

Up There, They Call Us Greenies

By Dennis Payton Knight

Here is a tip for Coloradoans planning a drive to Wyoming. Rent a car in Nebraska and drive to Cheyenne from there so you won't be identified by your plates as another *greenie* come to fish them out of their precious rainbow trout. In Colorado we think just as poorly of Texans in our hills, but they have the good sense down there not to color their plates.

Greenies is slang specific to Wyoming, and other states have their own expressions. I did some research and came across a September 2015 article by Mathew J.X. Malady in Slate Magazine. He did not know about Wyoming's greenies, but he did claim Wyomingites don't douse their sorrows or their fires, they *dout* them instead.

Nebraskans say *donit*, as in, seems like work, *donit?* And *git-r-dun* even if it does. Kansans say *shucky darn* when they hit a pothole and Utahans cuss out loud with *oh, my heck*. In Georgia *dingnation* is tantamount to hell and damnation.

In Texas, *hoss* is a partner or a friend. Slate gives an example, "Hey, *hoss*, would you mind trussing that there pig?" In Illinois, a tough, hard-working blue-collar guy is a *grabowski*. The ones that aren't fly to Arizona to be *snowbirds*.

To *tump* in Arkansas is to tip or dump out. Very in New York is *mad* and very in California is *hella*. A *glawackus* in Connecticut is an animal/monster, frightening there and *poky* in New Hampshire. If you're *baggin' up* in Delaware you're laughing long and loudly. North Carolinians call their state *Cackalacky*. Virginia isn't for lovers but it *might could be*.

Take a *hotdish* to the potluck in North Dakota or the *carry-in* in Ohio. Cube your meat into *chislic* in South Dakota. *Nabs* are peanut butter crackers in Mississippi. If you desire a milkshake in Rhode Island, order a *cabinet*. In Vermont, soft-serve is a *creemee*. *Mess* is a measure in West Virginia, like a *mess* of biscuits. If a New Mexican asks you to pass the *christmas*, she's talking about a mix of red and green chili.

Prairie dogs are *whistle pigs* in Idaho. Go to a *kybo* instead of a porta-potty in Iowa. A pothole in Kentucky is a *chughole*, and a sidewalk in New Orleans is a *banquette*. If you're surprised in Minnesota you say *uff da*, like in, "Uff da, Jesse Ventura got elected to what?" A surprise in South Carolina is a *surcee*. Awesome is *wicked* in Massachusetts.

Heavy rain in Florida is a *toad-strangler*, sleet is *graupel* in Montana, and fog in Nevada is *pogonip*. A strong wind in Tennessee is a *whirlygust* and if the earth shakes under an Oklahoma tornado, it's a *quakenado*.

Jug handles in New Jersey force you to turn right in order to turn left. In Pennsylvania, if I'm addressing you people then I'm talking to *yinz*.

And natives take note. Here in Colorado, we've got *flatlanders* all over our *fourteeners*.