

COLORADO HERITAGE CLUB

LEARN ABOUT HOW GERMAN POWs
HELPED COLORADO FARMERS DURING WWII !

“BEETS”

A PLAY AT THE BROOMFIELD AUDITORIUM

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2015

2 PM—4 PM

ADMISSION \$20

(BUY TICKETS AT THE DOOR)

WWII POWs WHO WORKED COLORADO FARMS
INSPIRED LOVELAND PLAYWRIGHT

The 1944 sugar beet crop in northern Colorado was a record one. But the more noteworthy aspect of that year’s harvest isn’t the beets, but the workers that pulled them up. With many of the area’s men fighting over seas in World War II battlefields, farmers enlisted German prisoners of war to help with the harvest.

Camp 202 near Greeley issued strict guidelines to farmers using POW labor in their fields:

- Don’t ever believe a prisoner of war likes you. He doesn’t.
- Don’t believe that a prisoner of war likes to work for you. He works because he is ordered to work.
- In using prisoners of war, keep your mouth shut.

Despite these regulations, fraternizing between residents and imprisoned soldiers occurred with regularity. Those relationships inspired Loveland resident Rick Padden, 63, to write a play about this little-known piece of Colorado history. ...

“Beets,” ... is a dramatic depiction of events ... near Berthoud from 1944 to 1945 when POWs from Camp 202, which housed almost 3,000 of the 400,000 German soldiers brought to American soil, worked on northern Colorado sugar beet farms. ...

Excerpts from: Colorado Matters By Stephanie Wolf Jan 26,2015

Read the entire article and listen to “Loveland playwright Rick Padden speak with CPR’s Chloe Veltman” at:

<http://www.cpr.org/news/story/wwii-pows-who-worked-colorado-farms-inspire-loveland-playwright>