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A REVIEW OF THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

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OF WYOMING

by

Kenneth E. Winkler Eastern Illinois University July 1961

A REVIEW OF THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF WYOMING

A Paper
Presented to
Dr. Elwyn L. Martin
Department of Geography
Eastern Illinois University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in Education

by

Kenneth E. Winkler
Eastern Illinois University
July 1961

This paper has been approved by the Department of Geography of Eastern Illinois University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Science in Education.

Approved:

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A REVIEW OF THE HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHY OF WYOMING

Midway between the Pacific Ocean and the Mississippi
River is the State of Wyoming. It is one of the four States
with no boundary lines formed by mountain range, ocean or river.
The straight lines of the surveyor determine its boundaries. It
is bounded by Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota and
Nebraska. The State ranks ninth of the fifty in area, with 97,000
square miles of land surface and some 300 square miles of water.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The name Wyoming (implied a land of plains and a land of mountains) was derived from the Delaware Indian language, and was first applied to the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania. The State is in two of the major physiographic divisions of the United States. The eastern one-third of the State is a part of the Great Plain and the western two-thirds of the State is within the boundaries of the Rocky Mountain System.

The distinguishing characteristics of the Great Plains in Wyoming are the absence of forest, the expanse of fairly level country, average altitude of from 5,000 to 6,000 feet and a lack of sufficient rainfall (15 inches) for normal agriculture.

Yearbook of Agriculture, Climate and Man (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1941), page 1201-2-3.

The Rocky Mountain System is made up of several ranges and associated basins. Some of the more important mountain ranges are the Tetons, Absaroka, Wind River, Gros Ventre, Owl Creek, and Sierra Madre Ranges in the western part. The Medicine Bow and Laramie Ranges in the southeast and the Big Horn Range in the north-central part. Between these ranges are basins of various sizes. The largest being the Wyoming Basin in the southern and central portions of the State. The Wyoming Basin is divided into a number of more or less separate basins. Some of the more important divisions being the Laramie Basin which lies to the south and west of the Laramie Range and north of the Medicine Bow Range. The northern end of the Laramie Basin is referred to as the Shirley Basin. The Carbon Basin lies between the Laramie Basin on the east and the Rawlins Hills on the west. Between the Wind River Range on the south and the Owl Creek Mountains on the north is the Shoshone and Wind River Basins. The Great Divide Basin is limited on the east by the Carbon Basin, on the north by the Green Mountains, on the west by the Rock Springs uplift and the Washakie Basin to the South. The Bridger Basin lies west of the Rock Springs uplift and to the east of the Wyoming Mountain Range.

The Big Horn Basin, which is not included as a part of the Wyoming Basin, is an elliptical depression within the bend of the Big Horn Mountains. The Basin lies to the west and north of the Big Horn Mountains and to the east of the Absaroka and Shoshone Mountain Ranges.

The mean elevation of the State is approximately 6,700 feet above sea level, varying from 3,125 feet where the Belle Fourche River enters South Dakota, in Crook County, to 13,785 feet on the summit of Gannett Peak, in Fremont County. The basins are usually 6,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level while the mountains are 10,000 to 13,700 feet above sea level. The Continental Divide crosses the State in a northwest-southeast direction from the Yellowstone Park area to the south-central part. In general, the Continental Divide represents the higher and more rugged mountains as well as separating the drainage of the westward-flowing streams from the eastward-flowing waters.

There are two distinct breaks in the Divide. The first resembling a plain more than an opening in the mountains, is the South Pass, through which hundreds of thousands of emigrants made their way over the old Oregon Trail, the California Trail and the Mormon Trail. These trails followed the North Platte River Valley from east to west, all three trails left the North Platte at or near the present site of Casper and then continued to the south and west until they picked up the Sweetwater River. Traveling up the Sweetwater and then leaving it to cross South Pass over the Continental Divide, the Oregon Trail wound its way north and west to Oregon; the Mormon Trail pushed south and west after leaving South Pass until it reached Utah; while the California Trail continued due west until it found California.

The second break in the Continental Divide is the Great Divide Basin, located to the west of the present day site of

Rawlins. It included the Red Desert, named for the color of the soil, a vast treeless and unwatered high plateau broken near its southern border by a spur of the Uinta Mountains.

DRAINAGE

The drainage of Wyoming is remarkable in that its waters flow in practically every direction. The tributaries of three great river systems have their source in a rather limited area in the northwest part of the State. The Snake River has its source in the area next to the southern part of Yellowstone Park and the western slopes of the Wind River and Gros Ventre mountain ranges; it is a tributary of the Columbia. The Green River has its source in the northern part of Sublette County; it is a tributary of the Colorado which flows into the Gulf of California. The Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers have their sources in Yellowstone Park, and the Big Horn, a tributary of the Yellowstone, has its source on the east slope of the Wind River and Absaroka mountain ranges; all these streams being a part of the Mississippi River System.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Wyoming is a part of a general middle latitude dry land area of North America. Because of the diverse topography of the State, climatic conditions vary greatly from one region to another depending on altitude and exposure of the slopes. The eastern mountain slopes render the winters less severe in

the east than in the valleys of the west. The mean annual temperature ranges from 47.2 degrees at Casper in the central part of the State, to 32.3 degrees at Lake Yellowstone in Yellowstone National Park. The summers in the western part of the State are short with temperatures of 100 degrees or higher recorded only on rare occasions, while the winters are long and severe. Over the northeastern and eastern parts of the State temperatures of 100 degrees or higher are frequent during July and August.²

