alpine Scenic

Highway. The cave, located at an elevation of 6,776 feet, is a cavern 600 feet in length filled with formations of exquisite beauty. Stalactites and stalagmites, in bewildering profusion, are the main feature, though there are several mirror-like pools and numerous minor recesses. Mt. Timpanogos, 12,008 feet in elevation, properly called Utah's Wonder Mountain, is monarch of the Wasatch range. On its high slopes is the southernmost glacier in America.

Provo was named after a French-Canadian trapper, Etienne Provot. First white explorers were Escalante and Dominguez, who arrived in the valley Sept. 23, 1776, preaching to the Indians on the shore of Utah Lake before continuing along their way to Monterey, California. Soon after the arrival of the Mormon pioneers in 1847, Brigham Young sent explorers southward and a permanent settlement was formed on Provo river in 1849. The town was incorporated in 1856. Early history of Provo is a chronicle of courageous pioneering, with Indian wars punctuating the ceaseless struggle for development of irrigation.

Brigham Young University, with a normal enrollment of 2,500 students representing 25 states, dominates an excellent educational system.

## PROVO CANYON BRANCH

*Provo to Heber, 25.7 miles*

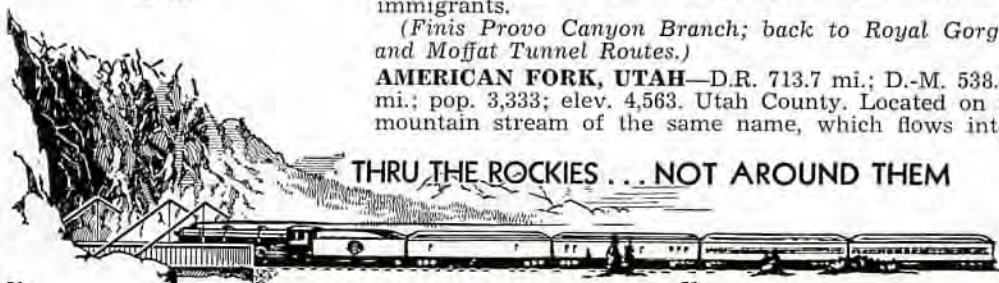
**HEBER, UTAH**—Provo 25.7 mi.; pop. 2,748; elev. 5,559. County seat Wasatch County. This branch line turns directly through the well irrigated farms to the north of Provo and ascends Provo Canyon, which cuts across the Wasatch Range, winding about the base of Mt. Timpanogos. Livestock, mining and timber are ranking industries. Great quantities of gilsonite, elaterite, ozocerite, and other hydrocarbon ores, mined in surrounding mountains, are shipped from Heber. Hay, grain, hardy fruits and vegetables are raised in abundance. Wasatch and Uintah National Forests are nearby, with exceptionally good trout fishing in streams and lakes. Deer, elk, bears, mountain lions, ducks and pheasants entice hunters. Heber City was first settled in 1859 by a group of English Mormon immigrants.

(*Finis Provo Canyon Branch; back to Royal Gorge and Moffat Tunnel Routes.*)

**AMERICAN FORK, UTAH**—D.R. 713.7 mi.; D.-M. 538.6 mi.; pop. 3,333; elev. 4,563. Utah County. Located on a mountain stream of the same name, which flows into



Melting snows from Spanish Fork Peak are trapped in reservoirs and released thru carefully controlled headgates to literally "make the desert blossom as the rose."



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM



Sparkling Upper Falls tumbles gaily down the side of Provo Canyon.



Mt. Timpanogos, glacier-crowned sentinel of Utah's Wasatch range, is particularly impressive when viewed across the sparkling waters of Utah Lake.



Utah Copper Mine—North America's largest open cut copper mine at Bingham, Utah, 28 miles from Salt Lake City.

Utah Lake, this thriving town is in a rich agricultural belt. Stock and poultry raising have been extensively developed. Nearby mountain streams and the great fresh water lake provide excellent recreational facilities.

**LEHI, UTAH**—D.-R. 717 mi.; D.-M. 541.9 mi.; pop. 2,733; elev. 4,550. Utah County. Lehi was settled in 1852 by resourceful pioneers who, by diverting the waters of Dry Creek, secured irrigation for development of a rich agricultural community. Wheat, sugar beets and truck garden vegetables are principal crops. Stockraising, dairying and poultry raising yield large revenues. Fire clay beds, calcite and black marble quarries are close. Industries include flour and feed mills, a turkey processing plant and a calcite plant. In 1893 the first sugar factory in the west was established at Lehi.

Scenic spots adjacent include Timpanogos Peak and Cave and Alpine Scenic Drive (Timpanogos Loop). Just two miles south is Utah Lake and the source of the Jordan River, which flows into Great Salt Lake much as the biblical River Jordan pours into the Dead Sea.

**MIDVALE, UTAH**—D.-R. 734.5 mi.; D.-M. 559.4 mi.; pop. 2,875; elev. 4,365. Salt Lake County. The rugged expanse of the Wasatch Range forms an imposing background for the farms in the valley. Located here is a large mill and lead smelter for the reduction of ores from the Bingham mines. Known as the smokeless smelter, it was one of the first to recover and utilize substances contained in the gases and previously allowed to go into the air, poisoning and killing vegetation. Midvale is the junction point of branch lines running to **Welby**, **Bingham Canyon** and **Garfield**.

### BINGHAM BRANCH

*Midvale to Bingham 14.1 miles; Midvale to Garfield via Welby 25.7 miles*

**BINGHAM, UTAH**—Salt Lake City 24.7 mi.; pop. 2,834; elev. 5,862. Salt Lake County. One of the most spectacular sights in the world is North America's largest surface copper mine at Bingham. Here will be seen a mountain being actually removed by giant steam and electric shovels, working on a score of terraces. In normal operation, more material is dug and dumped into railroad cars here every day than was moved during the digging of the Panama Canal in any one day of the most intensive operations on the Isthmus. Trains carry the ore to the **Garfield** and **Midvale** smelters. The side of Bingham

Canyon rises 1,600 feet in a series of giant steps. The town itself has only one street which twists and winds along the narrow canyon. Buildings appear wherever a foothold can be contrived and the residents of the community literally live inside the great excavation. A mining center since 1865, the Bingham mine of the Utah Copper Company handles about 22,000 tons of low-grade ore every day. New wealth produced in the Bingham district during the past 71 years reaches the staggering sum of \$1,214,636,982.

*(Finis Bingham Branch; back to Royal Gorge and Moffat Tunnel Routes.)*

**MURRAY, UTAH**—D.-R. 738.7 mi.; D.-M. 563.3 mi.; pop. 5,740; elev. 4,310. Salt Lake County. Smelting and ore refining are the principal industries, with some farming. Many of the smelters built here have been consolidated into the large Murray Smelter of the American Smelting & Refining Co., which handles only silver-lead ores.

**SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**—D.-R. 745.1 mi.; D.-M. 570 mi.; pop. 149,934 (195,000 in metropolitan area); elev. 4,224 ft. Salt Lake City, capital of Utah and county seat of Salt Lake County, is unique, not only for its interesting location in the shadow of the Wasatch mountains, but for the romance of its origin and the story of its commercial and cultural development. The unusually wide, tree-lined streets, many parks, well-kept lawns and profusion of flowers give a feeling of spacious restfulness. Handsome public buildings, fine hotels and beautiful residences make it an outstanding metropolis of the west. Mean annual temperature is 54 degrees. Mountain ranges close by are a protection from severe winter cold, while cool breezes from snow-capped peaks delightfully temper each summer day.

From the famous Temple Square radiate the far-flung activities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Mountain air endows the tennis player with a springier step and a speedier serve.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM

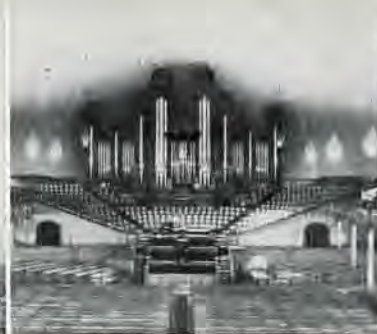




Seagull Monument commemorates destruction of cricket hordes in 1848 by the white winged birds.



