

# PROFILES OF COLORADO

## LEAGUE LEADERS

	Page
CARRIE LANE CHAPMAN CATT, BETTER THAN SILVER OR GOLD -- Wilma Davidson	1
MABEL CORY COSTIGAN, LEAGUE FOUNDER -- Wilma Davidson	2
WOMAN CALLED FEMININE ST. GEORGE -- Denver News	3
ELISA PALLADINO, DENVER'S FIRST COUNCILWOMAN -- Wilma Davidson	4
SMITH OF DENVER -- Wilma Davidson	5
JESSIE HAVER BUTLER, SUFFRAGE LOBBYIST -- Pat Hamann	5
TRIBUTE TO PAT KELLER -- Colorado State League Board	6
NEW PERSPECTIVES -- Margaret Fisher	7
SUE JOSHEL, LWVCO PRESIDENT 1967-70 -- Josephine Carpenter	7
MAY CLARK, A DEDICATED LEAGUE LEADER -- Marguerite Eckles	8
VOTERS SERVICE CAN BE VERY INTERESTING! -- Gini McGirr	9
THE RUTHS, SHERBOK AND CLARK -- Josephine Carpenter	10
SENATOR PAT PASCOE -- Mary Hess	11
DOROTHY THOMPSON LOBBIED FOR CHILDREN'S CODE -- Wilma Davidson	12
CAN A NONPARTISAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT? -- Marjorie Hornbein	13
A LEAGUE HISTORY -- May Clark	13
RECOLLECTIONS OF A DENVER LEAGUE PRESIDENT -- Katherine Fitzpatrick Bowman	14
A LEAGUER IN THE LEGISLATURE -- Jean Knight Bain	15
I JOINED THE LEAGUE BEFORE I COULD VOTE -- Wilma Davidson	15
COUNTY OFFICIAL ORGANIZED LEAGUE -- Bill Noe	16
SALUTE TO JANET ROBERTS -- Boulder Camera	17
PRESTIGIOUS AWARD TO HESTER MCNULTY -- Pat Johnson	17
DOT SOBOL FINDS SATISFACTION IN LEAGUE -- Barbara Wertheimer	18
MEET A PRESIDENT: MRS. J. W. BRADBURY -- Colorado Springs Sun	19
MANVILLE HONORS KATHY BUSCH -- Marjorie Null	20
MEMORIES OF METRO -- Mary Ann McCoy	21
TEEDY KERN OF ENGLEWOOD -- Mary Ann McCoy	21
REMINISCENCES OF THE LEAGUE IN CHERRY HILLS -- Gladys Foster	23
A LEAGUER'S WASHINGTON, DC, ADVENTURE -- Joan Leon	24
LEAGUE 2000 -- Betsy McBride	26
ABOUT GRAND JUNCTION'S HENRIETTA HAY -- Shirley Matthews	26
"1993 marks centennial of women's right to vote in Colorado" -- H. Hay	27
"Women 'wild with joy' after winning right to vote in 1893" -- H. Hay	28
THE 50-YEAR SPEAK-OUT -- Elizabeth Blanc	29
THE 50-YEAR SPEAK-OUT -- Dorothy Hill (by Mary L. Derr)	30
THE 50-YEAR SPEAK-OUT -- Ruth Herdman	31
MARY HESS'S WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP -- Colorado Voter	32
COLORADO'S FIRST CONGRESSWOMAN -- Wilma Davidson	33

## PROFILES OF LEAGUE LEADERS

League members have been encouraged to preserve our history by interviewing activists and leaders of the organization. Newspaper articles and other references have been included when appropriate. Although Carrie Chapman Catt was not a Colorado League member, as a suffrage leader who was instrumental in the organization to gain voting rights for Colorado women and the founder of the National League of Women Voters, it is appropriate to include a brief biography of this illustrious suffrage leader.

### "CARRIE LANE CHAPMAN CATT — BETTER THAN SILVER OR GOLD,"

Wilma R. Davidson, LWV Colorado (March 5, 1993)

Carrie Lane, born on January 9, 1859, was a determined, strong-minded girl. Nobody pushed her around! She reported that her passion for women's right to vote began on that day in 1872 when she learned from her parents that voting was for men only — and they thought that was only right!



Neither her father nor mother approved of women's equality, but that did not stop Carrie. She taught school for a year after she graduated from high school, then worked in the college kitchen and library to finance her education at Iowa State University. Proving that nobody could overwhelm her, she championed and won the right of women students to participate in the college debating society. Carrie Lane was the only woman among the fourteen graduates of Iowa State in the class of 1880. She had completed class work for a Bachelor of Science degree in three years, and was the class valedictorian.

Carrie Lane always had extraordinary self-confidence and independence, and felt that she was tough enough to fulfill some mission in her life. She worked in a law office the first year out of college because she was interested in a career as a lawyer, then became principal of the high school at Mason City, Iowa. In 1883, she was appointed superintendent of schools. Lane resigned a year later to marry Leo Chapman, and became his partner in publishing the **Mason City Republican**. They sold the paper and moved to San Francisco, but Leo died and 27-year old Carrie was a widow. Determined to work for women's equality, Carrie Chapman returned to Iowa in 1887 and became an organizer for the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association. In 1890, she married George Catt and moved to Boston. Her first national speech at a meeting of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890 launched her career working for women's right to vote.

Woman suffrage had been introduced in Colorado's territorial and state constitutional conventions, but defeated every time. Brought up for a vote of the people in the new state in 1877, it was again defeated. The Non-partisan Equal Suffrage Association of Colorado reactivated for another campaign in 1893. Although she had no confidence in the success of the suffrage movement in Colorado after its failure in 1877, Susan B. Anthony agreed to send Carrie Chapman Catt to speak for woman suffrage and organize suffrage clubs in towns throughout the state.

Colorado women won the right to vote in the election on November 7, 1893, when Colorado became the first state in which woman suffrage was approved by popular vote. At the victory celebration, Catt was praised for her work and described as the "noble woman, to whom more than any one other person we owe the glorious fact of our citizenship!" The Colorado campaign became a model and inspiration for the woman suffrage movement in other states.

At the turn of the century, the woman suffrage movement was in shambles, and Catt was persuaded to become president of NAWSA. She headed the organization from 1900 to 1920, except some years at the time of the illness and death of George Catt. The successful campaign for a national amendment was directed with that same toughness and determination she had shown in her youth. She was famous for developing a "Plan for Work" that identified every step of a project. Careful analysis, planning ahead, and wise use of the million-dollar legacy left to Catt by Mrs. Frank Leslie were the most important factors in winning the campaign for women's right to vote in the United States.

In 1919, when the Nineteenth Amendment passed in Congress and it appeared that it would be ratified by the states, a final convention of the NAWSA was held at which Catt called for the founding of a League of Women Voters, "free from religious or racial bias, to work to liberate women from legal inequities, to present a program of nonpartisan political education, and to continue to conduct schools for citizenship." She cautioned the members of the new organization: "Women have suffered an agony of soul which you can never comprehend that you and your daughters might inherit political freedom. *That vote has been costly. Prize it!*"

### **"MABEL CORY COSTIGAN — LEAGUE FOUNDER," Wilma R. Davidson (March 1993)**

Too young to be active in the 1893 suffrage movement, Mabel Cory graduated from East Denver High School in 1892. Edward Costigan was a classmate and president of the senior class; she was secretary. Mabel became one of the first kindergarten teachers in Denver, but "retired" (as was customary in those times) when they were married. From 1913 to 1916, she was president of the Denver Women's Club.

The Costigans shared their interest in political reform. Costigan became well-known as the lawyer who defended striking miners after the infamous "Ludlow Massacre" and as a founder, with Judge Ben Lindsey, of a Voters League promoting reform of politics in Colorado. The couple moved to Washington when he was appointed to the Tariff Commission in 1917 and lived there until 1928.

Mabel had been an active member of the Colorado women's suffrage association which was working for national woman suffrage. Her abundant energies were transferred to leadership in the District of Columbia Suffrage Association, determined to give all women citizens the voting rights that Colorado women had had since 1893. As a board member of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1919, she chaired the committee on Food Supply and Demand. An exceptionally able and forceful woman, Mabel Costigan joined Carrie Chapman Catt as one of the founders of the National League of Women Voters in 1920. She is credited with establishing economic issues as an important emphasis of the organization when she served on its first board of directors. She was the primary speaker at the national League Convention when delegates adopted support for the development of Muscle Shoals and the Tennessee Valley Project.

Mabel and Edward Costigan returned to Denver in 1928. She came with a mandate from Belle Sherwin, the president of the National League of Women Voters, to organize a League of Women Voters in Colorado. She became the first president of the Women Citizens League of Colorado that was incorporated on March 4, 1929, with a board of 27 prominent Colorado women. That name was chosen when it was found that incorporation papers in the name of the Colorado League of Women Voters had been filed in 1920 by the Colorado Equal Suffrage Association although they had never organized or affiliated with the National League of Women Voters.

Edward Costigan was elected U.S. Senator in 1930. They lived in Washington until his term ended in 1936. His health had failed, and they returned to Colorado where he died in 1939. During World War II, Mabel was employed by the Office of Price Administration as a consumer advisor in the Denver office.

When she retired in 1947, she continued working with the League of Women Voters, the Denver Unity Council, the Women's Club, and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). She had been president of the Colorado General Federation of Women's Clubs from 1913 to 1916, where her administration was known as one of cheer, optimism, and courage.

After Mabel Costigan died in September 1951, a tribute to her memory was delivered at the state convention of the League of Women Voters of Colorado. It praised her as a founder and moving force of the organization. Both major Denver newspapers carried editorials about Mrs. Costigan. Bob Chase of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS (9/24/51) wrote: "The soft, quiet counsel of Mrs. Mabel Cory Costigan will be missed for a long time in Colorado. Mrs. Costigan never lost faith in people, never lost her willingness to fight the good fight for anybody she believed was right and needed her help. The list of people who will miss her kindly counsel, her help, is a long one."

**The Denver Post** editorial (9/22/51):

The quiet power of righteousness as a social and political force was never better demonstrated than the life and work of Mabel Costigan, one of Denver's most distinguished women. Her distinction was not achieved in the limelight of public office or the noisy arena of affairs. It derived, rather, from unobtrusive but tremendously effective work in behalf of better citizenship, wider political consciousness among both men and women, and social betterment for all.

Mrs. Costigan and her husband, the late Senator Edward P. Costigan, were among the earliest pioneers of liberalism in this area, when to be a liberal or progressive was to be suspected of subversive design on the traditional beliefs of grandfather and great-grandfather. They lived to see their own faith almost universally accepted.

A gentle and lovable woman, Mrs. Costigan continued almost to the end of her life to contribute from her own wisdom and devotion, to the political and social education of women, to a quickening of their citizenship. No one more truly deserved the title, "great lady."

**"WOMAN IS CALLED FEMININE ST. GEORGE"** – "Mrs. Costigan watches legislation in Congress on high cost of living; Woman is called feminine St. George fighting dragon.," **Denver News**, November 26, 1922, Sec. I, p. 7. (Special to the News, Washington, DC, Nov. 25)

Every bill coming before the houses of Congress treating with the topic, "high cost of living," has a sponsor, Mrs. Mabel Cory Costigan of Denver, who has been waging such a relentless fight that she is known from coast to coast. In fact, excessive cost of living is the modern dragon and Mrs. Costigan is the feminine St. George, sworn to shed the monster's life blood.

Mrs. Costigan does not look blood-thirsty. She is a little, bright-eyed woman, with always a touch of vivid blue somewhere about her frock or hat, and an old-fashioned soft voice which is distinctly an American voice, but is without local accent. Nobody would guess from it where Mrs. Costigan was born. As a matter of fact, she is a native of Wisconsin, the daughter of a physician who for many years was a member of the legislature, an independent man and more than a little of a reformer. Mrs. Costigan inherits her love of politics and her independence of spirit, and owes a little, perhaps, to her Colorado rearing.

Whenever a bill which has to do with living costs — the packers' bill, the coal bill, the filled-milk bill — is at the fore, Mrs. Costigan is seen at hearings or in the galleries of congress, watching carefully and ready at any time to tell a senator or representative exactly what the National League of Women Voters, in which she is a national committee chairman, advocates or disapproves.

Outside her work for legislation, Mrs. Costigan is a great story-teller. There are many young folk still in Denver who recall the days when she introduced them to Cuculan, and Deirdre, and Aladdin, and Uncle Remus. It was through her gift as a teller of stories that Mrs. Costigan came to public speaking, and if once the dragon of excessive living cost were slain, it is likely she would devote herself not only to the telling of tales, but to the writing of them, for she holds revolutionary ideas as to what children really care to read and what they read merely because teachers think they ought to.

Mrs. Costigan's husband, from whom, she insists, she gets all her inspiration, is Edward P. Costigan of the tariff commission. The marriage is one of those invariably happy ones which now and then result from schoolboy and girl devotion. Mr. Costigan was president of a Denver high school class and Mabel Cory was secretary, when they began to be interested in the same things and in each other, and they have continued to be intensely interested in the same things — and in each other — ever since.

