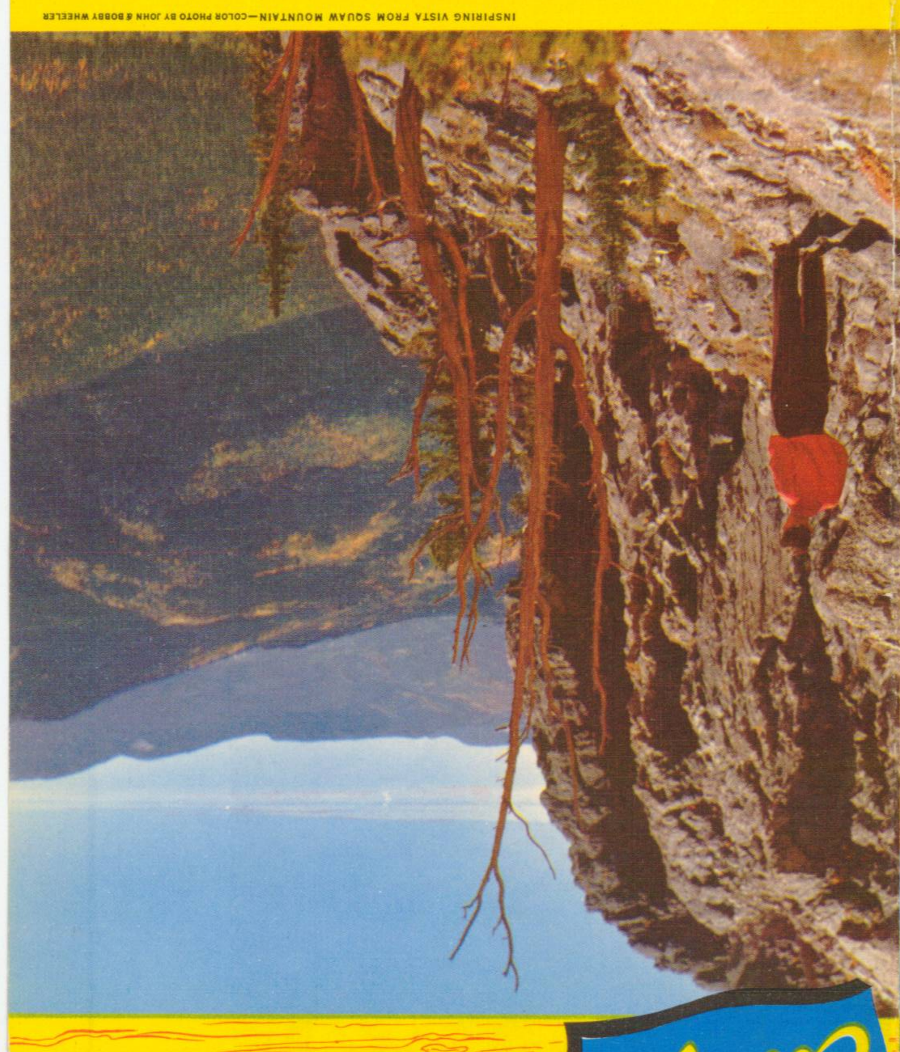

INSPIRING VISTA FROM SQUAW MOUNTAIN—COLOR PHOTO BY JOHN & BOBBY WHEELER

Colorful COLORADO

Issued 1956 by the **COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS** Denver, Colorado