Owing to the varied topography of the State, the length of the growing season varies greatly. Numerous mountain ranges and valleys occupy the western part of the State, where the growing season varies from a minimum of 30 days in parts of Yellowstone Park to a maximum of 125 days at Lander. In many of the more elevated localities in this section frost or freezing temperatures may be expected every month of the year. The Great Plains of the east has a much longer growing season than the western part. Pine Bluffs, Torrington, and Gillette located in the Great Plains area have a growing season of approximately 130 days. In the northwest the growing season varies from 156 days at Clark, in the lower Big Horn Basin to 24 days at Kirwin, in the Absaroka Mountains, while in

²Yearbook of Agriculture, <u>Climate and Man</u> (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1941), page 1210.

the southeast it ranges from a maximum of 133 days at Burns to a minimum of 78 days at Big Creek, in the Medicine Bow Mountains.

The average annual precipitation for the State is 14.21 inches, but it ranges from 4.71 inches at Hyattville in the lower Big Horn Basin, to more than 200 inches in some areas of Yellowstone National Park. Over much of the State approximately 70 per cent of the total annual precipitation occurs during the growing season, April to September. The heaviest amount of precipitation is mostly in the form of snow in the higher mountains and this provides water for the rivers of the State. The summer precipitation falls mostly in scattered thundershowers and is quite frequently accompanied by hail in the spring months. The relative humidity of Wyoming is lower than over the Plains to the eastward.

³Yearbook of Agriculture, Climate and Man, page 1210. 4Tbid., 1210.

TABLE I

TYPICAL WEATHER STATION REPORTS⁵

| Location | | rage rature | Average Length of Growing Season | Average Precipitation | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|---|--------------------------|----------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Jan. OF. | July of. | Days | Jan. in. | July in. | Annual in. | | | | |
| Cheyenne | 26.7 | 67.0 | 139 | •38 | 1.99 | 15.82 | | | | |
| Sheridan | 19.4 | 68.9 | 129 | .83 | 1.26 | 15.31 | | | | |
| Cody | 23.6 | 69.5 | 127 | .25 | 1.01 | 8.97 | | | | |
| Casper | 26.4 | 72.1 | 131 | .62 | 1.33 | 14.99 | | | | |
| Green River | 18.6 | 69.3 | 99 | •32 | •55 | 7.42 | | | | |

⁵Yearbook of Agriculture, Climate and Man, page 1201-2.

The vegetation of the State reflects the topography and climate of the different areas of the State. In general, the vegetation is of two principal types: grasslands in the Great Plains and the basin areas between the mountain ranges, and the forested areas in the higher elevations.

Because of the limited amount of rainfall, high wind velocity, high temperatures, and a high rate of evaporation the plants of the Grasslands are of the Xerophytic type.

Xerophytes, here referrs to plants that must endure recurrent drought. The Great Plains are characterized by short grasses, especially buffalo grass and grama, with areas of cacti, sagebrush and greasewood which are more typical of the deserts farther south. The plains are essentially grass lands, but drought and grazing favor the desert plants.

Forest growth of the higher elevations is a result of higher average precipitation and lower temperatures, which results in reduced evaporation. The mountain regions offer a great variety of environmental conditions, and to describe the Rocky Mountain forests one must consider the different sub-divisions. Some of the plant communities found within the Rocky Mountain forest are:

Alpine and Subalpine Meadows: Characterized by grasses, sedges, and many kinds of wild flowers. Timberline in the State is approximately 10,000 feet above sea level. The alpine meadows are those that are above timberline while the subalpine meadows are those directly below timberline. The chief difference in

the appearance of the two is due to the fact that all alpine plants are dwarf.

Spruce-Fir Forest: The climax forest from timber line down to about 8,000 feet elevation.

Lodgepole Pine Forest: This is the most extensive type of plant community in the mountains of the State and is mostly between 7,000 and 8,500 feet above sea level. Lodgepole Pine trees grow in very dense stands, but due to the shallow soil they are not very well anchored and the forest floor is usually littered with fallen trees. For this reason, the fire hazard is very great during the dry season, and is usually the main factor in the perpetuation of Lodgepole Pine. It is not a climax tree and without recurring fires this type of forest is replaced by spruce-fir forest in the upper part of its range and by Douglas-fir in the lower part of its range.

Douglas-fir Forest: This is the climax type of forest in the Rocky Mountains and in many places it occupies a distinct zone below the spruce-fir forest and the climax forest from about 8,000 feet elevation down to the valley floor. It will eventually replace the Lodgepole Pine Forest of this elevation.