**"ELISA PALLIDINO — DENVER'S FIRST COUNCILWOMAN."** – Wilma Davidson (June 1994).<sup>1</sup>

*Elisa Palladino* was elected to the State Board of the Women Citizens League of Colorado for the term 1938-40. On October 28, 1940, she and five other board members signed incorporation papers that changed the League's name to THE COLORADO STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS. Elisa Palladino was an active League member for many years. Records show that she was a state convention delegate each year through 1944.

In a column titled "The Rambling Camera Girl" (The **Rocky Mountain News**, November 3, 1944), women at a League of Women Voters dinner were asked: "Do you think women have taken full advantage of the right to vote?" Mrs. H.A. Palladino, 3301 W Clyde Pl., chairman of the committee of government and its operation, is quoted: "Yes. I do. Women are becoming more cognizant of the facts of government than they were in past years. In this coming election, women hold a majority in votes; and they must speak for the men on the battlefield."

When the *Coalition to Celebrate 100 Years of Voting Rights for Colorado Women* chose the one hundred women who have most influenced Colorado history, Elisa Palladino was one of the first selected. These short biographical notes about her were published as part of the celebration:<sup>2</sup>

In 1975 Denver elected its first City Council women, Cathy Donohue and Cathy Reynolds. However, in 1935 Elisa Damascio Palladino (1885-1951) was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Councilman Eugene Veraldi, representing Northwest Denver.

Daughter of Frank Damascio, builder of the Brown Palace Hotel, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and other Denver landmarks, Elisa Palladino frequently drew the architectural plans for him.

A brilliant and articulate woman, she was a nurse, wife, seamstress, and mother of three children: While she made all the clothes for her children and her niece — Denver resident Mary Lou Keating — she did not like to cook. "It takes so long to make it, and it takes them two minutes to eat it," she would explain. Consequently, her children frequently snuck next door to their aunt's house to eat.

While Councilwoman Palladino served the unexpired term with enthusiasm and assertiveness, she chose not to run. She supported candidate Michael Marranzino, who was elected and represented North Denver for many years.

When the Colorado Committee for Women's History selected Elisa Palladino as one of the "One Hundred Women Who Made History in Colorado," she was described thus:<sup>3</sup>

**Palladino, Elisa Damascio** (1885-1951): political activist, North Denver Italian woman appointed in 1935 as Denver's first City Councilwoman, representing District #9. Upon her appointment, she stated: "you can bet I won't neglect my cooking and sewing." Active member of the League of Women Voters, the Women's Club, and many Italian-American organizations.

---

[<sup>1 2 3</sup> Footnote numbers 1–3 on this page and 4 on the next are without note text.]

**"SMITH OF DENVER."** Wilma Davidson (August 1994).<sup>4</sup>

Her voice was soft, with accents of growing up in the South, but when the Senate Clerk called the roll, "Smith of Denver," her "Aye!" rang out clear and definite. Senator Eudochia Bell Smith represented a Denver district in the House from 1936 until she was elected to the Senate in 1940 and served there for five years. She was a woman who knew what she wanted to do in state government and worked hard to accomplish her goals.



Records of the League of Women Voters do not show when she became a member, but in 1946 she wrote to Mrs. Farrington Carpenter, president of the LWV of Denver saying: "I am coming back some day as a valued member of the League." As a legislator, she introduced, supported, and worked for issues that were important to the League. The League began to discuss jury service for Colorado women early in 1931. In 1938, state president Bertha Perry drafted a bill which was introduced in the House by then Rep. Smith. That bill failed, but the League continued to lobby and Eudochia Bell Smith continued to work for including jury service for women in the Colorado constitution.

Jury service legislation, Smith said was "one of the hardest fought bills ever passed by a Colorado Senate." She praised the three largest and most important women's organizations in the state — the League of Women Voters, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the State Federation of Women's Clubs — that launched a powerful lobby to challenge the attitudes of the men in the Senate. Smith addressed the Senate, reminding them that all the legislation asked was that the issue be referred to a vote of the people. If defeated, it would probably be dead forever. On the roll call, the bill barely passed. In the following November election, the people approved the referendum by a vote of 144,627 for to 90,692 against. Smith of Denver had won the hard-fought battle for women. The sponsoring organizations sent her a huge bouquet of American Beauty roses, and Smith shared them with the men of the Senate to show that she was willing to work with them without rancor.

Other legislative issues that were promoted by Senator Smith included the Heart Balm Bill to control suits for breach of promise which had become a racket, the Loan Shark Bill to stop usury, the Restaurant Bill to require health standards in eating places, the Smith-Hornbaker Old Age Pension Bill to provide a small pension for the elderly in Colorado, and several health programs.

Eudochia Bell Smith, selected by the Colorado Committee for Women's History as one of the 100 women who made history in Colorado, was described as a "political leader, women's rights advocate, who was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1936, moved on to the Senate in 1940, then resigned from the Senate in 1945 to accept appointment to the District Land Office of the U.S. Department of Interior."

**They Ask Me Why . . .** is the title of a small book written by Smith in 1945 at a time when she was the only woman in the Colorado General Assembly. Her first response to the question was that the heartaches of the world needed fixing, and she thought she could help. She had a special feeling for bettering the conditions affecting women and children in both rural and urban life in the state. She did wonder if they would listen to her, but she was determined that women must have a share in government.

"The legislature is woman's best opportunity," she said, "The only Why involved is why don't you run for office? And you and you and YOU?" Throughout her time in the state legislature, Eudochia Bell Smith continued her proud response to the roll call of "*Smith of Denver!*"

**"JESSIE HAVER BUTLER — SUFFRAGE LOBBYIST"** – Pat Hamann, LWV Pueblo (1992).

Pueblo native Jessie Haver Butler became the League's first legislative advocate, at the highest salary of any women in Washington, DC — \$3500 per year. She traveled in six western states, including Colorado, with Carrie Chapman Catt to urge legislators to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment.

In an interview at the age of 89, Mrs. Butler described Mrs. Catt's speeches: "They were tied in with the history of government and the theory of democracy and what it all means. It wasn't just a superficial speech about the needs of women, but was a whole philosophy of the right of individuals to govern themselves. She had to fire up the women to go after their state legislators to endorse the amendment." Colorado ratified on November 1, 1919.

"**TRIBUTE TO PAT KELLER**," League of Women Voters of Colorado (1971).

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. L

Thirteenth General Assembly  
**STATE OF COLORADO**  
League of Women Voters

BY BOARD MEMBERS Bradbury, Stoecker, Evans, Lewis, Pilz, Jickling, Hiza, Ragsdale, Foster, Schiff, Garrett, Garnand, Miller, MacKenzie, Horney, Blanz and LOBBYISTS Albers, Herbert, Karlin, Parmalee, Richardson, Wasson

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 CONCERNING PAT KELLER, HER ABILITIES, DILIGENCE AND SUCCESSES, AND  
2 PROVIDING FOR THE PROPER GRATITUDE THEREFOR.

3 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the League of Women Voters  
4 of the State of Colorado:

5 SECTION 1. 5-24-71, Colorado League Consensus, 1971, is amended  
6 by the ADDITION of the following new subsection to read:

7 **Services.** For the endurance to serve, since 1964, under three state  
8 Boards and presidents and under diverse conditions; for the patience  
9 to give aid and supper to new lobbyists; and for the ability to further  
10 enhance the image of the League at the Statehouse,

11 SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly of the League of  
12 Women Voters of Colorado hereby finds, determines and declares that  
13 this act is necessary, in lieu of any other compensation, to express  
14 our sincere appreciation to our representative at the legislature,  
15 PAT KELLER!

**"NEW PERSPECTIVES,"** Margaret Fisher, LWVCO President, 1963–1967.  
(Excerpts from a 1967 state convention speech)

As we meet together again to make plans for the next biennium, we need a few moments to remind ourselves of the real reasons for having a League of Women Voters in Colorado, and to evaluate realistically what we have achieved since our last convention.

Every one of you is thoroughly familiar with our official statement of purpose. Yet, even promoting political responsibility is part of a larger objective. And what is that objective? No one has stated it better than Albert Camus, when he wrote: "The aim of life can only be to increase the sum of freedom and responsibility to be found in every man and in the world." How have we, as a State organization, done our share in working toward this purpose? Where and how have our influence and our efforts been reflected?

The election of 1966 was a very gratifying experience for every League member. As we watched the TV reports after the polls closed, we were all convinced that the voters of this state are becoming more interested in the ballot issues, that they are becoming better informed about what is at stake, and that they are voting more selectively. What part did we have in this? Before the election we distributed almost 100,000 amendment pamphlets — far more than ever before. League speakers explained the amendments to more than 11,000 individuals. In statistical terms, for every League speaker, we were able to explain the proposals to at least five other citizens.

More than this, the outcome of the voting led to implementation of program positions to which we have long been committed. A major step was taken in overhauling our judicial system by passage of the amendment for nonpartisan selection and removal of judges. The success of the amendment to reorganize the executive branch of the state government will depend on the bipartisan legislative committee which has been established to analyze the departments and agencies.

During the legislative session, we have been following carefully the progress of the Children's Code. League members served very effectively on the advisory committee which worked with the Legislative Council in preparing the Code. Its enactment will be the culmination of years of effort by the League.

One development which has contributed to our increasing influence and our ability to reach more individuals and organizations is the growth in League membership. Now, when we make a statement to the General Assembly, we can mention our two thousand members. An election year almost always stimulates more women to join. However, most of the growth is directly attributable to the splendid job local Leagues have done. Not only have you found many imaginative ways of attracting new members, but by your helpfulness and friendliness you have enabled them to make satisfying use of their talents in League work and become a vital part of the organization.

**"SUE JOSHEL, LWVCO PRESIDENT 1967-1970,"** Josephine Carpenter, LWV Denver. (1993)

Sue Joshel spent twenty very active years as a member of the League of Women Voters. Beginning in 1949, she made many worthwhile contributions as a unit member, president of the old Mayfair Unit, Denver League president, and State League president. In 1970, she resigned as State President to become the second Coloradan to serve on the board of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

While in her teens, she fled her native Berlin, Germany, just prior to World War II. The war years were spent in England where she studied child development with Anna Freud, daughter of Sigmund Freud. In 1946, she immigrated to Denver (there were cousins here) and began preparations to become a U.S. citizen. Her quest for education about our government led her to the League.

Some of the highlights of her memories include working on reapportionment around 1955. Two amendments were on the ballot. Governor Ed Johnson, a powerful figure, opposed the amendment that the League supported. The League lost that initial battle for reapportionment. During a radio broadcast, Sue discussed the amendment with



Governor Johnson. When he asked her, "What do you know about the U.S. Constitution?" she answered, "More than you think!" Later, Governor Johnson sent the League \$100 with a note saying, "Thank you for a fight well fought." The Supreme Court subsequently reversed the reapportionment decision. During the 1960s, Sue helped to spearhead a campaign to take Colorado judges out of politics. This was called the "Missouri Plan." The ballot issue failed the first time but succeeded in the next election.

Sue states that as a result of her participation in the League, many beneficial side ripples occurred for her. Governor John Love appointed her to a six-year term on the first nominating committee for the Denver District Court judges. During the Carter presidency, Sue was appointed to a 15-member commission for federal judgeships for the US District Courts. (Reagan and Bush did not use the nominating process, but made direct appointments.) Continuing her interest in the judicial system, she organized and served as president of the Colorado Judicial Institute which provides education for both children and adults about the judicial system. Because of her League background, plus her education and experience in child development, Governor Dick Lamm appointed Sue to the Social Work Examining Board. For five years, she also worked at the Institute for Psychoanalysis at the University of Colorado Medical School.

Sue's biggest triumph for the League came in 1971, the 50th birthday of the League. The LWVCO budget at that time was only \$28,000. She formed a Celebration Committee made up of community leaders for a campaign to raise \$150,000, and actually raised \$175,000 — a tremendous success!

#### **"MAY CLARK, A DEDICATED LEAGUE LEADER,"** Marguerite Eckels, LWV Denver (December 1992).

May Clark has been a member of the Denver League since 1947. Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, she moved to Denver with her family in 1920, where she attended Denver schools including Park Hill Elementary, Gove Junior High, and East High School. She enrolled at the University of Mississippi as a pre-med major, but transferred to the University of Denver where she received her degree in library science.

May began her career as a librarian at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Her next move was to the U.S. Veterans Administration Psychiatric Facility at Fort Lyon, Colorado, and then she took a position with the U.S. Army Air Force Transport Command in Presque Isle, Maine, and Manchester, New Hampshire, during World War II. Next she worked in New York for TWA, setting up operations similar to those with the Transport Command. On December 24, 1946, she and Dr. Paul Clark were married at Alexandria, VA, and they returned to Denver.

