

## COLORADO CITIES – CITY WORK PLACES

### Manufacturing

What do these photos tell you about where goods were manufactured in cities?

#### Van Briggle's Pottery Factory

This photo was taken at the Van Briggle Pottery factory in Colorado Springs. The man in the suit is Artus Van Briggle, the factory owner.



*Van Briggle Pottery factory in Colorado Springs*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

**More About This Topic**

The cities of Colorado were centers of manufacturing. Skilled craftsmen set up shops to make and sell their products. They came from the Eastern United States and as far away as Europe to build shops and factories in Colorado. Artus Van Briggles was a pottery maker from Ohio who had studied art in Paris.

## **Grand Junction Blacksmith Shop**

This is a blacksmith shop in Grand Junction. The men are standing beside a forge used to heat metal.



*Blacksmith shop in Grand Junction*

*Photo: Colorado Historical Society*

### **More About This Topic**

Almost every town had a blacksmith shop. They produced and repaired a variety of items made of iron. Farmers, miners, and townspeople went to blacksmith shops to have tools made and broken ones mended. Blacksmiths made horseshoes, iron gates and hinges, and many other items.

### **Their Own Words**

“When I’d get to go to town about twice a year with a [mule] skinner [a driver]. . . there was probably at least one, maybe two blacksmiths shops, and that was my pet place to hang around. . . I think I was about twelve year old before I ever shod my first horse.”

Source: Ernie Ross quoted in Maria M. Rogers, ed., *In Other Words: Oral Histories of the Colorado Frontier* (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996): 55.

## A Saddle And Harness Shop

This photo was taken in Grand Junction in a saddle and harness maker's shop.



*Saddle and harness shop in Grand Junction, Colorado*

*Photo: Colorado Historical Society*

### **More About This Topic**

Many towns and cities also had a harness shop. These shops produced the leather harnesses used to hitch horses to buggies and wagons. Most harness shops also made saddles. Can you find the saddle in this photo?

## **The Milwaukee Brewing Company**

The building in this photo is a Denver brewery. The brewery produced beer.



*Brewing Company in Denver, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Beer was a popular adult beverage in Colorado. Many Colorado cities had their own breweries. The Tivoli-Union Brewery shown in this photograph produced beer in Denver for over a hundred years. This building has been preserved. It is not part of the Auraria college campus in downtown Denver.

### **A Cement Plant**

This is a cement factory located near Pueblo. Construction in and around cities created great demand for cement.



*Cement plant in Pueblo, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Large cities also had big factories and industrial plants nearby. Pueblo was famous for its steel mills, Denver for its smelters, and other cities for sugar factories and packing companies. While these businesses created wealth for the owners and jobs for their workers, they also created smoke and other pollution.