The famous six spires atop the Mormon Temple, Salt Lake City, are dominated by the gold covered statue of the Angel Moroni.



Unsurpassed in tone quality is the Mormon Tabernacle's Great Organ, with a total of 8,000 pipes.



Skiers pause to look down on Rio Grande Lodge in Alta Basin, just forty-five minutes from Salt Lake City.

Saints. The ten-acre park in the heart of the city forms an impressive setting for the massive buildings, unique in architectural design. Here is the six-towered Mormon Temple and the domed Tabernacle with its great pipe organ. Here too, is the only monument to bird life in America. The Seagull Monument was erected in memory of the white-winged birds, which, when crickets threatened devastation of all crops in 1848, swarmed down to devour the pests. Around Temple Square are grouped many buildings of historic interest. Lion House, Beehive House (the home of Brigham Young), and the Eagle Gate, built in the 70's as the entrance to Brigham Young's estate, all reflect the religious life of early days. The Deseret Museum contains interesting relics of pioneer life.

Another notable building is the imposing State Capitol, of native Utah granite, topping a hill north of the city, directly beneath Ensign Peak.

On July 24, 1847, Salt Lake City was founded by a little band of 148 Mormons, led by Brigham Young, seeking sanctuary from a world unfriendly to their faith. Explorers had reported this section of the West worthless for permanent settlement, and on that fateful midsummer day in 1847, this first band of Mormons to glimpse Salt Lake Valley, as they emerged from Emigration Canyon saw only a few straggling trees and a light growth of brush along the streams flowing out of the hills. But Brigham Young, who had seen this valley in a vision long before, uttered the now-famous words, "This is the place! Drive on." Thus began transformation of the desert. Rapid development of Salt Lake City is a testimonial to the spirit, skill, and faith of a remarkable people inspired by an ideal.

The Mormons, deeply interested in education and culture, immediately started building schools, social halls and theatres. Within three years the University of Utah

was established, the oldest university west of the Missouri River. This institution, with a present enrollment of more than 4,000 students, has attained high rank among American universities. In 1862 the Salt Lake Theatre was erected and was ranked as one of the foremost playhouses in the nation. From this time Salt Lake City became known as a center for music and drama.

The Mormon Temple was begun in 1853, requiring 40 years for completion. Much of the native Utah granite, used in its construction, was hauled 20 miles from Little Cottonwood Canyon by ox team. The granite walls are 16 feet thick at the base and six feet thick at the top. The statue of Angel Moroni, which crowns the highest of the Temple's six pinnacles, is of hammered bronze covered with pure leaf gold.

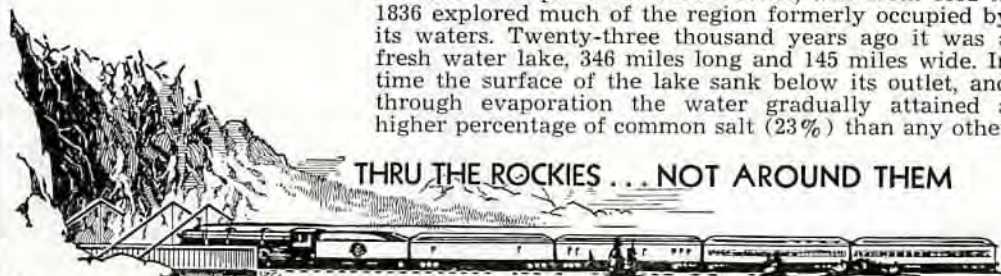
The great domed Tabernacle, completed in 1867, is one of the most unique buildings in the world from an architectural standpoint. It is 250 feet long, 80 feet high and 150 feet wide, seating about 8,000 people. The roof is supported only by 44 buttresses which surround the building. The wooden beams and joints were put together with wooden pegs and cowhide thongs. Because of the shape of the building and absence of any metallic substances the acoustics are so marvelous that the dropping of a pin can be heard the entire length of the building, more than 200 feet.

The first pipe organ was made almost entirely by hand by Utah artisans. Now the great Tabernacle organ with its 8,000 pipes, is fully electrified and is said by world-famed musicians to have the richest and sweetest tone of any organ in the world. Free noon organ recitals are given daily, except Sunday.

Salt Lake City is the center of greatly diversified interests, resources and industries. The manufacture of petroleum products takes top rank, with other manufactured products yielding large revenues.

Ten miles from the city is the Great Salt Lake, an inland sea, covering an area of 2,000 sq. mi. It is 75 miles long with a maximum width of 50 miles. Large as it is, it is but a small part of ancient Lake Bonneville, so named in honor of Capt. B. L. E. Bonneville, who from 1832 to 1836 explored much of the region formerly occupied by its waters. Twenty-three thousand years ago it was a fresh water lake, 346 miles long and 145 miles wide. In time the surface of the lake sank below its outlet, and through evaporation the water gradually attained a higher percentage of common salt (23%) than any other

Float like a cork in water 23% salt—it's impossible to sink. Saltair Beach is 15 miles from Salt Lake City.





Ogden, busy industrial center, lies close to the western slopes of the Wasatch range.



Pineview Dam and Reservoir, in Ogden Canyon, stores 41,000 acre feet of water.



Excursion trains carry winter sports enthusiasts to ideal snow conditions on ski slopes near Park City, Utah.



Silver King Mine, Park City, Utah, one of the world's most productive silver and lead mines.

large body of water in the world. Each year thousands of visitors enjoy the exhilarating experience of swimming in its waters, so buoyant that it is impossible to sink. Salt-air Bathing Beach is a unique amusement resort. The dance pavilion, built over the shoreline, is one of the largest in the world. The Bonneville Salt Flats, a salt deposit left by the receding lake, covers about 159 sq. mi. The surface is hard and rigid enough to support loaded trucks. In 1912 these Salt Flats were tested as a race course and declared the greatest speedway in the world. Since 1931 most of the world's famous drivers have had their try on this course.

Salt Lake City has 16 parks and playgrounds and many sporty golf courses. Hogle Zoo is a popular attraction. Six picturesque canyons lead from the very edge of the city into the heart of the Wasatch Mountains, with improved highways to scenic spots of great beauty. Stream and lake trout, salmon and other species provide fun for fishermen. Fresh and salt water swimming, boating and mountain climbing are favorite recreations. Winter sports are developing rapidly with settings and facilities made to order for skiing and bob-sledding.

One of America's most famous winter sports centers is located at **Alta Basin**, high in Utah's Wasatch mountains twenty-eight miles southeast of Salt Lake City, where skiing, ice skating, and tobogganing are popular from mid-November to mid-April. Alta, once one of the West's most famous silver mining camps, can be reached by auto or bus from Salt Lake City in forty-five minutes. An abundance of powder snow, vast open slopes, a chair lift, instruction by nationally famous skimeisters, natural and slalom runs, practice slopes, and first-class accommodations at Rio Grande Alta Ski Lodge are among the outstanding attractions of the resort.

**LAYTON, UTAH**—D.-R. 767.2 mi.; D.-M. 594.1 mi.; pop. 646; elev. 4,329. Davis County. Layton, like its near neighbors—**Farmington, Kaysville, Roy, Cox and Farnsworth**—is located in the rich agricultural belt bordering Great Salt Lake between Salt Lake City and Ogden. Hay and grain, sugar beets, potatoes and onions are principal crops, while truck gardening is extensively practiced. Sugar factories and canneries provide industrial activity.

**OGDEN, UTAH**—D.-R. 782 mi.; D.-M. 606.9 mi.; pop. 43,688; elev. 4,293. County seat Weber County. Western terminal of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, Ogden, second largest city in Utah, is located at the junction of the Ogden and Weber Rivers near the base of the

Wasatch Range. Founded in 1848, this beautiful city was laid out and planned in detail by Brigham Young two years later. Today Ogden is a modern, prosperous city, important as a livestock and manufacturing center. Grain and flour mills, sugar factories, canneries and meat packing plants rank first in value of products. Pickle, cereal and can factories, cement, brick and tile plants, foundries, woolen mills, clothing and candy factories are leaders in the list of 17 distinct lines of manufacturing industries, which account for an annual business volume exceeding \$38,000,000. Ogden owes its industrial success to the surrounding wealthy agricultural area which has been intensively cultivated. Echo Dam and Pine View Dam supply adequate water for irrigation.