GOVERNOR EDWIN C. JOHNSON, Chief Executive

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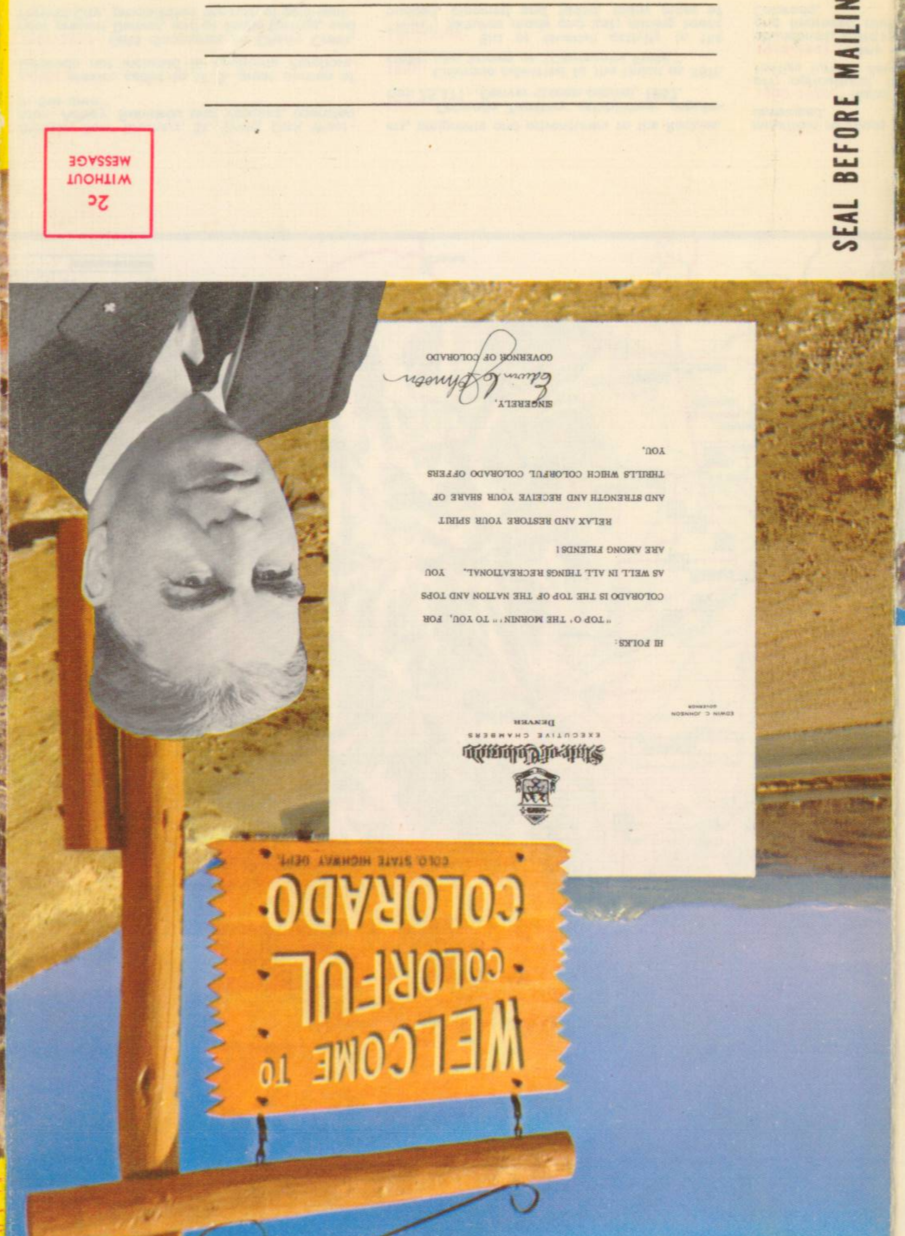