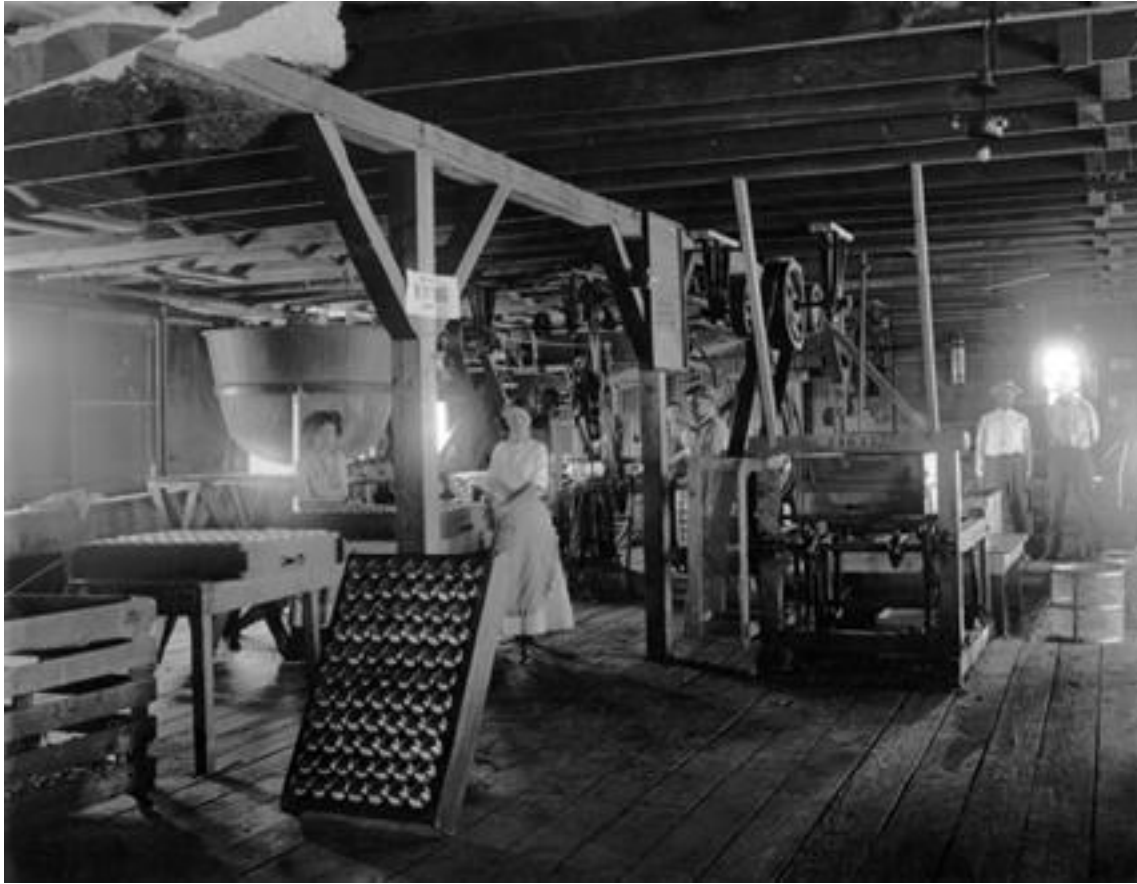
### **Their Own Words**

“It was not all play, however, in those days of a city’s happy youth. On every side were evidences of capital and labor at work. Black plumes of smoke waved above the tall chimneys of vast sprawling smelters, and when the breeze came from the northwest our nostrils stung with the sharp pungency of chemical fumes. Long trains of box cars, loaded high with ore, rumbled down the mountain canons to feed the . . . furnaces. . . .”

*Source: Joseph E. Smith, “Personal Recollections of Early Denver,” Colorado Magazine, 20 (March 1943): 71.*

## **A Canning Factory**

This photo shows the inside of a canning factory. The factory canned vegetables grown on Colorado farms. Both men and women worked in this canning factory.



*Canning factory*

*Photo: Colorado Historical Society*

### **More About This Topic**

City factories were and are closely tied to the resources surrounding them. Canning factories became important in many Colorado cities because of the produce of farms close by. This factory canned many types of vegetables grown on Colorado farms—beans, peas, and corn for example.

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## **Selling**

What do these photos tell you about the different type of goods were sold in city stores?

## Gano-Downs Department Store

This is the boys department of the Gano-Downs department store. The table and shelves hold boys pants, shirts, and hats.



*Gano-Downs department store*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Department stores were among the most popular stores of the late 1800s. They were like several small shops under one roof. Each section or department of the store specialized in a different line of goods, such as boys and girls clothing.

### **Their Own Words**

"We went in the big front door. There were long counters piled high with bolts of goods and boxes of things like handkerchiefs and gloves. There were stools in front of the counters where mamas sat when they bought things. The stools went round when you hit them. "

*Source: Edwina H. Fallis, When Denver and I Were Young, (Denver: Sage Books, 1956): 80.*

## A Denver Street Market

This is a photo of an outdoor vegetable market in Denver. The photo was taken in 1901.



*Denver street market*

*Photo: Colorado Historical Society*

### **More about This Topic**

Cities in the late 1800s had outdoor markets similar to the “Farmers’ Markets” of today. These market provides fresh produce at discount prices. The market stall in this photo was managed by African Americans.

## A Saddle and Harness Shop

This is a saddle and harness store in Grand Junction. It also sold horse collars, which are hanging from ceiling.





*Saddle and harness shop in Grand Junction, Colorado*

*Photo: Colorado Historical Society*

### **More About This Topic**

Some businesses of the 1800s also made the items they sold. This Grand Junction store also had a shop that made saddles and harnesses (see Manufacturing, Photo 3). Some wagon and carriage dealers also built the vehicles.

### **Their Own Words**

"[In the late 1870s in Pueblo] George Gallup had a harness and saddle shop. His saddles became famous throughout the West. Many of them were works of art."

