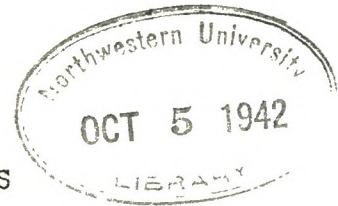


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#### WPA WRITERS MAP INTERESTING PROGRAM FOR COMING MONTHS

The WPA Writers' Program having substantially completed its major task of producing the 48 volumes of the American Guide Series, will turn during the present fiscal year to the treatment of individual aspects of American life and culture, Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner in charge of community service activities, announced today.

In outlining the program to be followed during fiscal 1942, Mrs. Kerr mentioned particularly the Life in America Series which will include a volume on American eating habits, a popular history of the forest conservation movement and six regional books on American arts and crafts; a National Defense Series which will cover many aspects of civilian defense as well as guides to many military and naval areas, and several special additions to the American Guide Series.

"The immediate objective of the WPA Writers' Program is to bring to the widest possible reading public socially valid, significant and interesting facts about the United States, its people and its institutions," Mrs. Kerr stated. "At the same time the skills of unemployed writers, editors and research workers are preserved and retrained.

"The urgencies of the present decade make mutual understanding between communities of the nation a prerequisite to national unity. The ultimate goal of the Writers' Program is to contribute to national unity through presenting America to Americans."

At the same time Mrs. Kerr revealed that a bid for hemispheric good will is being made through the early publication in Spanish of a volume to be known as "The United States: A Pictorial Study of a Democracy." Sponsored by the State Department and to be distributed by it in Central and South America, the volume is to be published in quarto size and will be a graphic presentation in pictures and text of the life and institutions of this country. An edition in English may be published later, she said.

The Life in America Series, however, will constitute the principal effort on a national scale of the Writers' Program during the next year, Mrs. Kerr pointed out. This undertaking is a logical successor to the popular American Guide Series which has presented--for the first time, in many instances--a comprehensive account of the history, culture, economy, as well as detailed touring information, on each of 46 states and two cities. At last reports approximately 300,000 copies of these guides had been sold through regular retail channels.

Heading the list of publications in the Life in America Series will be six regional volumes bearing the title, "Hands That Built the Nation." These will describe the native arts and crafts of the people of New England, the Middle Atlantic and Great Lakes States, the Southeast, the Central States,



the Southwest and the Northwest. Each volume will run to approximately 40,000 words in length and will have some 60 illustrations in color selected from plates made by the WPA Index of American Design.

"America Eats" is the title tentatively selected for another book in the Life in America Series. Each chapter will describe a community meal typical of some phase of American life—a political barbecue, a church supper, a Rotary luncheon, a clam bake, breakfast in a large city cafeteria, a family reunion dinner, etc. The accounts will describe the people, what they wear, the rituals connected with the preparation and serving of the food and whatever other aspects make it a distinctive occasion. Also, an effort will be made to discover the source of such gastronomic traditions as the alliance between baked beans and Boston, the identifying of hot biscuits and fried chicken with the South and why Westerners are supposed to prefer fried meats to roasts.

Lyle Saxon, well-known New Orleans author and epicure, has been especially designated as the editor of this volume. He is Director of the Louisiana WPA Writers' Program.

Other projected volumes in the Life in America Series are a history of forest conservation in the United States; an account of the Western rangelands in terms of the Indians, Spaniards and American frontiersmen who peopled it, and a contemporary and historical account of the American Indian.

Two sets of guides and a series of State Health Almanacs are the principal publications contemplated in the National Defense Series. One group of guides will pertain to the military and naval service academies; the other to the larger regular Army and Navy posts and reservations. The State Health Almanacs are designed to bring adequate health information into the homes of Americans of all classes. Other publications for use in the civilian defense program are planned.

While all of the regular State Guides planned for in the American Guide Series have now been published, several special additions to this series are to be produced during the year. These will include the "United States Travel Atlas," a one-volume resume of the outstanding points of interest covered in the State Guides; several State Pictorial Guides, which will furnish a quicker and more graphic perspective of some of the states than the regular State Guides, and full-sized guide volumes on such cities as Santa Barbara, Miami, Boston, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Nashville and others. A similar volume on the New England coastal waterways is also planned.

In addition to these major projects to be undertaken on a national scope each State WPA Writers' Program will continue to produce books and pamphlets on subjects of state and local interest, as they have in the past.

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