

Association Affairs

The Third Denver Meeting: Some Background

This year's annual meeting of the AAAS will be held in Denver, Colorado, from 26 to 31 December. It will be the third Denver meeting; the earlier meetings were held as long ago as August 1901 and June 1937, respectively. Members of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division of the AAAS long have wanted their fellow members to revisit this unique city, a mile above sea level, set against a mighty backdrop of snow-capped mountains. Completion last year of the new Denver Hilton Hotel and of the Brown Palace Annex now makes this possible.

Denver is the administrative, financial, commercial, and industrial center of the Rocky Mountain region. There is no other large city within 500 miles in any direction. In recent years it has become a scientific center as well. The Federal Center and other buildings house well over 100 administrative offices of the U.S. Government, including the mint. Many of these agencies have large scientific staffs; for example, it is said that there are more geologists around Denver than in Washington, D.C. The principal field station of the National Bureau of Standards, with extensive radio and cryogenic laboratories, is located at nearby Boulder.

Virtually all of Colorado's large educational institutions are in the Denver area or within easy driving distance. For instance, the University of Colorado (17,903 students) at Boulder is about 25 miles to the northwest. There is an express highway to Boulder, and buses leave at frequent intervals. The university is greatly expanding its research facilities. The High Altitude Observatory at Climax, Colorado, widely known since 1940 for solar and cosmic observations, now has its new central laboratory and administrative offices on the campus. A nuclear-physics laboratory and cyclotron are scheduled for completion this year. The university's large Medical Center, in Denver, has made numerous research contributions.

The University of Denver (5941 students), the only large private educational institution between the Pacific Coast and the Mississippi River, has a

handsome campus in the southern part of the city and another campus (business administration and law) at the Civic Center. Since 1947 the university has operated the Denver Research Institute. In its chemical, electronics, mechanics, metallurgy, and physics divisions, there are more than 200 scientists and engineers who are working on projects for industrial firms and government agencies.

Colorado State College (4568), at Greeley, and Colorado State University (6131), at Fort Collins, are about 50 and 60 miles to the north, respectively. Colorado College (1331) and the Air Force Academy (1524) are at Colorado Springs, 65 miles to the south. The internationally famous Colorado School of Mines (1047) at Golden, 15 miles west of Denver, is the oldest institution in the United States devoted exclusively to the training of mineral engineers.

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, consisting of 14 institutions with degree-granting programs in meteorology, will manage the new National Center for Atmospheric Research on Table Mountain near Boulder. Walter Orr Roberts will serve as director. The Martin Company and other firms connected with the aviation industry have divisions in Denver staffed by research scientists and engineers.

From all this it is apparent that in the Denver area alone there are large potential audiences. But the meeting will attract participants not only from this area but, like all AAAS meetings, from all parts of the world.

Colorado attracts vacationers in winter as well as in summer. The main roads, even the high mountain passes, are kept open; thus, participants will be able to drive to the meeting from all directions, and will be able to visit Colorado Springs and other scenic areas. There are splendid opportunities for skiing, as Denver is at the edge of one of the great skiing areas of the nation. Winter Park, Arapahoe Basin, Glenwood Springs, Loveland Basin, Ski Idlewild, Berthoud Pass, Ski Broadmoor, and Aspen are all close enough to be readily reached by car or bus.

It is not likely that Denver itself will have snow during the week of the meeting. According to the U.S. Weather Bu-

reau, over a 20-year period the average precipitation in Denver during Christmas week has been 0.01 inch per day, or a total of 0.06 inch for the period of the meeting. Denver's weather in December and January is usually invigorating and inviting. With low humidity and sunny skies ("350 days a year," the Convention Bureau says), temperatures at Christmas may range from 20°F at night to 60° or even 70°F in the afternoon—weather typical of the high plateaus of the Southwest. But if it should snow, this would be no problem. Flakes melt immediately in the dry, sun-warmed air or are soon cleared away by the city's snow-removal equipment. No one gets snowbound in Denver in December!

This year's meeting of the Association, the 128th, is unique in that it will be the first national winter meeting of the AAAS to be held in the shadow of the Rockies. This will also be the 38th annual meeting of the Association's Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division, which has advanced the date of its next meeting from the spring of 1962 to December 1961 to coincide with the dates of the national meeting. The resultant joint meeting will also include a special meeting of the AAAS-affiliated Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science. A number of regional branches of national societies, such as the Colorado Section of the American Chemical Society, are expected to participate actively. Such strong local support and the programs of the Association as a whole and of its 18 sections, its several committees, and its many participating societies (of astronomers, geographers, zoologists, ecologists, psychiatrists, science teachers, and so forth), make it evident that every principal field of science will be included. This third Denver meeting promises to be not only the greatest meeting of its kind ever held in the Rocky Mountain region but also one of the best meetings in the history of the Association.