From Mount Ogden (9,700 ft. in elevation) there is a magnificent panorama affording a glimpse into Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada, as well as an entrancing spectacle of Utah cities, great expanses of farms and orchards, several mountain chains and the Great Salt Lake, which lies about 10 miles west of Ogden. Ogden Canyon, about two miles east, is one of the most picturesque gorges in the West. The upper canyon is extremely narrow, with precipitous walls rising almost perpendicular from the canyon bed. The nearby rugged mountains and their canyons hold a fascination for the fisherman, hiker, bridge path devotee and motorist; and their deep snows offer a winter paradise to lovers of skiing and tobogganing.

At **Logan**, 50 miles north of Ogden, is the Utah State Agricultural College, a technical school ranking high among American institutions of higher learning.

### THE PARK CITY BRANCH

*Salt Lake City to Park City (Passenger Service via Rio Grande Motor Way) 30.6 miles.*

**PARK CITY, UTAH**—Salt Lake City 30.6 mi.; pop. 3,739; elev. 6,970; Summit County. Ending at one of the great

Ski tow at Alta Basin, popular Utah winter sports resort, twenty-five miles from Salt Lake City.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





Manti Temple, fifth erected by the Latter Day Saints. Completed in 1888, it cost \$992,000.



Sugar Factory at Gunnison, draws its supply of sugar beets from the fertile fields of central Utah.



Fish Lake, near Richfield, a favorite haunt for Utah followers of Izaak Walton.



Mt. Nebo, 12,000 ft. elevation, rises above fertile fields, and is accessible on the Scenic Loop Drive, just 45 minutes from Nephi.

silver, lead and gold camps of the state, the Park City line is laid through Parley's Canyon, so named in honor of Parley P. Pratt, leader of the "First Immigration" or handcart companies of Mormon pioneers. Just out of Salt Lake City there are entrancing views of the State Capitol, the University of Utah and Fort Douglas, far-famed western military post.

Ecker Hill near Stoven (formerly Kimball), 26 miles from Salt Lake City, annually attracts thousands of winter sports enthusiasts.

Park City is a typical and thriving western mining town. Some of the world's most productive silver-lead mines are located here. The Silver King Coalition mine is said to be one of the most perfectly developed of all American mines, with profitable work laid out for many years to come. The Park Utah Consolidated Mining Co., has holdings which comprise several thousand acres of rich mineral land; with an excellent production background this company is pushing an extensive development program. All-time production record of the Park City district—silver, lead, gold and copper—reaches the astonishing total of \$321,766,897.

### THE MARYSVALE BRANCH

*Salt Lake City to Marysvale via Thistle, 197.7 miles.  
Thistle to Marysvale, 132.2 miles.*

*(Description Salt Lake City, page 54; Thistle, page 50)*

This branch taps the rich Sanpete and Sevier valley, early settled by Mormon families sent out by Brigham Young to colonize this region. Encounters with the Indians were numerous, and often tragic. To protect these outlying settlements, as well as those in Salt Lake valley, the State of Deseret was organized and a constitution drafted March 4, 1849. (The word "Deseret" is taken from the Book of Mormon and means honey bee; the beehive

is one of the important symbols of the Mormon Church and accounts for Utah's designation as the "Beehive State"). An election was held March 12, when Brigham Young was chosen Governor, and on July 5, A. W. B. Babbitt was elected to Congress. He went to Washington but Congress refused to recognize his credentials. The Territory of Utah came into existence Sept. 9, 1850; President Fillmore appointed Brigham Young first governor.

Daily bus service between Salt Lake City and Marysvale is supplied by Rio Grande Motor Way, subsidiary of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad.

**MOUNT PLEASANT, UTAH**—Salt Lake City, 102.1 mi.; pop. 2,382; elev. 5,857. Sanpete County. Mount Pleasant and its near neighbor, **Fairview** (population 1,314), are trade centers for an important farming and stock-raising region. Hay and sugar beets are leading crops, with sheep topping the livestock list.

**EPHRAIM, UTAH**—Salt Lake City, 118.9 mi.; pop. 2,094; elev. 5,543. Sanpete County. Pureblood Rambouillet sheep, shipped all over the world, have made this region famous as a livestock center. Named in order of importance, turkeys and chickens, cattle, eggs, hay and grain are ranking products. Oolite building stone (composed of grains like roe) is extensively quarried. Manti and Uinta National Forests and Maple Canyon State Park are within a few miles; 75 miles of fishing streams and abundant game attract sportsmen. The history of Ephraim has centered about Snow College, now a state Junior College, founded by the L. D. S. Church in 1888.

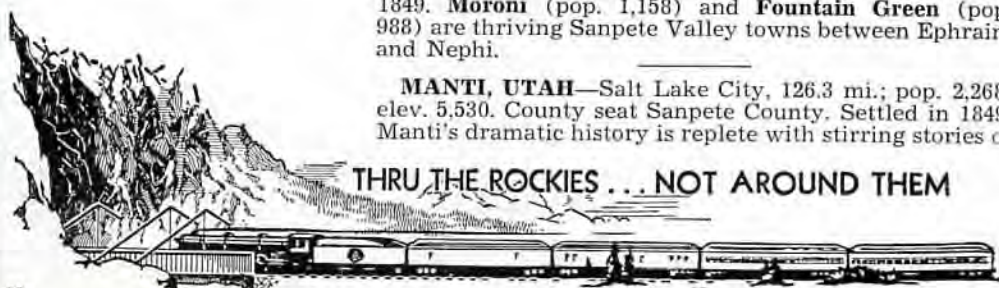
### SANPETE VALLEY BRANCH

*Ephraim to Nephi, 34.7 miles.*

**NEPHI, UTAH**—Salt Lake City, 153.6 mi.; pop. 2,835; elev. 5,096. County seat Juab County. Nephi is known for its vast gypsum deposits and is also the distribution center of a rich farming and stockraising region. Plaster milling and flour milling are important industries. The Scenic Loop Drive has opened up a pleasant recreational area in Uinta National Forest, near Mt. Nebo (elev. 12,000). One of Utah's oldest towns, Nephi was settled in 1849. **Moroni** (pop. 1,158) and **Fountain Green** (pop. 988) are thriving Sanpete Valley towns between Ephraim and Nephi.

**MANTI, UTAH**—Salt Lake City, 126.3 mi.; pop. 2,268; elev. 5,530. County seat Sanpete County. Settled in 1849. Manti's dramatic history is replete with stirring stories of

Snow College is delightfully situated at Ephraim, Utah.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM



Mineral Palace Park, Pueblo, favorite recreation center of Colorado's second largest city. Exhibits in Mineral Palace portray the fascinating mining history of the state.



The Spanish Peaks, 12,683 ft. and 13,623 ft. in elevation, rise majestically from southern Colorado plains, disconnected from any mountain range. The Indian name Wahatoyah (Spanish spelling Haujatolla) means "Twin Breasts."



Life-like is this statue of Kit Carson in Trinidad's beautiful park bearing the name of the celebrated pioneer scout and trapper. It is the work of Augustus Lukeman, renowned sculptor.

Indian uprisings and pioneer hardships. Sheep and cattle raising and general farming are major industries. Poultry raising is extensively practiced. Manti National Forest lies west and north, providing good fishing, excellent deer hunting, duck and pheasant shooting. The Manti Mormon Temple required 11 years to complete (1877-88).

**GUNNISON, UTAH**—Salt Lake City, 138.4 mi.; pop. 1,115; elev. 5,215. Sanpete County. Located in the center of a productive sugar beet area, Gunnison attains industrial prominence from nearby **Spearmint** sugar factory.

**SALINA, UTAH**—Salt Lake City, 151.9 mi.; pop. 1,660; elev. 5,160. Sevier County. From Salina, a thriving town in a productive agricultural and stockraising section, containing crude rock salt deposits, the **Castle Valley Branch** leads 17.7 miles to the coal camp of **Crystal**.

