

TOURISM WITH TRADITION

INTERPRETING THE CULTURAL QUALITIES OF COLORADO SCENIC AND HISTORIC BYWAYS

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Section 1: About this Project

Background

In 2002 The Colorado Council on the Arts (CCA) was awarded funding from the Federal Highway Administration through the Colorado Department of Transportation's Scenic Byways Program. The primary focus of the project was to interpret the relationship between regional cultural traditions and the intrinsic scenic and historic qualities of Colorado's twenty-four Byways.

CCA's regional folklorists have been working throughout the state since the early 1980s. Their work has identified contemporary cultural elements generated through the interaction of landscape and history in many communities on or near scenic byways. A few examples that reflect the relationship between people and their environment include occupations and architectural styles, art and craft forms, ethnic and tribal celebrations, agricultural practices and harvest festivals.

A survey of individuals and communities on or near Colorado byways that have been served by the CCA Folk Arts Program resulted in a list of hundreds of examples. Analysis of that list shows clearly that byways offer not only outstanding scenic and historic characteristics but also rich and diverse cultural treasures.

This project provides a perfect format for weaving together many different threads to help create an image of Colorado's cultural fabric: The body of knowledge and experience gained by CCA about the state's cultures provides the basic materials. The principles of Cultural Heritage Tourism provide guidance. The folklife approach of seeing art and culture as an integral everyday life makes it all real. Added to that is the wonderful work that has been and continues to be done on and around Scenic Byways. When combined, these elements create a powerful message.

This "Cultural Interpreter's Manual for Colorado's Scenic Byway Communities" is designed to encourage the inclusion of cultural qualities in the telling of the Byways' stories and to assist Byways organizations in knowing how to best present these qualities to the public. It also provides examples of how communities have found and interpreted their stories in the past, and suggests ideas for presenting traditional cultural information to enhance the visitor's experience.



The Colorado Council on the Arts (CCA)

The Colorado Council on the Arts, a state agency, was created by an act of the Colorado State Legislature to stimulate arts development in the state, to assist and encourage artists and arts organizations, and to help make the arts more accessible to the people of Colorado. Using public funds appropriated by the Governor and the Colorado Legislature, combined with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, CCA has invested in the cultural life of communities across the state for almost 40 years.

In addition to supporting fine arts such as sculpture, poetry, ballet and music, CCA has long recognized the equal importance of art forms that grow out of daily life. Since the early 1980s, CCA has engaged the services of professional folklorists to identify, document, celebrate and help preserve Colorado's traditional art forms and their practitioners.

CCA has adopted the definition of Heritage Tourism (courtesy of CHAP--Colorado Heritage Area Partnerships) as "(T)ravel for the purpose of discovery, understanding, and enjoyment of the distinctive places, activities and artifacts that authentically represent peoples and their stories from the past to the present." We have also adopted these five principles that guide cultural heritage tourism work (developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Heritage Tourism Program):

- Ensure authenticity
- Relate community values to visitors' needs
- Base efforts on a commitment to protecting history, culture and natural resources;
- Strive to "make sites come alive"
- Ensure collaboration at the state and local levels.

Traditional cultural qualities include occupations, ways of life, cultural celebrations, ceremonies and activities, architectural works, uses of landscape and natural resources, forms of traditional art and crafts, stories, customs, beliefs and languages.

Intrinsic natural qualities of Colorado have engendered occupations and ways of life, each of which has their own cultural traditions rich for interpretation. The knowledge, skills, activities and art forms that are an integral part of ranching beg interpretation. This is particularly applicable where byways travelers are likely to see cattle being moved and worked in ways, and with tools, that reflect generations of cultural experience. Mining landscapes that speak of mineral resources also represent a wealth of ethnic and occupational information that links nature with culture. Climate, vegetation and water resources have influenced, have been influenced, and continue to be influenced by diverse cultural activities throughout the varied landscapes of the state.

Identifying and Presenting Traditional Arts and Artists

Definitions

Folk arts are defined as those expressions shared by a familial, community, ethnic, occupational, religious, regional, or tribal group have been handed down, traditionally, from generation to generation.

Traditional artists carry on artistic traditions such as
saddle making, quilt making, Hispanic music and Slavic dance.

Traditional artists learn skills and acquire knowledge in traditional ways such as
by imitation, word-of-mouth, or other face-to-face methods.

Traditional art, crafts, music, skills and knowledge are preserved and passed on
within a traditional context or community.

Some examples of artists that would be considered traditional are:

A quilter who learned from her family or at a local quilting bee.

A person of Greek heritage who prepares traditional Greek foods.

Indian tribal members who practice generations-old crafts.

Working cowboys and ranch people who perform cowboy poetry and songs.



Hopi Woman demonstrating sand painting

Colorado's heritage is rich and diverse. Those mentioned above are just a few examples of people who might be referred to as tradition bearers. Over more than 20 years, the Colorado Council on the Arts has recognized and honored hundreds of practitioners of various traditions throughout the state.

Differences between presenting traditional and professional artists

There are many different types of cultural traditions including occupational skills, crafts and stories, songs and ceremonies. Many are ideal for helping to tell authentic stories of scenic byways. But presenting traditional artists and art forms is different than inviting professional artists and performers to exhibit their work or present a program. It is important to remember that the work of traditional artists grows out of their everyday lives. In many cases, it is private, almost sacred, to the artist, and sharing it with the public may present some challenges.

A professional artist may...

be very comfortable performing or demonstrating in public.

A traditional artist may...

never have shown or even talked about his or her work with anyone other than family or neighbors.

A professional artist may...

bring all necessary equipment and supplies and be able to set them up to prepare for public display or performance.

A traditional artist...

may need assistance acquiring and setting up for the program.

A professional artist may...

need very little explanation for the audience to understand their presentation.

A traditional artist may...

need someone to introduce them, their culture and their art form.



Impromptu flute concert at Porcupine House, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park

Public Program Ideas

Many types of public programs lend themselves well to presenting traditional arts. Here are some planning tips.

Presenting Performing Artists can done in many ways

- Afternoon or evening performances
- As part of a large event (but not as “background”)
- As exhibit opening or closing programs

Check with artists to determine:

- ❖ What type of performance they give (individual? group? formal or informal?)
- ❖ How long they perform (keep in mind that some genres require more energy!)
- ❖ What kind of sound equipment, stage, or exhibit space they need.

Allow time during the program for performers to talk about their art form and their culture. Make sure performers know this will be a part of the program and ask which of these formats would be best.

Some traditional artists

- ❖ Are natural speakers with prepared presentations
- ❖ Respond better to a question and answer format
- ❖ May be more at ease visiting informally with audiences about their work.

Presenting visual artists may be done in a variety of ways.

A tradition bearer might be invited to “set up shop” for an hour, an afternoon, or a day. Ask them to bring samples of finished work, some work-in-progress, tools, raw materials and items people can touch. Ask them to be prepared to talk with visitors about their tradition. This can be very rewarding, but also very tiring. Make sure there is time for participants to eat, drink and take frequent breaks. This works well with moderate public participation. Too few people make for a long day. Too many people will be frustrated as everyone can’t talk to and see the artist at the same time.

A more formal lecture/demonstration/performance might be presented. Invite an artist who has a presentation prepared for a shorter, more formal program. Allow time for people to visit informally with the artist and get an up-close look at objects, tools and materials. Remember, many traditional artists are not used to doing this kind of public program.

Festivals and Programs can showcase the traditions associated with scenic byways.

Some ideas include:

Folklife Festivals featuring a variety of traditional art forms and performances.

Foodways Festivals presented in a “pot luck” atmosphere encouraging widespread community involvement to help explore the diversity of community residents. Perhaps some people will share family stories, traditional ethnic recipes, and foods prepared and eaten only on special occasions.

Occupational Festivals feature the verbal, performing and visual arts that accompany a particular occupation. One good example is a Cowboy Culture Celebration that presents the music, song, poetry and crafts that are part of the life of the working cowboy.

Ethnic Festivals feature cultural traditions (music, dance, dress, art, craft, food language, beliefs, customs) of a particular ethnic group.

Community celebrations are programs designed to celebrate the folklife of community members who may not think of themselves as artists, craftspeople, storytellers, tradition bearers or even as members of a folk community. These programs can bring people to locations along the byway to share their knowledge, skills, stories, family histories and heirlooms. Three types of programs can be helpful in exploring the folklore and folklife of everyday life in byways communities.

Storytelling Evenings/Oral History Roundtables might feature good storytellers, old-timers or people who know about interesting community events or eras. A knowledgeable moderator can introduce participants and help to guide the discussion.

Experts-For-The-Day might mean “trading places” with audiences and visitors. For example, someone with special knowledge might be invited to be a guest interpreter at a museum, historic building or site along a byway.