WELCOME SIGN IS ALWAYS OUT
Color Photo by Colo. Dept. of Highways

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SEAL BEFORE MAILING

Colorado

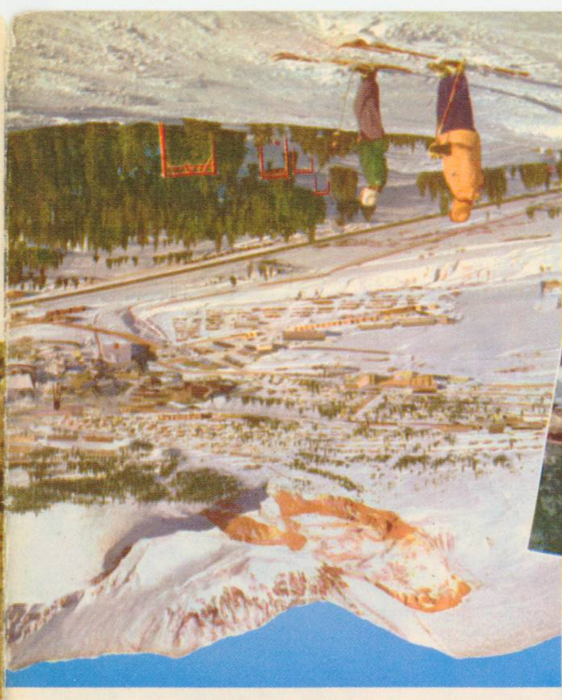
Land of Healthful Climate, Spectacular Scenery, Treasure House of Resources

"DELIGHTFUL!" That's what visitors say about the climate, the scenery, the great recreational areas in the mountains, the pure air and water, the sunshine and the friendliness of the people of Colorado. It is truly a marvelous place to Play, to Work, to Dream. Astride the snow-clad Continental Divide, Colorado offers ideal conditions for thrilling vacations and equally wonderful year-around living.

THERE'S LOTS OF ROOM because Colorado's 104,247 square miles, seventh in size among the 48 states, are greater than the combined area of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The western half is mountainous, the eastern portion flat or rolling plains. Lowest elevation, 3,385 feet, is near Holly in southeastern Colorado; highest, 14,431 feet, is Mount Elbert near Leadville. Of the State's 66,718,080 acres, 36 per cent is Federal land, a large portion being National Forests, Parks and Monuments. The State's estimated 1956 population is 1,525,000, with more than 700,000 in the Denver metropolitan area.

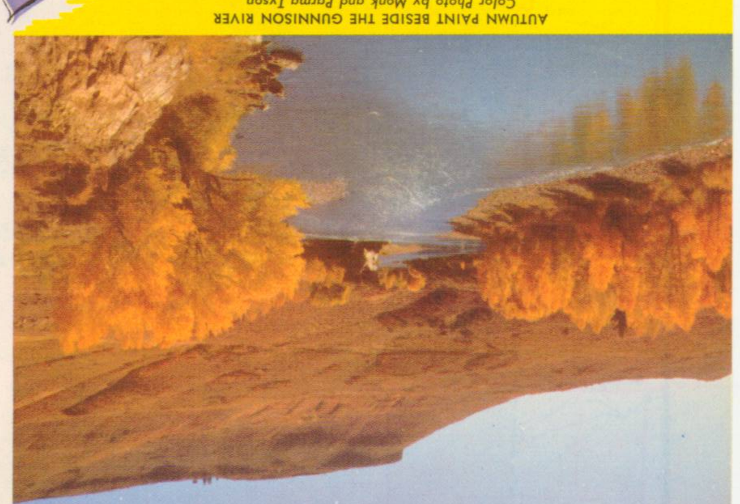
UNLIMITED RICHES stored in the mountains include more than 250 metallic and non-metallic minerals. Colorado's hills and plains, trod alike by the pioneer prospector with his pick and shovel and the modern treasure seeker with Geiger counter, contain uranium ore, the world's greatest oil shale and molybdenum deposits, gold, silver, huge oil pools, and the nation's greatest coal reserves. Colorado has produced 80 per cent of the world's vanadium and half its radium. Colorado marble was used in the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D. C.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE and travel agencies throughout the State will provide information and help concerning local scenic trips, activities and accommodations.