Almost immediately, she joined the League at the invitation of Dot Shwayder Heitler, after hearing a speech by an organization chairman here from the national League office in Washington. The following year, Elizabeth Scripture, nominating chair, asked May to run for President of the Denver League. When May demurred, Miss Scripture said she would be first vice president and help her. May served as president even though that was a traumatic time for her as her sister and brother-in-law were killed in an automobile accident. Their two young sons became part of the Clark family with their own son.

As the first full-time State League lobbyist in the early 1950s, May went every day to the legislature to familiarize herself with the process and the lawmakers. She would make a list of the bills and speculate on their progress and outcome. After a while, she learned to make accurate guesses based on her knowledge of the legislators and their backgrounds and families. May estimates that at that time there were around 200 members in the Denver League. She pushed for minority members.

When Kay Schomp was president of the LWV of Denver, she proposed the Multicultural Outreach Program in which May has been involved ever since. In those days, members of the committee were assigned to the various ethnic groups which presented "Faces of a City" classes with credit offered by the University of Colorado at Denver. May did the research to locate restaurants offering an ethnic meal for each specific class. Black, Hispanic, and Jewish classes were usually in each program with other ethnic groups represented from time to time.

Acting as a State Coordinator for at least ten years was also one of May's accomplishments, usually two-year assignments to Leagues throughout the state. She would try to go to each League's monthly board meetings. She attended the meetings of the Leagues of Cherry Hills, Littleton, and Englewood before they merged to become the Arapahoe County League. Her activities included attending state conventions, councils, and other meetings.

After the Coordinator program was discontinued, May proposed an idea for a yearly meeting of a representative, usually the president, from each League. This exceptionally successful meeting is known as the May Clark Leadership Retreat. May provided the funding and attended the first Retreat, which was held at Moordale Ranch Resort in Bailey on August 16 and 17, 1991. Sixteen of the local Leagues were represented by nineteen participants. Presentations followed by discussion concerned organizational management, running a board, purposes of the League, calendaring, control of paperwork, use of state and national positions in program, using the Education Fund, communication, and advocacy. May is an inspiration for League leaders.

**"VOTERS SERVICE CAN BE VERY INTERESTING!"** Gini McGirr, President of the League of Women Voters of Greeley-Weld County and Secretary, LWVCO Board of Directors, 1991-1993.

At 5:45 on the morning of the November 1992 election, I headed off for the Trinity Episcopal Church in Greeley to work as an election judge. After a day of assisting with the large turnout of citizens, we finished around 7:45 that evening and I hurried out of the church with a purse, large bag, and thermos jug. I set the thermos on the trunk of my car, unlocked the door, and dumped purse and bag into the back seat. Then, jumped in the car and headed for the Centennial Building downtown for my next assignment of reporting election results. About half way there, I thought of the thermos bottle and looked in the rear vision mirror. It was not on the trunk -- naturally!

I picked up my badge and headed for the media room. Spent time there with calls to the papers, talked to other reporters, and watched live TV coverage. At 12:30 am, I was interviewed on TV on how the votes were going, since League had worked so hard on the amendments and also was interested in the women sunning for office across the country. At 2:00 am, made last call to the DENVER POST. Everyone had gone but the county clerk, the janitor, and me. As the computer was doing the printouts, and I had to wait until 3:00 am when a certain precinct came up to call the results to the LOS ANGELES TIMES.

Heading home, and not a car on the streets, I decided to stop at the church to see if my thermos had fallen off in the parking lot. Not there. When I turned right out of the lot and picked up speed, there were flashing lights and a siren. I pulled over, stopped the car, and opened the door and leaned out. The police car stopped behind me and the officer got out. I asked, "Is there a problem?" He said he was not sure, as I did not look like the ordinary burglar. That was certainly true, as he was talking to a little old grandmother in tennis shoes whose sweatshirt was plastered with voting badges and my car had a big LWV sticker in the back window!

The officer asked what I was doing at the church at that hour of the morning. I told him I had a story he wouldn't believe, but he said to try him. So I told my story about my husband's good Stanley thermos bottle that he always uses for hunting and that I did not dare lose. I suggested that he call the county clerk's office to verify that I had just left there.

He took my license number and called in, then came back laughing. The woman on the phone at the station told him she had just seen me on TV and that he was trying to arrest the president of the League of Women Voters! Then he told me I should not be out alone that late, and that he would follow me home . . . which he did and sat there until I got inside the condo. Who says Leaguers never have any fun!

The thermos had been picked up by one of the election judges who had followed me out of the church. He delivered it the next day — unbroken. He had tried to follow me to the media center to tell me he had the thermos, but did not know where to look for me. That would have saved me from being a "suspect of attempted burglary!"

ÒTHE RUTHS Ñ SHERBOK AND STARK," Josephine Carpenter, February 1993.

Ruth Sherbok and Ruth Stark Ñ very good friends for a very long time --joined the Denver League during War II, and have been active members all of that time. Recalling the formality of those times, they describe members and meetings.

When Mrs. Farrington Carpenter was president of the Denver League, no one knew her first name. Members were always known by the names of their husbands! Everyday attire always included hats and gloves. Members of the Denver League were considered "ladies of leisure" with time and energy to devote to their community and its government. The downtown YWCA was the central meeting place and office for the Denver League during the 40s, 50s. Parking was not a problem; no one feared going downtown alone at night. Moving the office to the new Denver Shopping Center was not successful, and two years later the League moved to its present location at the Presbyterian Church.

Both of these members have cherished their League experiences in units and on resource committees. Being on a committee was compared to taking a college class that gave one the opportunity to gain deep insights into various subjects. They appreciated the incredibly detailed bulletins, reports, and bibliographies that were published by the national League office.

The International Relations Committee and the Constitution Committee were favorites of these two members. During World War Two, the League at both the national and local levels worked on suggestions for the composition of the United Nations. Ruth Stark remembers sending one of her reports to her husband who was stationed in China. The best and brightest minds of the whole world met at Dumbarton Oaks to hammer out the constitutional structure of the United Nations. In Denver, Ruth Stark recalled being part of a speakers bureau that gave information on this important subject. One of the highlights of the International Relations Committee work was the recognition of China. It was the early 1960s and President Nixon opposed the recognition of the People's Republic of China. Public hearings were held at Denver University was active with the League in pursuing the questions of recognition. In the late 1960s, League members reached consensus that China should be recognized, and it was not long before the U.S. did recognize that country. Both Ruth Sherbok and Ruth Stark have traveled in China, and have maintained an ongoing interest.

The "McCarthy Era" was recalled by the Ruths as a time when the League took a strong position on individual rights. At all levels, the League worked very hard to create an atmosphere free from suspicion, accusation, persecution, and discrimination. It was at that time, the 1950s, that the League adopted its position on the Privacy.

The League was described as always two steps ahead of the times. Well before the world was aware, the League was studying the problem of over-population. Members were pioneers in the need for family planning and birth control. They participated in early work on air pollution in Denver. The League published a pamphlet, "Confusion and Confusion," which addressed the issue of special governmental districts in Colorado (900 at the time). The League endorsed regional government. They report that some studies and action have been constant -- for education and water.

An ongoing problem for the League is that of never having enough money. The Ruths talked about their money-making ideas, such as theatre parties, house tours -- they loved the tours because of their significance, election reporting, and the current King Soopers coupons --the most successful and painless.

The Ruths remember two national League conventions that were held in Denver, and a national meeting at the University of Colorado in the 1960s. This was at the height of the Labor Movement and the beginning of the Women's Movement. There were strikes in the California lettuce fields at that time. Ruth Sherbok described how members attending the meeting were innocently eating their lunch (which included lettuce) when strikers broke into the cafeteria at the University of Colorado and threw all the food on the floor.

The women stated that they would be different people if they had not been active in the League. League broadened their interests and made them aware of many things that they would not have been interested in. League was a dominant part of the lives of their families. Confidence in their own knowledge, the ability to speak before groups with self-assurance, and willingness to express opinions are due in a very large measure to their participation in League.

Ruth Stark said, "League taught me never to think of anything as black and white, but to see the shades of gray in everything." Both said that they cannot imagine being deprived of League, and that it will be the last interest that they would ever drop. It is vital to them to know what is going on in the world. They added that, at this stage in their lives, they cherish the opportunity to make friends with "wonderful young women." However, they liked it better when women in the League did not work so hard and had the time, energy, and devotion to work on community problems.

**"POLLY BULLARD CAME FROM THE YWCA."** Marguerite Eckles, LWV Denver, (March 1993).

We know her as Polly, the Leaguer who came from the YWCA. She worked for the YWCA for 37 years, then retired in Denver and joined the League in 1975. She first joined the League in Montgomery County, Maryland, where the YWCA and LWV worked together on projects. She chose Denver for retirement because it was the state capitol and she wanted to keep up with local and state activities.

Membership in the Wyer Unit of the Denver League led to serving as Human Resources Coordinator on the board from 1977 to 1979. Then, she was attracted to the state level of League and chaired the LWVCO Criminal Justice program. In 1985, she was elected to the State Board as the coordinator of Government studies and lobbied for those issues in the legislature. Her committee researched the effectiveness of the Colorado judiciary nominating commissions which recommend individuals to be appointed by the governor as judges in state courts and the supreme court. The goal of the study was to give authority to League lobbying to keep "judges appointed rather than elected," as intended by a citizen initiative supported by the League and adopted in 1966.

Polly (actually Pauline) was born in Tularosa, New Mexico, near White Sands. Her father died when she was twelve years of age, and she moved with her mother to Oklahoma. There she finished high school and attended Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, and the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Her career began with nine years of teaching in Oklahoma schools; then she turned to the greater challenge of teaching and counseling girls at a Sioux Indian reservation school administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in North Dakota. When World War II started, she accepted employment with the USO, first in Oregon, then to Wichita, Kansas, and on to Bethesda, Maryland. After the war, she began work for the YWCA which took her to Maryland, Arizona, New Mexico, and finally to Denver. For her outstanding work, she was elected to the World Youth Council.

League members are tops in her opinion. She is now in a retirement home and has given up her car, but gets around by bus. Polly continues to be a busy person, even in retirement.

**"SENATOR PAT PASCOE"** — Mary Hess, June 1992.

The celebration of voting rights for women began when Pat introduced "SJR 92-16 Concerning the Celebration of One Hundred Years of Woman Suffrage." She was costumed and addressed the Senate in the role of Helen Ring Robinson, Colorado's first woman senator who served from 1912 to 1916. The resolution was co-sponsored by Rep. Ruth Wright and all but one of the other legislators in the 1992 session. And it was passed unanimously in both houses.

Senator Pat Pascoe was elected to the Colorado General Assembly in 1988, and served two terms before she was "reapportioned out." When the Reapportionment Commission redrew district lines after the 1990 census, her Senate District was combined with others. However, she was praised by many for her courageous stands as a legislator who sponsored bills on such unpopular issues as gun control. Other legislation proposed by Sen. Pascoe concerned freedom of the press for high school student publications, child care, preschool education, marital maintenance, and reduction of woodsmoke pollution.

During her more than 20-year League membership, Pat was active in the Cheesman Unit, chaired a water briefing "ages ago," and co-chaired the Higher Education briefing for the metro-Denver area. She is a former educator -- a professional writer who specializes in education and politics.

A graduate of high school in Aurora after moving here from Wisconsin, she then attended the University of Colorado in Boulder. There, Pat earned a Bachelor's Degree with honors in English and general studies and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Master's and doctoral degrees, specializing in modern novel and Renaissance drama, were earned at the University of Denver. Over a span of sixteen years, she taught at both Metro State College and the University of Denver.

Pat and her husband, attorney Monte Pascoe, have three children — all graduates of Denver Public Schools. Her community interests include work with the Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and Colorado Coalition for the Arts. Concern for good education is reflected in the six years she served as a commissioner of the Education Commission of the States, following appointment by Gov. Lamm. She organized and chaired the Changing Schools Conference, was President of the East High School PTA, was co-chair of the State Board of Education Effectiveness and Efficiency of School District Committee, and served as a member of the State Board of Education Humanities Task Force. She has been a director of Common Cause, and has been active in many other organizations and projects. Her professional memberships include Denver Women's Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalists/Sigma Delta Chi.

League founder Carrie Chapman Catt, who urged women to "get into the great parties and work from the inside," would have cheered for Pat Pascoe! She used her education, her skills, and her League-expertise to run successfully for a seat in the state Senate -- the ultimate in government participation -- where she challenged other lawmakers to think about how to control guns and how to improve the environment. After being reapportioned out of her Senate district, she continues in the role of community leader. The question at the end of 1993 was: Will she be a candidate again? Of course!

**"DOROTHY THOMPSON LOBBIED FOR CHILDREN'S CODE,"** Dorothy Thompson, LWV Boulder Valley, (March 19, 1969).

In 1944, the Colorado League began working for a Colorado Children's Code. In 1948, Governor Lee Knous appointed a five-member Children's Code Commission to consider revision of Colorado laws affecting children. I represented the League on it. The Commission was promptly sued by a member of the Board of Standards of Child Care, and our legislative appropriation was taken from us by court order.\* But the penniless Code Commission managed to draft a Colorado Adoption Law which was passed by the General Assembly in 1949. Thanks were due mainly to that colorful Commission member, Representative Elizabeth Pellet from Rico, Colorado, sometimes known as the "Rico Rocket."