Family Folklore Festivals help us understand that everyone has culture. Identifying and recording family folklore celebrates the unique heritage that each family represents, and shows us that folk culture belongs not just to others, but plays a valuable part in our everyday lives. People attending the festival might bring family heirlooms, photographs or mementos to talk about, or family stories, sayings, jokes, or riddles to relate. Interviews might be recorded on audio or video tape to document the community’s traditions and stories. The Colorado Council on the Arts Folk Arts program can furnish communities with questionnaires and instructions that are available to help you organize and carry out a family folklore festival.

A Few Options to Consider

Some of these activities might be suitable for the continuing celebration and presentation of your community's cultures and traditions.

- ❖ Annual Folklife Festival
- ❖ Periodic Foodways Festivals
- ❖ Occasional Workshops or Programs Featuring Local Traditional Artists
- ❖ Monthly Programs Featuring the Traditions of Different Culture Groups along the byway
- ❖ Regular Oral History Meetings
- ❖ How-To Workshops on Identifying and Collecting Folklore
- ❖ Encouraging Local Media to do Articles on Local Ethnic and Cultural Traditions



Local artist provides entertainment at a community dinner celebrating the Los Caminos Antiguos Byway



Areal ranchers place their brands in the sidewalk at the Beckwith Ranch, Frontier Pathways

Section 2: Scenic Byways and Traditions

Introduction

People have been touring Colorado to enjoy its spectacular scenery and fascinating history for generations. In 1918 Colorado established its first scenic byway, the Peak to Peak and by 2002, the Colorado Department of Transportation had designated 24 state scenic and historic byways. Over the years, photographs, books, films, travel guides and brochures have introduced millions of people to the landscape of Colorado's spectacular byways and to the history that surrounds them.

Since 1986, the Colorado Council on the Arts has been helping to support and celebrate the state's traditional arts and culture. Those activities have included communities and individuals on or near every byway in the state.

This manual is designed to:

- Provide some ideas that might help byway communities identify, celebrate and present the cultures that continue to make Colorado's byways so intriguing.
- Bring attention to the close relationship between landscape, history and the cultural traditions that are practiced today along the byways and traditions.



Phantom Canyon Road on the Gold Belt Tour follows the historic Florence & Cripple Creek Railroad

Alpine Loop

Alpine Loop is known for its high mountain beauty and its ability to evoke images of Colorado's rich mining history. As visitors negotiate Cinnamon and Engineer Passes on modern-day 4-wheel drive roads, they can only imagine the challenges faced by early travelers, road builders and freighters. Abandoned buildings and stories of ghosts tell only part of the story.



Animas Forks, near Silverton

Several places and events make it clear that the area's cultural traditions live on. Each August, people gather in the town of Silverton for what might be called an occupational festival. During Hardrockers Holidays, participants display skills and knowledge that are essential to the miner's daily work in several competitive activities. This is an excellent example of a cultural heritage event for many different reasons. First, as a public celebration, it helps the site come alive with the sights and sounds of an authentic aspect of the area's history. Secondly, it demonstrates that mining continues to be an essential part of the region's story. And third, it includes many participants who are "tradition bearers" possessing skills and knowledge that have been passed down from generation to generation.

The Colorado Council on the Arts has helped Silverton maintain and celebrate its heritage by awarding grant funds to several projects. One assisted a contemporary hardrock miner in writing and preserving songs reflecting the traditions and history of the occupation, and another helped the town of Silverton collect and record songs and poems about the area and its people.

As visitors journey Colorado byways, it is important for them to know that they travel in the footsteps of those who have gone before them. Today's routes journey over rocky terrain that once challenged the drivers of mule-drawn wagons; they trace the paths of immigrant workers without whom the mines could not have operated, and they link past and present, and preserve the stories in the sites and activities

Yes, historic sites and scenery abound. Added bonuses are events like Hardrockers Holidays, stories and songs of current-day residents, and places like Silverton's Immigrant Park and Christ of the Mines Shrine. Taking a few extra minutes to explore and plan a trip around a specific event, enriches the visitor's experience and brings this byway to life.

Cache la Poudre -North Park

Luckily, those who love the land around the Cache la Poudre – North Park Scenic and Historic Byway have long recognized the value of artistic creations that capture the beauty of the area. Ft. Collins residents and others began traveling to buy the pine needle baskets, dried flower arrangements, oil paintings, and collages made by Alice and Helen Dickerson in the 1930s.

The sisters had moved to the Buckhorn Canyon when their family came to homestead there in 1914. The two women remained on that homestead their whole lives, working at ranching, logging, trapping, mail delivery, hotel cooking, as well as at basket making and painting. Helen put the materials of the forest into her baskets and Alice depicted the Mummy Range and the images of their world in her collages and paintings. The U.S. Forest Service now houses a collection of Alice Dickerson’s work, and many private Colorado collectors also treasure the creative arts and crafts of the Dickerson sisters.



Colorado State Highway 14 near Cameron Pass

Today’s travelers on the Cache la Poudre - North Park Scenic and Historic Byway also have an opportunity to enjoy a family’s nature-related works of art. CCA folklorist Georgia Wier observed the following: “As I drove west from Ft. Collins on Highway 14 for the first time, I was struck by the attractive small town of Poudre Park on the right side of the road. Just before passing the last house in Poudre Park, I thought I saw a bear, her cub, and a bull elk walking together through the community’s park. Further exploration revealed that these animals were the “Wireart” of three generations of the Gueswel family. Brian, Carl, and Louie Gueswel collaborated in using barbed wire to create these very lifelike animal sculptures. The Gueswels display their creations for the enjoyment of their neighbors as well as those like me who enjoy the Byway as visitors.”

* See Section 3 for more details on the Iron Family.

Colorado River Headwaters

Western Colorado's landscape was sculpted by streams and rivers. This byway contains the origin of the southwest's most important river. Towns and communities located along the route have been the source of traditions, stories and ways of life.

Towns on the north and east section of the byway represent the early days of the state's tourist industry. Grand Lake has been a popular destination for summer vacationers for generations and use of the healing waters of Hot Sulphur Springs was a tradition among the Ute Indians long before construction began on the historic buildings there now. 21st century hunters visiting the area carry on a long-standing traditional use of the landscape. In fact, evidence along the southwestern part of the byway indicates that the area around State Bridge has been inhabited by humans for around eight thousand years. Cattle and sheep have been a part of the byway's story and one of the oldest guest ranches in Colorado, near the middle of the route, is still in operation.

Byway travelers will admire the beauty of Grand Lake, Colorado's largest natural lake, enjoy the soothing hot springs, and appreciate the high mountains and rugged canyons. But culture and heritage can also be explored in many different ways. Visiting a ranch museum or dude ranch, crossing the river where a century earlier a wagon bridge spanned the waters, or imagining native hunters pursuing game centuries ago, will certainly enrich the experience.



Grand Lake

Dinosaur Diamond

This byway spans two states. The eastern portion lies in Western Colorado. National Parks are located near the towns of Fruita on the south and Dinosaur on the north and between them, travelers can take what might be called a cultural excursion.

Just off Highway 139, rock art created several hundred years ago by Fremont Indians graces the walls of Canyon Pintado. Storytelling programs have brought the area to life on many occasions. One program featured the retelling of ancient stories, by lamplight, at a rock art site. Another provided entertainment as well as information through tales swapped around the campfire in the town of Rangely.



Pictographs at Canon Pintado

The largest part of a place's story is never written down, but is preserved through the telling and retelling of stories and the understanding of cultural objects. The Rangely Museum is in the process of collecting some of those stories by recording oral histories of older residents. The Museum also houses Ute and Fremont Indian artifacts.

Links to the past are maintained on a daily basis by ranchers who carry on local and family traditions. Many artists and craftspeople have made boots and other gear for daily use on the ranches. Another has captured the cowboy way of life through poetry and drawing. Even the energy industry has connections to cultural traditions, for it is said that native peoples once used oil for medicinal purposes.

Fossil quarries, ancient bones and stones, and of course dinosaurs, are an important part of the Dinosaur Diamond. But the stories of people of many cultures and many different lifestyles are equally worthy of attention.

Flat Tops Trail

Active mines, working ranches and timber-producing woodlands coexist with outstanding scenery and abundant wildlife on this byway. Likewise, cultural traditions abound and CCA has recognized and supported local artists in many ways.

Leather and rawhide braiding are traditional craft forms that originated to meet the needs of daily life. One man, who began cowboying at the age of 8 in Northwestern Colorado, explained it this way. “You couldn’t run into town to K-Mart to buy what you needed, so you made it.” Cowhides provided the raw material. Traditional knowledge provided the blueprints. Over the years, braiders have refined their techniques and today many create bridle reins and bosals that are truly works of art. Several years ago, braiders from the region were invited by CCA to display their work at a local museum. Four large tables were filled to capacity with exquisite pieces of art that were also sturdy gear suitable for use by the working cowboy. Many people who attended the event were awestruck at the talents they did not know their neighbors had.

The town of Meeker, which marks the western end of this byway, has become a gathering place for two major groups of people involved in the livestock business. In the late 1990s, a local cowboy poet worked closely with 4-H, FFA and other community organizations to establish a cowboy poetry gathering. Sponsored in part by CCA, the event has been a successful addition to the town’s cultural offerings for several years. Local poets and musicians, as well as performers invited from throughout the United States, are featured in daytime and evening programs, and local artists display and sell their work that reflects the heritage of western culture.