WORLD'S GREATEST MOLYBDENUM MINE FORMS BACKDROP FOR SKI TOW AT CLIMAX
Color Photo by Charles E. Grover

TROUT ABOUND IN LAKE AND STREAM
Color Photo by Forrest N. Yockey



AUTUMN PAINT BESIDE THE GUNNISON RIVER
Color Photo by Monk and Parma Tyson

DENVER'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ATTRACT NATIONAL ATTENTION
Color Photo by John and Bobby Wheeler

Colorado . . . Summer and Winter Playground Amid the Grandeur of the Rockies

THE WIDE OPEN SPACES are reached easily over Colorado's modern highways. The main roads comprise the State Highway System of nearly 8,000 miles, and almost all are on the Federal-aid System. Nearly half carry the familiar shield with a "US" number. In addition Colorado has approximately 62,000 miles of county roads and 4,000 miles of city streets. All the roads on the State Highway System and all the County Connecting Roads (thin black bands) are shown on the Highway Map and the Relief Map. Colorado's main east-west highways cross from one to three mountain ranges, and side roads lead to every section of the state. The principal routes, through high-walled canons, across expansive valleys and over rugged mountains, are kept open to travel throughout the year by the Colorado Department of Highways, which constructs and maintains all roads on the State Highway System. County road crews construct and maintain roads on the County Highway System, and highways in the National Parks, built by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, are maintained by the National Park Service. State Highways cross 27 mountain passes, ranging from 8,000 to 12,000 feet in altitude, and 21 of these passes are kept open for year-around travel by the Department of Highways. Main highways that cross the State from east to west include U.S. 6, 24, 40, 50 and 160. Other routes that serve particular sections of the State are U.S. 34, 36, 85, 87, 285, 287 and 550. U.S. 85-87 is the principal north-south route, paralleling the front range of the mountains and serving the larger cities lying just east of the "foothills." Whatever route you choose in crossing the mountain ranges or the Continental Divide, you are assured of a lavish display of scenery and the thrills of the Wide Open Spaces.

SUMMER AND WINTER PLAYGROUNDS abound beside trout-laden streams or in pine-scented dells. Winter sports are becoming increasingly popular. Improved highways, which add greatly to the pleasure of motoring in Colorful Colorado in spring, summer and fall, have opened up new opportunities for winter sports enthusiasts. Unexcelled areas for skiing, tobogganing and skating are easily accessible by automobile over all-weather highways. Lodges, ski-tows and other facilities have been built at a number of winter resort centers, and add greatly to the popularity of snow and ice sports. Winter visitors to Colorado can enjoy mild temperatures and sunshiny days in the lower altitudes, and within an hour's ride can be in a new world of great white mountains, seemingly limitless in extent and of imposing beauty in their mantles of snow.

EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER, especially Colorado weather because high temperatures here are not oppressive as are similar temperatures in areas of high humidity. Colorado's climate is dry, exhilarating and healthful. Summer nights are cool, refreshing and sleep-inducing. Winters are exceptionally mild, particularly in the cities and towns lying just east of the front range of mountains which serves as a protective barrier. The sun shines in Colorado more than 300 days each year. Annual precipitation varies from 7 to 26 inches in various sections of the State, with an average of 16.5 inches.

LODGING PLACES are easily found because good accommodations, hotels, auto courts, restaurants and other facilities are available in all Colorado cities at reasonable prices. In the mountain resort areas, near spruce-bordered lakes and streams, are lodges, cabin cottages and dude ranches, as well as campgrounds, trailer courts and places to pitch a tent. There are many fine specialized camps for boys and girls.