The work on the Children's Code continued. In 1963, a bill came for final reading before the Colorado House of Representatives, which proposed placing the licensing of child care centers in the Department of Public Welfare. League observers in the balcony got to hear a lengthy attack by one representative on the wicked League of Women Voters and the lies we had circulated in support of the bill. It was only stopped when Representative Pellet rose and said: "We are not here to abolish the League of Women Voters, but the Board of Standards of Child Care." The measure passed the House, and Boulder's Senator Woody Hewett took it through the Senate. In 1966, a complete Colorado Children's Code was actually passed.

NOTE: Dorothy reported that on the day she was served the subpoena to appear in court, she had been cleaning house and hurt her back when she tossed the laundry down the stairs. While she was lying in bed, practically unable to move, a sheriff's deputy came to the door. When he told her that he had a subpoena for her, Dorothy told him she could not come down stairs, and said, "You'll have to come upstairs and give it to me!" And that was what he did!

**"CAN A NONPARTISAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT?"** Marjorie Hornbein, LWV Denver (excerpts from an undated article, probably written in the 1930s)

Can a non-partisan women's organization influence legislation and policies of government? During its forty years of existence, the Colorado League of Women Voters has proven that such a group is indeed able to become a power in politics.

Incorporated on March 4, 1929, as the Woman Citizens League of Colorado, the League's charter proclaimed that "the objects of this organization shall be the promotion of education in citizenship . . . activity of women in public affairs, efficiency in government . . . and in other respects to advance the general welfare . . .

. . . when the dynamic Mabel Costigan undertook to establish the League in Colorado, she found many able women who eagerly shared the League's goal of intelligent citizen participation in government. Mrs. Costigan was the first president of the Colorado League and is generally regarded as its founder. And what noble spirits were her twenty-six comrades who were its charter members! Their names constitute a veritable "Who's Who in Colorado. Included were Mrs. Milton D. Green and Mrs. Louise Burns -- who with Mrs. Costigan were the signatories of the League's charter -- Mrs. Ben Cherrington, Mrs. James Rae Arneil, Mrs. Ed Dunklee, Mrs. James Grafton Rogers, Mrs. Platt Lawton, Miss Elizabeth Fackl, and Miss Josephine Roche.

The organization's policy of non-partisanship was clearly set out in its bylaws. The League would not "ally itself with or support any political party." However, despite this principle which has been conscientiously maintained for forty years, the League of 1930 was proud of the honor that came to its president when her husband, Edward P. Costigan, was elected United States Senator from Colorado. Several times the record mentions his election, although it was actually no part of League proceedings. Leaguers say that the organization's non-partisanship is one of its greatest assets. It shows that women of different political parties are able to work together in the public interest . . .

On most of the controversial issues of the day, the League of Women Voters has taken a position and worked persistently for many years before seeing its goals accomplished. Its principles have been consistent, it has supported liberal, progressive legislation in the public interest. It has fought for human rights over property rights . . . this non-partisan group of women has become a power to be reckoned with.

**"A LEAGUE HISTORY,"** May Clark, LWV Denver, (August 1975).

In 1928 Mrs. Edward P. Costigan returned from Washington D.C. to Colorado with a commission from the National League President to organize a League in Colorado. In addition to Mrs. Costigan, Colorado's organizational committee included Mrs. Ben Cherrington, Mrs. Harry I. Runnette, Miss Anna C. McClintock, Mrs. James Grafton Rogers, Mrs. Hugh McLean, Miss Georgia Nelson, Mrs. Robert Stearns, Mrs. James Rae Arneill, Mrs. Harriette F. Dunklee, Mrs. Platt Lawton and Miss Josephine Roche.

Because of a prior incorporation in 1920 by the Colorado Equal Suffrage Association as the Colorado League of Women Voters (which was not affiliated with the National League), the new affiliate was incorporated March 4, 1929, as the Womens Citizens League of Colorado. On October 28, 1940, new incorporation papers were filed changing the name to the League of Women Voters of Colorado, since the other organization no longer existed.

The state League in 1928 started with a unit in Denver doing both local and state work at first. The state League now includes local Leagues in Adams County, Arapahoe County, Aspen-Pitkin County, Aurora, Boulder, Denver, Durango, Fort Collins, Garfield-Eagle Counties, Grand Junction, Greeley, Jefferson County, Longmont, Loveland, Northwestern Colorado, Pikes Peak Region, Pueblo, Sterling, an inter-League organization of Denver area locals called the LWV of Metro Denver, and a Member at Large unit in Salida.

For almost 50 years now, the League of Women Voters of Colorado has covered a wide variety of program items. The League's national purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. This is supported by diligent research and study, followed by League consensus and finally action on the item by lobbying, initiating amendments or working with the governmental units involved. The League continues its commitment to an issue for as long as necessary.

Government units often make use of League studies, as in 1963 when the Governor's 100-member Local Affairs Study Commission used the League's three-part study of local government. The League works with other organization as it did with the Colorado Bar Association. when they promoted a successful Judicial Selection constitutional amendment. As another example, almost 20 years have gone into the work in support of measures to insure wise use of Colorado's water resources. Another 20 years have been spent on Reapportionment, culminating in the U.S. Supreme Court's one man-one vote decision and the 1974 voters' approval of a state reapportionment commission. It also took about twenty years from the time the study was undertaken until the Colorado Children's Code was passed by the General Assembly in 1967. Especially at election time, any voter may use League materials covering all sides of election proposals and the candidates' stands on varying current issues. Voters Guides and Ballot Issues pamphlets are easy to read and available from the LWVCO office and local Leagues.

Leaguers have been members of committees and commissions working to support the action necessary to accomplish change as determined by League study and research. Increasing numbers of League members also are running for public office while adhering to the League's policy for its members to be active in the party of their choice while the League itself remains non-partisan.

**"RECOLLECTIONS OF A DENVER LEAGUE PRESIDENT,"** Katherine Fitzpatrick Bowman, President, LWV Denver. 1950-51, (October 26, 1992).

League program included workshops on the United Nations and international trade. The Colorado Constitution, the Denver Charter, children's rights, and old age pensions were the dominant studies of the Denver League in 1950. Some members who were on the board at that time were: Jean Bain, Ruth Stockton, Ellen Harris, Mabel Costigan, Grace Shaw, Eliza Palladino, Carolyn Starbuck, Rosella Sherman, and Miss Harruchi.

Mrs. Edward Dunklee and several other League members participated in the Charter Convention to consider the need for pensions. Ruth Stockton and I wrote papers on the proposal for revision of the state constitution. A White House commission examined children's rights.

A significant change for the League was suggested by the national Convention in Minneapolis. League members were encouraged to become active within their respective political parties and to seek election to public office. However, in order to maintain the League's emphasis on nonpartisanship and issues, no candidate could serve on a local LWV board. Jean Bain, Ruth Stockton, and Ellen Harris became candidates and were elected to office in succeeding years.

The League's office was in the YWCA Building at 1545 Tremont Street. The dues were about \$5.00 per year, and much of the money collected was used for the pledge to the national organization.

**"A LEAGUER IN THE LEGISLATURE,"** Jean Knight Bain, LWV Denver. (October 27, 1992)

Shortly after the end of World War II, probably in the winter or spring of 1947, I was invited by the League of Women Voters of Denver to a tea at the home of Mrs. Henry Swan, 410 Marion St. I was unable to attend at that time and phoned to regret. I was then invited to the home of Mrs. Vance Kirkland, on 8th and Pearl Street, and I accepted. I think that the League in an effort to increase its membership extended invitations to members of the American Association of University Women, for many of my friends in AAUW were also invited and many of them joined the Denver League as I did.

The first League meeting I attended was at the home of Mrs. Jackson, at about 9th and Washington. (Judge Jackson was the father of Jean Emery, a long time member of the League and active on the Education Committee.) During this period our unit was called "Central Day." Later it became "Cheesman." May Clark spoke and we all became very enthusiastic about League.

Most of the members of Central Day lived in the Capitol Hill area. The unit grew and provided many officers and committee chairmen for the League. For a number of years we met regularly at the home of Mrs. Swan, who is now Mrs. Charles Gaylord. Later we met for many years at the home of Kate Stonington on 7th and St. Paul. Another frequent hostess was Mrs. Farrington Carpenter in the 700 block of Clarkson Street. The unit grew from the four or five at the start, so it was decided we should meet at Ascension Church on 6th and Gilpin. That idea didn't work. Attendance dropped and meetings returned to the hospitality of members' homes. At one time and possibly twice, Central Day was divided into two units -- east and west of York Street.

At one time I went with some other members to try to get a unit started in near North Denver. It didn't work. Perhaps we frightened them. In any event we were not successful. Speaking of frightening -- during those several times in which I campaigned for the State Legislature, I saw many men candidates frightened by Leaguers. Many men refused to go to neighborhood meetings because they did not want to be embarrassed by women who asked them hard questions. At that time campaigns were citywide, not in districts. The first state lobbyists from the League tended to come on too strong and did not succeed in making the points they wished to convey. Much as improved during the last two decades.

In 1965 the League was of immeasurable help in collecting signatures to put "KEEP THE JUDGES OUT OF POLITICS" on the ballot. Along with the efforts of the Colorado Bar Association, the proposal passed and judges no longer worked the campaign trail.

**"I JOINED THE LEAGUE BEFORE I COULD VOTE!"** Wilma Reneau Davidson, LWV Arapahoe County. (November 1, 1992)

"What kind of organization is this? Everyone is the president!". The somewhat inebriated questioner had joined a group of delegates to the national League Convention as we were relaxing in the hotel bar after a plenary session. It was true that our badges identified each of us as "president" — of our local Leagues — so we spent a hilarious half-hour explaining League to our new friend. Not every League member is the president, or wants to be, but it is true that our organization is famous for training its members to be leaders.

Until the 26th Amendment was approved on July 5, 1971, you had to be 21 years old before you could register to vote. My League career began in my junior year at the University of Colorado in Boulder, when my roommate Marguerite Sundquist — a transfer from Northwestern — organized a campus unit. The sponsor was Georgiana Benjamin, whose husband was Dr. Harold Benjamin, Dean of the College of Education. The first members included Mary Griffith, Lucille Lemmon, Wilma Reneau, Leonora Schanledling, and Marguerite Sundquist.

Recalling our meetings, it was obvious that League came second to dating for most of the young women we tried to interest. At that time, the ratio of men to women on the CU campus was about 3 to 1. However, we did have some good discussions of political issues. That was probably the way it was in most campus Leagues. They were



discontinued in about 1952 or 1953. The issue of establishing League units for young women, such as college students, has been brought up, discussed, and rejected at several national conventions since the voting age was lowered to 18.

In 1943, when I was working for the U.S. Air Corps at the old Central Bank Building in downtown Denver, I decided to go to the YWCA to swim after work every day. There I found the League office and joined the Denver League. My unit was made up of "working" women who met for dinner and discussion at the Stalder Inn. I can't say I was a really active member. In fact, during the previous year I had worked at the Office of Price Administration with Mabel Costigan and Elizabeth Blanc, and was not even aware that they were leaders in the League organization!

Leadership opportunities in the League are there for anyone who wants them. I have been a member in Denver, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; St. Louis Park, Minnesota; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Los Angeles, California; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Arapahoe County, Colorado. There was always something I could do on the local board in each League, and I have served on the Minnesota, North Carolina, and Colorado state boards — including a term and a half as Colorado president. Each job was challenging and interesting -- the best place to make friends. I agree with the person who said that the best way a woman can adjust to a "corporate move" of her family is to join the League of Women Voters!

**"COUNTY OFFICIAL ORGANIZED LEAGUE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY,"** Bill Noe, LWV Douglas County (November 1, 1992).

During my tenure as planning director for Douglas County, I was contacted by the Arapahoe County LWV on a regular basis to get current reports of land use activities that were taking place. Their main concern was to learn of Douglas County actions which might have an impact on southern Arapahoe County. The League person I was contacted by the most was Kay Herrera from the Littleton area. During this span of time, I saw the value of the LWV in the Arapahoe County land use and planning activities. I saw the need for such involvement in Douglas County as up to this time it was primarily the homeowners' associations that participated in the Douglas County land use and planning activities, and their concern was in their own areas and not the county at large.

I asked Kay Herrera if she would put me in contact with the State League officials who could discuss the possibility of establishing a Douglas County League chapter. She contacted the appropriate people and we set up a meeting here we discussed what was needed to organize the League in Douglas County. From this meeting, I developed a plan to identify women in the County who might have an interest in supporting a chapter of the League. As planning director, I knew most of the key people in the various communities who were politically active and not controlled by developers and real estate interests.