Ponderosa Pine Forest: Along the eastern slopes of the Laramie and Big Horn Mountains, ponderosa pine becomes dominant. It ranges from an elevation of from about 6,000 feet to 8,000 feet above sea level. It occupies the same elevation as the Douglas-fir Forest of the western slopes.

Aspen Forest: This type of forest often succeeds a fire in a moist environment of the Douglas-fir forest.

EARLY EXPLORATION AND THE FORMATION OF WYOMING

In the early days little or nothing was known of the vast area beyond the Mississippi Valley. Spain, after Columbus's discovery of America, claimed the continent under the "papal bill" in 1493 as part of the "countries inhabited by infidels"; her claim being given greater force by DeSoto's discovery of the Mississippi River in 1541. The Spanish claim to the country east of Rocky Mountains was superseded by that of France following the LaSalle expedition of 1682.

France ceded to Spain the Western part of the Wyoming Basin in 1762, but in 1792 Lieutenant W. R. Broughton of the Vancouver Expedition claimed the basin of the Columbia River for Great Britain. The Continental Divide being partly in the Wyoming Basin places the basin in both the Columbia and Mississippi drainage systems. In 1800 France regained the region that had been lost to Spain. This was purchased by the United States in 1803 and was formed into the District of Louisiana. In 1812 it was organized into the Missouri Territory, and in 1834 was made into the Indian Country.

When the Republic of Texas was organized in 1836, the territory claimed by it included a part of southeastern Wyoming and in 1845, when Texas was annexed by the United States, it contained parts of Wyoming, essentially Carbon, Albany, and Laramie Counties. The following year the treaty with Great Britain

Robert E. Riegel, <u>United States</u> of <u>America</u> (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1948), page 10.

established the right of the United States to the "Oregon Country", including parts of western and north-central Wyoming. The undisputed right of all of Wyoming came to the United States with the cession of territory by Mexico in 1848.

While the United States was completing the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, the Lewis and Clark Expedition was organized for the purpose of exploring a route to the Pacific. Although the Expedition did not cross Wyoming, two of the members of the party later were in the Wyoming area: John Colter, trapper and woodsman, and Sacajawea, the Shoshone woman who acted as guide and interpreter for the Expedition.

On the return trip from the coast Colter asked for a discharge from the expedition and turned back into the wilderness to trap. In 1807 he passed through the Pryor Gap of the Big Horn Mountains, wandered about on Clarks's Fork, then on to the Stinking Water (now the Shoshone River in the Big Horn Basin), and from there it is believed he reached the headwaters of the Green River. 7

John Colter's trapping expedition into Wyoming marks the beginning of the fur-trading period in Wyoming's history. From 1807 until the close of the War of 1812, a large number of trappers from the Great Lakes region transferred their enterprise to the headwaters of the Missouri. One party, led by Ezekiel Williams in 1807, spent some time trapping on the tributaries of the Yellowstone. Later because of hostile

⁷American Guide Series, Wyoming, page 60.

Indians, these men took a southerly route, presumably up the Big Horn River, and must have crossed the Wind River Valley.

One of their number, Edward Rose, remained in the Crow country and is credited with being the first permanent American resident in the Big Horn Basin. He was in the vicinity until 1823; afterward he became a guide for Thomas Fitzpatrick and William Sublette.

In June 1810 John J. Astor organized the Pacific Fur Company, which was to include the China trade as well as supply the northern Russian establishments in America. He immediately planned two expeditions to meet on the Pacific Coast. One of these in the ship, Tonquin, went around Cape Horn and entered the Columbia in the spring of 1811. Later most of the crew members were massacred by Indians and the ship destroyed. By the end of May of that year, a fort was built twelve miles up the river and named Astoria. The land expedition, under Wilson Price Hunt, crossed the northern boundary into the present State of Wyoming about August 11, 1811, and moving westward left the State by way of the Hoback Canyon and over Teton Pass.

Hunt's expedition was remarkable in that it followed a route through a wilderness never before taken by white men and that it blazed the way across the continent from St. Louis, where the expedition was organized, to the Pacific Coast in 340

⁸American Guide Series, Wyoming, page 61.

⁹ Ibid., 61.

days. This first effort, made to discover a central land route from the Missouri River to the Oregon region, brought Wyoming into American history.

On June 29, 1812, Robert Stuart, with a small party, started back across the mountains, bearing dispatches to John Astor in New York—an event of great importance to the west. The party blazed a new route, which was, in a large part, what was known as the Oregon Trail.

Little is known of the operations in Wyoming during the decade following Stuart's trip. Later in 1822 a party of men, under the leadership of Gen. William Ashley, traveled up the Missouri River to establish a trading post in the Yellowstone area. Ashley revolutionized the method of trapping. He abandoned efforts to conduct trade from fixed trading posts and relied on small parties, who met other trappers and Indians at annual rendezvous where the trappers traded furs to the company for ammunition, whiskey, and various other supplies. The Indians were always eager for beads and other trinkets.

¹⁰ The Columbia Encyclopedia (New York, Columbia University Press, 1950), page 1440.

¹¹ Ibid., 14-40.