IF YOU GET HUNGRY, you may be interested to know that Colorado's high altitude celery, head lettuce, cantaloupes, peaches, cherries and other vegetables and fruits are widely known for their fine quality and excellent flavor. And the State is fourth in the nation in the production of sheep and lambs, seventh in potatoes, fifteenth in the production of cattle and calves, and fifteenth in the production of milk. In agricultural products, Colorado leads all states in the production of broomcorn, is at or near the top in quantity of sugar beets and beet sugar. Other important crops are wheat, corn, beans, barley, cabbage, hay and alfalfa. The grazing of cattle and sheep and the fattening of cattle for market is a major industry, as is the raising of hogs and poultry. The State's total farmland covers 38,000,000 acres, of which 3,000,000 are irrigated by waters from the Rockies. Great reclamation projects are being developed by the Federal Government to utilize more of the clear waters which tumble down from the hills for human consumption, irrigation and the production of hydro-electric power.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW REASONS Colorado's Universities and Colleges attract students from throughout the world. High educational standards combine with an unsurpassed setting for health and recreation in the great outdoors to provide a natural laboratory for many sciences. Summer sessions of these institutions are attended by thousands of graduate and under-graduate students who combine their studies with delightful vacations.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY, now under construction on 17,000 acres lying against the foothills a short distance north of Colorado Springs, is designed to be one of the finest educational institutions in the nation.

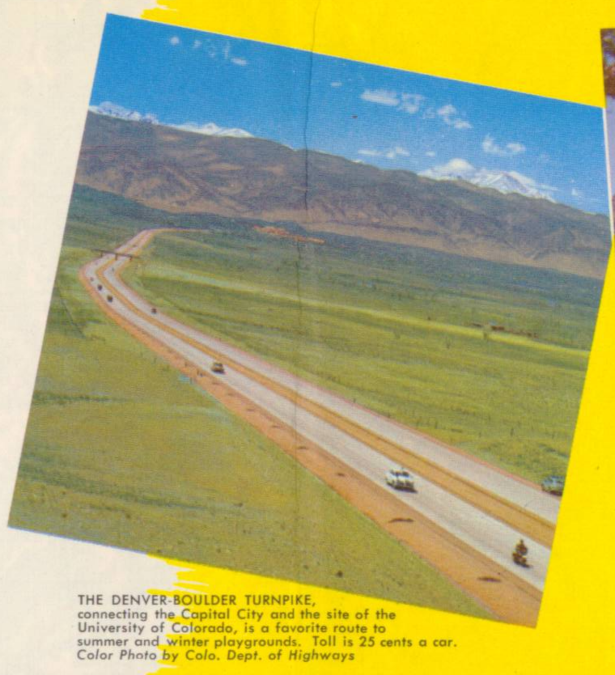
PLACES AND EVENTS OF INTEREST are listed elsewhere in this folder. They include many entertainment features with a Western flavor, as well as AAA baseball and horse and dog racing dates.

AND REMEMBER THE CAMERA, because Colorful Colorado is a photographer's dream come true.

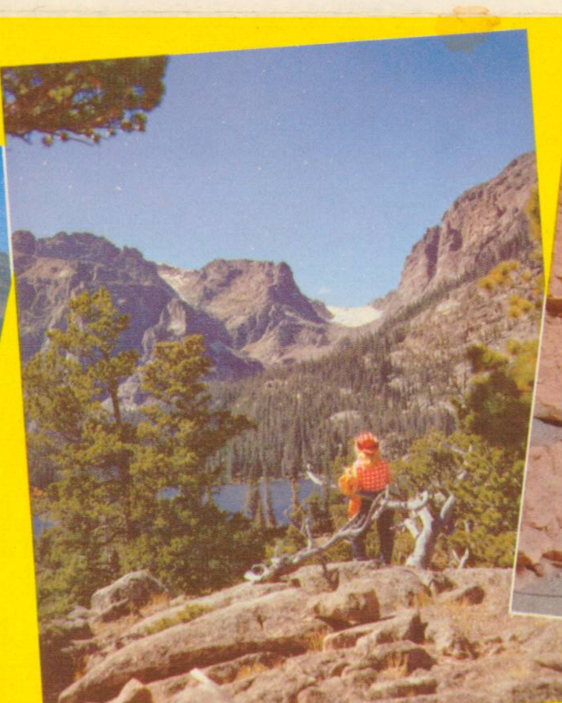
THE HIGHWAY MAP was prepared by the Planning and Research Division of the Colorado Department of Highways, and shows the 8,000 miles of the State Highway System plus about the same mileage of County Primary roads.