**RICHFIELD, UTAH**—Salt Lake City, 169.2 mi.; pop. 3,584; elev. 5,308. County seat Sevier County. Delightfully situated on the Sevier river, Richfield is a modern little city, shopping center for a well developed agricultural and stock raising section. "An angler's heaven" fittingly describes picturesque Fish Lake, lying high in the Fish Lake mountains southeast of Richfield.

**MARYSVALE, UTAH**—Salt Lake City, 197.7 mi.; pop. 626; elev. 5,839. Piute County. Close to Marysvale are vast undeveloped deposits of alumina, which forecast a brilliant future for this section. Directly south is Utah's impressive **Bryce Canyon National Park**.

## Walsenburg-Alamosa Main Line

Pueblo to Alamosa via La Veta Pass, 132.3 miles.

(For description Pueblo see page 14)

Denver to Alamosa 251.7 mi.; (description Denver page 7)

**WALSENBURG, COLO.**—D. 175 mi.; pop. 5,855; elev. 6,187. County seat Huerfano County. Coal provides the foundation for Walsenburg's prosperity, Huerfano county annually producing in excess of 700,000 tons of high quality bituminous coal, dug from a score of operating mines. As the shipping point and trade center for this region, it is a lively, progressive western city. Agriculture and stock raising are important activities, with beans, wheat, hay and corn produced in commercial quantities. Cattle and sheep account for substantial revenues.

Directly west of Walsenburg stands Mt. Blanca (14,363 ft. in elevation), one of the towering peaks of the far-famed Sangre de Cristo range. San Isabel National Forest, with well developed recreation centers, is the favorite haunt of Walsenburg sportsmen. Lilly Lake (12,060 ft. in elevation) in the Sangre de Cristo range, and Blue Lakes (12,000 ft. in elevation) on the east side of Culebra mountains, as well as 125 miles of streams, provide excellent fishing. Deer, mountain lions and bob cats are numerous, while there is fine duck shooting. The Spanish Peaks (West, 13,623 ft. in elevation; East, 12,683 ft.) are the dominant scenic attraction of southern Colorado, largely because of their location, entirely disconnected from any mountain range. These peaks, first to greet the eye of travelers from the south and east, present an impressive picture. Their Indian name Wahatoyah (Spanish spelling Haujatolla) means "Twin Breasts."

### THE TRINIDAD MAIN LINE

Walsenburg to Trinidad 41 miles.

**TRINIDAD, COLO.**—D. 216 mi.; pop. 13,223; elev. 5,994. County seat Las Animas County. Largest city in southern Colorado, Trinidad attributes its wealth and position to the coal fields of Las Animas county, which boast an annual production exceeding 1,000,000 tons of high grade bituminous coal. Sugar beets, beans, alfalfa and small grains give the region agricultural prominence. Livestock, in order of importance, includes cattle, sheep, hogs and goats.

Fisher's Peak (10,300 ft. in elevation) furnishes an impressive background for Kit Carson park, recreational center of this attractive city. North and west of Trinidad, San Isabel National Forest, the Spanish Peaks, and the Sangre de Cristo range provide remarkable outdoor playgrounds, with numerous fishing streams, and plentiful game, including deer, elk, bear and wild turkeys.

With clear eye, steady aim, and trusty rifle any Nimrod can get his elk in Rocky Mountain forests.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





La Veta Ranger Station, San Isabel National Forest, is typical of ranger stations dotting similar national forest recreation areas.



This unusual Balanced Rock is one of many natural attractions found near La Veta, Colo.



There are 46,034 acres of pure white sand slopes in the Great Sand Dunes National Monument, easily accessible thru the Alamosa gateway.

Swimming, boating, golfing and horseback riding are summer pastimes, with good skating and skiing in winter months. The Trinidad Junior College affords two years of collegiate work for high school graduates of southern Colorado.

It is thought that Coronado, riding north from Old Mexico in 1542, touched a corner of southeastern Colorado. First records in this region disclose that the Purgatoire river, which flows through Trinidad, received its name from the ill-fated expedition of Leyba and Humana, massacred by Indians in 1595. In 1861 Juan Alirez and Philip Baca settled permanently at Trinidad. Kit Carson, who came west in 1826, established a home at Taos, New Mexico. This colorful Indian scout and fur trader became the most trusted figure in Indian negotiations thruout the entire region. The last Indian skirmish of real consequence in this district occurred in 1867.

**LA VETA, COLO.**—D. 190.3 mi.; pop. 897; elev. 7,024. Huerfano County. Coal mining and stock raising are principal industries, with timber products next in importance. The famous Spanish Peaks lie directly south, with Trinchera Peak (13,540 ft. in elevation) raising its lofty summit in the Sangre de Cristo range west of La Veta. San Isabel National Forest, with numerous high altitude lakes, is just nine miles south. Trout fishing is a favorite sport. Hunters enjoy the rare privilege of wild turkey shooting, and ducks are numerous. Just 17 miles west of La Veta, **Fir** is located at the summit of **La Veta Pass** (elevation 9,242 ft.). La Veta Pass, not a part of the Continental Divide, is a relatively low pass through the Sangre de Cristo range, separating water sheds of the Rio Grande and the Arkansas river.

**FORT GARLAND, COLO.**—D. 227.7 mi.; pop. (prec.) 1,062; elev. 7,936. Costilla County. Located at its extreme eastern edge, Fort Garland marks the entrance to the

San Luis Valley. Colorado farming traces its beginning to the territory now embraced by Costilla County, Mexican colonists in 1852 having established a community near the site of **San Luis**, present county seat, 16 miles from Fort Garland. Replacing Fort Massachusetts, originally built in 1852, six miles north, for protection of the Mexican farmers against the warlike Indians, Fort Garland by 1858 was the only fort within the present boundaries of Colorado. Ruins of the fort are a treasured land mark. It was here that Col. Edward R. S. Conby in 1861 mustered into Union Service two companies of Colorado infantry organized by Colorado Territorial Governor Wm. H. Gilpin.

**BLANCA, COLO.**—D. 231.7 mi.; pop. 407; elev. 7,751. Costilla County. Stock raising and general farming, including the growing of fine vegetables, are principal industries. The San Luis Valley Southern, a railroad running 32 miles south of **Jaroso, Colo.**, joins the Rio Grande at Blanca.

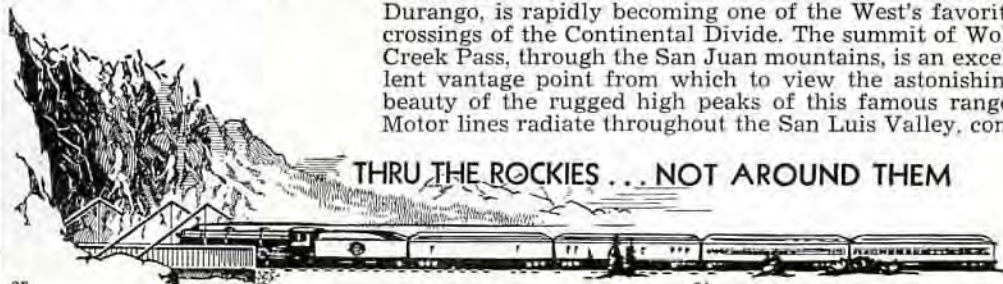
**ALAMOSA, COLO.**—D. 251.7 mi.; pop. 5,613; elev. 7,546. County seat Alamosa County. Hub city of the San Luis Valley, Alamosa is industrially prominent as headquarters for the narrow gage lines of the Rio Grande, a unique and progressive railroad system covering 561 miles, serving southwestern Colorado and northern New Mexico. Strategically located, Alamosa is a favorite gateway to **Mesa Verde National Park** (see description page 70), and the **Great Sand Dunes National Monument**, located just 30 miles northeast. San Luis Lakes, to the north, provide an ideal setting for attractive resorts.

Adams State Teachers College, a fully accredited institution of high standing, has enjoyed a steady growth since its founding in 1925. Enrollment averages more than 300, with the summer school drawing numerous out-of-state students, attracted as much by recreational opportunities as by class room work.