Shepherders Cabin

Another highly successful event brings in a slate of local, national and international sheepdog trainers for several days of competition. It is considered a premier event by competitors and a win at Meeker is one of the most prestigious in the world. A number of years ago, CCA sponsored a photographic display of one shepherd’s carvings on aspen and stone. In 2004, a cultural heritage tour, offered through Grand Junction’s Museum of Western Colorado, was led by one of CCA’s state folklorists.

The residents of Meeker have done an excellent job in showcasing the cultural traditions rooted in everyday life through public celebrations, yet the character of the town and the heart of the traditions remain strong and healthy.

Frontier Pathways

Over several centuries, the crossing pathways of many people have shaped this byway culturally as well as physically. And the trend continues to the present day.

There are many different cultures represented, and many activities offered, to help tell this byway's story. Among those identified and supported by CCA are Spanish Colonial Dance and Matachines Dance, Slavic music and dance and buckskin painting, and a folk arts day at Historic Beckwith Ranch on Highway 96.

The Historic Pueblo Loop tour features historic buildings ranging from museums to churches and the Pueblo Weavers guild is very active in the area with an annual December sale that features all types of weaving. The Southeast Colorado Heritage Center not only displays local history but also presents regional artists and programs.

Traditions of the Italian-American residents of Pueblo, including those of fig-pastry making and of St. Joseph's table, have been featured a book published by the Library of Congress. 10th Annual Chile & Frijoles Festival, September, celebrates the harvest of the Mira Sol Chile (Pueblo grown) and pinto beans, as well as displaying the works of artisans and craftsmen from the area.

Westcliffe's Wet Mountain Western Days is an annual celebration of western heritage that begins with a horse parade and ends with a fiddling contest. The annual quilt show overlaps this celebration every Labor Day weekend. Quilters abound in this area and this is a stellar quilt show, featuring quilts crafted or owned by local residents. As an added bonus, quilters are on hand to talk about their work. The event is held in the Old 'Westcliffe' Schoolhouse & Museum.

There's also plenty of music. The High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival is in its third year and gaining in reputation. "The site of the High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival is both rustic and authentic and an important activity center for our rural ranching community. The Saddle Club Rodeo Grounds have been in use since the 1930s and are still used today for all kinds of horse-related activities."

There are great examples of vernacular architecture to see along the byway. Adobe, log and chinking, and native stone work represent the work of many different cultures, and knowing just a little bit about adobe-making, notching and geology can make the experience just that much more rewarding.

It's well worth planning ahead, and working in a few stops at places like Westcliff and Beckwith Ranch and attending a bluegrass or chile festival. These are just a few of the ways the folks along this byway, which is also a National Historic Byway, keep their cultural traditions alive and share them with visitors.

Gold Belt Tour

There is much to do as well as see on this route that has also earned designation as a National Scenic Byway. Colorado natives grew up hearing lively tales of the towns of Cripple Creek and Victor and the 1890s gold boom and several places and activities along this route make the area just as exciting in the 21st century.

Canon City's Fremont Center for the Arts presented the 65th Annual Music and Blossom Festival in May 2004. Nearby, the world's highest suspension bridge has inspired the Royal Gorge Go Fast Games. The annual Fiddlers on the Arkansas, which brings folks in from all over the nation, is in its 15th year. And the agricultural traditions of summer farmers' markets continue to feature local produce.

Pioneer Day is celebrated each September in the town of Florence. Other attractions along the byway highlight many of the activities that have been drawing people to the area for over a hundred years. There are the Butte Opera House and the Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and Garden Park Dinosaur Fossil Area

Many art forms have been recognized and honored by the Colorado Council on the Arts Folk Arts Program over the years. People and communities carry on and celebrate diverse traditions through Native American powwows, Slavic music and folk dancing, and learning and sharing the occupational poetry of the west.

Early pioneers to the area would be happy to know that visiting the Gold Belt is still an enriching experience.



Hornbek Homestead at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

Grand Mesa

Western Colorado's Grand Mesa is a recreational and scenic wonderland. Its namesake byway winds through canyons and travels over some remarkable geography. Along the journey are several small towns and many storied places.

People have visited and lived in the area for thousands of years. This was prime hunting ground for nomadic Ute bands and several years ago CCA was involved in a very important project that brought Ute elders back to the area to explore and talk about places important to tribal culture. Stories and legends abound. One legend, telling about the creation of the Grand Mesa and its many lakes, has been reprinted in some publications available to byway travelers.



Raber Cow Camp

Ranching heritage is also an important part of the Grand Mesa's story. During the summer, visitors share the Mesa with grazing cattle. At the Lands End interpretive stop, one family's cabin has been restored by the US Forest Service to give visitors an idea of what cow camp life was like. Cowboy poets gathered at the cabin shortly after it was renovated to swap stories, poems and songs. The byway town of Mesa is home to a lady cowboy poet who writes and recites particularly entertaining pieces about everyday life. She has been featured in many CCA programs over the years. Another woman, a pool rider on Grand Mesa who prefers to work cattle "muleback" is also an outstanding nationally known artist. Barbara East's paintings range from beautiful realistic renditions of horses, cattle, mules and cowboys to delicate miniatures painted on cigarette paper. She has been a featured artist in CCA programs from time to time.

Visitors are drawn year after year to the Grand Mesa as it sparkles with fall colors. Color Sunday has provided opportunities for cultural programming over the years. CCA has helped provide traditional entertainment at Powderhorn ski area, and also helped to fund the printing of a brochure for a self-guided barn tour.

The natural landscape and its beauty are obvious to visitors driving along Highway 65. Seeking out the cultural qualities that bring the place to life, might take a little extra time and thought, but is well worth the investment.

Guanella Pass

“Silver Plume is an old mining town two miles west of Georgetown and part of the Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District. The George Rowe Museum, located in the old schoolhouse, is a focal point of the preservation efforts. As part of our mission we want to preserve the oral histories of the older residents as well as document the more recent history. . . . The twentieth century of our town begs to be recorded and told.”

Travelers on the Guanella Pass Scenic and Historic Byway can easily make a two-mile detour from its northern end at Georgetown to visit the mountain town of Silver Plume. Including the above quote, in 2001 the People for Silver Plume, Inc., wrote an application to the Colorado Council on the Arts for a Folk Arts Mini-Grant. This grant allowed them to purchase high quality audio recording equipment. It also allowed Georgia Wier, folklorist for the Colorado Council on the Arts and the City of Greeley Museums, to conduct a two-day workshop on methods for conducting successful oral history interviews.

Judy Caldwell, George Rowe Museum Chairman, reported in August of 2004 that the oral history work is “an on-going project” in Silver Plume. She said that the Town of Silver Plume recently received funding to produce a video. Part of that video will present Silver Plume’s history, and that part will be based on oral history interviews. For this new phase of oral history interview work, Caldwell has made copies of the forms and other printed guidelines from the 2001 workshop. Both audio and video recordings of the interviews will become part of the archival collection at the George Rowe Museum and will serve those who regularly come to the museum to research family history and other aspects of Silver Plume’s life.



The new visitor center in Georgetown provides historic information about the area

Highway of Legends

In addition to its dramatic landscapes, this byway has its share of dramatic stories. Several culture groups have contributed to the tapestry in the past, and continue to enhance the story today.

Along the Purgatoire Valley lies a vital Hispanic cultural landscape. Cordova Plaza, for example, is one of a series of villages founded by Mexican farmers. They spread their settlements out along the Purgatoire River, forming `plazas` for protection against Indian attack.

A part of the story of mining in the area is told by The Ludlow Massacre site but there are many others about the trials and tribulations of the coal mining industry. The town of Cokedale, where coke was used in the smelting of iron; has been placed on the National Historic Register. Some of the coke ovens are still visible.



Coke ovens at Cokedale

Events and festivals in many places enliven the area with the music and food of different cultures. The town of La Veta features Francisco Fort Museum, Francisco Fort Days, as well as an annual Octoberfest celebration. Trinidaddio is an annual Blues Fest held in the area every August.

The Colorado Council on the arts has sponsored many projects and activities associated with the byway. Some have included performances of cowboy poetry and music, collection of oral histories, and production of the Highway of Legends coloring book. In addition, the “Las Posadas” Christmas event has received recognition and support as has Italian-American heritage from sausage making to “presenting a table for Saint Joseph” annually in March.

Many interesting things have already been done to celebrate the cultural richness of this byway and there is great potential for future programs, projects and activities.

Lariat Loop Mountain Gateway

The Lariat Loop Mountain Gateway became designated as a Heritage Area in 2000 and then later as a Scenic and Historic Byway. The late Dr. Beatrice Roeder, a state folklorist in a program coordinated by the Colorado Council on the Arts, served on the task force of the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance, a group whose efforts led to those designations.