THE RELIEF MAP, prepared by Jeppesen & Co., Denver, shows Colorado as it would appear from 60 miles in the air and graphically illustrates the vast differences in topography.

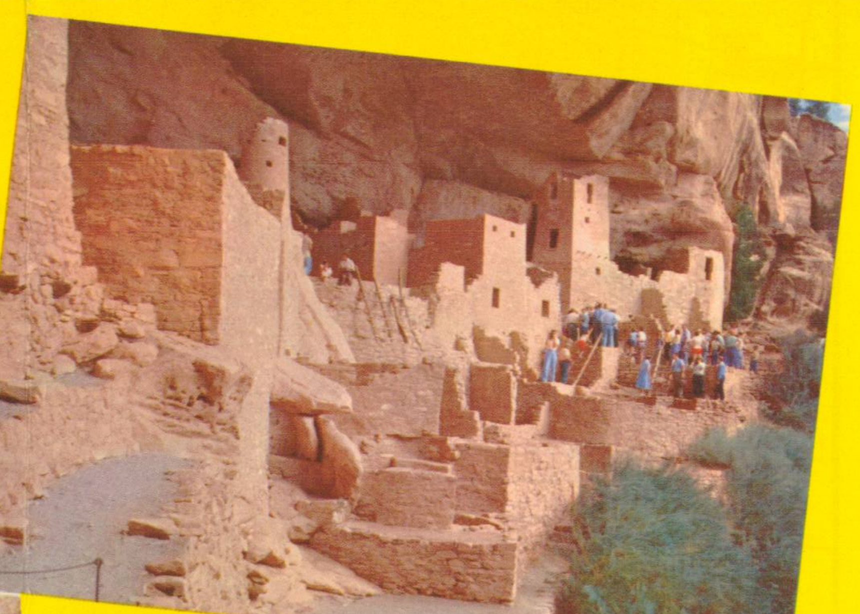
ALL KODACHROME color separations, art work and printing were done by the A. B. Hirschfeld Press, Denver.



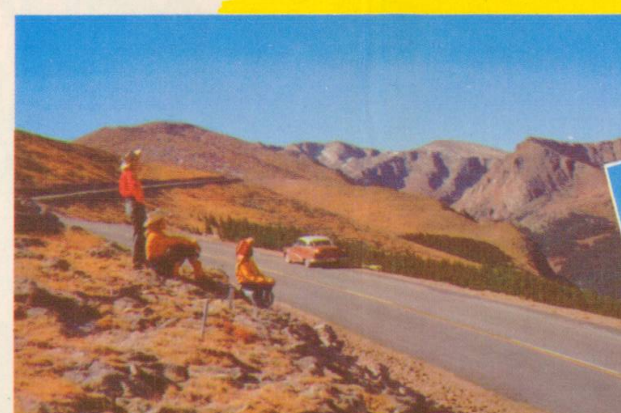
THE DENVER-BOULDER TURNPIKE, connecting the Capitol City and the site of the University of Colorado, is a favorite route to summer and winter playgrounds. Toll is 25 cents a car.
Color Photo by Colo. Dept. of Highways



