

THE GOLDEN WEST PROGRAM IDEAS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

CONTAINED IN THIS FOLDER are the building blocks for public programs based on the theme "Golden West." Included are program ideas, fully developed book and film discussion series, and publicity materials.

Of the many formats suitable for humanities programs, "Writers of the Purple Sage" themes are especially adaptable to book and film discussions, readers theater presentations, slide-illustrated lectures, literary fairs, carpool tours and exhibits. In *Planning Library Programs* (referred to in the *Guide to the Resource Kits*, I), there is a chart to help in making the appropriate selection; it takes into consideration the costs, special features, advantages and limitations of each program design. Local humanities scholars may participate as program organizers, discussion leaders or site presenters. Staff of the local historical society or museum may be available to assist in focusing the content of the programs or even in helping to publicize events.

The following is an offering of program ideas based on the "Golden West" essay by Paul Carter. We hope that they will serve as inspiration for your own program planning.

Program Ideas

1. For a cross-cultural carpool tour, visit pre-historic Hohokam canals and contrast them with visits to a traditional Pima or Papago irrigation system (*ak chin* or flood-water farming), a Mexican irrigation project, and finally an American irrigation or reclamation project. Read from a period water-booster pamphlet and Walter Prescott Webb, John Wesley Powell, *The Milagro Beanfield War* by John Nichols, and have a scholar discuss the similarities, differences and the future.