Alamosa is the focal point for extensive operations of **Rio Grande Motor Way**, subsidiary of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad and prominent unit of **National Trailways System**. The motor route over **Wolf Creek Pass** (10,850 ft. in altitude), between Alamosa and Durango, is rapidly becoming one of the West's favorite crossings of the Continental Divide. The summit of Wolf Creek Pass, through the San Juan mountains, is an excellent vantage point from which to view the astonishing beauty of the rugged high peaks of this famous range. Motor lines radiate throughout the San Luis Valley, con-



An alert gobbler watches while his little flock of wild turkeys settles to feed. This unusual picture was made just five miles from La Veta, Colo.





Monte Vista is potato capital of the San Luis Valley, Colorado's 4,604,800-acre mountain garden, which annually produces more than 10,000 carloads of mealy tubers.



Almost ten pounds per fleece is the excellent record established by sheep in the San Luis Valley, one of Colorado's major sheep growing areas.



Dairying is assuming increasing importance among Colorado industries, a fact attested by this pastoral scene in the San Luis Valley.

necting at **Salida** (see page 18) with transcontinental Rio Grande trains and buses.

## GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Great Sand Dunes National Monument, created by presidential proclamation March 17, 1932, covers an area of 46,034 acres, although the peculiar formation extends for a distance of approximately 60 miles by 15 miles along the western slopes of the Sangre de Cristo range. Rising in soft slopes from the valley floor to a height of a thousand feet or more, the dunes shine in the sunlight like silver. At sunset they catch the light rays reflected by Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) peaks, and their silver turns to a delicate rose, green and lavender, bathing the whole valley in a beautiful alpine glow. It is estimated that there are over eight billion dollars worth of gold in this body of sand, but no man has yet succeeded in commercializing the flour gold so cleverly buried by nature.

## THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

Most unusual of the four great parks or mountain basins in the central Rockies, the San Luis Valley, probably the bed of an ancient lake, is almost entirely surrounded by mountain ranges. About 100 miles north and south by 50 miles at east and west extremes, it is so flat that scarcely a mound is visible. Yet the floor of this plain, embracing 4,604,800 acres, averages 7,500 feet above sea level.

Popularly known as the "Roof Garden of America," this valley, by reason of fertile soil, abundant water supply, and good climate, is one of the richest and most productive general farming and livestock regions of Colorado. Irrigation was first practiced by the Mexican farmers, whose colonization antedated the Civil War. In fact, more than 40 irrigation ditches in the San Luis Valley have decrees dating earlier than those of the oldest ditches in other parts of the state. Rainfall is light but abundant water is derived from the Rio Grande and its tributaries. The great supply of artesian water is gradually being tapped and flowing wells augment irrigation waters throughout the valley. With these wells shooting their streams high into the air, the fields of the San Luis Valley present an unusual agricultural spectacle.

The five San Luis Valley counties—Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, Saguache—annually produce more

than 50 per cent of the potatoes raised in the entire state of Colorado. Seed potatoes from this region are in great demand. Delicious, crisp, high-altitude vegetables are shipped out by the carload, including, in order of importance, peas, cauliflower, head lettuce, cabbage, onions, tomatoes, spinach, broccoli and beans. More and more acreage is being devoted to sugar beets. Tame and wild hay, alfalfa, grain and small grain cover a tremendous acreage. Lambs and wool constitute a major industry, the San Luis Valley being one of Colorado's notable sheep raising areas. Large herds of cattle graze on surrounding high ranges. The feeder business is developing rapidly, because of abundant and varied feed. Pea-fed hogs from this section always bring top market prices.

Several prosperous flour mills are the forerunner of canneries and sugar factories certain to accompany future growth of this great agricultural empire.

Mesa Verde National Park; Great Sand Dunes and Wheeler National Monuments; the 5,000,000 acres embraced by San Isabel, Rio Grande, and Cochetopa National Forests, surrounding the valley; with thousands of miles of trout fishing streams and abundant big game; make the San Luis Valley one of the West's great recreational areas. The San Luis Valley is recognized as Colorado's favorite duck shooting haunt.

The San Luis Valley was undoubtedly visited by Spanish explorers in the sixteenth century, long before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. The musical names of rivers, towns and peaks date back to this period. Records show that in 1779 Juan Bautista de Anza, governor of New Mexico, led an army of 645 men northward to punish warring Indians. This force entered the valley in the vicinity of present Del Norte. The Pike expedition reached the San Luis Valley in 1807, erecting the Conejos Stockade, where the American flag was first raised within the present boundaries of Colorado. Pike's description of

Strictly supervised protection is given wild life in the Intermountain West, with consequent betterment of conditions for sportsmen. Ducks and geese fraternize in this exceptional picture.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM







Portable packing sheds follow harvesters of Colorado pea crop in the San Luis Valley to insure a crisp, fresh product reaching market.



High mountain ranges provide excellent summer pasture for San Luis Valley cattle.



Crisp high-altitude vegetables take flavor-magic from the soil, from the sunny days and cool nights of the Rockies. Pictured is a potato field near Monte Vista.

the San Luis Valley approaches that of the promoter. The San Luis Valley was a part of New Mexico until 1861. Extensive land grants made to Mexican families started a stream of picturesque Spanish influence that still makes itself felt.

Principal towns in the five counties of the San Luis Valley are **Alamosa, Monte Vista, Del Norte, Hooper, Center, Saguache, La Jara, Antonito, Blanca** and **Ft. Garland.**

### CREEDE MAIN LINE

*Alamosa to Creede 70.1 miles.*

**MONTE VISTA, COLO.**—D. 269 mi.; pop. 3,208; elev. 7,665. Rio Grande County. Far-famed as the "potato capital" of this vast inland empire, Monte Vista is terminal of the **San Luis Central** railroad, the "Potato Line," extending 12¼ miles north to **Center**. A modern, progressive little city, Monte Vista has attained national prominence thru its annual Ski-Hi Stampede, Colorado's most famous summer rodeo. The State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home is located here. The **Summitville** mining district, located in the southwestern section of Rio Grande County, passed as a "ghost town" until intensive operations, started in 1934, gave it prominence as a gold camp producing approximately \$1,000,000 annually.

**DEL NORTE, COLO.**—D. 282.8 mi.; pop. 1,923; elev. 7,880. County seat Rio Grande County. Head lettuce fields dot the territory surrounding this prosperous town, pleasantly situated below the junction of Pinos Creek and the Rio Grande. One of Colorado's 16 fish hatcheries is located here.

**CREEDE, COLO.**—D. 320.7 mi.; pop. 670 (seasonal 1,500); elev. 8,844. County seat Mineral County. Founded by Captain N. C. Creede in 1889, this famous silver camp boomed in 1890 when high grade ore was first located

in the Holy Moses mine, assaying at \$80 per ton, and bringing a wild stampede to a district referred to as "King Solomon's Mines." All the romance, all the excitement, all the tawdriness of the typical wild mining camp was found here. Richard Harding Davis, the famous author, in 1892 described Creede as "like a city of fresh cardboard; the pine shanties seem to trust for support to the rocky sides of the gulch in which they have squeezed themselves." Bob Ford, said to be the slayer of the glamorous western outlaw Jesse James, met death in a Creede saloon, shot by O. Kelly. Creede is still an important mining camp, but also has become a prosperous ranching and stockraising section, as well as one of the state's finest recreation areas. The Rio Grande and countless lakes in Rio Grande National Forest provide remarkable trout fishing, while big game abounds. Attractive and numerous are dude ranches in the vicinity. **Wagon Wheel Gap**, famous summer camp, was once the scene of many a furious Indian fight. Spectacular **Wheeler National Monument** is 16 miles northeast of Creede. Embracing an area of 300 acres, it is especially noted for its weird and picturesque rock formations, unlike anything found elsewhere in Colorado, due to eccentric erosion and volcanic action.

