Superintendents attending this year's convention will discover in Denver hospitality, good eating and a bit of nostalgia.

**MILE HIGHLIGHTS**

*By Lois Barr, Reporter, Denver Post*

Denver in February can be delightful or disarming depending on the weather. The temperature will probably be in the 30s, but it could be lower or higher. The Mile High City has been known to receive snow in September and temperatures that started seeds sprouting in February.

Visitors in February then should consider the weather unpredictable and follow the rule of thumb: Bring a heavy winter coat; then leave it in the hotel room if the temperature dictates.

In addition to unexpected warm weather, Denver can be delightful in other ways. The city, for example, has a seemingly unlimited supply of good restaurants, many in the downtown area. Although far from the ocean, the sea food is rated excellent in at least two of them—Laffites and the Boston Half Shell.

Both offer excellent service and both are within walking distance of most hotels. Laffites is located on the corner of 14th and Larimer Streets in what is known as Larimer Square, which also houses boutiques, nightspots, restaurants and a theater.

After investigating Poor Richard's, a leather shop, and other boutiques, a visitor might wish to have a beer at Your Father's Mustache, then dine at the Bratskeller, a German beer stube. Visitors also may decide to tour the rest of Larimer Street and discover what Denver was like just after the turn of the century.

Although many of the big hotels and other famous buildings are gone, some still remain. The street now is a conglomeration of saloons, pawn shops and discount stores filled with some of the city's more seedy characters. The visitor should stop in for at least one drink at Denver's Oldest Bar, 1339 17th Street, which really is the oldest bar in the city and dates back to the early 1900s. However, as a warning, walk there only while it is still light.

If the convention-goer chooses to dine in the Boston Half Shell on bouillabaisse, the restaurant's specialty, he'll also want to survey the surrounding area.

The Boston Half Shell is located in Brooks Towers, a skyscraper of an apartment building. Although not on a par with the Empire State Building, it is the tallest in Colorado.

In addition to the Boston Half Shell, the building also houses a coffee shop, a small but expensive dress boutique, a flower shop and a simply wonderful nightspot called Marvelous Marvs. Marvs, which has a slight cover charge, features top-flight entertainment and is worth an evening's visit.

Also combining historical interest with good food is the Brown Palace Hotel located in the center of downtown Denver at 17th Street and Tremont Place. The architecture of the hotel is modern, or so it was several decades ago when the hotel was built. The story goes that the architect, believing his work was a failure, threw himself from the top floor and was killed.

Nevertheless, the Palace became one of the most famous buildings in Colorado when H.A.W. Tabor, the silver king from Leadville and husband of Baby Doe, stayed there on his frequent trips to Denver.

The hotel is still furnished in keeping with a bygone era. Some original miniature ships, thought now to be worth several thousand dollars, are there. It is, therefore, appropriate that the hotel's prize restaurant should be called The Ship's Tavern. It's a pleasant place to eat. The service, atmosphere and food are excellent.

Other restaurants which will delight the visitor are the Qvorvm (pronounced Quorum) and Emerson Street East. The Qvorvm, in the Argonaut Hotel at 233 East Colfax Avenue, features European cuisine and has repeatedly been named one of the best restaurants in the country by Holiday Magazine.

To sports fans Emerson Street East, at East Colfax Avenue and Emerson Street, is a delight. Pictures of famous people and moments in sports decorate the walls and the menus. The restaurant is a favorite spot for the Denver Broncos, who gather there after games. A jazz combo entertains.

From restaurant-going to shopping isn't much of a transition, since the facilities for both are located in the downtown area. The Denver, a large department store, should be first on the shopping list. Its location at 15th and California Streets is kitty-corner from The Denver Post, which has a history all its own. The paper was started in 1895 by F.G. Bonfils and Harry Tammen, a couple of unscrupulous scoundrels whose escapades built a Rocky Mountain empire. Miss Helen Bonfils, daughter of old F.G., now owns the newspaper. A visitor, taking a tour of the Denver Post building, is reminded of the paper's vigorous past.

After shopping at The Denver, the convention-goer can go next door to Neusteters or across the street to Gano-Downs. Both stores are higher priced than The Denver, but carry smart-looking clothes. As the visitor walks up 16th Street to May-D & F, one of Denver's leading depart-

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ment stores, he will see many familiar names.

May-D & F, which adjoins the Hilton Hotel by a connecting restaurant which stretches across Court Place, provides lavish shopping. The name of the store is derived from the May Company, which combined with the old Daniels and Fisher's Company store. The Daniels and Fisher's tower, once a popular stop for sightseers, now stands deserted in lower downtown Denver, a subject of controversy between those who want to tear it down and those who want it preserved.

There isn't much the newcomer in Denver should avoid to have a good time. The snowcapped mountains visible from the city, the cool, crisp, unhumid air and bright sunshine thrill many visitors. Now and then these beautiful peaks are clouded by pollution, which is becoming a way of life in the city although several agencies are working to halt it.

One might, however, avoid riding a Denver tramway bus because fares are expensive—30 cents one way. Passengers also must present the driver with the exact change. The visitor with a car also might watch that his parking meter doesn't expire. Denver policemen are particularly zealous about giving tickets.

Unless the visitor is especially interested in seeing the Denver Mint, he might avoid that tourist attraction. Lines are long and there are better, more fun things to do in the city.

A sure bet for an interesting afternoon, though, is the Denver Museum of Natural History, located in City Park. The museum houses life-like reproductions of North American animals in their natural habitats and a complete history of the American Indian.

Another sight that shouldn't be missed, if a car is available, is the Red Rocks Amphitheater, west of Denver. Hewn out of rocks the amphitheater, one of the best in the country, is the location of the annual Easter Sunrise Service. Top-name entertainers also perform there.

So, whether the weather is good or bad, Denver should be a delight to the out-of-state visitor. Most Coloradans consider themselves lucky to be living in a state where the sun shines most of the time and are glad to give the visitor a taste of that ole' Western hospitality.

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