



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

## Western Vacationlands

**Stock#:** 96898  
**Map Maker:** Willmarth / Rand McNally & Company / Union Pacific Railroad Company  
**Date:** 1946  
**Place:** Chicago  
**Color:** Color  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 23.7 x 18 inches  
**Price:** \$ 495.00



### Description:

*Western Vacationlands* by Rand McNally, with illustrations by William Willmarth and produced in Chicago in 1946, offers an intricate portrayal of the tourist attractions in the Union Pacific West region. As a product of the post-World War II era, this folding pictorial map, printed on both sides, evocatively captures the allure of Western America as seen through the lens of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The map draws on the collective consciousness of mid-20th century America, a nation eager for leisure after the strains of wartime. Travel, especially by train, represented not just a mode of transportation but an avenue for relaxation and rejuvenation. The Union Pacific Railroad, as detailed in this pictorial, stood at the forefront of this sentiment, showcasing its services as the epitome of comfort, luxury, and panoramic beauty.

The text accompanying the map provides insights into the rail transportation dynamics of the time. It references the military necessities of rail during the war years, when troop movements took precedence over civilian travel, inevitably affecting the comforts and luxuries of the journey. Post-war, as the map suggests, the railroad sought to reinvent its image, emphasizing a return to its pre-war standards of excellence, comfort, and relaxation.

Illustrator William Willmarth's artwork complements the narrative, adding depth and texture to the envisioned landscapes and experiences. His depiction of the western regions brings to life the "world of adventure, pleasure, and spectacular scenic beauty" that awaits travelers. The landscapes captured resonate with the romanticized vision of the American West, an endless expanse of opportunities and natural wonders.



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

---

**Western Vacationlands**

Lastly, the underlying theme of the map extends beyond mere geography or the attractions of the Union Pacific West. It touches upon a transitional period in American history, one where a nation, recovering from the strains of war, looked forward to rediscovering its vast landscapes, its promise of adventure, and most importantly, the joys of unhurried, luxurious travel.

**Detailed Condition:**