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## Review of Homesteading Women: An Oral History of Colorado, 1890-1950

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than interrupting or distracting; and as an oral historian, she is as careful to portray the distinctive flavor of individual speech as she is to record the historically significant details of the lives these women shared.

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*Homesteading Women: An Oral History of Colorado, 1890-1950.* By Julie Jones-Eddy. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1992. Forward, preface, introduction, afterword, interviewee biographies, index. xiii + 252 pp. \$26.95.

Julie Jones-Eddy has compiled her interviews with forty-seven women from northwestern Colorado into a work that preserves the women's perspective of homesteading. Like many oral histories, this one divides excerpts of the interviews thematically into subjects such as "Home and Family," "Marriage, Pregnancy, and Childbirth," and "Working Women." The excerpts address a range of women's homesteading experiences, from the art and precision of soap-making to the sorrow of nursing children during the 1918 flu epidemic. Although this format does not always allow the reader to see the pattern of an individual life, such groupings do recreate the pattern of women's lives more generally, and individual voices blend into a chorus of women who, despite the difficulties of homesteading, "succeeded at this kind of life and lived long enough to reflect on it" (p. xi).

Jones-Eddy places the women themselves in the foreground: as an interviewer, she facilitates their own stories rather than leading the women's narratives; as an editor, her brief historical notations and biographical introductions put these lives into context rather