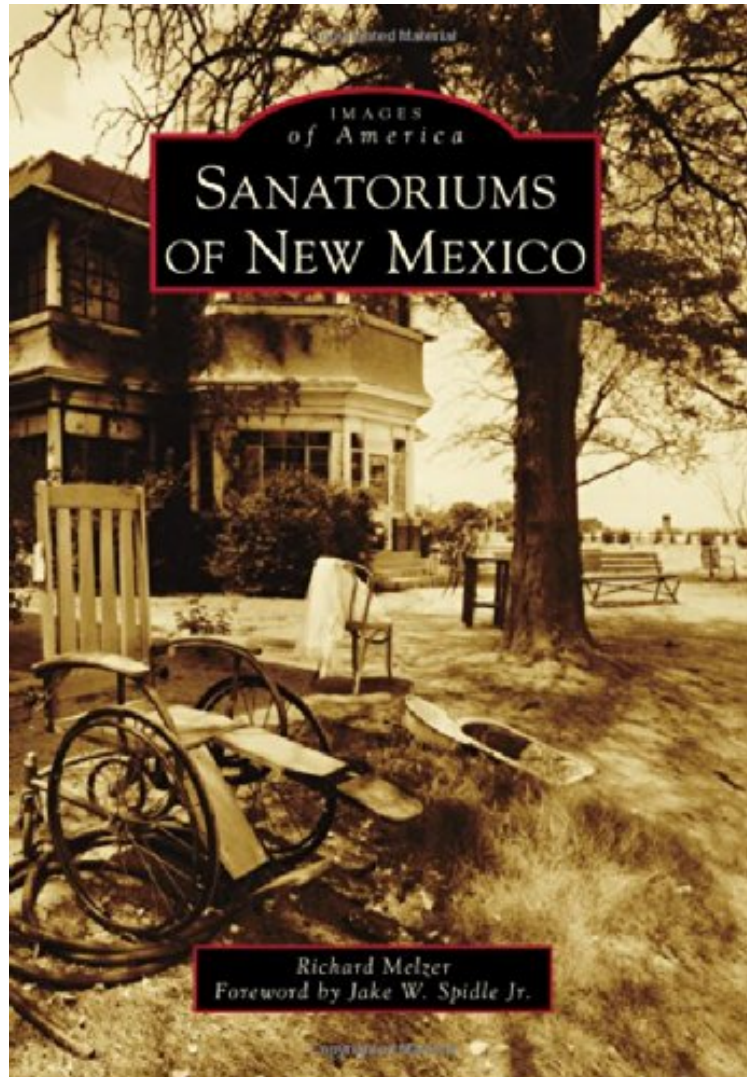


Sanatoriums of New Mexico (Images of America)

Richard Melzer

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1407897 in Books Richard Melzer 2014-06-02 2014-06-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .31 x 6.50l, .60 #File Name: 1467131326128 pages Sanatoriums of New Mexico Images of America | File size: 22.Mb

Richard Melzer : Sanatoriums of New Mexico (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sanatoriums of New Mexico (Images of America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unique period of New Mexico history. By Michael Manley Since I live in New Mexico, this was a good read for me. I have had the opportunity to visit some of these locations and have known some of the patients who lived and were treated here. This was a unique and important period in the history of our state. Recommended reading. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Sherry Fletcher Image of America series is GREAT! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A now largely forgotten slice of

American life from 1890 to 1950, abundantly illustrated by R. M. Peterson. This is one of the better installments of the "Images of America" series that I have seen. It is tighter in organization, more informative, and better written than the norm. Nevertheless, as is almost inevitable with an "Images of America" book, its potential audience is rather limited. Here, that audience is mostly (a) New Mexico residents, or (b) those interested in the seclusion and treatment of tuberculosis patients at sanatoriums, a practice that extended from about 1890 to 1950. In the early years of the sanatorium treatment of TB patients (often referred to as "lungers"), New Mexico clamored for them, advertising around the country that its clean air, higher elevations, and "superb climate" constituted the perfect curative environment. The desire, as expressed in the Santa Fe newspaper, was to attract "a well-to-do class of health seekers and tourists" who could be expected to "expend vast sums of money." Eventually health-restoration became the fourth major industry of New Mexico -- after ranching, railroading, and mining -- and at least sixty sanatoriums were opened across the territory, later state. By 1920, "health-seekers" (a somewhat broader group that nonetheless was largely TB patients) comprised as much as a fifth of the population of Albuquerque and a tenth of the population of the state as a whole. As time passed, and as more and more of the patients coming to New Mexico were less and less "well-to-do", the advantages of being a TB sanctuary began to diminish. By the Depression, New Mexico felt that it had become the dumping ground for states like Illinois and New York who were shipping it lungers via "charity train tickets" rather than institutionalizing them at home. *SANATORIUMS OF NEW MEXICO* tells -- and abundantly illustrates -- the story of TB sanatoriums in New Mexico. There are chapters on, among other things, the typical treatment regimen; the two most noted sanatoriums in Santa Fe and the two largest ones in Albuquerque, both of which eventually expanded to become major medical centers; and public sanatoriums for Native Americans, Army veterans, members of the merchant marines, and, finally, patients on welfare. The "sanatorium movement" faded away with the discovery of streptomycin and other drugs and with the recognition by the medical community that rest, diet, and fresh air were what was important for treatment and it was immaterial whether or not that regimen was followed in some exotic location. The "sanatorium movement" is now a relatively forgotten slice of American life in the first half of the twentieth century, and *SANATORIUMS OF NEW MEXICO*, although rather provincial, was useful in educating me about it.

Tuberculosis, also known as consumption, the White Plague, or simply TB, was the number-one killer in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many physicians of the era advised their patients to chase the cure for tuberculosis in the Southwest, where the regions clean, dry, fresh air, high altitude, and sunshine offered relief for most and recovery for some. New Mexico, called the well country, was particularly eager to promote itself as a mecca for lungers with the coming of the railroad to the territory in 1880 and the creation of many new hospitals, known as sanitariums or sanatoriums (sans), which specialized in the treatment of TB. This is a brief history of New Mexico's sans, their patients, and the doctors, nurses, and staff who served them during the golden age of the TB industry, from the turn of the 20th century to the eve of World War II.

About the Author Richard Melzer is a professor of history at the University of New Mexico's Valencia campus. He is the author of many books about the Southwest, including his award-winning *Fred Harvey Houses of the Southwest*, published by Arcadia Publishing in 2008. Jake W. Spidle Jr. is a retired history professor from the University of New Mexico. He is the author of *Doctors of Medicine in New Mexico* (1986).