*Source: James Owen, "Reminiscences of Early Pueblo," Colorado Magazine, 22 (May 1945): 105.*

### **A Jewelry Store In Denver**

This is a photo of Sam Mayer's Diamond Palace. The store sold jewelry, watches, picture frames, silverware, and crystal bowls.



*Sam Mayer's Diamond Palace*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Cities had many kinds of specialty stores. These included jewelry, hardware, and drug stores.

### **Their Own Words**

“Just beyond the convent was a two-story building where Mr. Howard had his ‘Drug Store.’ This was truly a drug store with the great jars of colored liquid in the windows and smelling of real drugs.... His store boasted a telephone, which could be used by anyone needing to make an emergency call.... One of our purchases was ‘Rubifoam,’ a Colorado liquid dentifrice which was a beautiful red and tasted good. Castile soap was found here also. It was not a ‘fancy’ soap in appearance but came in long, narrow, irregular bars, which had to be cut into smaller pieces at home. But it was considered the best and the only kind suitable for babies.”

*Source: Quantrille D. McClung, *Memoirs of My Childhood and Youth in North Denver* (Denver: Colorado Genealogical Society, 1979): 12.*

### **A Denver Street Peddler**

This is a photo of a street peddler on a sidewalk in Denver, Colorado. It was taken during a festival held in Denver in 1901. It was called the Festival of Mountain and Plains. The man is selling flags and souvenirs to festival goers.



*Street peddler on a sidewalk in Denver, Colorado*

*Photo: Colorado Historical Society*

### **More About This Topic**

Street vendors and peddlers also were common in Colorado cities. Some farmers came to town to sell vegetables door-to-door.

### **A “Novelty” Shop**

This is the interior of a dry goods store. The photo was taken about 1910.



*Novelty shop*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Dry goods stores sold a wide variety of items. These included fabric, cloth, and clothing, which were called “dry goods.” The stores also sold “notions,” which included buttons, pins, needles, and other small useful household items.

### **Their Own Words**

“In the stores of that day there were also bolts of cloth, papers or pins and needles, cards of buttons and tape, large glass cases where the thread was arranged, anything one might need.”

*Source: Quantrille D. McClung, Memoirs of My Childhood and Youth in North Denver (Denver: Colorado Genealogical Society, 1979): 41.*

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## **Banking**

What do these photos tell you about the functions banks served?

## First National Bank – 1865

This is an early photo of the First National Bank in Denver. The photo was taken about 1865. The bank was located in one of Denver's first brick buildings.



*First National Bank in Denver, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### More About This Topic

Cities also were centers for banking and finance. Banks provided many important services. They were safe places to deposit money. They also loaned money to ranchers, mining companies, and builders.

### Their Own Words

"Our first banker in town [Colorado Springs] was Alva Adams, who had a safe. We took our money to him, and he gave us due bills-no pass books and no bookkeeping."

*Source: William S. Jackson, "Banking in Colorado Springs," Colorado Magazine, 25 (1948): 193.*

## First National Bank – 1880

This is Denver's First National Bank in about 1880, or some fifteen years after the previous photo was taken. How did this building change over time?