POPULATING THE LAND

With the decline of the fur trade many trappers and traders were ready to take up new occupations. The majority of them settled along the emigrant trail; some became guides to wagon trains going across the country, others furnished supplies of various kinds, including horses and cattle, which they traded to the emigrants for their broken-down horses and cattle and certain other considerations. This stock, after being turned out to feed and rest, was soon in prime condition to exchange for other disabled stock, becoming thus a source of great profit to the traders.

Although hundreds of thousands of emigrants passed through the State, few settled there until the Mormon emigrants began to come in 1847. A number of them settled, for a time at least, in western and southwestern Wyoming.

A new era in the life and settlement of the Rocky
Mountain West began with the discovery of gold in California in
1848. To the dull routine of ox-team travel over the Oregon
Trail was added the zest of fortune hunting and adventure. In
the early season of 1850 some 60,000 gold seekers and 90,000
animals went over the California Trail. The high tide of emigration was reached about 1850-51.

¹² Riegel, United States of America, page 456.

One of the great handicaps of the early days on the frontier was the lack of communication with the East. Letters intended for various posts were usually sent to Fort Leaven—worth and then forwarded whenever possible. John M. Hockaday and William Liggett took advantage of the situation and in 1851 established a semi-monthly stage line for carrying mail and packages from St. Louis to Salt Lake City. By 1859 the Central Overland, California, and Pikes Peak Express Company was well established. In 1860 the company established the Pony Express, which followed the Oregon Trail.

A subsidy of \$40,000 a year for ten years was offered by the United States Government to the builder of the first telegraph line across the Plains. Edward Creighton was the successful competitor, and on October 24, 1861, his line was completed and in working order. 13 It followed the general path of the emigrant trail.

There had been early trouble with Indians in Wyoming, tribes previously peaceful became hostile, and when regular soldiers stationed through the West were called away to fight in the Civil War, the Indians were quick to take advantage of the situation. After harassing the emigrants and settlers by means of small attacking parties, they began to organize into large bands. The year 1865 was known as the "Bloody Year on the Plains," as there were constant attacks by Indians on emigrant trains and stage stations.

¹³ American Guide Series, Wyoming, page 68.

After several large battles were fought a number of important treaties were signed. By the 1868 treaty at Fort Bridger, Chief Washakie and his Shoshone tribe were allotted the Shoshone Reservation in the Wind River Valley. In 1877, upon appeal from the Government, Washakie permitted the Arapaho to winter on his reservation, and they have remained ever since.

From this time on the settlers of Wyoming enjoyed comparative security. Early population was grouped around mining communities, army post, and along the railroads. A mining stampede that brought many enterprises, including various kinds of commercial business, lumbering from the mountain regions, agriculture, and stock raising followed the discovery of the Carissa Lode in 1867 at South Pass.

News of the important gold discoveries, the findings of huge coal deposits in the southwestern corner of the State and knowledge that range grasses offered excellent grazing for cattle began luring people in considerable numbers to the virgin territory.

By 1867 and 1868 the Union Pacific Railroad was pushing its way across the southern part of Wyoming. The settlement of Cheyenne, the first railway terminal town in the State, began in July 1867. Within a month a temporary government had been formed. A string of settlements, including speculative townsites, hastily erected stores, saloons and gambling halls, coal mines, lumber and tie camps were filled with a restless and shifting population. Coal mining and lumber camps quickly

developed with the construction of the railroad.

The Wyoming Organic Act, creating the Territory of Wyoming out of parts of Dakota, Utah, and Idaho was approved July 25, 1868. Cheyenne was designated the territorial capital, and on May 25 the first territorial court was held. At this time, there were about 9,000 people in the territory.

Cattlemen of Texas, learning of the great open ranges to the north, began trailing their herds up from the south, and the Texas drives were soon a spectacular feature of the cattle industry. Many buyers invested in thousands of head of Texas longhorns, and drove them up the trail to their Wyoming ranches. in 1884 it was estimated that 800,000 head of cattle were moved north from Texas over the trail.

With the development of the cattle industry, the demand for horses increased. At first the horses were brought from Texas and Mexico, but it was soon found that Wyoming was as well adapted to the raising of horses as to that of cattle, and a large industry in that line developed.

The eight years following the Civil War were marked by intense activity throughout the West. Then came the panic of 1873, and Wyoming in general felt its effect along with other sections of the West. About this time Governor Campbell called attention to the use of artificial irrigation, pointing to the

¹⁴ American Guide Series, Wyoming, page 72.

¹⁵ John K. Rollinson, Cattle Trails (Caldwell, Idaho, The Caston Printers, Ltd., 1948) page 236.

supply of water from running streams and to the Union Pacific Railway' success in the sinking of artesian wells. "Vast areas of arid land in Wyoming and many other parts of the West, he said might be made remarkably productive by irrigation." Adequate water supply was needed also for the development of the mining interests. It was apparent that irrigation systems as proposed could not be undertaken by private enterprise; Government aid was necessary. A memorial to Congress proposed that "the government should grant to the western States and territories one-half of the arid lands, not mineral, within their borders, the proceeds from the sale of which should be devoted to the construction of irrigating canals and reservoirs."