Denver is not quite as old as the AAAS; it has just entered upon its second century. In 1850 Cherokee Indians bound for California found gold in Ralston Creek. In 1858, W. Green Russell found gold in Dry Creek. Several settlements of this period were consolidated into one community in April 1860 and were named after Virginia-born James W. Denver, territorial governor of Kansas. Denver's first stores had opened two years earlier (lumber then cost \$100 per 1000 board feet; flour, \$20 to \$40 per 100 pounds; and sugar, coffee, and tobacco, almost their weight in gold dust). The first issue of the *Rocky Mountain News* was issued 23 April 1859. By 1870 there were 1500 buildings and 4759 people. Today, the metropolitan area's population is 929,383, and the city is rebuilding its

downtown area at a pace that changes the skyline every few months.

With the westward shift of the nation's population and with increases in AAAS membership, the number of Association meetings held in the West increased, though at first only gradually. The fifth meeting of the Association, held in 1851 in Cincinnati, was the first to be held west of the Appalachians. In 1872, with the 21st meeting, in Dubuque, Iowa, the AAAS reached the Mississippi in its westward progress. In 1901 the Association's 50th meeting was held in Denver. Finally, 14 years later, the AAAS reached the shores of the Pacific.

Earlier Denver Meetings

The first Denver meeting, in August of 1901, was the regular annual meeting for that year. Sessions were held in Denver High School No. 1; 311 registrants came from 34 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada and there were two visitors from the British Isles.

Arrangements for the meeting were made by the "permanent secretary," the eminent entomologist L. O. Howard, then in the fourth year of 22 years of service in that capacity. The Brown Palace was the headquarters hotel. Rooms were \$1.50 and up.

R. S. Woodward, the retiring pres-

ident, delivered an address on the progress of science, and many members of the community were present. Woodward traced the growth of science in the 19th century and stressed the increasing need for means of communicating the findings of the specialists to the public which supports research.

Charles R. Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin gave a popular lecture on the geology of ore deposits. On another evening, Gifford Pinchot spoke on the government and the forest reserves. Among the vice presidential addresses, Charles B. Davenport of the University of Chicago, speaking on zoology of the 20th century, accurately forecast general developments and concluded with a statement that could still be made today: "Our best students slip from our grasp to go into other professions or into commerce because we can offer them no outlook but teaching, administration, and a salary regulated by the law of supply and demand."

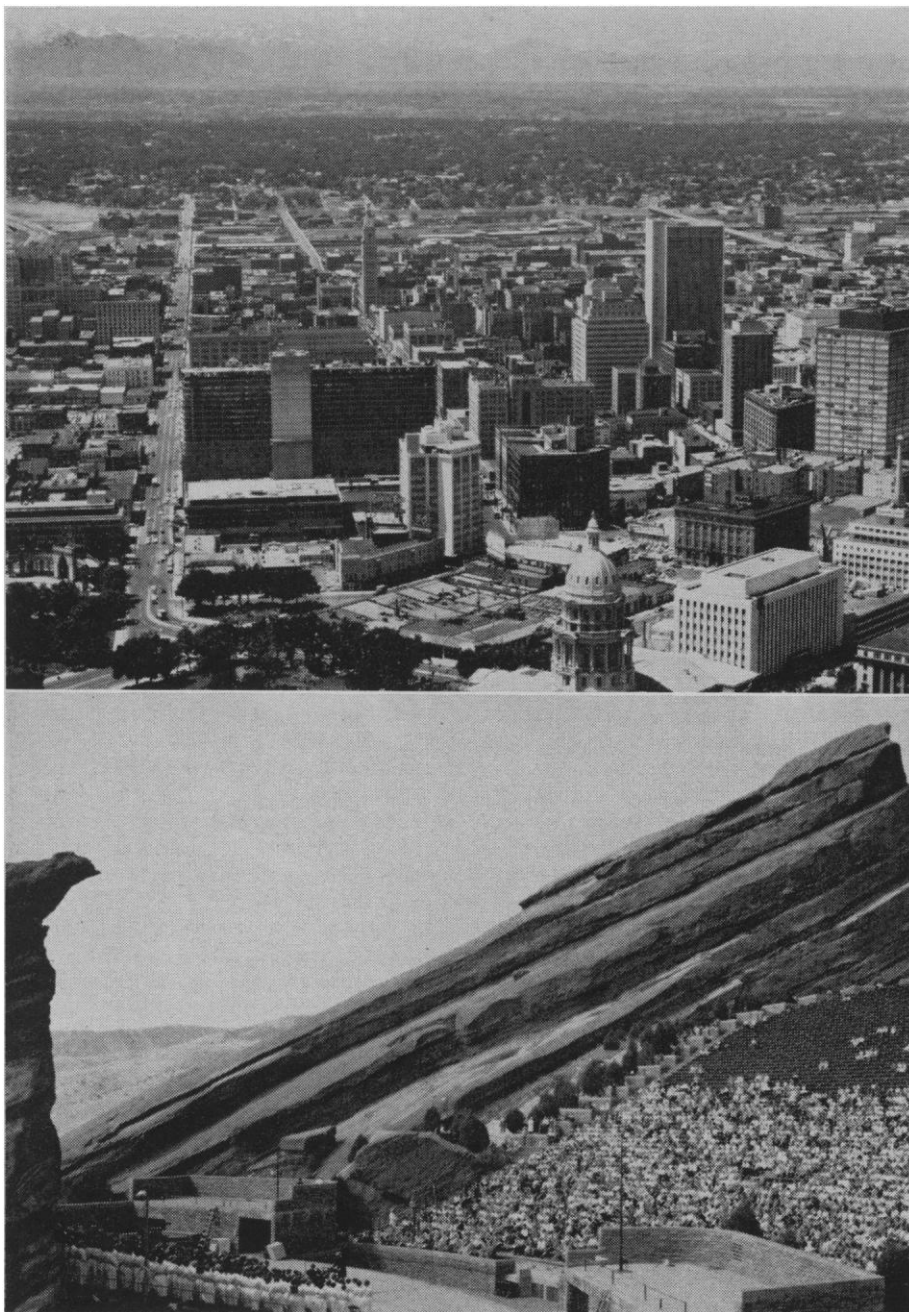
There were 200 short papers, including one on the "disappearance of the vast flocks of wild pigeons in eastern North America," by Edward Tudor Keim of Denver.