Bea's contributions to the task force included designing an oral history program to solicit the significant stories from sites along the route such as the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, and Morrison Museums. Bea's topic suggestions for those conducting oral history and folklore interviews are included as a Case Study in Section 3.

Partly through the sponsorship of the Golden Landmarks Association, Bea led a workshop for community members on oral history procedures. Bea herself also conducted interviews with fascinating individuals who live and work along the Lariat Loop. One interview was with the caretaker of Genesee Park, who for 25 years had been managing a buffalo herd for Denver Mountain Parks. He told about the breeding program, births, and vaccination regimen of the buffalo and elk in the parks, but he also told about many of the humans who have played parts in the parks' history.

Shortly after it was established, the byway hosted a one-day auto tour including stops at culturally significant sites, which has become an annual event and a successful introduction to the byway for many visitors.



Lariat Loop Road Rally

* See Section 3 for oral history and folklore interview topic suggestions.

Los Caminos Antiguos

Los Caminos Antiguos was the first cultural byway in Colorado, and as such, features Hispanic culture (folklore and folklife) in its broadest definition. The byway, by definition, is a physical entity, but it represents layers of cultures and traditions that transcend the physical space.



San Luis Valley architecture

Noche Cultural en Antonito, a program presented in 2003, is one of the finest examples of a scenic byway cultural heritage event in Colorado. The *Noche Cultural en Antonito* idea began at a board meeting of Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway. A byway board member, who also sits on a board that promotes the traditional Spanish Colonial music and dance of the southern Colorado and northern New Mexico culture areas (*Hilos Culturales*), had worked on conferences featuring these art forms.

Hilos Culturales decided to forego their annual conference and focus on regional concerts featuring the Spanish colonial music and dance traditions of the region and partner with Los Caminos. The event was held in a historic structure representing the first Hispanic mutual aid society in the United States, a place where hundreds (maybe even thousands) of Hispanic people have danced on the same wooden floor.

Over 200 people, of all ages, attended the event. The bands played on and the dance floor relived the rhythms of the past, while the crests of local families (a previous CCA project) fluttered to late August breezes. One of the most moving moments of the event was the presentation of awards to honorees from two area towns for lifetime achievement in representing the cultural forms in their communities. These talented individuals received a standing ovation. It was cultural performance at its finest, rounding out the connections between communities and their traditions.

* See Section 3 for details about the planning and presentation of the event.

Mount Evans

The life of some Colorado towns has long been connected with the pursuit of health and/or pleasure. Idaho Springs, located at the north end of the Mount Evans Scenic and Historic Byway, is one of those towns. We can find accounts that the Utes, the Arapahoe, and Native Americans from other tribes were the first to bring their sick and wounded to be healed by the naturally hot mineral waters of Idaho Springs. We can also read articles, which tell of how those suffering from tuberculosis and other illnesses came to Colorado to seek the healing waters as well as the healthful climate. These invalid immigrants probably began visiting Idaho Springs in about 1890. What are the stories of today's fans of the Indian Springs Resort at Idaho Springs? What brings three generations of one Denver family to the springs once a month? Why do skiers like to stop at the springs after a day on the slopes? Who are the people who come once a year from other states? Gathering these stories, as well as those of local people who run the resorts, museums, and other educational and recreational sites in the area, will help us to understand and be able to tell others about the culture of the byway.



Echo Lake

Pawnee Pioneer Trails

The Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byway covers 128 miles with its branching route. It goes through three counties and passes through communities like Grover with a population of about 150 and the City of Sterling, with about 14,000 residents. At least five museums are found on or near the Byway; and one of them, the City of Greeley Museums, has four separate sites.

Quilters and quilting groups are active in the plains area encompassed by this byway. Auriel Sandstead is one of these quilters. In recognition of her lifelong achievements in quilting, in 1999 the Colorado Council on the Arts awarded Sandstead a Heritage Award, its highest honor for folk artists. With the receipt of this award, Sandstead began publishing a set of books of her quilt designs and writings.

In volume “C” of this set, Auriel Sandstead describes her childhood home in Keota, a community not far from the Pawnee Buttes. Sandstead explains that on special summer days, she opens her Keota home to those who wish to quilt together “*while they enjoy the abundant prairie wild life and drift back to natural rhythms away from the fast track of today’s living.*”

Sandstead also tells her readers, “*Please don’t be concerned if you can’t find Keota on the Colorado map. Keota, a location surrounded by the Pawnee national Grasslands a few miles from the Pawnee Buttes, can be located 50 miles east of Greeley, Colorado; 50 miles south of Cheyenne, Wyoming; and 50 miles west of Sterling, Colorado on the High Plains, sometimes referred to as the Flatlands. This is Centennial Country about which James Michener wrote in his novel **Centennial** to commemorate America’s Bicentennial and the Centennial for the state of Colorado in 1976.*”

Titled **A Cartouche Collection: Prairie-Patched Medallions**, Sandstead’s five books can be ordered from Signal Graphics at 100 N. 5th St., Sterling, CO 80751, 970-521-9000.

Fort Morgan, a town of about 11,000 residents, is located at the end of the southern branch of the Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byway. The Morgan Area Arts Council wanted to provide students and others in their county with the rare experience of meeting members of the Don Cossacks Russian Dance Troupe and seeing them perform. A Colorado Folk Arts Mini-Grant helped them to accomplish this goal, and on October 14, 2001, the troupe performed in the Brush High School Auditorium.

In the town of Brush, located 10 miles off the Byway’s path, celebrations often reflect the cultural backgrounds of the area’s citizens. Dutch Hop Music is a form of polka brought to northeastern Colorado by the Germans from Russia who began to settle in the region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Today’s northeastern Coloradans still dance well and enthusiastically to Dutch Hop music, and as part of their 2001 Octoberfest celebration, Brush’s community organizations wanted to hold a polka dance. The Brush Rotary Club Foundation, the Brush Main Street Chamber of Commerce, and the Brush Area Museum and Cultural Center worked together to produce the celebration. The Colorado Council on the Arts provided funding that enabled them to invite the acclaimed group, Al Holman and his Polkatoons, to come from Loveland and play for that dance.

Situated on the South Platte River, Sterling is at the eastern end of another branch of the Byway. An annual 4th of July Heritage Festival brings the region's quilters and other artists and performers to the grounds of the Overland Trail Museum and surrounding areas in Sterling. Although the Native American population in the area is small today, in the period from 1500 to 1870 A.D., Apache, Comanche, Arapaho, and Cheyenne tribes sequentially called the South Platte region home, and Ute, Pawnee, and Lakota occasionally hunted and raided here.* In 2003, the Overland Trail Museum, the Sterling Arts Council, and the Logan County Historical Society decided to offer the public a glimpse of Native American traditional arts practiced today. They invited Bob and Jan Iron and their children to come from Fort Collins and provide an inspiring educational performance with songs and dances from several plains tribal traditions.



Overland Trail Museum, Sterling

Through a Folk Arts Mini-Grant from CCA, Mary Stewart attended the Governor's 2003 Tourism Conference as a representative of the Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byways. Stewart reported that she learned during this conference "that tourism is economic development and that over 90 million people attended cultural events in Colorado in 2002 . . . far more than went skiing." She also reported the following: "Every year I take grade school children on a river walk and teach them about Nature's Beauty and the Magic of Beaver Medicine, which is that you have to work together in order to accomplish **big things**. This year's conference showed me that when big ideas are backed by all involved, the end result is nothing sort of **amazing**."

*This information is from a brochure produced by the Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byway and from Peggy Ford of the City of Greeley Museums.

Peak to Peak

Sometimes museums and other community organizations own wonderful art works or handmade objects but know very little about the makers of those things. This was the case for the Gilpin Historical Society, based in Central City, a town located just off the Peak to Peak Scenic and Historic Byway.



Fall colors on the Peak to Peak Scenic Byway

Researching art and artists is a bit like a treasure hunt. Sometimes one finds a chest full of information; other times, nothing. In an application for a Folk Arts Mini-Grant from the Colorado Council on the Arts, James Prochaska, Executive Director of the applicant organization, explained the problem as follows:

“The Gilpin Historical Society owns the Marcia and Ben Thomas House in Central City. It contains many original furnishings and many works of art attributed to Marcia. There is little information available to document Marcia’s artistic training and little is known about her life and artistic career. We would like to research her background regarding the various media she used, where she studied, her reputation as an artist, and the impact she had on art in Colorado history.”

Kim White, a folklorist from Broomfield, searched through records in public archives in Colorado and contacted living members of the Thomas family. She uncovered interesting information about several family members but unfortunately little new knowledge about Marcia Billings Thomas. Prochaska was not surprised that the early 20th century artist had received little public notice. He said that the Gilpin Historical Society was glad to have received the grant, which enabled them to find out with certainty that documentation about their featured artist’s life was scant indeed.

San Juan Skyway

Traveling the entire route of the San Juan Skyway is like experiencing first-hand a chapter on every era of Colorado's history. It's all right there! Prehistoric sites are superbly preserved. Victorian Architecture is proudly displayed. Landscapes illustrate booms and busts in the mining industry. Hillsides reflect decades of recreational use. And in places, the Old West lives on.