Wyoming was materially affected by Congressional action that followed the memorial; yet three-fourths of all the irrigation works constructed before the passage of the Carey Act in 1894 were built by cattlemen or from proceeds of the range business. Ditches constructed primarily to furnish water for the homes of the ranchmen were essential aids to the grazing interest.

From these irrigation systems, used at first for the raising of native hay, came a rapid and important development in agricultural operations, especially in Johnson, Sheridan, Cook,

¹⁶ American Guide Series, Wyoming, page 73.

¹⁷ Ibid., 73.

¹⁸ Louis Pelzer, The Cattleman's Frontier (Caldwell, Arthur H. Clark Co., 1936) page 188.

and Weston Counties. These lands were watered essentially by
the Powder and Belle Fourche rivers in the northeast part of the
State. Towns sprang up in likely locations, transportation
was provided for the more thickly settled areas and soon the
livestock and agricultural industries spread to every corner of
the State.

The rule of the cattle barons, powerful while it lasted, began to wane with the terrific losses during the winter of 1886-1887 and with the coming of the settlers in the 1880's, many of whom availed themselves of the privileges of the homestead laws. On any land to which the Indian title had been extinguished, a settler might pre-empt and undertake improvements on acreage not to exceed a quarter section, though in the case of unsurveyed land the title could not be completed until the survey had been finished.

Many of the homesteaders were cowboys who bought a few head of cattle and started 160-acre ranches of their own. In the early days it was the unwritten law of the cattle range that any unbranded animal over the age of one year (a maverick) could be branded and claimed by the person who found it. From the beginning of the cattle industry there was much trouble with cattle thieves, or rustlers, who changed the brands or killed the animals for beef.

An era of settlement beginning in the 1880's resulted in an increase in the population from 20,789 in 1880 to 62,555 in 1890. 19 The rush for land was stimulated not so much by a

¹⁹ American Guide Series, Wyoming, page 74.

desire to farm as by the need to supplement ranch and livestock holdings. Within two years more than 3,000,000 acres of land passed from railway or Government ownership into private hands.²⁰

Up to this time the problem of transportation had retarded settlement, owing to the great distances and the inadequate roads. Freight lines and stages were the only means of transportation for passengers and supplies north of the Union Pacific Railroad to the Montana Line.

As Wyoming developed, attention was turned towards railway building. The Chicago and Northwestern Railway financed an extension into central Wyoming, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy crossed the northeastern corner of the Sheridan Valley on its way to Montana. Later this same company built a line up the Big Horn Valley to Cody and Thermopolis.

An influx of settlers followed the railways, and various land laws were passed that gave increased help to the settlement and agricultural development of the State, including the 320-acre and 640-acre acts. By 1900 the population was approximately 92,000.

About 1905, as the population began to push westward from Nebraska, land companies brought into southeastern and eastern Wyoming hundreds of settlers who attempted dry farming; that is, farming without irrigation. In some districts this

²⁰U. S. Bureau of Census, <u>Historical Statistic of the United States</u>, <u>Colonial Times to 1957</u>, Washington Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1960.

TABLE II

POPULATIONS OF WYOMING²¹ 1870 - 1960

| 1870 | | | | | | • | | | | 9,118 |
|------|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|---------|
| 1880 | | | | | | | | | | 20,789 |
| 1890 | | | | | | | | | | 62,555 |
| 1900 | | | | | | | | | | 92,531 |
| 1910 | | | • | | | | | | | 145,965 |
| 1920 | | | | | | | | | | 194,402 |
| 1930 | | | | | | | | | | 225,565 |
| 1940 | | | | | | | | | | 250,742 |
| 1960 | | | | | | | | | | 327,000 |

^{21&}lt;sub>U.</sub> S. Bureau of Census, <u>Historical Statistics of the United States</u>, <u>Colonial Times to 1957</u>, Washington D. C., 1960

form of agriculture proved satisfactory; in others the farmers were driven out by drought and excessive wind erosion.

Substantial settlement came in a number of localities as the result of the large reclamation projects, such as the Pathfinder Dam for the irrigation of the North Platte Valley; the Wind River Project; the Shoshone Project; and the Kendrick or Alcova-Casper Project.

THE GRAZING INDUSTRY

Shortly after Wyoming was admitted to the Union on July 10, 1890 as the 44th state, bitter feelings between various elements of the cattle industry led to the so-called Johnson County Cattle War of 1892. With the end of these hostilities bad feelings faded away and the cattle industry settled down to an age of fenced pasture, better breeding management, and steady growth. This industry is one of Wyoming's major economic activities. The land of Wyoming supported a total of 1,175,000 cattle in 1960.²²

With high mountains providing summer range and valleys giving winter range, the Wyoming sheep industry took gigantic strides forward during the early part of the twentieth century. Although it has been facing stiff competition from foreign wool growers and the development of new

²²U. S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1960), page 681.

textiles, the sheep industry in Wyoming remains one of the top wool producers in the United States with a total of 2,360,000 head in 1960.