A section on physiology and experimental medicine (then Section K, now Section N) was organized at this meeting.

The year before, *Science*, then owned and edited by J. McKeen Cattell, had been made the official journal of the Association, and the cost of subscription was covered by dues. One effect was that the membership of the Association, which had been relatively static for some years, immediately began to increase at a good rate (membership in 1900 was 1925; at the time of the first Denver meeting it was 2703).

A particularly important constitutional amendment passed at this meeting formally set forth the relations of the affiliated societies with the Association and gave the societies representation in the AAAS Council—one or two representatives depending on how many of their members were Fellows of the Association.

The first Denver meeting was the last of the annual meetings to be held in August. In accordance with the wishes of some of the affiliated societies (the American Society of Naturalists, for example, which had changed its meeting to Christmas week as early as 1883) and of faculty members who found August a difficult date because of the recently established summer schools, the AAAS voted to hold its meeting for 1902 during Christmas week. The week of the meeting was to be the week containing New Year's Day, with sessions before and after 1



Downtown Denver (top) and Red Rock Amphitheatre (bottom).

Table 1. Growth of the AAAS since 1937.

Item	1937	1961
AAAS members	18,776	About 64,000
Affiliated academies	30	47
Affiliated societies	132	247

January. A committee consisting of Minot, Woodward, physicist E. L. Nichols, and Cattell was appointed to ask universities and colleges either to postpone their date of reopening after vacation or to excuse their scientific staffs from academic duties while the meeting was in session. An impressive number of institutions immediately altered their calendars in response to this request.

Testimony to the success of the meeting is given in an editorial in the *Denver Post* for 30 August 1901.

It is believed that the visit of the scientists has been one of pleasure, as well as profit, and that if the people of Denver have taken a thorough satisfaction in their presence, they, on the other hand, have found equal satisfaction in their sojourn here. The public is too apt to think that because men devote their lives to the pursuit of scientific inquiries they are apt to be dry, self-absorbed, and technical. To such as these actual contact with the members showed them to be surprisingly genial, kindly and sympathetic, while in many of them was found a fine flow of humor flavored with a wit which was nonetheless attractive because it carried with it no sting.

In the nature of things it will be some years before Denver may again hope to entertain them as a body, but everyone concerned will feel for them a regard amounting to affection and when their next session is held here they will get a reception such as no other city could accord them.

The second Denver meeting, held in June 1937, was the 100th meeting of the Association and one of two AAAS meetings held that year; the other was the regular December meeting. (The annual meeting had been held in December ever since the Washington meeting of 1902, without interruption even for World War I.) After it had been decided to hold a large meeting annually in December, the Association experimented with the plan of holding a second, summer meeting in smaller cities or on a university campus. Summer meetings were held in June of 1902, 1906, 1908, 1922, and 1925 and in June of every year from 1931 through 1941. Some of these were joint meetings with one or the other of the Western divisions. The second Denver meeting was held jointly with both the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain and the Pacific Divisions of the Association, for the first and only

time. These additional, essentially regional or special meetings afforded members in different parts of the nation an opportunity to attend a general scientific meeting, especially during the depression years. It was primarily to meet the need for more scientific meetings in the Far West that the Pacific and the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Divisions were organized, in 1915 and 1920, respectively.