Nine to twelve women expressed enough interest in discussing the League for me to work with the State LWV officials in setting up an information lunch. I invited these women, along with Kay Herrera and the state League officials, to a lunch at the Pinery Country Club. Kay had moved to Douglas County during this time and belonged to the Country Club. At this lunch, I discussed why I believed a League was needed in Douglas County. The League representatives then explained the process to establish the chapter. There were six to eight women who attended from those invited and the response was positive. I asked for their commitment to continue the process of organizing a chapter, as I could not be visible due to the conflict of interest with the other county officials who saw the LWV as a threat to their activities -- they might be held accountable!

I continued participating in the organization process until we held a membership drive meeting. This was mainly a steering function and I was able to assist them with my overall county knowledge. The formal open meeting, inviting all Douglas County residents who were interested in joining the Douglas County LWV, was held on September 28, 1977 at the Christ Episcopal Church in Castle Rock. There was a good turnout with several people joining. (A notice had appeared in the Town & Country Squire on September 23, 1977.)

I could not directly be involved due to the "perceived" conflict of interest. There are lots of articles on the Douglas County land use activities in all the local papers in this time frame — **Denver Post**, November 27, 1977; **Town & Country Squire**, April 11, 1974; and **Douglas County News**, July 26, 1973.

**"SALUTE TO JANET ROBERTS,"** The Camera, Boulder, Colorado (February 26, 1978)

It was a big day for Janet Roberts — a well earned day of recognition of her 30 years (so far) of community service to Boulder. The celebration at the Boulder Public Library Saturday featured participation by more than a dozen organizations. And in the evening she was the guest of honor at a fund-raising dinner and dance at the Broker Inn sponsored by the Women's Resource Center.

As just about everyone knows, Janet Roberts was a long-time member of the Boulder City Council and one-term deputy mayor. She has been active in civic affairs 30 years, involved in city government 18 of the past 20. First, beginning in 1956, she served on the Planning Board. Except for two years, she served on the City Council from 1959 to 1977, when she decided not to run for another term.

She has been active in the League of Women Voters during her 30 years in Boulder and now serves on its legislative committee. She is on the Community Hospital board of directors and is a member of Democratic Women, Hospice, Inc. and the Boulder County Mental Health Center.

In all of her governmental and civic activities Janet Roberts has contributed foresight, good sense and innovation — and the energy to make her influence count for the good of the community.

A host of Boulder citizens were disappointed at her decision not to seek another term on the Council. But they will not be disappointed in the fact that she continues to be active in volunteer activities. Talent like hers cannot be put out to pasture.

The tributes paid to her Saturday were well earned, and they will not have ended there.

\* \* \*

This editorial is a well-deserved salute to a women whose exemplary activities are appreciated by the Boulder community and the League of Women Voters. The name of Janet Roberts appears in this history many times, confirming her dedication and responsibility to the League. As a member of the Boulder League since 1948, Janet has held positions on both the local League board and the State Board. As she says, she planned to "retire" in 1978, but discovered there were still things for her to do in her community, including serving on the board of Community Hospital. When they were unable to raise money for a plaque to honor Janet, The Boulder City Council named their chambers "The Janet Roberts Room."

**"PRESTIGIOUS AWARD TO HESTER McNULTY,"** Pat Johnson, (**Colorado Voter**, April 1990).

"Hester McNulty is my idea of the ideal American citizen. She's there; she's on time; she's prepared; and she knows what's going on in water. I don't always agree with her conclusions, but that's okay. That's all part of our option of government." This was Senator Harold McCormick (R-Canon City) speaking at a water forum sponsored by the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities on March 3, 1990.

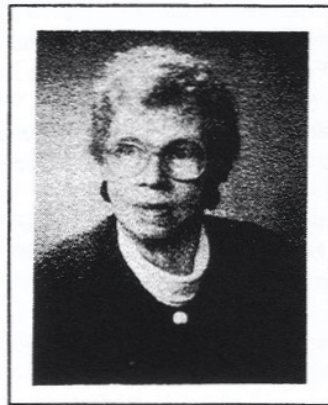
The Colorado League paid special tribute to Tess McNulty, member of the Boulder Valley League, State League Natural Resources/Water lobbyist, former LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee member, and environmental

tiger. Tess reaped rewards for a lifetime of extraordinary work for the League in service of the environment. On April 3rd, she was honored by Governor Romer as one of eight winners of the first annual "Celebrate Colorado" environmental awards program for her work on mined-land reclamation and water quality. Of all the eight groups and individuals receiving awards, Tess was the one who got a spontaneous standing ovation.

She received the Distinguished Chevron Conservation Award/1990 for promoting the protection and wise use of our renewable natural resources, most specifically, water. On May 16, she was honored at a banquet in Washington, where she was given a bronze medallion and a \$1,000 honorarium.

In August, laden down with honoraria, medallions, and plaques, Tess delivered the keynote address in Phoenix at a national water conference, called CONSERV, sponsored by major national professional organizations. The subject was water conservation. She did not bask in glory, but kept on working.

For more than 30 years as a volunteer for the League, Tess worked on conservation issues. She specialized in water resources — their conservation, cleanliness, and safety. She also worked to reform land reclamation, solid waste, land use, and processes for producing safe energy. She lobbied the legislature, participated in task forces, wrote extensively, and labored to bring together government, citizen groups, and the private sector for mutual solution of environmental problems. Tess contributed mightily to the Colorado League by developing training programs to help local Leagues take action and set goals. Pat Johnson, LWVCO President, said: "Tess McNulty is determined, enthusiastic, technically competent and patient. I know of no one who embodies the ideals and realities of work in the League more than Tess."



**Hester McNulty**

**"DOT SOBOL FINDS SATISFACTION IN LEAGUE"** — Barbara Wertheimer (February, 1993).

Dot found League membership fun, intellectual, and stimulating! She made it her business to find out about the League when she and her husband moved to Denver from St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1955. The Denver League welcomed her, and there she made the permanent friends she had not had while moving around the country.

League membership was very satisfying to Dot, as she worked on nominating and resource committees and served as board secretary and finance chair. She said the League membership was not partisan when she joined in 1955, as they were studying liberty and security, and that "People were particularly careful to be objective." Her interests included integration of the city, especially in Denver schools. Dot described the efforts to build a junior high school at Colorado Boulevard and Martin Luther King, which was opposed by the Park Hill residents because it would become a segregated black school. The people there worked hard for integration in Park Hill.

Another passion was pro-choice. She remembered growing up at a time when women died from bad abortions, or were forced to place the children they could not care for in orphanages. She knew that safe abortion was available to very few women. Before the war was over, Dot became an Army Nurse, and served on a hospital ship, making trips to Europe. Pictures of the children in Rumanian orphanages reminded her of the living skeletons in the death camps of World War II. And it intensified her pro-choice position.

The McCarthy era was frightening to Dot. In 1939, seemed that only the Communists were trying to stop Hitler. There was such a strong sense of betrayal when Hitler and Stalin signed a pact that many left the party. These people were blacklisted by the McCarthy hearings. She saw and heard much anti-semitism before and during World War II. Dot was bitter about former Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter. She said he had so much information yet refused to make known the horrendous plight of the Jews in Europe — people did not want to know!

The League of Women Voters gave Dot the forum to express her thoughts and to be influential where it mattered. Her sense of perspective gave another dimension to the issues and events in our world.

**“MEET A PRESIDENT -- MRS J. W. BRADBURY”** — The Sun, Colorado Springs, (May 31, 1970).

[Roberta Bradbury became state League President at the close of Council 1970, when Sue Joshel resigned to accept nomination to the LWVUS Board. Lee Ziegler, of the Pikes Peak League is her daughter.]

"To me the League of Women Voters is the most meaningful women's organization, and any time devoted to it is so worthwhile that I wouldn't want not to be involved in it." Thus Mrs. J.W. Bradbury, newly elected state president of the Colorado LWV, described her feelings about the organization.

Mrs. Bradbury first joined the LWV in Denver in 1957 when her husband was assigned to the department of political science at Air Force Academy. When the AFA was moved to Colorado Springs, she became a member of the local League and continued her membership here even when the family moved to Germany for four years, and then to San Bernardino, Calif. When Lt. Col. Bradbury retired in 1966, they moved back to Colorado Springs. Within 24 hours after she had arrived here, Mrs. Bradbury said, she had a call from the local League asking her to head a water study. She had previously worked on a similar study in Denver. Nor had she been inactive in the years between. She had participated in Great Decisions discussion groups in Wiesbaden, Germany, and worked on a human resources study in San Bernardino.

Work on studies and projects of the League, she believes, should be valuable not only to those who live in one place permanently, but to those women who move from town to town. "It makes wherever you go that much more meaningful," she remarked. "Military wives and others who think of themselves as transient; should make a re-evaluation. Particularly when you work with the national program, you will find ladies in your new community interested in the same issues."

*Membership Portfolio.* Mrs. Bradbury became a member of the state board in 1967 (with her husband's encouragement, she commented), and was given the membership portfolio. Her job was that of helping local leagues develop programs to encourage membership. She helped to establish a member-at-large unit in Salida, the first such unit in Colorado, and two new provisional leagues in Craig and Aspen.

She was a delegate to the national convention two years ago, and was state first vice president last year. She has just returned from her second national convention in Washington D.C. which included a visit to the United Nations and a chance to hear talks by Sec. Gen. U Thant, and British ambassador Lord Caradon. One of the most interesting decisions to come out of the national convention, Mrs. Bradbury said, was that of admitting 18-year-olds to membership. Mrs. Bradbury finds it a particularly hopeful situation that more and more young people are asking how they work toward the things they think desirable, instead of demanding them instantaneously.

Much emphasis this year will be put on voter service and where students request it the League will provide them with political effectiveness techniques. The League can supply knowledge for working within the system for those interested in everything from registration to working for political parties and specific candidates.

"This is the Year of the Volunteer," Mrs. Bradbury said, remarking that it is not only an election year, but the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage for Negro males, and incidentally the 25th anniversary of the founding of the UN. There is also a continuing interest in education and the League will undertake an educational project on individual

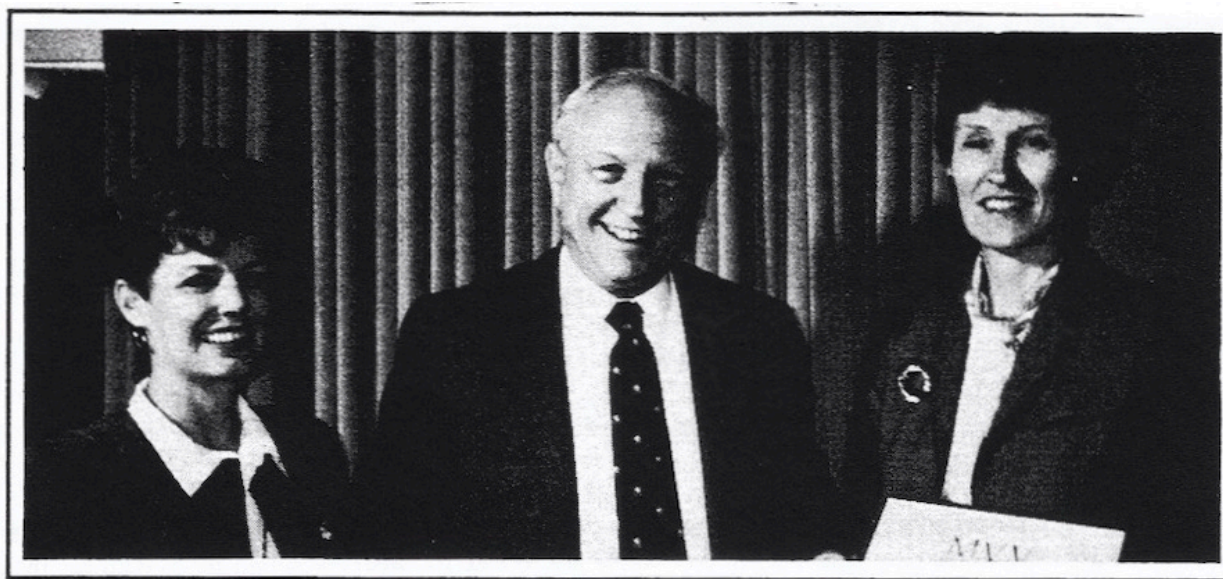
civil liberties, on privacy and dissent. The League sees a role for itself in helping to de-escalate polarization in the country, and in providing a forum for all points of view so that there can be dialogue and exchange of ideas, she said.

*More Signatures.* Mrs. Bradbury thought it noteworthy that when delegates in Washington presented to their state's senior senator the lists of signatures gathered in support of congressional representation for the District of Columbia, Colorado had more signatures per member than any other state except Hawaii.

