



# A SCIENTIFIC PEAK

How Boulder Became a World Center for Space and Atmospheric Science

by Joseph P. Bassi

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Scroll through a list of the latest incredible scientific discoveries and you might find an unexpected commonality—Boulder, Colorado. Once a Wild West city tucked where the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains, it is now home to some of the biggest names in science, including NCAR, NOAA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

*A Scientific Peak* chronicles the early stages of Boulder's meteoric rise to become known as one of America's smartest cities. In the two decades following World War II, sun-earth researchers connected to Harvard and the University of Colorado, together with the State of Colorado and local citizenry, made Boulder a center of the new space age. Much was changing in the way scientific research was funded and conducted in the U.S., and events in Boulder reflected these turbulent times.

Over the course of this story, Joseph P. Bassi introduces us to a wide variety of characters, including the tenacious Walter Orr Roberts, and the serendipitous brew of politics, passion, and sheer luck that, during the Post-War and Cold War eras, would transform this "Scientific Siberia" into the research mecca it is today.

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