This byway is rich and diverse culturally as well as visually. There are layers and layers of stories to be explored. Over the years, CCA funds, projects and activities have helped to tell those stories by preserving, celebrating and presenting many of the area's cultural traditions.

Ute homelands once encompassed most of what is now Colorado. Today, much of the Ute population resides on the state's two Ute Reservations. Both are just off the San Juan Skyway. CCA has been active in helping to preserve and celebrate art, culture and tradition on the Southern Ute Reservation just south of Durango. Over the years, featured art forms have included Ute beadwork, traditional handgames, ceremonial singing, Native American Quilting, Ribbonwork appliqué, the making of warbonnets, moccasins and cradleboards. A visit to the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum in Ignacio should be a part of any visit to southwestern Colorado.

Western Culture along the byway has also garnered its share of attention from CCA. Grant funds have helped to support Colorado's oldest cowboy poetry gathering held each year in Durango. New generations of saddlemakers, horsehair hitchers, leather and rawhide braiders have been trained. And the lives of local ranch families have been documented through photography that has been displayed in several locations including Ft. Lewis College in Durango. Festivals feature old-time fiddle music, and exhibits display quilts made by women who learned the art form at the knees of their mothers and grandmothers.



A few days spent exploring the communities surrounding the San Juan Skyway will bring southwestern Colorado to life for visitors of all ages.

Santa Fe Trail

Also a National Historic Trail, this byway offers a multitude of cultural celebrations and attractions.

Over the past few years, many events along this route have fit comfortably into the goals of the Colorado Council on the Arts Folk Arts Program. The list of those that have received funding or technical assistance is quite long! There have been projects to develop a heritage center's website, work done with a local quilt guild, and recognition of the Nacimientos tradition. Master artists have been supported in their efforts to pass in skills and knowledge to a new generation, heritage day has been celebrated and folk dances of southwest preserved and presented. Traditional art forms have been honored including the work of local Santeros, the keepers of Japanese culture and a bootmaker. Adobe making and horno building are important in the area and occasional workshops are held at the Trinidad History Museum. The Mitchell Museum of Western Art in Trinidad has an annual art show and hosts many cultural programs. The town of Lamar presents the High Plains Snow Goose Festival and celebrates the town's part of western expansion, especially in the area of railroad history.

The towns on this byway recognize history and culture in many ways. The Trinidad History Museum (Baca House, Bloom Mansion, Historic Gardens, and Santa Fe Tail Museum) is located in El Corazón de Trinidad National Historic District. Las Animas showcases history and culture at Bent's Old Fort. Boggsville Historic Site is the home of Kit Carson and Camp Amache, near Granada, was once a Japanese relocation camp. Not only these places, but many of their stories, have been preserved over the years. Early Settler's Day occurs the second Saturday in September, La Junta. For 57 years La Junta has held a Kids Rodeo and Race the first weekend in August. Many special activities such as Arkansas Valley Fiesta Days and Hot Air Balloon Races provide fun in Otero County.



Boggsville, near Las Animas

The annual Santa Fe Trail Festival is one of the oldest community historical celebrations in the United States. History and culture, have been, and continue to be, a most important element of this byway's story.

Silver Thread

Rugged backcountry roads, old mining camps and abandoned structures, and natural wonders galore are intriguing enough to make this byway a destination. But there are also several unique places, activities and events along the route that link history and landscape with culture.

Take the town of Creede for example. Creede Days of Mining has featured activities and competitions such as men's hand mucking, women's hand mucking, machine drilling, single jacking, team machine drilling; men's spike driving, women's spike driving, machine mucking and double jacking. The area has also produced mining songs and stories, and generated mining legends. An Underground Mining Museum sponsors many events including an annual Woodcarvers' Rendezvous (2004 was the 13th year) featuring woodcarving, chainsaw carving and furniture making. The Museum also hosts the Annual Mineral County Rock & Mineral Show in August. "Taste of Creede" Arts Festival & Fine Arts Auction features some artists who work with traditional materials and techniques, such as using horsehair-hitching skills to make jewelry. Creede also has an active quilting community that exhibits locally.



Main street in Creede

Annual mushroom forays, offered in both Creede and South Fork, grow in popularity each year. South Fork also has annual Logger Days Festival and Craft Show, which features logging contests and chainsaw carvers, as well as local artists and craftspeople.

Over the years, climbing the “Fourteeners” has become a tradition in Colorado and it so happens that there are five of those challenging peaks surrounding Lake City.

Beautiful Scenery? Of course. Culturally Exciting and Enriching? You Bet!

South Platte River Trail

The Pony Express Re-Ride Roundup, held annually in Colorado's northeastern corner, features events held on several spots along the South Platte River Trail Scenic and Historic Byway. Through CCA Folk Arts Mini-Grants, Sedgwick County Economic Development has brought both cowboy poetry and Native American dance to this daylong celebration.

For the 2001 Round-Up, Zeb Dennis stood on the steps of the courthouse in Julesburg and recited the "The Jewel of Colorado," a poem which he had composed specifically for the occasion. Dave White joined Zeb for that performance and also for an evening family concert held in Ovid, another town on the byway.

The 2002 Round-Up featured two performances by the Iron family from Ft. Collins. Bob and Jan Iron travel with their children and sometimes their grandchildren to offer the public appreciation of Native American cultural traditions through songs and dances, which originated with Native American people throughout the West. According to Bob Iron, "what we share is based on our own life experiences and observations, and more importantly, the teachings from our elders." More details on the Iron Family are included in Section 3.



Interpretive sign at the site of the Pony Express marker

Top of the Rockies

At the top of the Rockies, the air is thin and crisp, the views are awesome, and the stories about people and places are intriguing. There are stories about enormous fortunes made and lost, about great buildings built of ice, about daily life in small but exquisite houses, and about men and women who faced the physical and social challenges of Colorado's high mountain country.

A few years ago, CCA's Folk Arts Program was asked to help identify people, places and activities that reflected the state's history and character. One of the recommended events that received national attention was Leadville's Boom Days celebration. Mining has been a crucial part of the area's story, in good times and bad, and Boom Days provides an opportunity for visitors to become acquainted with some of the occupation's traditions. Competitors participate in a variety of contests using skills necessary to the daily work of the miner. Mining continues to play an economic role in the community, and Boom Days is a way of maintaining traditions and sharing them with the public. A visit to the National Mining Museum, located in Leadville, is time well spent for any visitor.

Winter sports spring to mind for most people any time Colorado is mentioned. Today, they are a top draw for visitors. But skiing has not always been for recreation alone. During World War II, soldiers destined for high mountain areas in Europe needed experience in coping with weather and geography. Colorado's Rocky Mountains provided the perfect training environment. Coming from all across the country to Camp Hale, they became the "soldiers on skis." There are many individuals still living who trained there and have exciting stories to tell. Several books, and even Colorado license plates, commemorate the 10th Mountain Division. Interpretive signage at the former location of Camp Hale enlivens the now quiet landscape with details of everyday life under less than ideal conditions.



Camp Hale Overlook

Driving the Top of the Rockies byway in modern vehicles with comfortable seats and climate control makes it a little difficult to relate to the challenges faced by the miners and soldiers of earlier years. But delving into the story just a little helps to make it clear that while it's not easy living at the Top of the Rockies, determination and hard work made it possible.

Trail of the Ancients

Modern day visitors to this byway have many opportunities to enjoy a varied landscape while truly following in the footsteps of ancient peoples. The physical landscape of Southwestern Colorado has something for everyone, from rich red farmland to desert vistas, from mountain reservoirs to small towns. A wealth of resources and opportunities make exploring the cultural landscape an inviting reason to make some stops along the way.

Ancestral Puebloan culture provides a glimpse into early native life and there are many different ways to catch that glimpse along the Trail of the Ancients. Mesa Verde, a well-known national park, has been presenting interpretive information to the public since the early twentieth century. Visitor center facilities, trained interpreters, and hands on experiences bring the site to life.

Another site, the Ute Mountain Tribal Park, is interpreted in a much different way. Only groups led by Ute Mountain tribal members are allowed to tour the ruins there. It is a more rigorous experience that requires some walking, driving on dirt and gravel roads, and spending the day well away from the conveniences offered at more developed sites. Architectural remains are surrounded by a quiet landscape with very few fellow visitors.



Tribal member explains ancient pictographs

A cultural center in the city of Cortez offers exhibits and programs that focus on contemporary culture of the region as well as historic and prehistoric eras. Tribal members present traditional dances, demonstrations and music as well as formal lectures during the summer months. CCA has presented programs and helped to support festivals and other events at the Cortez Center over the years.

The Ute Mountain Ute tribe's website provides an opportunity for visitors to not only to become acquainted with the tribe, the reservation and the tribal park but also to explore Ute culture through legends and children's stories. There, readers of all ages will enjoy the Legend of the Sleeping Ute Mountain, and stories about Spring Time and the Bear Dance and Life in the Early Times.