## Narrow Gage System

### ALAMOSA-DURANGO MAIN LINE

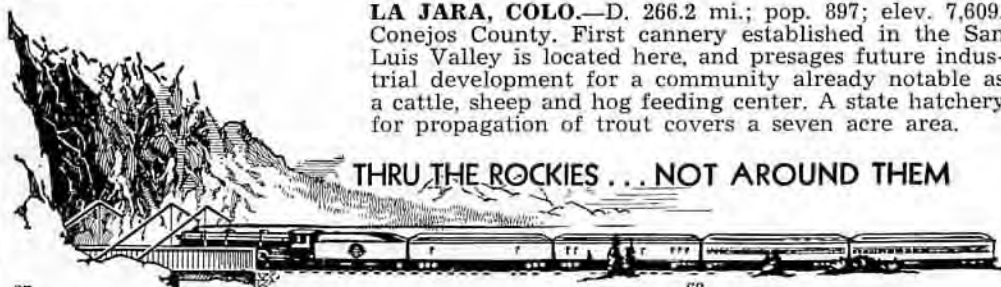
*Alamosa to Durango via Cumbres Pass 199.8 miles.  
Route of the San Juan*

The **San Juan**, between **Alamosa** (see page 64) and **Durango** (see page 69) is America's finest narrow gage passenger train. Steam heated and vestibuled, it is equipped with 110-volt electricity, and is the only narrow gage train in the United States on which radios, electric shavers, curling irons and other such appliances may be used. It carries well appointed parlor-observation cars and offers dinette service. Coaches are fitted with attractively upholstered deep-cushion reclining chairs that swing to any position.

**LA JARA, COLO.**—D. 266.2 mi.; pop. 897; elev. 7,609. Conejos County. First cannery established in the San Luis Valley is located here, and presages future industrial development for a community already notable as a cattle, sheep and hog feeding center. A state hatchery for propagation of trout covers a seven acre area.



Top riders don't always stay on top of the big rawboned broncs that guarantee thrilling action for spectators at mid-summer rodeos of the Intermountain West.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM



"There is no night in Creede." The boisterous poet of half a century ago so described this famous silver camp, snuggled close to towering canyon walls.



Fantastically carved are the weird rock formations of Wheeler National Monument in the Rio Grande National Forest, 13 miles northeast of Creede.



Typical of his race is this Navajo patriarch, not an infrequent Durango visitor.

**ANTONITO, COLO.**—D. 280.3 mi.; pop. 1,220; elev. 7,888. Conejos County. This thriving agricultural and stock-raising community is pleasantly located in the Conejos river valley just seven miles north of the New Mexico border. Only one mile from Antonito is **Conejos**, county seat, where was located the first permanent church building erected within the present borders of Colorado. Spanish Catholics built the church "Our Lady of Guadalupe" in 1856, and it was occupied continuously until destroyed by fire in 1926. The early settlement and later the county was named, because of the abundance of prairie dogs or rats, Conejos, a word recalling words of the Psalmist; "The rocks are a shelter for the **conies**."

**TOLTEC, NEW MEXICO**—D. 310.5 mi.; elev. 9,465. Rio Arriba County. High on the slopes of Cumbres Pass, and on the very rim of far-famed Toltec Gorge stands a granite monument erected to the memory of the martyred President, James A. Garfield. Its inscription is self-explanatory: "In Memoriam. James Abram Garfield. President of the United States. Died Sept. 19, 1881. Mourned by all people. Erected by members of the National Association of General Passenger and Ticket Agents, who held memorial burial services on this spot Sept. 26, 1881."

**CUMBRES, COLO.**—D. 330.6 mi.; pop. 25; elev. 10,015. In an extremely snowy section of the San Juan Mountains, Cumbres Pass cuts thru the Continental Divide. Because of abundant moisture the mountain slopes afford ideal grazing for live stock.

**CHAMA, NEW MEXICO**—D. 344.1 mi.; pop. (prec.) 975; elev. 7,863. Rio Arriba County. Sheep, cattle, oil and lumber are principal industries of the region. Carson National Forest is closely adjacent.

**IGNACIO, COLO.**—D. 425.7 mi.; pop. 555; elev. 6,437. La Plata County. Ignacio, named after a famed Ute Chief, is headquarters of the Consolidated Ute Agency, directing both the Ute Mountain Utes and Southern Utes reservations. A boarding school has an enrollment of 200 pupils, and Taylor Indian Hospital has a capacity of 35 patients. Alfalfa, tame and wild hay, small grains, corn and potatoes are major crops. Dairying, poultry and honey production are being developed.

**DURANGO, COLO.**—D. 451.5 mi.; pop. 5,887; elev. 6,520. County seat La Plata County. Durango, metropolis of the San Juan Basin, was started in 1880 by Dr. W. A. Bell, and was incorporated in 1881. Lead, zinc, gold,

silver, timber and coal are principal natural resources. Smelting of ores is a major industry. Stockraising, dairying and poultry raising are being developed rapidly. Beautiful Electra Lake, covering 840 acres, lies 25 miles to the north. Over 1,000 miles of nearby trout streams beckon ardent fishermen. One of Colorado's finest fish hatcheries is located here. Deer, elk, bear, mountain lion and grouse furnish sportive hunting in season. Quoting a Colorado historian: "The San Juan River watershed is notable for varied interest in Southwestern America. From the view of the economist, the San Juan drains a country well supplied with water, timber, coal and agricultural promise, besides the precious metals which loom so large in its history. Durango, its metropolis, is, in St. Paul's phrase, 'no mean city,' for all of being cut off from the world by hundreds of miles of mountains on one side and what is practically desert on the other. For the recreation seeker, there are no mountains in the United States of more bold and precipitous grandeur. The student will remember that on the slopes of these mountains are the Cliff Dwellings of **Mesa Verde National Park**, the ghostliest relics of our past, that thereabouts the great Navajo Indian tribe lives its Arab-like life and weaves its blankets with **Ship Rock** (New Mexico) as a center, and that Spanish place names were fixed by the Franciscan friar Escalante in 1776. In that year Escalante explored, 'for the glory of the Mother of God,' as he said, this land of peaks and thirst, when it was as distant and unknown as the mountains of the moon to his contemporary George Washington."

## MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

Mesa Verde National Park, created by an act of Congress approved June 29, 1906, embraces an area of 80.2 square miles (51,334 acres); the largest tract of land in the United States set aside solely for the antiquities it

Navajo weaver practices her art at Mesa Verde National Park.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





Alamosa-Durango trains skirt the rim of majestic Toltec Gorge.



Ute Indian farmer is barely visible in this typical stand of wheat near Ignacio, Colo.



Four cuttings of alfalfa are not out of the ordinary on La Plata county farms.



Evening shadows intensify the mystery shrouding the Aztec (New Mexico) Ruins.

contains. This archaeological preserve encloses the largest group and best preserved prehistoric ruins in America. Park headquarters is 59 miles west of Durango.

A typically excellent National Park Service highway covers the twenty miles between the entrance and headquarters. About midway is the highest point in the park, 8,575 feet in elevation, and 2,000 feet above the Montezuma Valley. At no other spot in the United States can travelers enjoy the unique experience of looking in one glance upon portions of four states. The broad verdant expanse of Montezuma Valley in **Colorado**; Ship Rock, a jagged shaft 1,860 ft. high, rising from the sandy **New Mexico** plain to closely resemble a "windjammer" under full sail; the La Sal and Blue mountains of **Utah**; the deep blue Carrizos of **Arizona**—such is the entrancing view surrounding the only common intersection of four state corners in the United States.

The Mesa Verde, or "Green Table Mountain"—so named for the forest of piñons and cedars that grows dense as an orchard on its top—is a high walled mesa, trenched far back by a series of abrupt canyons from the Mancos river. In these canyons, clinging usually like swallow nests just under the lip of the terrific cliffs, are the deserted towers and towns of the ancient Cliff Dwellers. Tree-ring records disclose that the cliff dwellings were inhabited in the period between 1066 and 1273 A. D. The story of the "Little People"—skeletons indicate that the Cliff Dwellers were small—is shrouded forever by the mysterious veil of centuries that left their habitations in ghostly silence from 1300 to 1874, when W. H. Jackson led a geological survey party to explore the green mesa. An earlier government party in 1859 found the plateau to be a stronghold of the warlike Utes.

Amazing Cliff Palace—first apartment house in America—represents the highest point in Cliff Dweller architecture, with seven floor levels, or terraces, the lower

terrace being occupied by 23 kivas (ceremonial rooms). Balcony House, Square Tower House, Spruce Tree House, Sun Temple—to name only a few—unfold to fascinated wonderment towns and villages that echoed to thousands of feet during that period in history when Richard Coeur de Leon was leading his mailed Crusaders into the Holy Land to recapture Jerusalem. No globe trotter can claim he has worn out the thrills of travel until he has gazed into these haunted dwellings and attempted to fathom their ageless mystery.