*First National Bank in 1880*

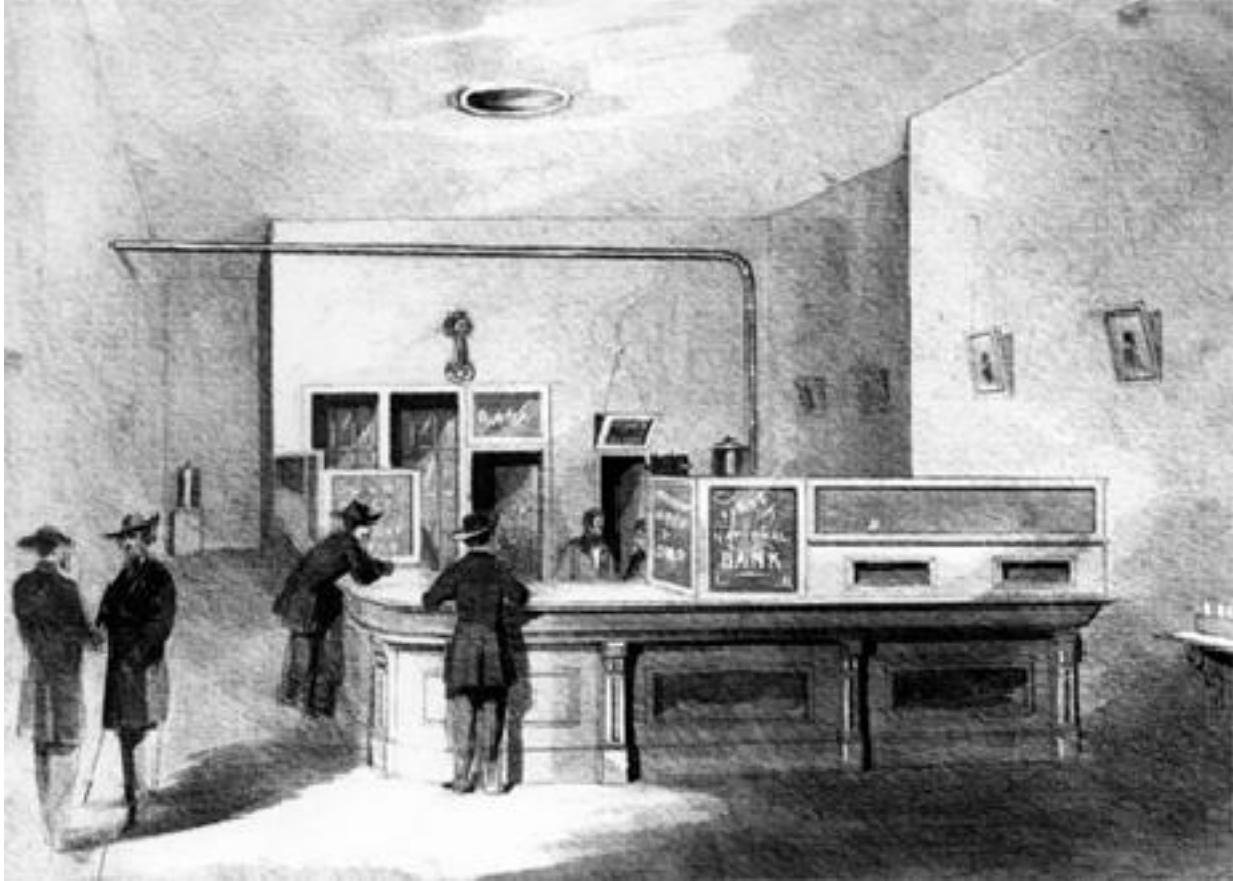
*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

A third floor was added to the building along with a fashionable mansard roof. That roof style had a flat top and a third story with sloping sides. The seven sets of windows and chimneys along the left side of the third floor indicate that this space was used for apartments or offices.

### **Drawing Of a Bank Interior**

This is the interior of Denver's First National Bank, as shown in a drawing or engraving.



*Drawing of a bank interior*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

In this drawing, customers are being waited on at the counter. The bank teller or cashier is behind the counter.

### **Their Own Words**

"Our medium of exchange in those days was mostly gold dust, carried in a buckskin sack and weighed out on gold scales. The smallest amount that was ever weighed out was 25 cents worth."

*Source: Recollections of S. M. Buzzard, Colorado Springs Telegraph, July 31, 1921.*

### **Drawing Of C.A. Cook And Company**

This drawing or engraving shows the interior of the C. A. Cook & Company bank in Denver. The clerk in the center is weighing gold dust on a scale.



*Drawing of C. A. Cook & Company*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Some of the customers in this bank are dressed like miners. They may have brought in gold dust or nuggets. Banks weighed and bought gold, exchanging it for paper money or coins. Dollar bills and coins were easier to use as money than gold dust.

### **Their Own Words**

“We attach more value and safety to the [paper currency] issues of C. A. Cook & Co., of this city, than to any other of the small notes in circulation here, and for the simple reason that we all know the firm and have been familiar with its business for two or three years and are perfectly satisfied with its responsibility and integrity.”

*Rocky Mountain News, November 27, 1862, quoted in LeRoy R. Hafen, “Currency, Coinage and Banking in Pioneer Colorado,” Colorado Magazine, 10 (May 1933): 89.*

## **Mining Exchange In Denver**



This is the Mining Exchange building in Denver. The photo was taken sometime after 1891, when the building was constructed.



*Mining exchange in Denver, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

In 1891, the Mining Exchange was one of the tallest and most important buildings in Denver. The companies that had offices in this building bought and sold stocks or shares in mines for their customers.

### **Their Own Words**

"The mining industry here has its own stock exchange where everything is speculated on mining shares. With his hard-earned mite [savings] the day laborer buys shares in a certain mine and then impatiently awaits a progress report. Suddenly-a catastrophe, because a telegram arrived indicating that the vein of silver disappeared without a trace and the stock has fallen to half its value."