On the state level, she revealed, a publication is planned on environmental planning and management, and the interrelationship of governmental structures concerned with environment. "We're going to be looking at the way state government is set up to handle environmental problems, water, air, and land use," she explained. Commenting on the fact that some people have been critical of the League for not taking a stand on current issues, Mrs. Bradbury said, "We can't do this instant reaction bit as some people think we should." She explained that the areas the League studies are proposed by the members, and that each study takes a minimum of two years. Members dig out and evaluate everything available on the issue so as to speak "not from ignorance but from facts." "If we can reach a consensus, we take a stand," she said. "Wishing us to take positions and pass resolutions on issues that are hot at the moment would be a rejection of League process." She emphasized, however, that the League does see that information on both sides of issues is available to voters as a part of their educational service.

**"MANVILLE HONORS KATHY BUSCH" — Marjorie Null, COLORADO VOTER, January 1990.**

The Manville Corporation has honored Kathy Busch, senior paralegal, as one of its Most Valuable Volunteers in recognizing her volunteer work in the League of Women Voters during the past twenty years. The award allowed Busch to designate \$250 from Manville to the Arapahoe County League to help pay for the biannual VOTERS GUIDE, an informational brochure with the names of elected and appointed officials in Arapahoe County, profiles of government entities, and registration and voting information. She was one of five Manville Corporation employees from across the country to be recognized as Most Valuable Manville Volunteers for the year. She designated that award of \$2500 for voters service work of the Arapahoe County League.



(L-R) Sherry Luhman, Pres. LWV Arapahoe County; Rollie Heath, Sr. VP Manville; & Kathy Busch, Sr. Paralegal Manville & member LWVAC.

Busch served the Arapahoe County League as president, vice president, and voters service chair in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and again as voters service chair from 1987 to 1989. Additionally, in 1980-81, she was voters service chair on the board of the League of Women Voters of Colorado. At the state League convention in 1989, Busch was given an award for special on-going service to the League. The Colorado Supreme Court also honored Kathy for her ten years of service on its Public Education Committee.

Sherry Luhman, president of the LWV of Arapahoe County, said Busch's strong leadership the last two decades has been instrumental in overseeing the distribution of a quarter of a million VOTERS GUIDES and a half million BALLOT ISSUE pamphlets, hundreds of Speakers Bureau presentations, moderating scores of candidate forums, and attending hundreds of League meetings where important public policy study and action were considered. "Words are often inadequate to justly portray someone of Kathy's stature," Luhman said, "She joined League when she was not in the paid labor force, and continued her level of commitment even while working full-time. She's the backbone of League's heritage and a model for its future."

**"MEMORIES OF METRO"** — Mary Ann McCoy, LWV Arapahoe, (1993).

I started on the Metro Denver ILO Board after several years as secretary for the Arapahoe County LWV Board. Elizabeth Hetrick (who has since remarried and has a different name now) was an Arapahoe County Leaguer who had been the liaison to Metro and then became President. Metro was just a board, with a representative of each of the local Leagues, a president, a treasurer, and a secretary. Once, it may have had people on it with portfolios, but (if so) that was before my time.

Metro put on programs for the local Leagues on the topics of water and metro governance/cooperation. We also put on programs on metro transportation because we had positions on all of these. We supported a metro-wide tax to be used for cultural improvements.

Adams County League sent us Carolyn Thompson, who also put together our bulletin and saw that all local Leagues got one to include with their own Voters. At one time, Metro distributed their Voters by passing them out at meetings. Jefferson County sent us Dawn Adams who was interested in transportation. Later, she was replaced by Eleanor Leonard and Laurel Kaufman. Arapahoe sent Sue Dichter, who was ignored by the Arapahoe Board, which at that time did not think Metro should exist. Denver sent Faye Weinberg. Even Boulder had representatives until 1984 or so, when they withdrew. Finally, after I had served two terms, we talked Kayleen Herzog into being president, but Metro was dissolved after her term was up, because board members could not be found.

Actually, at the 1985 Metro Convention, a resolution was brought up to terminate Metro, but after a long discussion and some parliamentary maneuvering, we managed to stay alive by having another Metro Study Group. Through the years, we had at least three study groups to see how to keep Metro going. The board was pretty tenacious because we thought Metro issues were important, but we never did have a level of government to relate to—the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) being the closest approximation. We never observed that council, either. The board all liked each other and felt we were doing something useful, but we could not convince the majority of Leaguers of that; plus, most Leaguers didn't know what we were. No, I guess we deserved to die. The local presidents get together now and then, but there isn't much going on on a metro level.

In about 1989, a couple of Denver Leaguers called a meeting to see if we could become ONE LEAGUE, i.e., a League of Women Voters of the Greater Denver Area, but the time was not right for that either.

**"TEEDY KERN OF ENGLEWOOD"** — Mary Ann McCoy (November 20, 1993).

At one time there were three local Leagues in the southwest part of Arapahoe County. They were Englewood, Littleton, and Cherry Hills. Teedy mentioned some of the names of other early Englewood Leaguers. Hildred

Garrison was one of the founders of the League of Women Voters of Englewood, and was active until she was in her 80s. Greta Brown edited the COLORADO VOTER. She was an author and editor from Austria. The fire chief's wife, a curmudgeon but a great cook, and the city manager's wife joined the Littleton League. At one time, Englewood had forty members, most of whom were interested in local issues. They were expected to be observers of city council.

Teedy lived 37 years in the same house on Dartmouth, across the street from the original farmhouse. She joined League a couple of years after moving there. The library had many books — some donated. The city offices were very small. Things changed when Cinderella City was built. Cinderella City was a big interest. The area where it now stands was a park, and a Norgren building was there. It was the biggest mall ever when it was built. The library was made possible by the taxes from Cinderella City. League finally decided to support the development because of the benefits to Englewood, but not in a very active way.

Water was a big topic. Teedy remembers making maps for a presentation. The Englewood League met twice a month. Once a person got involved, they did a lot. There were good meetings and many good friends. Another big topic was Trade. They put on a big United Nations festival at the Englewood High School. The whole community was involved, including some who had traveled to Nigeria and Russia. They had Polish dancers. Although it was a snowy day, the people came. Invitations had been sent out through grade school children. It was so successful that they did it again for two years after that.

Englewood Leaguers carried petitions to get the reapportionment commission on the ballot. Greta Brown was a great petition circulator, even going out on Sundays. Later, they worked to get the Motor Voter initiative on the ballot. A lot of people served on boards. Teedy and Evelyn Morris were on the library board, Jo Turner was on the civil service board, and Debbie Pool served on the school board for a long time.

Teedy once observed the county commissioners in the old Court House for her first time, not knowing anything. Nobody showed. When they came in, they had a lawyer with them who told her it was a closed meeting. They didn't even have an agenda, so she had to go home. Later, with pressure from the League, the commissioners did publish their agendas.

Then came the time when the Leagues began to lose members because women were going back to work for pay. At one time, they even had an evening meeting. Edna Tourtellotte was good on policy issues. But most of the members couldn't deal with committee work any more, and saw that their programs weren't what they should be. In 1969, the presidents of the three Leagues — Englewood; Ellen Reesy, Cherry Hills, and Nonie Ragsdale, Littleton -- got together to form the League of Women Voters of Arapahoe County. However, they didn't really give up their local issues.

Finance drives were always held. They would send out one letter advising local business people that Leaguers would be coming to ask for contributions for community service. They would get money from the small merchants and they would go to visit everyone. Once the bank gave them \$150 and they nearly fell over! Leaguers wouldn't sleep well the night before the drive day, but on the day, they would put on their hats and go visit all those they had sent letters to, and re-visit at least two more times if they missed the person. They were pretty successful in getting money.

Once, Teedy and League President Lucy Wilson visited Englewood Press, which was very non-union. Henick Roth, a labor leader, was on the same side as League in the reapportionment issue, but he was never in when they came to collect. When they went back on a Saturday, he was very sarcastic to the ladies, saying how pleased he was with them. So Teedy said, "If you're so pleased, why don't you double your donation?" (at that time \$10.00) and he did. They laughed over that for a long time.

They would get a lot of feedback from people they visited, and enjoyed it in retrospect. One one card, a member had written: "He is a bear." They went anyway, only to find that he had a great beard and did look like a bear! He gave them a donation.

They did candidates meetings for the city council. They once invited a judge when judges were not supposed to give campaign speeches. At one candidates meeting only eight people came. They had trouble getting an audience. Visitors from Colombia, funded by the LWVUS Education Fund, observed a candidates meeting.

Meetings were held in the Englewood Library with large meetings in public schools. The Englewood group became the Tuesday Morning Unit of the Arapahoe League. When the League studied zoning, they took an interesting tour of Englewood, along the river into unknown territory, looking at little tiny houses, on a road where their bus got stuck at a gravel pit.

Edna Hill was active in many things the League did, and often presented the program. May Clark was helpful in getting the Arapahoe League started. Potlucks were held at Lillian Woods' home, sometimes with foreign dishes. Everybody did their very best at the potlucks.

**"REMINISCENCES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHERRY HILLS"** — Gladys Foster  
(November 29, 1993).

I joined the Cherry Hills League of Women Voters in 1956, just a few years after it was organized. In a fairly short time, I became Foreign Policy chair and did a lot of work on Trade. I was President about 1962–64. Later, I was on the State Board, again with a Foreign Policy portfolio.

In the spring of 1964, I was a delegate to National League Convention in Pittsburgh. President Lyndon Johnson spoke to us. You can imagine the excitement! It was only a few months after the assassination of president Kennedy, and it seemed there was a secret service man behind every drapery and potted plant in the hotel.

Another highlight at that convention was a brilliant speech by British economist Barbara Ward. She said she was a great admirer of the League, and had in her mind a picture of Sen. Aiken running over the hills of Vermont with a bevy of Leaguers in hot pursuit. The senator is saying, "Only 250,000 of them? I thought there were millions!" Neil MacNeil, then a regular on the TV program, "Washington Week in Review," told about a colleague of his who, in speaking to a League audience, asked how many knew who their congressman was. He was amazed when every one present raised her hand. MacNeil knew, of course they that would be so — knowing Leaguers.

Cherry Hills presidents I remember include Wilma Garrison. Pat Snepenger. Joan Giesecke. Dottie Blom. Maxine Marler (who is now a member of the Denver League), Edna Hill, and Ellen Reesy. Jane Wasson is another former Cherry Hills Leaguer who is now a member of the Denver League. She was at one time president of the Metro Denver League. Edna Hill was membership chair when I was president, and did such a great job that our membership passed one hundred.

It was during Ellen's term that the Cherry Hills, Englewood, and Littleton Leagues consolidated to form the Arapahoe County League. There was an Aurora League at that time, too, but they decided not to join the Arapahoe League.

Fanny Pilz was president of the Littleton League and Lucy Wilson was president of the Englewood League during my tenure as president of Cherry Hills. We worked together very congenially — cooperating on many issues and candidates meetings. It seemed eminently reasonable to join forces and thereby get more clout while economizing on woman power. The move to consolidate was under way at this time.

In those years, I remember Betty Ann Dittmore being very active. She later became a state legislator — she always did argue convincingly! Nancy Dominick, wife of U.S. Senator Peter Dominick, was a member of our League. Sally Jordon's husband Tom was in the state legislature. Penny Tweedy moved to Maryland, and subsequently, was the owner of the great racehorse Secretariat.



When Dottie Blom was president, she had a Christmas party and her husband wrote a beautiful parody about the life of a League husband. Some of it went like this: "Friend, did you ever come home from work tired and hungry, and find a note that said: 'Supper's in the fridge, dear, we're out delivering flyers.' And Friend, did you ever come home and tell your wife that you're going to a convention next week, and find your wife is going to one, too? And, Friend, did you ever want to make love, and your wife would rather talk about the issues?" And so on . . .

An issue of great interest and concern was reapportionment. We also worked hard to get home rule for Cherry Hills Village. Another big issue was metropolitan government. I've often felt our position on annexation might have been misunderstood in some quarters. Our League, along with other groups and individuals, was always working against annexations by Denver. Freda Poundstone of Greenwood Village eventually got the "Poundstone Amendment" passed through powerful lobbying, putting a damper on Denver annexations. It wasn't that we were paranoid about "big, bad Denver" as a city; it was that annexations to the city of Denver also meant annexations to the Denver School District. This was not true of any other city in the state. So the schools were unable to plan, and the children were always having to change schools even though their address remained the same. When you have to change in your senior year from your high school to a strange high school in Denver through no action on your own, you may not be happy.

Our League usually had its annual meeting at the Cherry Hills Country Club. We had fun, and we worked hard. I remember a guest speaker we had one time (someone big in state government) saying he had just witnessed a well-oiled political machine in action. League was a great experience!

#### **"A LEAGUER'S WASHINGTON, DC ADVENTURE," Joan Leon, *Colorado Voter* (May 1992).**

What an exciting time to be in Washington! Lots of action in Congress on League priority issues, coalition meetings, a LWVUS board meeting, news conferences, the Pro-Choice rally, and cherry blossoms!