With a little research and advance planning, following the Trail of the Ancients will be culturally enriching in addition to being an enjoyable drive.

Trail Ridge Road—Rocky Mountain National Park

Trail Ridge Road stretches between the Northern Colorado towns of Grand Lake and Estes Park. Scenery and wildlife play a major part in the story of this byway. But it is also an area where tourism became important even before Colorado achieved statehood.

“A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains” is a wonderful book written by Isabella Bird that provides a unique account of the early days of the Estes Park and Rocky Mountain Park areas. Traveling the region on a three-month journey she experienced the landscape first-hand. Her stories tell of riding horseback in the mountains, helping to gather cattle, meeting trappers and doctoring the sick. Traveling in her footsteps today would make for a fascinating comparison of experiences.

Even though it was a three-day trip by stage from Denver, the Town of Grand Lake became a popular summer destination early on. Historic buildings from the early 1890s still stand in town, and activities on and around the lake carry on traditions established a century ago.



Grand Lake Lodge, built in 1920 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Residents of Grand Lake have undertaken an interesting project to explore and interpret the daily lives of early town residents. A program called “Tombstone Tales” is presented each fall at the local cemetery. Based on extensive research, costumed guides assume the identities of cemetery residents and share their stories with the audience.

Colorado’s largest natural lake is the source of one of the great rivers of the west, the Colorado. The lake and the town are also places where the traditions of tourism have become established, grown and changed over the years, making it a destination of lasting importance.

Unawweep/Tabeguache

People from many different cultures have traveled the route the now known as the Unawweep/Tabeguache byway and their wonderful stories await the curious visitor. Clinging to canyon walls, peppering the hillsides, hiding around every corner, stories of past and present bring the landscape to life.

Family and ranching traditions, for instance, are carried on from generation to generation all along the road, in pastures and corrals, on hillsides and mesa tops, and even on the highway itself. The country is far too rough for motorized cowboys, so cattle are worked, gathered and moved from the back of the horse.



Ranchland in Unawweep Canyon

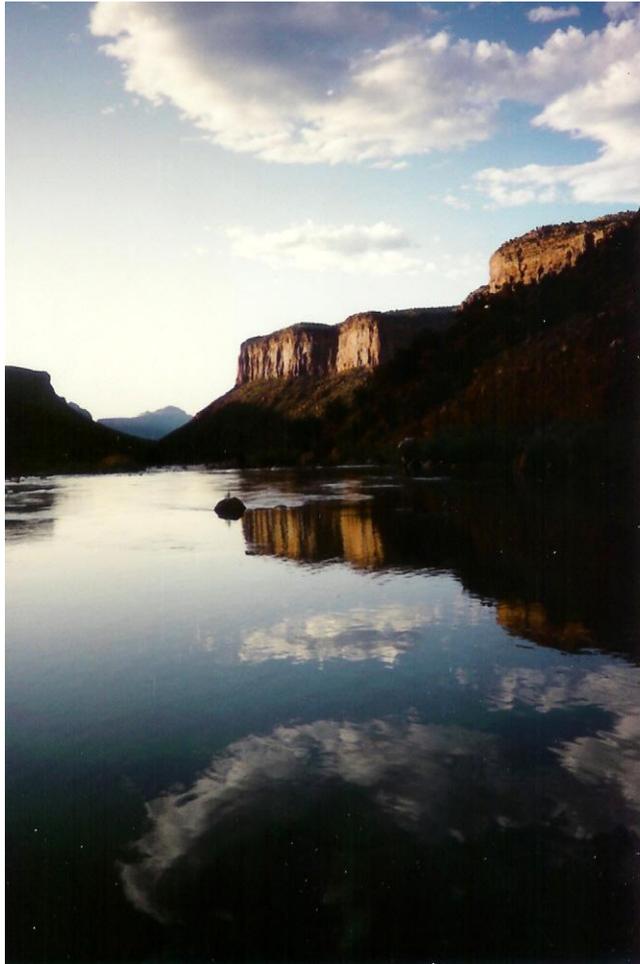
Town residents also carry on some interesting and long-standing community traditions. The Gateway dynamite shoot has changed somewhat over its 50-years of existence but continues to be an important event for locals as well as for visitors. And each year, Gateway women carry on the tradition of making quilts for every high school graduate (usually between one and 6 a year!). Quilt blocks, design ideas and messages are contributed by family, neighbors and friends. And over the past several years, cowboy poets have been gathering at the Gateway Community Center to share their stories to help support and benefit the local 4-H group.

All along the route, mining lore, murder mysteries and outlaw tales vie for attention with the remnants of mining camp life, Native American rock art and evidence of Paleo-Archaic hunters and gatherers. The term “multiple use” certainly describes early life along this byway just as well as modern-day life.

In 2004, an audio tour of the byway was produced with assistance from the Colorado Council on the Arts and grant funding from the Colorado Department of Transportation Scenic Byways Program. The tour is narrated by a working cowboy who is also a cowboy poet. His wonderful voice was only part of the reason he was chosen for the job. He also happens to have worked cattle a-horseback along almost every stretch of the byway’s 133-miles. His own stories about those experiences might even provide enough information for a second recording!

Traveling between the towns of Whitewater and Placerville along this byway has been called a journey through geological wonderment. But it is also an excursion through towns and places that provide a glimpse into many different aspects of Western Colorado life.

* See Section 3 for more details on the audio tour.



Dolores River at dusk

West Elk Loop

There is no shortage of cultural and artistic traditions along the West Elk Loop. Added to the mix of a national park, a national recreation area, several reservoirs and stunning views, are countless interesting places, people and their stories.

Pick a place, any place, along this route and with just a little bit of exploring you will find something noteworthy. Artists and craftspeople from many of West Elk communities have been participants in CCA programming, recipients of grant funds, or beneficiaries of technical assistance. Fiddlers in Hotchkiss, square and round dancers and callers in Paonia, spinners and weavers in Gunnison, a old-time ranching family in Crawford, Latino festivals in Glenwood, marble cutters and carvers in Marble.—and these are a few traditions of the West Elk!



Remains of the Marble Mill

One of the most intriguing was a blacksmith and ornamental ironworker from Carbondale. His work can be found on the exterior and interior of buildings throughout Colorado, in California, New York and other parts of the United States. He began as a young apprentice and spent over 70 years refining his craft and teaching others the lessons he had learned over a lifetime. He was a craftsman and an artist. CCA honored him with the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and he later received a National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the highest honor for traditional artists in the United States. His skill and knowledge produced at least three books and hundreds of iron railings, gates, fences, fireplace tools--anything that could be coaxed from iron stock—and he made sure that he passed it all on to hundreds of students over the years.

Others remain to be discovered, but the possibilities seem endless. Wherever there is a place and a person, there's bound to be a story. And linking that story to the landscape it has grown out of not only brings the site to life, but also helps preserve and celebrate local cultural treasures.

Section 3—Case Studies and Great Ideas

A Brief Explanation

This section contains several “case studies” and suggestions of ways to get started in your own community. All of these examples are based on the work of CCA folklorists.

- Los Caminos Antiguos: Anatomy of A Cultural Event
- Any Byway: Oral History Project Idea
- Any Byway: Letter of Agreement/Contract for Folk Artist and Community Organization
- Lariat Loop: Oral History and Folklore Interview: Topic Suggestions
- Cache la Poudre--North Park: The Iron Family Native American Music and Dance
- Unaweep/Tabeguache: Audio Tour Contents and Introductory Material
- Any Byway: Interpreting the Relationship between Intrinsic Cultural Qualities and other Intrinsic Qualities of Colorado’s Scenic and Historic Byways

Los Caminos Antiguos: Anatomy of A Cultural Event

Every successful event begins with a good idea, even though the idea seems farfetched when conceived. Community events are no different. They have to start somewhere.

The *Noche Cultural en Antonito* idea began at a board meeting of Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway. One board member also sits on a board that promotes the traditional Spanish Colonial music and dance of the southern Colorado and northern New Mexico culture areas (*Hilos Culturales*), and had worked on conferences previously featuring these events. (Cross membership is common in community organizations, especially in small towns, because people sit on many different boards and have multiple contacts; exploit this aspect in planning an event; ask your board members about their own personal expertise and connections within their communities – you will be surprised at the variety of participation active people engage in.)

Los Caminos was the first cultural byway in Colorado, and as such, features Hispanic culture (folklore and folklife) in its broadest definition. The byway, by definition, is a physical entity, but much more than a physical space it represents layers of cultures and traditions that transcend the physical space.

Hilos Culturales decided to forego their annual conference and focus on regional concerts featuring the Spanish colonial music and dance traditions of the region. Los Caminos decided to partner with Hilos to present the concert, and then the brainstorming began. Why not hold the event at the SPMDTU building, a historic structure representing the first Hispanic mutual aid society in the United States? Once that seed was planted, the idea of hosting not just a concert, but also a dance, emerged. Hadn't hundreds of Hispanic (probably thousands since the organization is over 100 years old) danced on the same wooden floor?

