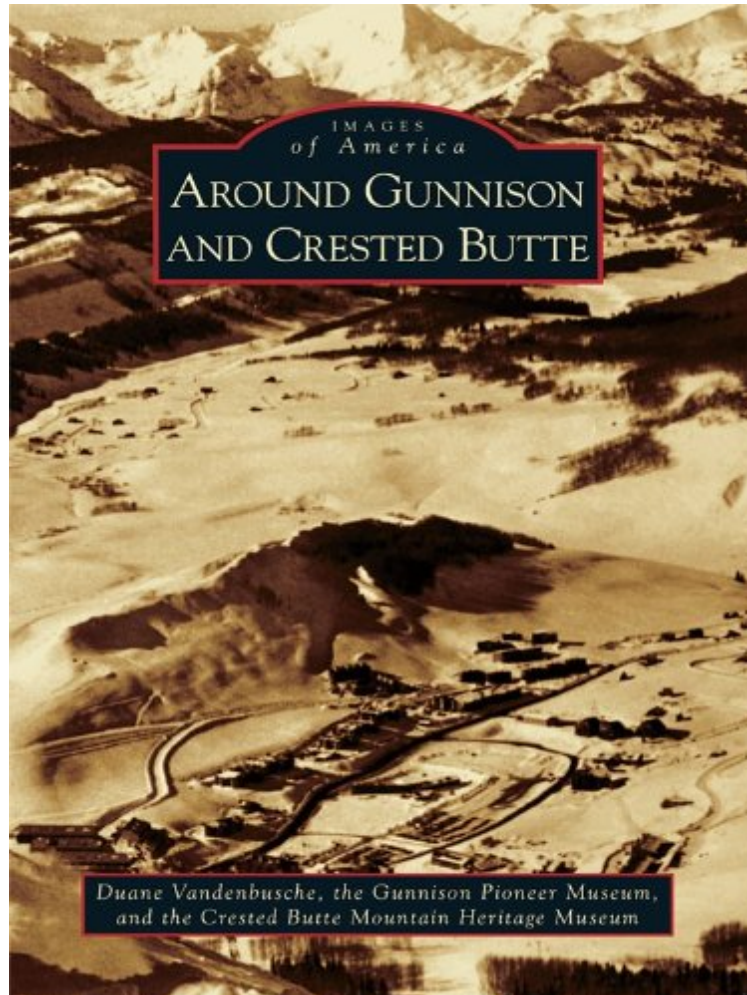


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Around Gunnison and Crested Butte

Duane Vandenbusche

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The Western Slope towns of Gunnison and Crested Butte are defined by their placement in the Colorado Rockies. Both are located in alpine valleys surrounded by 14,000-foot-high peaks with sparkling mountain-fed streams, and both dominate the Gunnison country, a unique wilderness covering over 4,000 square miles. Beginning over 400 years

ago, Native Americans, fur traders, explorers, miners, railroaders, and cattlemen all made a place for themselves in the area. Today Gunnison, Crested Butte, and the Gunnison country remain isolated and tranquil. Recreation, tourism, and cattle ranching now reign supreme as Gunnison and Crested Butte attempt to preserve their distinctly Western heritage.

About the Author Author Duane Vandenbusche has been a professor of history at Western State College in Gunnison since 1962 and is the author of five books on the Gunnison country and western Colorado. He has also doubled as cross-country coach at the college, where his men's and women's teams have won 12 national championships. In this volume, photographs from the Gunnison Pioneer Museum and the Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum—many of them previously unpublished—bring the history of Gunnison, Crested Butte, and the surrounding area alive.