As Rosalie Goodman Fellows, Cindy Biggs of Wooster, Ohio, and I were busy every day with legislative action. When we arrived at the League office, we were welcomed, introduced to staff, shown to our offices, then met with Lloyd Leonard, Legislative Action Director. And action there would be! After months of work, RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) was coming up for subcommittee mark-up, Motor Voter was nearing Senate Action, campaign finance reform was ready for conference committee after having moved through both the House and Senate, and plans were in the works for the Pro-Choice rally.

We went to a coalition meeting at USPIRG for RCRA strategy planning, where a news conference was scheduled. Calls to action were needed to targeted subcommittee members for their support. Cindy and I called leagues in those Congressional districts to generate calls to Members of Congress. It was great to talk to League members in New Jersey, Tennessee, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Washington. I even called Colorado state board member Gerry Cummins to get Leaguers to call Dan Schaefer.

We wanted to attend the mark-up and found long lines of people waiting to get in. Some were hired (at \$25 per hour we were told) to save a place in the line for some industry representative. They would hold up a sign with the company name so the rep could find them. We returned later when the lines were gone, and did get in. It was fascinating to see the way amendments were offered, substituted, and voted on. When a vote came up on the floor of the House, a buzzer would sound, and the Members had 15 minutes to go to the Capitol to vote. The meeting was suspended until the Members returned. One great example of lobbying was when the director of USPIRG waited in the corridor to speak to Al Swift, chairman of the subcommittee. Mr. Swift heard a pitch all the way down the hall and into the meeting room.

After a meeting of the Lobby Corps at League office, I met with Anne Kanter who lobbied Colorado's members of Congress. We called on senators to distribute information about Motor Voter and to see if they would be there for the expected meeting where 60 votes were needed for cloture. Anne has been a member of the Lobby Corps for four

years, and I was impressed with her professionalism and confidence as she met with staff members. We visited the offices of Senators Hank Brown and Tim Wirth, and the staff people were very receptive to our visit.

Even with the multitudes of people, the Pro-Choice rally was orderly while speakers made spirited demands for more women in elected offices at all levels. The huge crowd was so diverse! One of my favorite signs said "M I T Nerds for Choice."

One day was especially memorable because so many exciting things happened. First a strategy meeting at Common Cause with Fred Wertheimer joining in for last-minute plans on campaign finance. Then a meeting with Pat Schroeder, after she had given a workshop to Pro-Choice lobbyists on effective methods to get the message across: put flyers in menus of restaurants, in restrooms, BE VISIBLE!" Back in her office, Pat told about the power structure in Congress, and the good chances for newly elected members.

Then back to the League office to make phone calls about campaign finance to key Congressional staff people. Our calls indicated lots of support. More calls to action were needed to targeted Democrats who opposed the public financing provision. Cindy and I activated the League's grassroots because timing was short — the spring recess was approaching and action was expected before then. This day ended with a walk to the Tidal Basin to see the famous cherry blossoms.

The culmination of all our efforts came when we attended the session on Congress where the House was to vote on campaign finance. After much party wrangling, there was finally a call for a vote. The buzzer sounded, and the nearly empty House chamber began to fill as members came from committee meetings to vote. They each have a plastic card like a credit card which is inserted into a slot on the back of the seats, then a button is pushed for yes, no, or present. The results are shown on a giant screen with each Member's name and their vote. It was fun to recognize representatives and know that Leaguers had called their offices for support. The bill was passed, and it was a victory for League.



*Joan Leon*

**“LEAGUE 2000,”** Betsy McBride, LWVCO President (**Colorado VOTER**, January 1992)

Alvin Toffler wrote about change saying that even the rate of change was accelerating. Organizations or missions that cannot locate a nimbleness to adjust are rushing toward obsolescence. In the League, we struggle to meet the demands of today's work even while we move toward the unknowns of unfamiliar projects and onrushing opportunities.

We constantly feel the scarcity of resources. Our two telephone lines ring and ring with Coloradans seeking assistance. We give out information on voting, registration, government agencies, elected representatives, constitutional wording, election laws, General Assembly information — all predictable.

But there are also calls asking where to recycle or find out about immigration status. Other organizations seek guidance on information distribution, candidates' forums, homeowners' elections, rules for debates, petition drives, the legislative process. One agency of government thought we might like to voluntarily staff motor voter and another invited us to run the state's civics contest. It is very tempting to feel at the center of all political activity.

We are moving into the "90s" as federal grant managers, as project subcontractors, and as trainers of grassroots activists. We are spending significant time thinking about an integrated data management system and the machines we need to serve the people of Colorado. We have reorganized our board in an attempt to spread the decision-making and to seek the efficiencies of detailed planning at the appropriate level.

We have recognized that the League of Women Voters is a state resource that the public will support. Our development efforts have reflected that recognition. Our mission of providing the information and support to encourage active citizen participation was always the driving force behind our extraordinary voluntary output. Now, as we enter the last decade of this century, we have dedicated the League to protecting citizen access to government for this generation and the ones to follow. No civic mission could make a greater difference.

**“HENRIETTA HAY OF GRAND JUNCTION,”** Shirley Matthews, LWV Grand Junction (1993).

Henrietta Hay writes a column that is printed in the **Grand Junction Sentinel**, but she is also the author of such League publications as *"Understanding City and County Government: A Citizen's Guide."*

Henrietta was born and raised in Englewood — a Feminist before anybody knew what that was! I went to school with John Hay (her circa 1940 son) who was so smart and well-read it didn't matter what any of the rest of us did, he was better. Her youngest son must've been in junior high or grade school when we were in high school, so big kids like me (and my friends) don't know him.

It seemed like whenever I went into the library — 9:00 am or 9:00 PM — John Hay's Mom, the Librarian, was always there. Very good with kids, she always acted as though whatever subject you wanted to pursue was thoroughly fascinating and worthwhile.

During the year of celebrating the century of voting rights for Colorado women, she has written a series of articles about the woman suffrage campaign.

# 1993 marks centennial of women's right to vote in Colorado

Nov. 7, 1893, was a day of celebration for the pioneer women of Colorado, and a day for men and women to remember with pride in 1993.

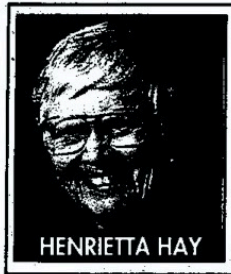
On that date a hundred years ago, Colorado became the first state in the union to give women the right to vote.

(We have to be honest. Wyoming granted women suffrage in 1869, but it was a territory at the time.)

The road there was not an easy one, but no social change ever is. The suffragettes make the women who are working today for equal rights look pretty tame.

The long, hard battle for women's suffrage really began in 1848, with the National Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, N.Y., which proclaimed that "It is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise."

The Seneca Declaration goes on to say, "The women of this country ought to be enlightened in regard to the laws under which they live, that they



HENRIETTA HAY

may no longer publish their degradation by declaring themselves satisfied with their present position, nor their ignorance by asserting that they have all the rights they want." Pretty strong stuff for 1848 — or 1993, for that matter.

Here in Colorado, when the State Constitutional Convention met in 1875, suffrage was a major issue.

The Pueblo Chieftain said of the suffragettes at the convention:

"They were a very interesting lot of females — only one good-looking woman among the twenty-five present. ... The others were faded and awfully frigid."

The men had to decide whether to allow these pushy, frigid females to vote and, not surprisingly, the answer was no. They did, however, agree to allow a statewide vote on the matter.

The next year, the issue was put before the male voters (the only kind there were). Some of the arguments that were used against suffrage are still being used against gender equality today.

One Denver minister intoned, "God intended woman to be a wife and a mother, and the eternal fitness of things forbade her to be anything else."

The referendum was defeated. Most Denver newspapers explained it by pointing to inappropriate female behavior.

The suffragettes assessed the defeat more accurately, realizing that the great majority of women really didn't care enough to get involved in the campaign.

A little later, the female owner of the new Denver newspaper, *The Antelope*, wrote, "Women should remember that all the evils of society are caused by the bad management of men, and women are greatly to blame for folding their hands and permitting this state of things."

But the fight had just begun. The suffragettes did the 1893 version of taking off the gloves and rolling up their leg o' mutton sleeves. They knew they had to get to the women, so they started organizing them — an early version of "networking."

The leaders were expert politicians. They argued and cajoled and reasoned, all in very proper language with their skirts trailing in the mud or the dust and wearing their huge feathery hats.

Women's organizations were formed. The women's Christian Temperance Union was the leader, battling demon rum and men-only suffrage with equal enthusiasm. Church groups, literary clubs, garden clubs, labor and political groups all started working together for the first time. This was a new and wonderful idea for women.

Strong-minded women like Susan B. Anthony,

Mother Jones, Emily Griffith, Molly Brown, Carrie Nation with her ax and Mattie Silk with her girls — they all got in the battle.

Their chance came six years later after Davis H. Waite was swept into the governor's office on a Populist wave, which favored women's suffrage. Another suffrage election was set for Nov. 7, 1893.

This time the women were ready.

The Non-Partisan Equal Suffrage Association entered the campaign in April 1893 with 28 members and \$25 in the treasury. Baby Doe Tabor donated office space in the Tabor Opera House. Their slogan was, "Let the women vote. They can't do any worse than the men have."

Colorado women labored tirelessly. Suffrage leaders like Carrie Chapman Catt stumped the state. On Election Day the women buttonholed the men as they entered the voting places. We don't know exactly what they said, but whatever it was, it worked. By the afternoon of Nov. 8 they knew they had won. The *Antelope* headlined, "Western Women Wild with Joy Over Colorado's Election."

On Nov. 7, 1893, the men of Colorado, by a vote of 35,798 to 29,451, made our state the first in the nation to grant suffrage to its women. Our deepest thanks to those men and to Colorado's first feminists.



# Women 'wild with joy' after winning right to vote in 1893

THE GRAND JUNCTION DAILY NEWS, Edwin Price, Publisher, Nov. 11, 1893:

"EXTRA — EXTRA — By a vote of 35,798 to 29,451 the men of Colorado have extended the privilege of voting to the lovely ladies of the fair state.

"INFORMATION FOR LADY VOTERS. They are entitled to vote at all elections both state and national.

"The voters of Colorado have very cordially and gallantly extended to the ladies the same privileges which they themselves have enjoyed with the ballot, and as soon as Governor Waite issues the proclamation announcing this fact, the ladies will be entitled to have their say as to how we shall be governed.

"Special tribute must be paid to the gallant men of Mesa County who voted overwhelmingly for their ladies. The vote was 794 for equal suffrage, and 219 against."



association met yesterday afternoon and plans were discussed for getting a thorough grasp of the new conditions made by the success of the suffrage movement. Systematic study of political subjects is to be taken up. For this purpose a committee was appointed to arrange a programme of study. Various governments will be taken up and studied with a view to getting a thorough knowledge of civil and social problems.

"The ladies decided to postpone any celebration to November 25, when some of the pent-up joy will be let loose in jollification." The editor did not elaborate on what the jollification would be on the 25th of November, but we know they were "wild with joy."

So now these wonderful Western women could vote. I met a few of them in the extensive records of the time, and I stand in awe of them. They were mostly highly intelligent, well-educated, religious women who were concerned about their state, their community, their homes and their rights as individuals. And after their victory they took their new status very seriously.

One lady wrote to the paper, "In common with many ladies, I rejoice today in the right of the

Edwin Price tended to get a bit flowery, but he was outclassed by the Denver newspaper, The Queen Bee, which started life as The Antelope. Caroline Nichols Churchill, its owner and a maverick among women of her time, recorded the victory. "WESTERN WOMEN WILD WITH JOY OVER COLORADO'S ELECTION. Come ye disconsolates, wherever you languish, come to Colorado and cast in your lot, here the sun shines brightest and there is hope for all women. ... Come ye sinners poor and needy, come to Colorado now, this shall be the land for women ..."

THE DENVER REPUBLICAN, November 1893, as quoted by Edwin Price, takes up the story:

"Now that equal suffrage has been approved ... many women who worked hard in the campaign and many more who only watched with more or less indifference — many women of many minds are framing this question, 'What about it?' Many inquiries have reached this office from those who will soon be on an equal footing with men, so far as the right to vote is concerned, and they want to know if it is really a fact or will they still be limited in the use of the ballot.

"The executive committee of the Equal Suffrage

franchise. But many of us who have taken no active interest before in politics, will need some instructions on the subject. Would the Republican be so kind as to tell us when we may first exercise our prerogative?"

Mrs. John L. Routt, president of the Denver City League, a woman of queenly presence, said the day after the election, "I never felt so weak in all my life." She was the first woman in the state to register.

The Monday Literary Club of Denver voted to go to the polls for the first time as a group.

Others asked, "Now that I have received this new right, what books shall I get to teach me how to exercise it?"

The day after the election a woman recently arrived from Germany accosted one of the members of the suffrage association saying, "Ach, Yon he feel so bad; he not vote any more; me, I vote now." She was relieved to find that Yon could continue to vote.

Colorado women had created a social reform movement and they were truly "wild with joy." I wish I could have been part of the jollification in Grand Junction that November a hundred years ago.