Word-of-mouth publicity began at once, and radio spots on local programs were scheduled, programs planned, and flyers designed. Both boards combined for a community radio live program (including a telephone connection with a board member who couldn't make the trip) and every aspect of the event was touched upon by those involved. For example the venue, an historic building, was highlighted by a current SPMDTU member; the musical forms to be featured were played from a recorded CD of one of the groups, while another participant reminisced about attending live dances of the same music during her childhood; the Byway was highlighted as a fiscal and physical sponsor, the executive director taking the opportunity to once again remind the public of its role in the community; and the excitement generated by promoting, preserving, presenting, and honoring the community's unique cultural traditions was in and on the air!

A volunteer crew, mostly made up of members of the SPMDTU, volunteered to clean the building the morning before the evening event. Tickets were sold by members of both Los Caminos and Hilos boards, and flyers and Public Service Announcements (PSA) had contact phone numbers for tickets. Tickets were affordably priced at \$10 per person, \$15 per couple, and \$5 for seniors (60+) and pre-teens (12 & under). Cards were mailed combined lists provided by both organizations. Personal announcements were made promoting the event at Sunday church services and bingo nights. Three versions of the in-house-produced poster blanketed businesses throughout the entire San Luis Valley,

and newspaper feature articles spread the word about the performance groups as well as the names of local folks who were receiving lifetime achievement awards for representing the cultural forms in their communities. These awards are always part of Hilos annual events, and this year the honorees were from two distinct towns (Antonito and Monte Vista) celebrating the contributions of local folks for dance, the Bernals, and music, Elva Valdez. One of the most moving moments of the event was the presentation of these awards and the standing ovations that these talented individuals received. It was cultural performance at its finest, rounding out the connections between communities and their traditions.

Over 200 people attended the event, all ages, and both boards cleared over \$1,000. The bands played on and the dance floor relived the rhythms of the past, while the crests of local families (a previous CCA project) fluttered to late August breezes.

What we learned from the event:

- Community resources reside in people AND places.
- Active community members sit on many different boards and wear many different hats.
- People like to attend events in their own backyard (witness the success of concerts in local parks, playing off the bandstand gatherings of days gone by).

- Radio show was built by casual encounters. (“Oh, I remember doing those dances as a child!”) People were invited to the radio station to share those stories, stories many in the listening audience could relate to. We got calls during the show asking the station to play more of the type of music we were featuring at our concert.

- The radio program reached many listeners, and people came up to organizers in the supermarket to express their appreciation for honoring their traditions.

- Advertise door to door literally, putting up posters and soliciting items, which seemed much easier than asking directly for money; then the products were put up at a silent auction and did quite well.

- In-house printing of posters; with today’s technology very little has to be spent; there were in-kind donation of tickets from someone who works with the ski industry; think outside the box in terms of what people can donate

- We also had space we sold for advertising in the printed program, also done in-house, virtually scanning the business cards into the system to cut down on costs.

- Volunteers from the organization based in the building came and helped clean; ask churches, community organizations (Lions, Knights, etc) for chairs and tables where needed.

- On air spots for ads; spots on local community access programs; ask board members to buy tickets – no freebies, set a good example!

Any Byway: Oral History Project Idea

Dear leaders of Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways,

I serve as the folklorist for the City of Greeley Museums. I'm also working in a program with two other folklorists in Colorado to assist in interpretive programs on Colorado's Byways. Funding is provided by the FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM THROUGH THE Colorado Department of Transportation/COLORADO SCENIC AND HISTORIC BYWAYS PROGRAM and the Colorado Council on the Arts for this interpretive assistance.

For the past several years, much of my work as a folklorist in northeastern and north central Colorado has been in the area of oral history. I have conducted oral history interviews with farmers, quilters, blacksmiths, and city council people (frequently I find that a single person wears all these hats). I have also held workshops so that community members can learn to conduct their own oral history interviews.

In the oral history interviews I conduct, I work to record the words of individuals as they talk about aspects of their lives that mean the most to them. People who grew up on ranches and farms sometimes talk about their chores and games during their childhood, the inspiration they received from special people along the way, and the changing challenges and joys of their adult lives.

When we listen to these tape recorded interviews, we can often recognize that the person telling his or HER story has a strong attachment or some other feeling about the land on which they live or work or have lived and worked. Oral history interviews can be a great way to gather the personal stories connecting people with land.

I would like to offer to conduct one or two interviews with people who live near or who are otherwise strongly connected with the life or culture of your Byway. This interview can be placed in the archive of the City of Greeley Museums (and an archive in your location if available) so that it can be available to researchers in this and future generations. The person being interviewed will receive a copy of the interview tape. If that person gives permission, your Byway organization can also use the recording or the information it contains for various interpretive purposes.

Interested? I'd love to talk with you. There are many variations about the ways in which oral histories can be conducted and used.

You may call me at 970-350-9249, e-mail me at wierg@ci.greeley.co.us or write me at the following address:

Georgia Wier
City of Greeley Museums
919 7th St.
Greeley, CO 80631

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cache la Poudre—North Park: Oral History Interview Gathers Vivid Recollections of Human Experiences on Byway

“We liked it in Colorado. It just seemed more like home. I don’t know whether it was because we had more relatives nearby, more cousins, but just the Hewlett Gulch area there meant something special, and it always has. Even since, we like to go back and see what’s left of it. I was back there in 2002 and climbed two of the hills to get pictures that showed the valley. It’s quite different now with all our homes gone.

“Our old fireplace chimney still stands. The lilacs that I tended to as a child (I had to thin them and try to water them once in a while) have survived and are still doing great. They’re over 70 years, the last 50 years with no human care at all. People from Poudre Park area who walk up the trail (what was a road but now is nothing but a trail now), say in the springtime they still bloom profusely.”

In this way Elwyn Spaulding describes his connection to the Hewlett Gulch area, once home to several families and now identified mainly as a trail located close to the community of Poudre Park and just off the Poudre River/North Park Scenic and Historic Byway. Elwyn moved with his family into the cabin in Hewlett Gulch in 1927, when he was just two years old, and moved away just 11 years later. Despite the fact that Hewlett Gulch was his home for only those childhood years, he has many detailed and vivid memories of his family’s time there.

Elwyn recounted several of those memories in an oral history interview conducted by Georgia Wier, folklorist for the City of Greeley Museums and the Colorado Council on the Arts. Georgia recorded and transcribed that interview so that Elwyn’s own words could be used in signage on the trail or in many other ways. In addition to contributing the interview to the Scenic Byway program and the headquarters of the Roosevelt National Forest (Hewlett Gulch is included within that national forest), Elwyn Spaulding will have his interview housed at the Municipal Archives of the City of Greeley Museums, assuring that it will be preserved and made available to future researchers.

From the interview, we learn that Elwyn’s parents both worked as nurses, although his father much preferred the prospecting work he did close to his mountain home. Elwyn also describes the chores he himself did as a young boy and later, as a teenager. Filling the ice house was a job that required maturity. The young Elwyn had to stand by and watch until he got old enough to collect ice “along the river, where it was able to freeze deep.” Frequently, Spaulding recounts the fun aspects of chores, like delivering milk and cream after milking the cow, then receiving an ice cream cone which a neighbor made from that cream.

Elwyn describes some difficult childhood experiences such those resulting from transferring from one school to another, but he also tells of good times like learning to ice skate. Elwyn and his cousin Earl Spaulding were as close as brothers. Elwyn remembers that when Earl received a pair of clamp-on ice skates from his parents, “He gave me one skate, and he kept the other skate, and we practiced skating in our back yard, on the creek. After a while, we’d trade back. . . So, that was our first experience ice skating.” Stories like these help explain why the Hewlett Gulch area has always meant “something special” to Elwyn Spaulding and the oral history interview helped to gather and preserve those special memories.

Any Byway: Letter of Agreement/Contract for Folk Artist and Community Organization

Letter of Agreement
Organization and Artist
2003 Annual Banquet

Contact Person:

Address:

Phone:

Boss /Company/Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Date of Engagement:

Set up time:

Show time:

Length of Show:

Type of Engagement: Banquet

Location of Engagement:

Include detailed map

Additional Agreements or Information:

Permission to sell CD's, books and tapes: ____yes ____no

Wages: \$1800.00 plus expenses including

Travel: \$.36/mile X 622 miles round trip =

Lodging: Motel Room (single, non-smoking) 1/31/03, 2/1/03

Payment Schedule: Deposit due upon receipt of signed agreement = \$900 + travel

Balance Due day of performance = \$900

Sound System: ____ Provided by performer at additional cost of \$300

____ Equipment and crew arranged by organization at organization's expense

For Organization

Date

Artist

Date

Lariat Loop: Oral History and Folklore Interview: Topic Suggestions

Oral History & Folklore Interviews–Topic Suggestions Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance

1. Basic Information:
 - Name, address, and phone number
 - How long have you lived in this area?
2. Genealogy:
 - Names, birth and death dates and places, occupations of parents and grandparents
 - Siblings, in birth order
 - Did or does your family have any interesting or important historic, economic political or social **connections or contributions**?
3. Earliest **memories** of this area
 - Family life:
 - Describe a typical day, from getting up to going to bed: food, chores, play, and school.
 - What special occasions did your family celebrate? How?
 - Neighbors/other residents: distance, occupations, ethnicities, social & religious connections.
 - Indian presence or stories of earlier Indian occupation or trading, passing through, if any.
4. What community **activities and organizations** was your family involved in?
 - You yourself?
 - Describe one you remember well or especially enjoyed.
5. **Outstanding person**: Every community has one or two “characters” that stand out, a strong leader who gets things done, or rival factions that divide it. Tell us about someone who stands out in your memory.
7. What were one or two **memorable events** that affected your life in this area (such as fire, flood, the Depression, war, new industry, technology, or influx of new people)?
8. What do you consider your own or your family’s most notable **accomplishments**?
9. Tell us about one or two **places** around here that you think visitors to this area would like to know about or visit? What is your favorite place, hike, or activity (in your prime)?

