



THE WORKS PROGRAM

--Works Progress Administration--

For Release to Afternoon Newspapers
Saturday, August 13, 1938.

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES POPULAR AS TRAVEL TOUR BOOKS

Use of the WPA American Guide series as official tour books for travel through the United States is becoming more widespread, Federal Writers Project officials reported today to Harry L. Hopkins, WPA Administrator.

Fourteen students and two faculty members of the New Jersey State Teachers College who are now on a 62-day study tour which will take them over 12,500 miles of the United States, are using the American Guides as their official tour books.

Professor Edgar C. Bye, director of field studies at the college, says that the American Guide Series offers the best possible basis for historical, sociological, geographical and cultural guidance to field students. Professor Bye and Professor Harly P. Milstead of the geography department are in charge of the tour which will take the college party through 26 States to the Pacific coast and return.

The touring students will visit national parks, dams, power projects, university campuses, laboratories, observatories, industrial centers and Hollywood on a trip which Professor Bye describes as "an effort to train intelligent teachers who will have a first-hand knowledge of American life as it is today."

First using the American Guide Series on a field tour in 1937, the educator says that he found them reliable, factual and up-to-the-minute.

"Last season's field trip took our party through New England, where we found the six New England Guides invaluable to our work," he added. "Since then I have added volumes to my WPA Guide library as they have been published. Those which describe States and cities which we shall visit this summer will again guide us. They fill a long existent gap on college library shelves."

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