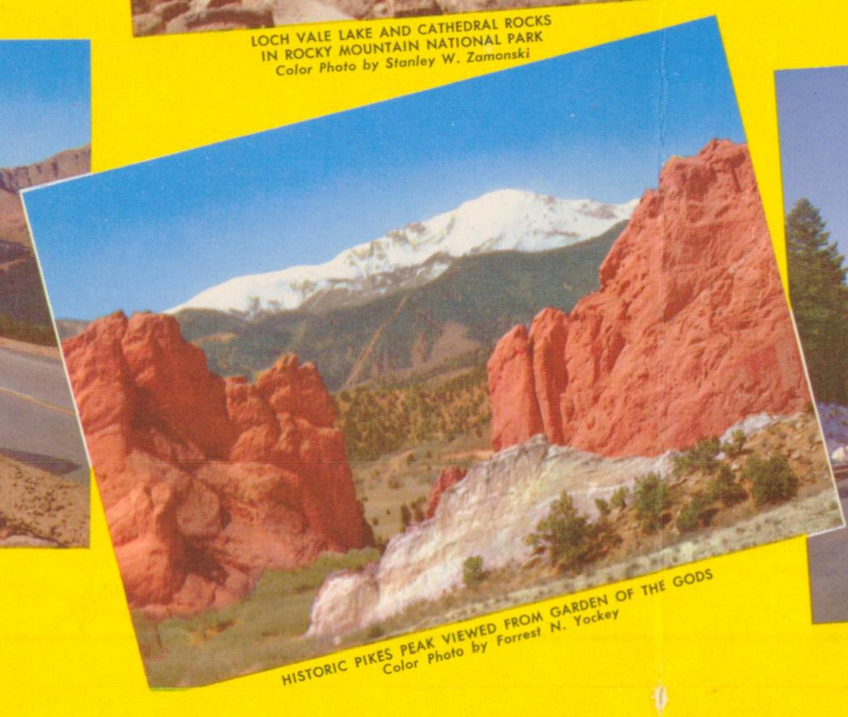
LOCH VALE LAKE AND CATHEDRAL ROCKS IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
Color Photo by Stanley W. Zamonski