*Source: Emil Haddank Dunikowski, "Across the Rocky Mountains In Colorado (1893)," in "Polish Impressions of Colorado," Essays and Monographs in Colorado History, 5 (1987): 37.*

## International Trust Company

This photo shows the International Trust Company's bank building in Denver. This stone structure was built in 1912. The style of autos parked on the street indicate that the photo was taken sometime between 1912 and 1920.



*International Trust Company in Denver, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

The early 1900's were a time of prosperity. These economic good times are reflected in the bank building. In addition, the building style of this building—what is known as a neo-classical style—was intended to convey the image of stability.

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## Services

What do these photos tell you about the different services that were available in cities?

## **Leadville Police Force – 1878**

This is a photo of the Leadville police force. The photo was taken in 1878.



*Leadville Police force in 1878*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Small towns in Colorado had a town marshal who was hired to enforce the laws. They wore badges, but few had uniforms. A city like Leadville had more than twenty men on its police force. They wore uniforms and were well equipped.

### **Their Own Words**

"Mr. Dillon was with the police force and knew all that went on in the jail. He had several narrow escapes while working at the jail. On more than one occasion he risked his life to capture a prisoner trying to make his get-away. The jail was an adobe building. . . . During the time Mr. Dillon was on the force he held many positions, for a long time he was Night Captain, and at the time of his death, held the position of turnkey at the county jail."

*Source: Recollections of Mrs. Anna Dillon, CWA Interviews, Doc. 344/45, Colorado Historical Society.*

## A Colorado Springs Barbershop

This is a barbershop in Colorado Springs. The barber next to the window is shaving a customer.



*Barbershop in Colorado Springs*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Barbershops in the late – 1800s were popular gathering places for men. Many went there to get shaved as well as to get their hair cut. The rack at the right of this photo is filled with shaving mugs.

### **Their Own Words**

“The best barber in town [Pueblo] was a Negro by the name of John Mumford and he was kept busy most of the time, but especially on Saturdays, when the whole town turned up for a weekly shave and sometimes a haircut. (I mean the males).”

*Source: James Own, “Reminiscences of Early Pueblo,” Colorado Magazine, 22 (May 1945): 99.*

## Grand Junction Firemen

These men are firemen for the city of Grand Junction. They were the city's first paid or professional fire fighters.



*Firemen of Grand Junction*

*Photo: Colorado Historical Society*

### **More About This Topic**

Most towns in Colorado had volunteer fire fighters. Merchants, laborers or miners ran to the fire station when the fire bell rang. Growing cities like Grand Junction needed full time fire departments. Professional fire fighters like these from Grand Junction wore uniforms and were paid a salary.

### **Their Own Words**

"The early equipment of the [fire] department consisted of a large hook and ladder truck that had originally belonged to Denver, but had been bought by the Pueblo department. The equipment was most unwieldy, being too heavy for the men to haul, and not being equipped for horses. Hose company No. 1 was considered the best of all companies, for it was to this company that the boys from the better families belonged. "

"There was a great deal of rivalry between companies, and many elaborate balls were given by the companies. Those balls were usually held in the Chilcott Hall, and were gala events. The uniform that the firemen wore to these social gatherings was composed of black doe skin pants, white flannel jackets, which were elaborately trimmed with blue. "

*Source: G.L.L. Gann, Fireman, CWA Interviews, Doc. 344/26, Colorado Historical Society.*

## **A Denver Fireman In Action**

These firemen are rescuing a woman from a burning building in Denver. The photo was taken about 1915.



*Denver firemen in rescuing a woman*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

The tall building in big cities presented a difficult challenge for fire fighters. They needed special equipment and years of training to protect the people of their city.

## Their Own Words

“Much of the social life centered around the volunteer fire companies. As I recall, at one time there were four different hose companies. . . . We sometimes had state fireman’s tournaments. Our hook and ladder company was usually tops, largely due to the fact that we had a little chap, Tommy Ziegler, who could climb a ladder faster than anyone else. He was small, muscular and quick. For many years he was a druggist.”

*Source: James Owen, “Reminiscences of Early Pueblo,” Colorado Magazine, 22 (May 1945): 102.*

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## Healthcare

What do these photos tell you about who provided health care for city people?

