Simultaneous Release

Walter R. Borneman

Rival Rails

The Race to Build America’s Greatest Transcontinental Railroad

From wagon ruts to a railroad empire, an expansive account of the battle to control the heavily contested transportation corridors of the American Southwest and to build America’s greatest transcontinental route.

The driving of the golden spike at Promontory Summit, which marked the completion of the country’s first transcontinental railroad, was only the beginning of the race for railroad dominance. In the aftermath of this building feat, dozens of railroads, each with aggressive empire builders at their helms, raced one another for the ultimate prize of a southern transcontinental route that was generally free of snow, shorter in distance, and gentler in gradients.

More than just a means of transportation, the railroads were a powerful mold, and the presence of a rail line had the power to make—or break—the fledgling towns and cities across the newborn American West. While much has been written about the building of the first transcontinental railroad, the bulk of the history of the railroads in the United States has been largely ignored. With a meticulous, loving eye, Walter Borneman picks up where most other histories leave off.

MARKETING

- **Unique story of American accomplishment:** While much has been written about the building of the first transcontinental railroad, the bulk of the history of the railroads in the United States has been largely ignored. With a meticulous, loving eye, Walter Borneman picks up where most other histories leave off.

- **America as a character:** More than just a means of transportation, the railroads were a powerful mold, and the presence of a rail line had the power to make—or break—the fledgling towns and cities across the newborn American West.

- **Author on the rise:** Borneman gets better with each book he writes. His last book, *Polk*, won the Tennessee History Book Award and the Colorado Book Award.

- Author’s Web site: www.Walterborneman.net

PRAISE FOR POLK

“This is a terrific portrait of a man and his times.”
—Jon Meacham, author of *American Lion*

“[An] informed and readable biography.”
—The Wall Street Journal

Walter R. Borneman

The author of several books, including *Polk: 1812: The War That Forged a Nation*, *The French and Indian War: Deciding the Fate of North America*, and *Alaska: Saga of a Bold Land*. He is the president of the Walter V. and Idan Y. Berry Foundation, which funds postdoctoral fellowships in children’s health at Stanford University.

Read by Norman Dietz

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Norman Dietz is a writer, an actor, and a solo performer. He has performed frequently on radio and television, and he has recorded over one hundred audiobooks. *AudioFile* magazine named Norman a Best Voice of 2008. He lives in Pennsylvania.

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