During the season—May 15 to October 15—Rio Grande Motor Way provides motor transportation on call from Durango to Mesa Verde. Spruce Tree Lodge, in the park, offers dining and recreational facilities in a central building, with sleeping accommodations in modern cabins of various sizes and styles. Favorite rail gateways to Mesa Verde are **Grand Junction** (see page 31), **Montrose** (see page 35), **Alamosa** (see page 64), and **Durango**.

### THE FARMINGTON BRANCH

*Durango to Silverton, (Passenger Service via Rio Grande Motor Way), 44.8 miles.*

**AZTEC, NEW MEXICO**—D. 481.8 mi.; pop. 756; elev. 5,686. County seat San Juan County. Center of a prosperous farming and fruit raising section, Aztec is gateway to **Aztec Ruins National Monument**, an interesting group of prehistoric ruins.

**FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO**—D. 496 mi.; pop. 2,161; elev. 5,305. San Juan County. The Farmington oil fields, producing oil of high gravity in large volume, lend industrial importance to this region. This progressive little city is center of a notable fruit-raising and agricultural district.

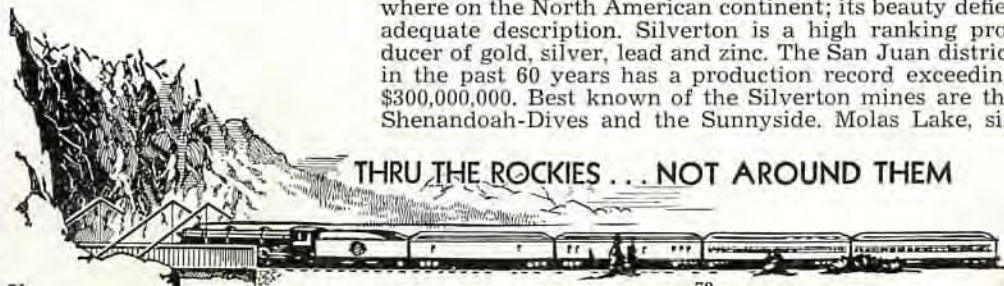
### THE SILVERTON BRANCH

*Durango to Silverton (Passenger Service via Rio Grande Motor Way), 44.8 miles.*

**SILVERTON, COLO.**—D. 496.3 mi.; pop. 1,127; elev. 9,300. County seat San Juan County. This branch line leads thru the Canyon of the Rio de Las Animas, one of the most spectacular gorges traversed by a railroad anywhere on the North American continent; its beauty defies adequate description. Silverton is a high ranking producer of gold, silver, lead and zinc. The San Juan district in the past 60 years has a production record exceeding \$300,000,000. Best known of the Silverton mines are the Shenandoah-Dives and the Sunnyside. Molas Lake, six



The rattle of gourds and the chant of Indians somehow link today's Navajos with the ancient Cliff Dwellers of Mesa Verde National Park.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM



Red Mountain Pass, elevation 11,018 feet, is crossed by the spectacular Chief Ouray "Million Dollar Highway," between Grand Junction and Durango.



Red Mountain is the brilliant cornerstone of a compact mineral empire, mines of which in 50 years have produced over \$300,000,000.



The Camp Bird, near Ouray, one of western Colorado's oldest and most famous gold mines.



Ouray, deep-set Gem of the Rockies.

miles from Silverton, is a scenic gem. The impressive beauty of Red Mountain, with "ghost" mining camps nestled at its base, lends romantic interest to a section rich in recreational opportunities.

### THE ALAMOSA-SALIDA LINE

*Alamosa to Salida 85.3 miles.*

Between **Alamosa** (see page 64), and **Salida** (see page 18) the narrow gage line cuts straight north thru the **San Luis Valley** (see page 65). Distinguishing feature of this line is 53 miles of absolutely straight track between Alamosa and **Villa Grove**; this is the longest straight track mileage on the Rio Grande system and is one of the longest in the United States. It serves to emphasize the extent of the vast mountain-enclosed valley, and is unusual because of its average high elevation of 7,500 feet. **Hooper** (pop. 170), in Alamosa County; **Moffat** (pop. 149) and **Villa Grove** (pop. 267) in Saguache County, are principal stations. **Mineral Hot Springs** is an attractive resort. **Saguache** (pop. 1,219), county seat of Saguache County, is not on the railroad, but is served by Rio Grande Motor Way. Saguache County is a notable live stock center, both for sheep and cattle. High point on the line is **Poncha Pass** (elev. 9,059) 14.5 miles from Salida.

### THE SALIDA-GUNNISON-OURAY MAIN LINE

*Salida to Ouray 172.3 miles.*

*Rio Grande Motor Way Passenger Service via Monarch Pass.*

**PONCHA JUNCTION, COLO.**—D. 220.1 mi.; elev. 7,481; Chaffee County. From this point a branch line leads 15.3 miles to **Monarch**, notable for its vast deposits of limestone and extensive quarrying operations.

**MARSHALL PASS, COLO.**—D. 240.7 mi.; elev. 10,856. Saguache County. Highest railroad crossing of the Continental Divide in the United States, Marshall Pass is world-famed for its rugged, colorful scenic vistas. Frightened deer scampering across the right-of-way into the timber furnish a hint of abundant wild life. The crater of an extinct volcano is plainly visible on Mount Ouray (elev. 13,955), dominant peak of the Sawatch range in this vicinity.

**GUNNISON, COLO.**—D. 288.6 mi.; pop. 2,177; elev. 7,683. County seat Gunnison County, named for Captain John

W. Gunnison, who, in 1853, wrote detailed reports of the Gunnison Valley. From the foot of Marshall Pass the railroad traverses the fertile Tomichi Creek valley, where far-flung hay fields and thousands of Hereford cattle grazing on lush meadows tell the story of the county's leading agricultural and livestock pursuits. Gunnison County is rich in mineral resources and coal deposits. Branch lines, serving coal centers, lead 27.7 miles to **Crested Butte** (pop. 1,300) and 18 miles to **Baldwin** (pop. 152). Gunnison County annually produces 500,000 tons of bituminous coal. The largest undeveloped anthracite deposits in the United States are in this county, and several anthracite mines have been successfully operated.

Western State College, highest of Colorado's institutions of higher learning, is a fully accredited liberal arts college with an average enrollment of 500 students. Its summer school enjoys a national reputation, with students from almost every state in the Union attracted by the delightful climate and remarkable recreational facilities. Lecturers include noted American educators.

The Gunnison River, described by outdoor authorities as "the best trout fishing stream in the United States," with its tributaries, provides more than 1,200 miles of trout fishing streams in the immediate vicinity. The **Taylor Park** dam and reservoir, 40 miles northeast, stores water for the Uncompahgre Reclamation project. Covering 2,030 acres, and with 106,200 acre feet of water, the lake is impounded by a dam 610 feet long and 168 feet high. Water surface elevation is 9,330 feet.

Between Gunnison and **Montrose** (see page 35) are such well known resorts as **Iola**, **Cebolla**, **Sapinero**, and **Cimarron**, all served by Rio Grande Motor Way, unit of National Trailways system. There is an entrancing view of the famous Black Canyon of the Gunnison from Blue Mesa, over which U. S. Highway 50 is routed.

When winter snows pile deep on natural feeding grounds, mountain sheep accept man's hospitality in the railroad yard at Ouray, Colo.



THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM





The Gunnison River merits its official description—"Best trout fishing stream in the United States, and second best in North America."



A five-pound Rainbow—a No. 12 fly—this angler's skill successfully passed the supreme test.



Succulent grasses of Colorado's high range fatten and impart a characteristic gamy flavor to pure bred Hereford cattle.



Mount Beckwith, elevation 12,371 feet, is the outstanding peak of the unusually primitive mountain area between Gunnison and Somerset, Colo.