### Place Sanitorium Medical Staff

This is the staff at the Place Sanitorium in Boulder. It took care of people who had a lung disease called tuberculosis.



*Sanitorium staff in Boulder, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Tuberculosis was by 1900 the leading cause of illness and death in the United States. Having no sure way to cure this disease, doctors recommended fresh air, sunshine, and healthy food as the best treatment.

### **Their Own Words**

"Colorado is overrun with invalids. The few well-managed places where they can stay are crowded and have long waiting lists. It is seldom that the patient is fortunate enough to be in the ideal position of having his family or any member of his family with him to make a home in the climate ordered."

*Source: Elizabeth Dobell, "Some Impressions of a Seeker After Health," The Survey, 32 (1914): 479.*

## **Denver General Hospital – 1907**

This is the men's ward at the Denver General Hospital. The photo was taken in 1907.



*Denver Hospital*



*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Regular hospitals in Colorado took care of local patients. The Denver General Hospital was that city's largest hospital. It was a public hospital run by the city of Denver.

### **Their Own Words**

This woman describes her grandfather's job as a nurse in a small pox hospital:

"Grandfather had other ways of earning money in Colorado Springs, besides cooking. Grandfather told me at one time he was hired as a Pest House Nurse, and worked there, I believe, during 1901 and 1902. The large wooden structure, known as the "Pest House," was a place for the isolation of small pox patients.... "He said he cared for over a hundred of patients and never lost one. He was not afraid of contagion. He might have had a light case at some time or had a natural immunity."

*Source: Dorothy Bass Spann in Black Pioneers: A History of a Pioneer Family in Colorado Springs.*

### **Agnes Memorial Sanitorium**

This is the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium, a Denver hospital for people who had tuberculosis. It was built in 1904 by Lawrence Phipps, a wealthy businessman. He named it in memory of his mother, Agnes Phipps.



## *Agnes Memorial Sanitorium in Denver, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

By the 1890s, treating tuberculosis patients was one of Colorado's fastest growing businesses. The sanatoria established in Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs attracted the largest numbers. By 1893, Colorado was reported to have some 30,000 tuberculosis patients.

### **Their Own Words**

"No wonder Colorado was a land of promise toward which tens of thousands turned their faces. . . . In this hegira [flight from danger] journeyed hundreds of penniless Jewish sufferers whose emaciated faces and hollow cheeks and hacking cough were sadly eloquent of close confinement in crowded tenements [in the east]."

*Source: Rabbi William Friedman (founder of National Jewish Hospital), 1923, Pisko File, NJH Archives, Denver*

### **Sun Porch At a Sanitorium**

These people are sitting in the sunroom or porch of the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium in Denver.



### *Sun porch at Agnes Memorial Sanitorium*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

#### **More About This Topic**

Doctors recommended fresh air, sunshine, and healthy food as the best treatment for tuberculosis. Places like the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium kept their patients on porches or outside as much as possible.

#### **Their Own Words**

“Denver and Colorado Springs are of course famous resorts for people with weak lungs, but one need not have weak lungs to feel the tonic effect of the climate. Denver has little rain and much sunshine. Her winter air seems actually to hold in solution Colorado gold. My companion and I found it difficult to get to sleep at night because of the exhilarating effect of the air, but we would awaken in the morning after five or six hours’ slumber, feelings absolutely lively.”

*Source: Julian Street, “Hitting a High Spot: Denver,” Colliers (November 7, 1914): 30.*

#### **Tuberculosis Tent Sanitorium**

This photo was taken at the Woodmen of America Sanitorium, which was located north of Colorado Springs. The patients lived in the tents shown here, even during the winter.



*Woodmen of America Sanitorium in Colorado Springs*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Tuberculosis patients were kept out in the fresh air treatment during winter as well as summer. The people at the Woodmen of America Sanatorium slept outside in tents during the winter.

### **Their Own Words**

"All the patients are required to sleep in tents, and will have to sleep out of doors all winter, no matter how cold the weather. This regulation seemed a little severe when the plan was outlined, so a small stove was placed in each tent. The object of the institution is to get the people of moderate means, who come here for their health, and who are compelled to live in unsanitary quarters downtown, in bad air, and work indoors, out into the open, where they will have a chance of recovery. There are plans at the sanatorium now for a barber, a shoemaker, a tailor, and other tradesmen."

*Source: Description of Denver's Rocky Mountain Industrial Sanatorium in Denver Republican, Nov. 17, 1901.*