

**Colorado Kid
A Swedish-American Boy Goes West**

Willis Peterson

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520 pages, 6"X9", perfectbound, photos, \$24.95

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Swedish immigrants, making do in the Great Depression

**Colorado Springs of '30s & '40s
comes to life in new memoir.**

Willis Peterson made his reputation as an Arizona photojournalist, a globe-trotting nature photographer, and a college teacher.

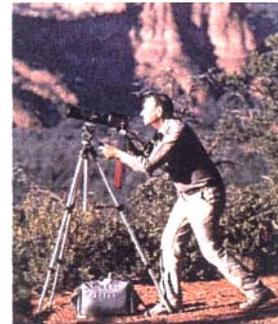
But in his new book, *Colorado Kid: A Swedish American Boy Goes West*, Peterson focuses not on his success but on the reasons for it-the "ear-twisting" of the two strong-willed Swedish women who raised him and the forced creativity of having to contend with asthma while growing up in Colorado Springs during the Great Depression and World War II.

It was the asthma that brought him, his mother, and his great-aunt to the pristine dry air at the base of Pikes Peak. It was the asthma that complicated his recovery from whooping cough. And it was the scarcity of the Depression that inspired him during that illness "to create ship models out of imagination and cardboard."

Colorado Kid is filled with tales and sounds of the times - the Swedish-English of his upbringing, the boom of firecrackers set off by boys who should have known better, the drawl of a homeless cowboy, the roar of a dust storm, the tragic crash of a P-38 that gave Peterson Field its name.

"This unforgettable story of a Swedish immigrant family in Colorado Springs mirrors the struggles of families throughout America during the Great Depression." *Judith Reid Finley, author, Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Willis "Pete" Peterson worked as a photojournalist for the Arizona Republic, became a frequent contributor to Arizona Highways, and created the photojournalism program at Glendale Community College in Phoenix. He now lives in Clarkdale, Arizona, with his wife, Roberta. His nature photos are on display until January 8, 2006, at The Wildlife Experience, 10035 S. Peoria, Parker, CO 80134.



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