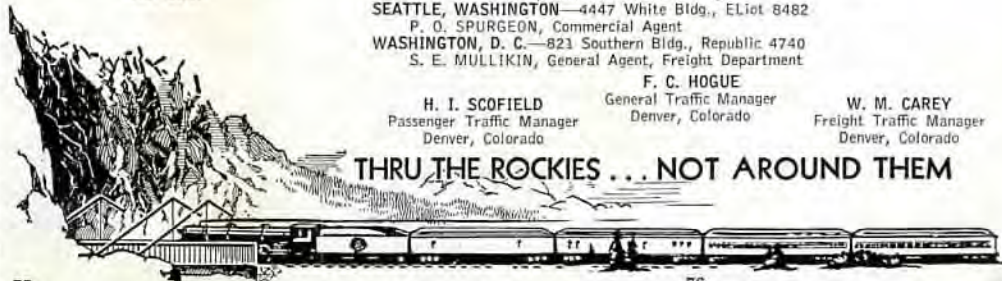
**RIDGWAY, COLO.**—D. via Marshall Pass 377.1 mi.; D.-M. 372.8 mi.; pop. 354; elev. 7,003. Ouray County. Ridgway is the northern terminal of the Rio Grande Southern Railway, which taps a famous mineral area rich in scenic grandeur along its route through **Placerville, Telluride, Rico, Dolores** and **Mancos** to its southern terminal at **Durango** (see page 69).

**OURAY, COLO.**—D. via Marshall Pass 387.4 mi.; D.-M. 383.1 mi.; pop. 951; elev. 7,721. County seat Ouray County. Named for the great chief of the Uncompahgre Utes, a "white man's true friend," this region richly merits its designation as the "Switzerland of America." More than 30 snow-capped peaks of the San Juan Mountains, many over 14,000 feet in elevation, tower within 12 miles of the town. Highest of nearby peaks is Mount Sneffels, 14,143 ft. Unique Box Canyon Falls, its perpendicular granite walls roofed by stone, is an amazing natural phenomenon. Alluring mountain trails beckon riders and hikers, and tap a region abounding with big game. The section of Chief Ouray Highway between Ouray and Silverton is locally known as the Million Dollar Highway, because of the original cost of cutting this spectacular mountain boulevard through solid granite. The trip over brilliantly colored Red Mountain Pass (elev. 11,018 ft.) is said by travelers to be without a parallel in majestic scenic grandeur. Rio Grande Motor Way maintains daily bus service over Chief Ouray Highway 181 miles between **Grand Junction** (see page 31) and **Durango** (see page 69).

Ouray was settled in 1875 when rich silver and gold ores were discovered. Mining is still the chief industry, production including gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc and tungsten. Farming and stockraising have been developed into important industries. Major crops are hay, small grains, potatoes and vegetables.



Mule deer by the hundreds are fed when mid-winter snows pile high in the forest. One of the largest feeding grounds is maintained alongside U. S. Highway 50, ten miles west of Gunnison, Colo.



## Rio Grande TRAFFIC REPRESENTATIVES

Detailed information concerning passenger fares, freight rates, and train schedules is available at the Rio Grande traffic office. Your Rio Grande traffic representative will cheerfully answer your transportation problems.

- ATLANTA, GEORGIA**—1521 Healey Bldg., JACkson 4916  
R. E. KNIGHT, General Agent
- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**—Suite 2307 Bankers Bldg., 105 West Adams St., RANdolph 7445  
G. W. WAHLBERG, Assistant Traffic Manager
- CINCINNATI, OHIO**—337 Dixie Terminal Bldg., PArkway 3212  
A. C. DICK, General Agent
- CLEVELAND, OHIO**—1133 Terminal Tower Bldg., CHerry 7386  
A. S. EATON, General Agent
- COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO**—Rio Grande Passenger Depot, Main 201  
F. E. NEMEC, District Passenger Agent
- DALLAS, TEXAS**—1317 Liberty Bank Bldg., Phone 2-4770  
F. B. ROSE, Traveling Freight and Passenger Agent
- DENVER, COLORADO**—Security Bldg., 648 Seventeenth Street, TABor 1162  
E. K. WEST, General Agent, Passenger Department
- DETROIT, MICHIGAN**—5-123 General Motors Bldg., MADison 3025, MADison 3026  
J. M. HIGGINS, General Agent
- FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**—210 Patterson Bldg., Phone 4-3290  
M. E. CHASE, General Agent
- GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO**—D. & R. G. W. Freight Depot, Phone 3021  
P. K. YONGE, General Agent and Director of Agriculture
- KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**—524 Railway Exchange Bldg., 705 Walnut St., VICTor 5216  
H. F. KLEINE, General Agent
- LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**—514 Central Bldg., 108 W. 6th St., TRINity 0703  
A. R. ANDERSON, General Agent
- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**—1120 Metropolitan Life Bldg., ATLantic 7888  
W. D. FERNALD, General Agent
- NEW YORK CITY**—Room 220, 500 Fifth Ave., CHickering 4-7515  
V. A. FARRELL, General Agent
- OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA**—514-515 Central Bank Bldg., GLencourt 4925  
A. W. MAY, General Agent
- OGDEN, UTAH**—130 24th Street, Phone 4416  
C. F. MOULTON, General Agent
- OMAHA, NEBRASKA**—313 Grain Exch. Bldg., 19th & Harney, JACkson 3948  
H. G. BOCK, General Agent
- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**—307 Park Bldg., 353-59 5th Ave., ATLantic 2766  
J. T. NEISON, General Agent
- PORTLAND, OREGON**—645-646 Pacific Bldg., ATwater 3750  
W. M. KIRKPATRICK, General Agent
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THRU THE ROCKIES . . . NOT AROUND THEM

# DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD

SCENIC LINE OF THE WORLD

(Continued from inside front cover)

via Tennessee Pass (10,240 feet elevation), 782 miles in length, supplanted the original narrow gage route November 14, 1890.

The entire system is now standard gage with the exception of the lines from Alamosa to Durango, Silverton and Farmington, N. M.; from Alamosa to Salida; from Salida to Gunnison, Montrose and Ouray in central Western Colorado. These lines, 562 miles in length, constitute the longest narrow gage system in the United States. Because of the type of power and equipment used, they are considered the model pattern for all narrow gage operations in the world.

During all these years the high front range of the Rockies remained a relentless barrier to Denver's ambition for position on a transcontinental line directly west through the mountains. As early as the first year of the Civil War, Colorado's first territorial governor, William Gilpin, prophesied that some day trains would glide through a great bore under the Continental Divide in the vicinity of James Peak. Such a tunnel could not be privately financed, but the dream persisted and in 1902 David Moffat started building the Denver & Salt Lake Railway, crossing the divide at Corona Pass, 11,660 feet in elevation, then the highest standard gage railroad in the world. Construction was costly and the extreme expense of operation hindered the new line, which by 1913 reached only to Craig, in northwestern Colorado, far short of its Utah objective.

Then came decision by the people in the Denver area to finance

the Moffat Tunnel (see detailed description page 23). The great bore, 6.2 miles in length, was started in August 1923, and was completed in February 1928.

Denver's ambition for a direct transcontinental railroad was realized June 17, 1934, when the Denver & Rio Grande Western completed the Dotsero Cutoff, a new 38 mile railroad along the Colorado River, connecting tracks of the Rio Grande at Dotsero and the Moffat road at Orested (Dotsero spelled backwards).

With inauguration of service via the Moffat Tunnel Route the Denver & Rio Grande Western made good a prophecy which had remained only a dream for 75 years. Finally the last barrier of the mountains was conquered. The direct transcontinental railroad, Denver to Ogden, 606.9 miles in length, became a reality.

No single factor has meant more to development of the Inter-mountain West; no railroad more adequately serves its local territory. The Rio Grande is a vital link in the several great transportation chains making up the direct central transcontinental routes. Through Salt Lake City and Ogden (see map center of book) people and goods are transported to and from the Pacific Coast; the Royal Gorge route via the Pueblo gateway most important to Kansas City and St. Louis; the Moffat Tunnel route via the Denver gateway most important to Omaha and Chicago. Impressively entering the transportation scene through the Rockies, not around them, the Denver & Rio Grande Western has gained a leading role among American railroads, emerging from a glamorous past to a future promising increased usefulness.

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