At the second Denver meeting the presidential address of the Pacific Division, on the development of our knowledge of anterior pituitary function, was given by Herbert M. Evans of the University of California. The annual John Wesley Powell lecture of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division was delivered by A. E. Douglass, director of the Stewart Observatory of the University of Arizona; he spoke on tree-rings and chronology.

There was a special symposium, jointly sponsored by the AAAS and the Ecological Society of America, on scientific aspects of the control of drifting sands. Another program at this meeting, on disease caused by acid-fast bacteria, was sponsored by Section N—Medical Sciences; the papers were published the following year as AAAS symposium volume No. 5, under the title *Tuberculosis and Leprosy*.

Other symposia were concerned with the astrophysical problems of the ionosphere, Rocky Mountain geomorphology, oceanography, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, plant hormones, drought resistance in plants, and genetics and the species problem. There were motion pictures on human physiology and on exploring the universe, presented by A. J. Carlson and Walter Bartky, respectively.

The first Theobald Smith award in the medical sciences, established the previous year by Eli Lilly and Company and administered by the AAAS, was made to Robley D. Evans, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for his work on radium poisoning. The award will be given for the 17th time at this year's meeting.

There were numerous participating societies, and 575 papers were read. The official registration was 763 (with registrants from nearly every state, the District of Columbia, and Canada), but it was estimated that at least 1200 attended. All evening sessions were held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Others were held in the classroom buildings of the University of Denver and the University of Colorado Medical School, in the Senate chamber of the State Capitol, and in local office buildings.

Among the items of business transacted at the 1937 meeting were the following: (i) approval of a proposal to or-

ganize five conferences on science and society, to be held at successive AAAS meetings; (ii) approval of the new constitution of the Pacific Division; (iii) passage of a resolution on maintenance of high standards in the system of national parks; and (iv) consideration of the proposal of J. McK. Cattell that *Science* and the *Scientific Monthly* be transferred to the AAAS upon his death.

In only 24 years, great advances have been made in science. The Association has grown accordingly, as may be seen from the data of Table 1. Inevitably, the third Denver meeting will be larger than the two earlier meetings. Preliminary announcement of the program will be made in the 26 May issue of *Science*.

RAYMOND L. TAYLOR
Associate Administrative Secretary

Forthcoming Events

May

26–3. American Acad. of Dental Medicine, cruise to Bermuda and Nassau. (H. Ward, 15 Bond St., Great Neck, N.Y.)

28–1. Special Libraries Assoc., 52nd annual, San Francisco, Calif. (B. M. Woods, SLA, 31 E. 10 St., New York 3)

29–31. American Gynecological Soc., Colorado Springs, Colo. (A. H. Aldridge, 899 Park Ave., New York 21)

29–31. Cancer Symp., 6th annual, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. (A. J. S. Bryant, Allan Blair Memorial Clinic, Regina)

29–31. Chemical Inst. of Canada, 44th annual, Ottawa. (Chemical Inst. of Canada, 48 Rideau St., Ottawa 2)

29–3. Molecular Spectroscopy, 5th European cong., Amsterdam, Netherlands. (D. H. Zijp, Secy., Nieuwe Achtergracht 123, Amsterdam-C.)

30. Nutrition Soc. of Canada, 4th annual, Guelph, Ontario. (E. V. Evans, Dept. of Nutrition, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph)

31–2. Canadian Federation of Biological Societies, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. (E. H. Bensley, Montreal General Hospital, 1650 Cedar Ave., Montreal 25, P.Q.)

31–2. Radar symp., 7th annual, Ann Arbor, Mich. (Coordinator, 7th Annual Radar Symposium, Institute of Science and Technology, Box 618, Ann Arbor)

June

2–3. Canadian Soc. for Clinical Chemistry, annual general meeting, Guelph, Ont. (C. R. Cameron, Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph)

2–5. Latin-American Congress of Physical Medicine, Lisbon, Portugal. (C. Lopez de Victoria, 245 E. 17 St., New York, N.Y.)

3–11. Medical-Surgical Film Festival, 4th intern., Turin, Italy. (Minerva Medica, Corso Bramante 83–85, Turin)

4–9. Mass Spectrometry, ASTM Committee E-14, Chicago, Ill. (G. Crable, Gulf Research Center, P.O. Box 2038, Pittsburgh 30, Pa.)

4–10. World Congress of Psychiatry, 3rd, Montreal, Canada. (A. Roberts, Al-