MINING

commercial operations in the petroleum industry and oil well drilling in Wyoming had been carried on for a number of years before the first full-scale oil boom took place at Salt Creek near Casper in 1912. Only the year before the State's overall oil production was around 200,000 barrels per year. After the first gusher was brought in at Salt Creek, north of Casper, the annual production of crude oil mounted to almost 13,000,000 barrels in 1918 and some 120,000,000 barrels in 1960. The area around Salt Creek is still the most important oil producing region of the State.

Through the years coal mining has been one of the leading industries of the State. Large coal mining operations are carried on in the southern part of the State in the Rock Springs and Rawlins area. Other important areas are located around Sheridan and Gillette in the northern part of the State. The production of coal has declined in the past ten years; as a result of the railroads converting from steam engines to

²³U. S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1960) page 681.

²⁴ Ibid., page 745.

diesel engines. Production declined from a 1941-45 average of 8,664,000 short tons to a 1,629,000 short ton production in 1958.

In addition to coal and oil, the State is rich in other mineral resources. Natural gas, iron, and sulphur figure prominently in the State's mineral resources industry. In the past few years, extensive prospecting has led to the discovery of uranium. The Atomic Energy Commission has erected a buying station at Riverton and processing mills have been built by private industry for the handling of uranium ores.

AGRICULTURE

Due to the arid characteristic of the State the 1,819,000 acres of land under cultivation are limited to the irrigated regions of river valleys and to dry farming in the extreme eastern part of the State. Crops produced in the order of importance are: hay, wheat, sugar beets, dry edible beans and corn. The outstanding farming area of the State is around the Pine Bluffs and Wheatland area in the southeast corner of the State.

United States, page 727. Statistical Abstract of the

²⁶ Tbid., page 659.

FOREST AND LUMBER

There are parts of 11 national forests in Wyoming with a gross area of 9,013,328 acres and a net area of federal ownership of 8,565,000 acres. About 60 per cent of the timber is lodgepole pine, used mostly for railroad ties.²⁷ The next most abundant varieties are Englemann spruce, alpine fir and Douglas-Fir. The Douglas-Fir lumber is very valuable and is used in building construction and plywood.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Much stress at present is being placed upon the State's recreational features. In Wyoming are Yellowstone National Park, the first and largest of the Nation's playgrounds, established in 1872 and the Grand Teton National Park, established in 1929, one of the last and finest of the national park areas. Among the State's other recreational areas are Devil's Tower in the northeastern corner of the State; Spirit Mountain Cavern near Cody; Ft. Laramie National Monument in the southeastern part of the State; Hot Springs State Park near Thermopolis; Black Hill's area in the extreme northeast part of the State and the many National Forests of the State.

²⁷U. S. Bureau of Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, page 692.

SUMMARY

The area now known as the State of Wyoming witnessed many historical events which tended to mold the character of the State today. The people of the past have all made contributions to the exciting history of the State.

The present day citizens are taking up the challenge left to them by the State's founders. They are adding to the exciting past and at the same time shaping Wyoming's impressive future. All indications point up the fact that Wyoming's natural resources have barely been tapped, which means in the terms of prosperity and success, a bright and solid future for the State of Wyoming.