10. Folklore:

Place Names, family naming traditions

Local legends

Local customs: volunteer fire/rescue; ice skating, Grange, holidays, harvest

Weather sayings, beliefs, anecdotes

How can you tell when a hard winter or dry summer is coming?

Tell us about the worst windstorm or blizzard you remember

Traditions: dances, music, children's games, storytelling; occupations; proverbs

11. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us for the record—for the museum or for visitors?



The Silverton Town Band will show up almost anywhere for an audience – here, they entertain visitors at the Red Mountain Pass overlook. Sometimes they're found on a street corner in Ouray or welcoming the train from Durango into Silverton

Cache la Poudre--North Park: The Iron Family Native American Music and Dance

From their home base in Fort Collins, located at the east end of the Cache La Poudre-North Park Scenic Byway, the Iron family travels many miles to provide varied audiences with performances of Native American song and dance.

Bob Iron is a highly accomplished singer and song leader of Pawnee tribal songs as well as of many other songs for intertribal powwows. Most of the songs Bob leads are Southern Plains songs from the Pawnee, Otoe, Ponca, Kiowa, Sac and Fox, Cheyenne, Navajo, and Comanche tribes. He serves as the Drum Keeper for the Northern Colorado Intertribal Powwow Association (NCIPA).

The Colorado Council on the Arts has awarded Bob Iron a Folk Arts Mini-Grant to further his research about traditional hand games of the Pawnee Nation. CCA has also for several years awarded NCIPA with major grants to assist with the powwows they hold annually in Loveland.

Bob Iron is from the Pawnee and Crow tribes. His wife, Jan, grew up in New Mexico and followed Navajo cultural traditions. Five of their children (Karla, Nicole, Zach, Dwayne, and Cheryl) join their parents in traveling around the state presenting Native American songs and dances for school and community groups. Karla often brings her three young children to perform, and the Iron family becomes a three-generational performing group. The Irons share as they perform, explaining the meanings of different dances and songs.

Community groups along several of Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways have invited the Irons to perform for their schools and festivals. They perform often for schools and other groups in Ft. Collins and Greeley, but they visit other byway towns as well. Those attending Sterling's 4th of July Heritage Festival and Julesburg's Pony Express Re-Ride Roundup have appreciated greatly appearances by the Iron family of Native American dancers and singers.

Unawweep/Tabeguache: Audio Tour Contents and Introductory Material

Contents (of interpretive booklet that accompanies the 2-cd set)

Byway Facts and Figures/Planning Your Trip and Using the audio tour
Welcome Section
Grand Valley Overlook Section Map
Grand Valley Overlook Section Description/Recording Index
Gateway Section Map
Gateway Section Description/Recording Index
Hanging Flume/Uravan Section Map
Hanging Flume/Uravan Section Description/Recording Index
Naturita Section Map
Naturita Section Description/Recording Index
Norwood Section Map
Norwood Section Description/Recording Index
Place Names and Definitions
Contributing Authors and Organizations
Resources and References
Special Thanks
Geologic Column

Byway Facts and Figures/Planning Your Trip

Location: Between Whitewater and Placerville Colorado
 On Colorado State Highways 141 and 145
Driving Time: 3 ½ hours (at posted speeds with no stops)
Driving Distance: 133 miles
Services: Plan ahead for food, fuel and restroom stops.

Planning Your Trip and Using the Audio Tour

For this project, the byway has been divided into five major segments. Each segment is named for a town or landmark along that portion of the route. The recording for each segment describes the town or landmark, the byway leading from the landmark towards Whitewater, and the byway leading from the landmark towards Placerville.

Dig into history. Learn how the landscape came to look as it does today. Find out what there is to see and do all along the route. Find out who you might be sharing the road with—cowboys and cattle, wildlife species rare and common.

The recording is set up to help you connect with places of interest along the byway, whether you are planning your travels or have already arrived. The label on the disk, the map and recording index for each section will help you choose what interests you by section or topic. We invite you to listen to one track and head out to explore, or if you are an armchair traveler, just relax as you listen to all the tracks and envision yourself in each of the extraordinary places that make up this breathtaking scenic and historic byway. Happy Travels!

Any Byway: Interpreting the Relationship between Intrinsic Cultural Qualities and other Intrinsic Qualities of Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways

Intrinsic Qualities	Intrinsic Cultural Qualities (Traditional)	How They Relate to Each Other (selected examples)
Archeological	Native American Knowledge, Skills, Stories, Art and Craft Forms, Celebrations, Ceremonies, Beliefs, Everyday Life	Tribal members carry their heritage with them, linking contemporary Native American life with that of their ancestors. Interpreting the many, diverse elements of contemporary culture helps to enlighten byways visitors about the cultures represented by Colorado's wealth of artifacts and archeological sites.
Historical	Colorado's byways abound with historical sites, buildings, places, roads, trails, monuments, museums, and stories.	Interpretation of the byways' historical elements can be enhanced through exploring the relationship between the past and present cultural traditions that they represent. The many ethnic, occupational and other culture groups that have given Colorado its rich history continue to enrich its story today. Some examples of how historical and cultural elements might combine to enhance the visitor experience include an introduction to the role cowboy poetry has played and continues to play in recording the experiences and feelings of the working cowboy, the contemporary use of historical trails for moving sheep and cattle in Colorado's high country, the role of historical institutions represented in churches, granges and community buildings in preserving cultural traditions and activities; the role of storytelling in making places come to life.



Beckwith Ranch, Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway

Natural	The relationship of intrinsic natural qualities and cultural qualities form a complex web that has yet to be interpreted in much depth.	Intrinsic natural qualities of Colorado have engendered occupations and ways of life, each of which has their own cultural traditions rich for interpretation. The knowledge, skills, activities and art forms that are an integral part of ranching beg interpretation, particularly where byways travelers are likely to see cattle being moved and worked in ways, and with tools, that reflect generations of cultural experience. Mining landscapes that speak of mineral resources also represent a wealth of ethnic and occupational information that links nature with culture. Climate, vegetation and water resources have influenced, have been influenced, and continue to be influenced by diverse cultural activities throughout the diverse landscapes of the state.
Recreational	Traditional knowledge, skills, tools and precedents of contemporary recreational activities including skiing, river sports, mountain climbing, horseback riding, rodeos, hunting, fishing, packing, back country travel, visits to hot springs, narrow gauge train rides.	Much can be learned through guidebooks and technical manuals about Colorado's recreational offerings. However, few people realize that each of those activities can be understood within the cultural context of the early practitioners of each "sport." The knowledge of those pathfinders is used daily with little awareness that much of it has been passed down traditionally, person to person, from generation to generation. Specific examples include stories of the Tenth Mountain Division and the beginnings of Colorado's ski industry, the experiences of early outfitters and guides in establishing Colorado as a destination for those activities, the development of rodeo performances from informal competition among working cowboys, traditional use of the healing powers of hot springs and vapor caves,
Scenic	Colorado's intrinsic scenic qualities have been part and parcel of the area's cultural story from the very beginning.	Every culture group has stories, art forms (both traditional and fine art), and experiences that have grown out of people's relationship to the scenic qualities that surround them. Therein lies a rich opportunity for interpretation to byways visitors.

Following Up: Colorado Council on the Arts Folk Arts Program Contact Information

Colorado Council on the Arts' Cultural Heritage Team of three folklorists helps communities identify their region's traditional artists and art forms; celebrate cultural traditions through assistance with festivals, programs or publications; and preserve endangered traditions through documentation and archiving. They have created the "Ties That Bind" kit, a tool for K-12 teachers that links our state's cultural history and traditions to the state curriculum standards for geography and history. This project represents part of their work with the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program to identify and promote the cultural resources along each of the state's 24 byways, including artists and craftspeople, festivals and special events, museums and other cultural institutions.

For further information on this "Tourism with Tradition" project, on the program in general, or the Colorado Council on the Arts, please contact one of the following.

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