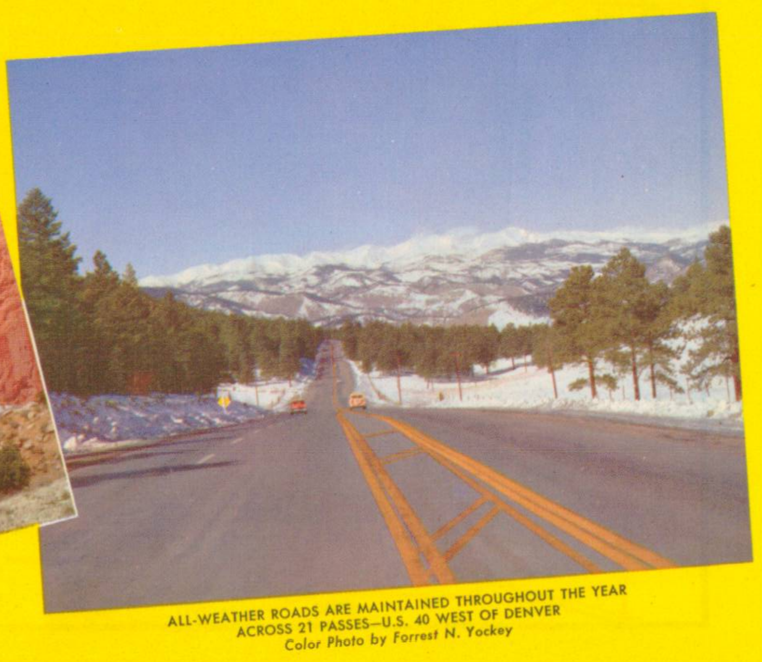
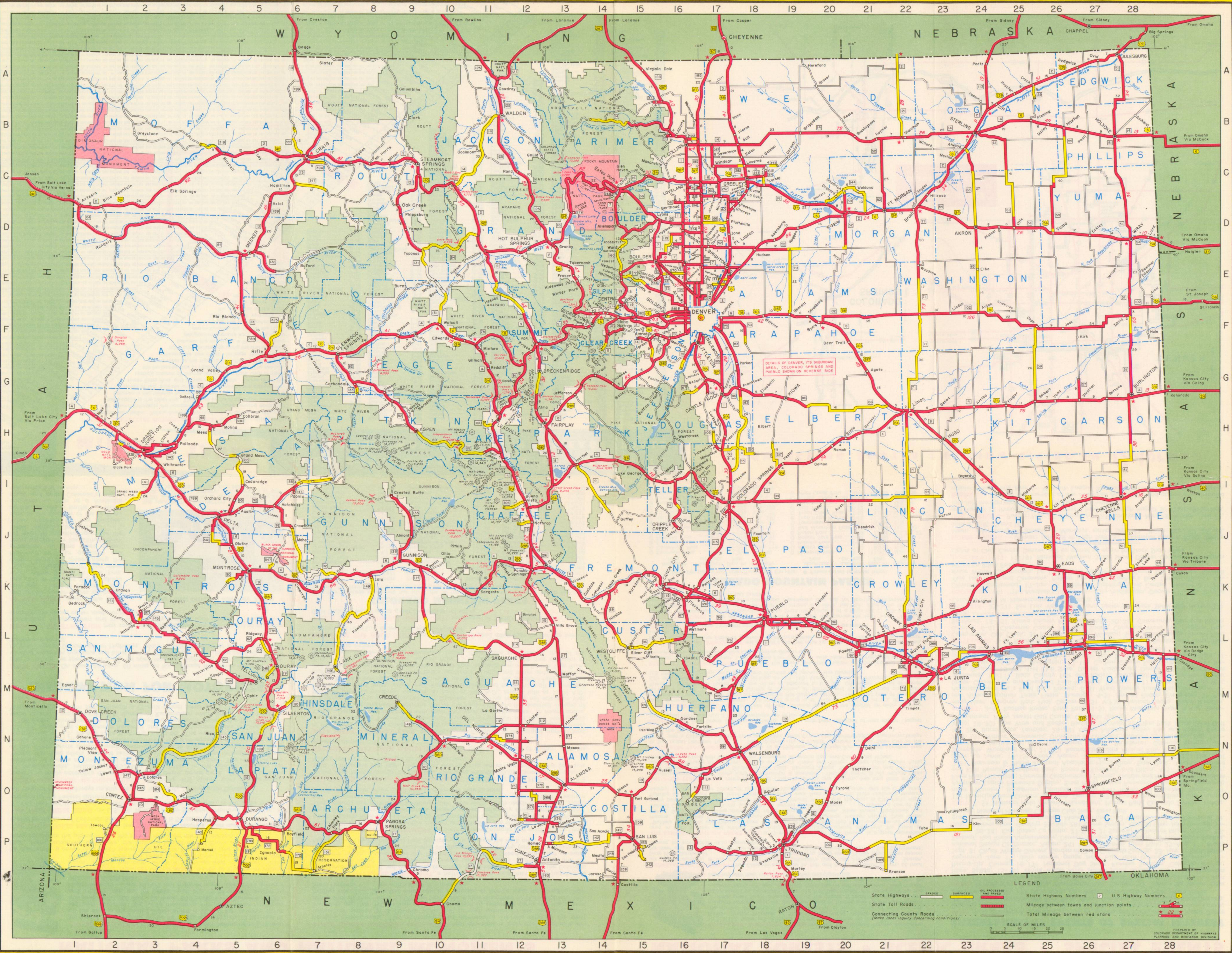
CLIFF DWELLINGS AT MESA VERDE
Color Photo by Forrest N. Yockey



TIMBERLINE ON MT. EVANS, WORLD'S HIGHEST AUTO ROAD
Color Photo by Stanley W. Zamonski



HISTORIC PIKES PEAK VIEWED FROM GARDEN OF THE GODS
Color Photo by Forrest N. Yockey



ALL-WEATHER ROADS ARE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ACROSS 21 PASSES—U.S. 40 WEST OF DENVER
Color Photo by Forrest N. Yockey