MAP OF WYOMING

WYOMING

POINTS OF INTEREST AND TOURING MAP

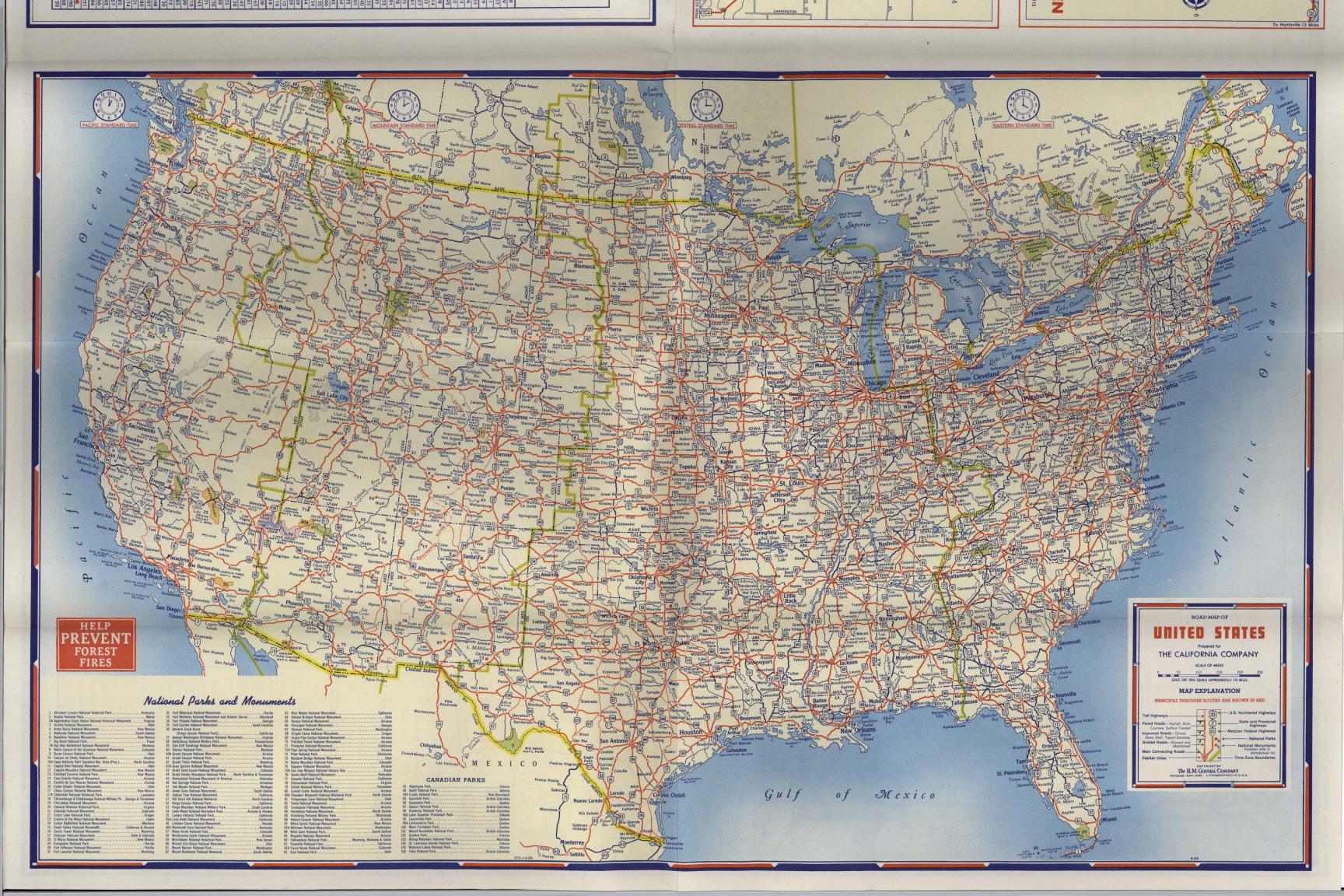


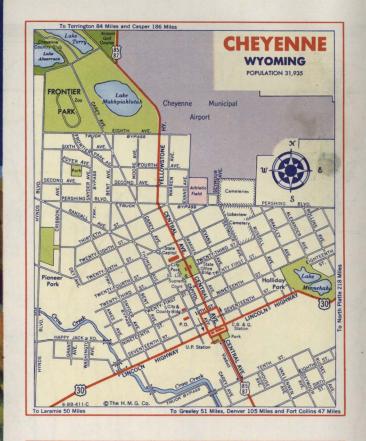


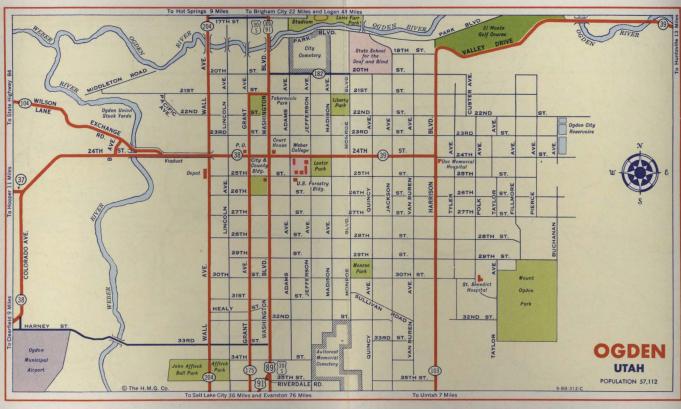


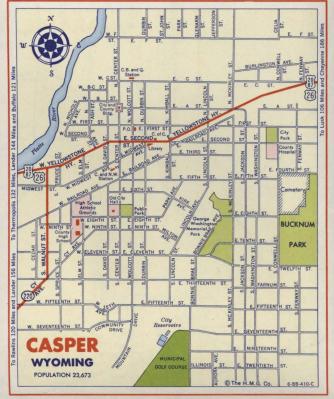


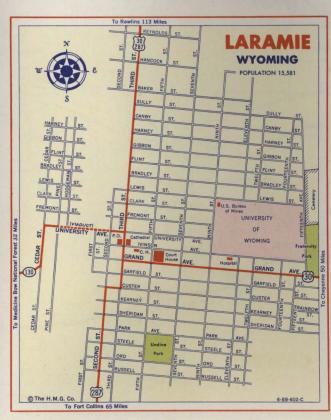


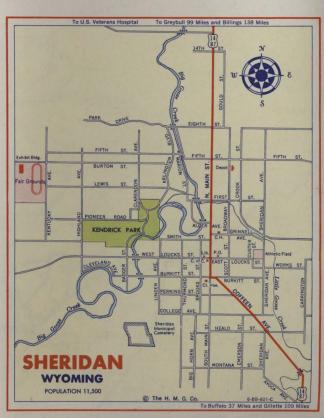












TRANSCONTINENTAL MILEAGE CHART

| BISMARCK, N. DAK. 1928 1569 1850 1396 871 1172 1220 782 187 1494 780 710 725 144 461 1454 1054 1538 1052 1898 838 1256 1733 1180 1306 792 451 1535 1310 1721 172 172 172 172 172 173 172 172 173 172 172 173 173 1007 1756 1882 1895 1895 1895 1895 1895 1895 1895 1895 | 153 669 1044 1567 1627 481 173 379 104 1955 135 696 189 503 1084 362 |
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| BUFFALO, N. Y. 924 907 466 6 955 430 189 1614 333 1414 683 1554 859 92 1020 1074 979 1455 960 1554 98 1075 974 978 978 978 978 978 978 978 978 978 978 | 704 1955 735 696 789 503 784 362 |
| CHICAGO, ILL. 357 724 979 525 358 301 349 1115 316 976 171 1043 341 273 495 1519 183 1113 191 1049 504 647 2189 309 562 90 417 854 456 977 841 486 759 465 2250 1148 1026 295 1466 1245 2233 2184 1878 1215 237 503 (INCINNATI, OHIO) 358 318 40 301 349 241 341 242 1049 1049 1059 1059 1059 1059 1059 1059 1059 105 | 735 696 789 503 784 362 |
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| COLUMBUS, OHIO 123 574 774 333 316 109 144 1294 1094 463 1309 640 180 811 164 289 121 174 899 668 779 2356 220 619 406 736 722 406 988 555 766 473 188 2559 1312 894 414 1746 1344 2526 2500 2194 1065 127 430 April 19 Apr | 65 1692 |
| DAVENPORT, IOWA 509 783 1137 683 171 427 501 944 463 860 872 177 431 454 184 194 195 1120 2093 1787 179 184 184 184 184 184 184 184 184 184 184 | 353 398 |
| DENVER, COLO. 1381 1464 2008 1554 1043 1245 1373 70 1309 815 872 6 595 1302 1065 679 1216 1079 1064 1789 641 1029 1189 1167 1109 1059 855 1883 1205 1314 1852 557 1770 1476 1365 116 2055 895 515 975 1290 1442 1157 1933 1267 1535 | |
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| DUBUOUE, IOWA 539 857 1161 707 182 483 531 958 498 909 74 886 191 455 380 1414 365 1062 373 1182 399 680 2032 491 624 176 255 1036 598 1039 1023 329 949 647 2085 1002 1208 315 1309 1187 2076 2019 1713 1348 419 685 | |
