

INTRODUCTION TO TOURS

DENVER: Denver is near the Rocky Mountains...but Denver is not “in’ them. Denver is where the Great Plains meets the Rockies. Considered to be in the West...Denver is really East of all the major Western mountain ranges. Still, it is located on the high Western Plains. Is Denver really the “mile high city” ? Yes, the 15th step on the Colorado State Capitol building is exactly 5,280 feet above sea level...exactly one mile high. Colorado was explored by Spanish and French before it was American; but it was Indian for thousands of years before. France gained much of the central and North central territory from Spain, then Napoleon sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States, under President Thomas Jefferson in 1803 rather than face a war. Overnight the size of the United States doubled, and the new territory was completely unknown. But the land closest to the Rocky Mountains was NOT part of the Louisiana Purchase !! The new Republic of Texas extended in a long panhandle all the way up the front range of the Rockies. The Louisiana Purchase just missed the area that is now Denver. Still, the impact of the new U.S. expansion was to have a great impact on the later acquisition of the Southwest. Lewis and Clark departed from the St. Charles area near St. Louis in 1804 to explore and report on the newly acquired territory and hoped to find a water passage to the Pacific. Their route on the Missouri River took them to the North and the great mid-section of the central West remained relatively unknown. The major routes of emigration West in the 1800s were either farther North, thru easier mountain passes on the Oregon Trail near Cheyenne, Wyoming, or to the South on the Sante Fe Trail. In 1858 there was no one in what is now Denver except migrating camps of Arapaho and Cheyenne Indians. The Rocky Mountain area West of Denver is 5 times the size of Switzerland. Discovery of gold caused the rush to the Rockies. Denver became the jumping off place for fortune seekers, gold-diggers, explorers, trappers, merchants, soldiers and those headed to make a life in the West. Colorado town names like Leadville, Alamosa, Telluride, Bent’s Fort, Cripple Creek, Durango... bring up images of the wild west of the 1800s. The growing city supplied the surrounding West. Now of course Denver is not the small city it once was. All through the 1990s, Denver grew by 1000 people per week to its current population of just over half a million, with 2.4 million in the greater metro area which contains 40 communities. Get our your history books...read up...and then come visit Denver with the China Burma India Hump Pilots. We have a short quiz and prizes will be given via a drawing from all the 100% correct quiz sheets handed in at the Reunion.

Quiz: Your Name (print) _____

10 questions

1. When did Colorado become a State. _____
2. What is the elevation of the highest peak in Colorado _____
For whom is Pikes Peak named _____
3. What is the elevation of the 15th step of the State Capitol Building in Denver _____
4. Did Buffalo Bill really ride a buffalo? _____
5. What is the state “motto” of Colorado? _____
6. What Mexican President, and also general, did Houston defeat in what is now Texas to establish the Republic of Texas, free of Mexican control. _____
7. What does the word “Bronco” mean (the correct answer is not related to football.) _____
8. Molly Brown may be “unsinkable”..but the boat she was on was not. What boat? _____
9. In what State will you find the Phoenix Goldmine in the town of Idaho Springs _____
10. What is the name of Colorado’s major league baseball team? _____

Mail in completed quiz with your registration form.