

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOV 4 - REC'D

HOWARD O. HUNTER
COMMISSIONER OF WORK PROJECTS

October 31, 1941

Mr. Dean W. Miller
State Work Projects Administrator
P. O. Box 1459, Fairgrounds
Boise, Idaho

Attention: Miss Eva Bourgeois
State Director
Community Service Programs

SUBJECT: America Eats

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Writers' Projects of the country are preparing a book whose purpose is to increase appreciation of American food-stuffs and cookery and the traditional social gatherings at which such foods are served. Several large national publishers are interested in publishing the book without subsidy.

A major problem is coverage of Idaho, especially important since Idaho's contributions to the American table and the quality of its social life are so greatly neglected in books purporting to cover the country. It is not possible, as it was for the U. S. Travel Atlas, to have the Idaho material written in Washington with aid of the Idaho Guide, leaving only checking to the State.

In view of the criticism likely to come from failure to include material from Idaho, in particular from Idahoans proud of the State's superior baking potato, we hope that a way can be found to assist us in getting what is needed. We understand that Vartis Fisher, now living at Hagerman, would be available for two weeks—all that is needed to prepare this material—and if he could be placed on the staff for that period, it might be advantageous to the State for several reasons. All original contributions will be signed, and Mr. Fisher's name would attract the attention of reviewers and readers who through unfamiliarity with the region might otherwise slip over mention of Idaho.

Mr. Dean W. Miller

- 2 -

We hope that we may have your cooperation in this matter which involves a subject close to the interests of many Idahoans, and of more importance to the average citizen of the rest of the country than he is yet aware.

Sincerely yours,

Walter M. Kiplinger, Director
Public Activities Programs

By

J. D. Newsom, Director
WPA Writers' Program