May I take your order?
World War II Era Menus from the Mountain West

Records held by the National Archives aren't always simply those created by federal agencies; they often can be records submitted to the federal government as evidence or proof of something. And during World War II, that included menus.

Northern Pacific Railway Lunchroom Breakfast Menu, ca. 1943, National Archives
Identifier 109190755
The Office of Price Administration was created shortly before the U.S. entry into WWII and was tasked with the authority to ration supplies needed for the war effort, such as gasoline, and place price controls on goods and services, such as rents and the price of a steak at the local restaurant. A recent project at the National Archives at Denver to better describe their Record Group 188 Records of the Office of Price Administration turned up nearly 100 menus from cafes, coffee shops, and restaurants across the mountain west that had been sent to the agency for approval of prices. These menus offer a fascinating snapshot of the sort of dishes and cocktails one might order when eating out.
Want to try your hand and transcribing these menus? See our newest mission on the Citizen Archivist Dashboard! For these transcriptions, don’t worry too much about matching the format and layout of each menu. Focus on adding the titles, text, and even prices that you see into the transcription field. We challenge you to transcribe these menus without getting hungry...

Learn more about these fascinating records in this Text Message blog post by Cody White, Archivist at the National Archives at Denver.

Get Started Transcribing!
Up for a challenge or something different? Take a look at our new “Outside the Box” missions.

We often have records that require special work in order to make them more accessible. We’ll be featuring special projects and transcription challenges in this section. So check back often to see what’s new!

**Facebook Chatbot**

We’re exploring new ways to interact with citizen archivists. Visit the [National Archives Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/nationalarchives), and give our chatbot a try! To start chatting with the bot, tap on the “send message” button, and type “hi” in the text box. When you choose tag a document, the bot will serve you a single page from the Catalog, and you can identify the document as typed, handwritten, or both. This helps us sort the documents by difficulty, which can then help citizen archivists transcribe the records in the Catalog.

You can also use the bot to answer your questions about visiting the National Archives and starting your research, learn
Missed an issue, or want to catch up on previous newsletters? See our email newsletter archive.
Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.