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| FT. WAYNE, IND. 210 635 848 394 161 154 205 1227 155 1035 308 1180 485 160 656 159 155 1167 115 960 601 715 2297 217 592 251 581 741 407 997 707 623 648 354 2411 1245 913 .355 1603 1299 2370 2345 2039 1126 107 390 GLACIER NAT'L PK. | |
| GRAND CANYON NAT'L PK. 2067 1884 2718 2264 1807 1880 2075 920 1944 1068 1669 785 1492 2044 1843 581 1971 1291 1770 2169 1303 1322 541 1802 1463 1856 1684 2625 1684 1577 2499 1354 2417 2132 1253 772 2797 1530 393 1147 841 1330 1151 2159 1992 227 | 091 2340 |
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| JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 1001 325 1228 1142 1049 806 1028 1774 899 1101 1108 1789 1258 1058 1524 1722 1115 974 882 0 1148 811 2539 764 672 1139 1449 1395 584 603 1009 1349 915 924 3101 1734 1567 904 2284 1166 2892 3132 2826 199 1005 125 | 172 764 |
| JEFFERSON CITY, MO. 667 699 1318 864 386 480 675 773 544 582 278 788 266 636 658 1142 550 826 770 1034 147 381 1814 402 358 470 499 1217 440 773 1099 359 1017 732 2100 780 1389 130 1283 860 250 2131 1825 1190 590 866 KANSAS CITY, MO. 791 823 1442 988 504 604 799 626 668 521 369 641 206 752 637 1015 668 754 494 1148 6 418 1631 526 468 572 478 1333 564 887 1223 212 1141 856 1953 644 1505 254 1136 788 1903 1984 1678 1292 708 983 | |
| LITTLE ROCK, ARK. 883 560 1530 1093 647 670 904 958 779 331 606 1029 587 874 1016 989 825 452 566 811 418 1736 561 139 739 857 1455 362 465 1311 630 1217 944 2371 914 1627 352 1518 584 2047 2402 2096 965 822 110 | 293 1070 |
| LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 2479 2288 3130 2676 2189 2292 2487 1228 2350 1462 2018 1189 1841 2448 2192 809 2362 1579 2182 2539 1631 1736 • 2214 1877 2205 2033 3029 2098 1947 2911 1703 2829 2544 1023 1264 3201 1942 744 1388 403 1214 1265 2624 2404 267 1701 1702 272 1662 1136 2433 2493 2187 930 310 593 | |
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| MPLSST. PAUL, MINN. 777 1124 1399 945 417 721 769 978 376 988 329 855 257 693 159 1483 603 1296 1398 1 | 747 1116 |
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| YELLOWSTONE NAT'L PK. 1794 1953 2421 1967 1456 1672 1688 607 1736 1381 1285 537 1108 1614 1031 1209 1629 1629 1629 1629 1629 1629 1629 162 | 1284 368 |

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