## **"ELIZABETH BLANC, PRESIDENT 1935-1936, WOMEN CITIZENS LEAGUE OF COLORADO"**

*The 50-year Speakout, LWVCO Convention, April 17, 1969*

When you asked me to reminisce with you regarding the period when I held office as State President, I expected to stick to the years 1934 and 1936, but as I looked over the minutes of that early period I found them so fascinating that I decided to go even further back to the beginning of time and share with you what I found there.

It was in 1929 that a representative of the national League came to Denver to try to form a local league. I think it was Constance Roach who came and I can still remember sitting on my front porch and talking to her—why I did not ask her in the house I don't know. At any rate, she was successful and interested some of the leading women of Denver in her project. These were headed by Mrs. Edward Costigan whose husband was later U.S. Senator, and included such well known names as Mrs. Ben Cherrington, Mrs. Robert Stearns, Mrs. Edward Dunklee, Mrs. Platt Lawton, Miss Elizabeth Fackt, and Mrs. Lewis Abbott of Colorado Springs, and Miss Eleanor Dennison, who later became a member of the staff at National Headquarters

However, the informal tone continued and I found that we often adjourned for hot chocolate and cake, that invitations of the officers for lunch, dinner, and supper meetings were joyously accepted, that once I was thanked for my delightful hospitality, and that when Mrs. Paul Eliel, President of the S.F. League, spoke, she was so fascinating that we were loath to return to the work of the meeting.

In 1931, Mrs. Louesa Brownfield started our first radio program with KOA which went on successfully for several years. It was during this [that the League supported] Muscle Shoals. Later when that developed into the TVA, the president of the League, Mrs. Baldwin, was invited to the White House for the signing of the bill and was given one of the pens by F.D.R. in recognition of the help given by League members. The new league also backed the Lane Duck Amendment, the Maternity and Infancy legislation, the U.S. entrance into the World Court and Senator Borah's amendment on the limitation of armaments.

In 1930 Mrs. Stearns as treasurer reported 83 paid up members. It was then that the minutes ceased being hand written and assumed a more professional typed appearance. Greeley and Boulder both applied for membership in 1931 and were voted in — Boulder with 23 members and Greeley with 33. The treasurer's report at the end of that year showed \$6.56 in the bank. In 1932 we had a balance of \$5.04, in 1933 \$5.98 and in 1934 \$12.92.

In 1932 we celebrated with a two-candle birthday cake and for the first time organized a candidates meeting with Mr. Stapleton and Mr. Grant appearing as candidates for mayor. The same year Denver became a separate league with 160 members. And the first mention was made of a "Get out the Vote Campaign." Once again the national League was helpful in getting the Child Labor Amendment passed and the President, Miss Wells, was asked to the White House for the signing.

My presidency began in 1935, and I can still remember the two things I wanted most of all to accomplish. They were, first of all, to secure the rightful name of the League of Women Voters; and secondly, to increase the number of Leagues in Colorado, there being only two at that time, Denver and Boulder — Greeley had dropped out. I worked hard on the change of name and made many weary trips to the State Capitol to meet George Saunders, then Secretary of State. He was most sympathetic but seemed unable to do anything about it until 1940 when the corporation papers of the other group expired. In the meantime we did our best to arrange a meeting with the women of the other group to try to work out a compromise but after four tries when none of the women appeared, we had to give up. It was not until May 1940 that we got our legal name, although we had been affiliated with the national League since 1929. That May morning on the expiration date, a small group of us got up early to wait outside Mr. Saunders' door with application papers in hand.

The second objective, that of increasing the State membership, was only partially successful. Pueblo formed a League after a visit by three of us from the State League where we met with some 30–40 women, twenty seven of whom became members and elected their officers.

Grand Junction applied for membership but nothing seemed to come of it the4 and Mrs. Beck made several trips to Lamar but was not entirely successful in forming a League. A request also came from Ft. Morgan but did not seem to be followed up — why I don't know. That year we held a State council at the "Y" in Denver and charged a 25-cent registration fee. Out of a budget of \$235 we decided to appoint a publicity chair and allot her the magnificent sum of \$10.00 to carry on her work. That was the same year we decided we needed a downtown location and the "Y" offered us space for a bookcase and the use of a conference room in exchange for a donation. We gave one of \$5.00.

Mrs Florence Kirlin, Congressional Secretary of the National League, came out to help us in our studies of national legislation which included the newly passed Social Security Act and also to help set standards for our study of a fair income tax for Colorado. Those were the highlights I remember on reviewing the minutes of that era. I was struck with the dedication and sacrifice the women who started the League, with their deep sense of responsibility to its success, and their willingness to try new ways to overcome their many problems.

It is coincidental, perhaps, that we in Colorado should be celebrating our 40th Anniversary just as national is celebrating its half century of existence. To those pioneers as well as to you, I feel that our country owes a real debt and I am sure that those of us who were fortunate enough to be in at the beginning take great pride in the fact that we could contribute even a small part to such a great organization as is ours today.

#### **"DOROTHY HILL, BOULDER SUFFRAGIST AND LEAGUER"**

*The 50-year Speakout, LWVCO Convention, April 17, 1969.*

Mary L. Derr writes: This is the best I could do for you in giving you Dorothy Hill's speech. When I asked her for the speech or some notes, she said, "It is not good warmed-over. I'm afraid it would be cold mutton!" This was reconstructed simply from what I remembered when I got home. It has, I think, all the main points and, I hope, a reminder of Dorothy's style.

I come to you today to prove that one can work for fifty years in the League of Women Voters and survive. I won't tell you about the early programs because I don't remember them. That is one of the penalties of age.

When I was a student at Wellesley College, five other girls and I invited a famous woman leader to speak at the College on the Woman Suffrage Movement. To our surprise, the College refused to allow her to speak in any of the college buildings, saying they would not allow the college to become an object of ridicule. We had to have her speak in the City Hall in town. We were very angry. Jane Addams and many other women leaders had spoken at the college and we felt the attitude of the college was wrong. They, however, felt this was such a controversial subject that would bring trouble to the college. Because we were so angry, we marched in the Woman Suffrage Parade in Boston soon after this. I don't think we would have done this if the college had not angered us so.

I was living in Buffalo when an elderly, frail woman invited me and some other young women to her house. She told us she wanted to start a League of Women Voters, but she was too old to do it herself. She asked us to organize it. This was in 1920. There was no national organization at that time, but Leagues were being organized all over the United States. The old National American Suffrage Association ended when women got the vote. Before this, the organization had been rent with dissension. One group wanted to work for woman suffrage by patiently educating the public. Another faction felt that dramatic action was necessary to get results. So when the states were slow in ratifying the 19th Amendment, two frail little old ladies agreed to be chained to the gate of the White House to publicize how strongly women felt about it.

We organized our League, and almost at once we made a very bad error. We decided to oppose Senator Garrison, who was up for reelection. He had opposed woman suffrage, and voted against nearly every bill we were concerned with. However, he was reelected, and almost half of our members had dropped out. In spite of his votes on women's rights, he was a fine man and a good senator in other ways.

We began to work for the 48-hour week and for minimum wage law for women. The opposition to the 48-hour week was strong. We organized a parade through the main street of Albany, New York to the State Capitol to publicize our demands. It was a large one. Everyone was told to wear the clothes befitting her station. The wealthy women came with feather boas and mink stoles. I remember one woman wore a cream colored skirt which caused some attention. The war workers came in their Bell Aircraft uniforms, and the rest of us wore what we had. Because we didn't want to carry purses we carried the money we needed in the fronts of our dresses, for we had to buy our lunch. Most of the women who worked for women's rights were from the very wealthy class or from the poor. For some reason, very few middle class women were attracted to the movement.

I also worked for health insurance. The YWCA wanted to offer health insurance to its members, but were being opposed by the medical profession. I went to a hearing and testified. I had the facts and figures like a good League member. The doctor who testified against me had no facts, but he did have a charming bedside manner and he got all the applause. The YWCA had to give up the idea of health insurance.

Women helped to get a Child Labor Law and passed laws to help correct the conditions for women in industry as well as getting a 48-hour week for women and a minimum wage law. When the men saw how successful the women were, they said, "Why not help the male worker?" And they did. But women gave the impetus for this kind of legislation. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Al Smith saw what women had done and later used some of their ideas to formulate the New Deal.

#### **"RUTH HERDMAN, EARLY GREELEY LEAGUE LEADER"**

*The 50-year Speakout, LWVCO Convention, April 17, 1969.*

It has been great fun going back through the records and minutes of the Greeley League since it was first organized in 1945. The problem of giving a memories talk or a "I remember when," is that only those persons who shared the first problems, the first comic things and the first thrill of accomplishment in doing something constructive in your community can really appreciate it. Going back through the records, we run across names and incidents that we have almost forgotten about.

The Greeley League was organized in September of 1945. Irene Sweeney organized it in a military way. A small group of interested women met with Mrs. W. Lewis Abbott from Colorado Springs. With her was a Mrs. Henry A. Taylor who was the President of the Kentucky State League. Mrs. Oliver Troxel, whose husband was on the faculty at the College, was the first president. Mrs. Troxel was a dedicated interested person. Dr. Troxel was also interested in the League. Both were in a position to open doors and contact interesting people who would speak to the League and to help with their programs.

I have been amazed as I have gone through old records to find how many busy influential people were on our programs. Each item of interest that we studied we had the best source of information to draw from. The first discussion meetings concerned what the United States could do in sending food to Europe and Eastern Asia and the American loan to Britain. Donald Decker, from the college, spoke on atomic energy. Excellent material from them.

At this time, the State Program was on the Children's Code and the Constitutional amendment on Civil Service. There were six Leagues in the State. The State conference was held in the home of the president, Mrs. Abbott.

Mrs. David Miller, who was the Vice President on our Greeley board, had to resign from the board because she had decided to run for State House of Representatives on the Democratic ticket. We operated without a Vice President until the next election of officers. I believe much credit should go to these first officers and especially to the secretaries who kept such excellent records. We were fortunate in Greeley to have had excellent cooperation from our local newspaper. We had several flattering editorials. We had many open forums on local projects, such as water, County zoning and the Weld County Hospital. Field trips were made to the Court House, schools, and other places.



The first annual meeting was a tea attended by 150 persons. The records show an expenditure of \$133.77 including \$3.07 for moving a harp. The first finance drive which was conducted by 40 members — three groups of real sharp young gals — showed receipts of \$229. There were 40 members in 1946, 75 members in 1954; and at present there are 60 members. We used all of the studies of Know Your Government. Know Your County, Know Your Town. We did this periodically. When Greeley changed to City Manager form of government, the League had several meetings and a public forum for getting out the information.

I was not a charter member, but joined soon after the League was organized. Because of the resignation of the membership chairman, I was almost immediately appointed to fill this vacancy. I was elected President in 1947, and had the privilege of going to the National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I was tremendously impressed. Anna Lord Straus was the National President. I was impressed by the planning of the program, by the dignity and poise and the intelligence of these women. They were from every State, each had come prepared and well informed. Each was given time to be heard but a limited time so that all could be heard.

I was just as impressed when I was elected to the State board and would attend the State board meetings. This also was a group of well-informed women and I felt it a privilege to be one of them. I have not been as active in the League the past few years as I was in earlier days but I still feel it is one of the best things I can give my time to. It is the best organization a woman can belong to who wants to learn about her community and what is going on in the world, and the best way for her to give of herself and her time to better these conditions.

#### **"MARY HESS'S WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP" — Colorado VOTER. May 1987.**

Colorado League's lobbyist, Mary Hess, spent four weeks in Washington, March 16 to April 10, 1987, as one of two interns chosen under a program made possible by a bequest from a long time League leader, Rosalie Goodman. In addition to attending Congressional subcommittee meetings, Mary sat in on National League program meetings and one day of National Board deliberations. She found her way around the League's national office—"a maze"—and visited the offices of other national organizations as well.

Mary reported that high point of the trip was the dedication of a room at the LWVUS office to Rosalie Goodman, when she had an opportunity to meet Goodman's daughter, Joyce Simonson — *"an amazing woman"* — who has come out of retirement to run a congressional office.

The main message that Mary wanted to share with other Colorado League members was that she found the Washington staff to be *"excellent"* people, intelligent, hard working and dedicated. She was also deeply impressed with the National Board members, who, Mary says, are working hard to make LWVUS a professional and effective organization. She was enthusiastic about the internship program, but said it was *"not long enough."*



Sen. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) recently met with Mary Hess of the Colorado League of Women Voters

## "COLORADO'S FIRST CONGRESSWOMAN," Wilma R. Davidson

Colorado was the leader in electing women to office, beginning in 1893 with three women in the General Assembly. That trend has continued — but not for Congress! The first and only, so far, woman to be elected to the Colorado delegation to the United States Congress is Patricia S. Schroeder. Political activity for an increasing number of women was noted as the 200th anniversary of the nation approached. In 1976, the Joint Committee on Arrangements for the Commemoration of the Bicentennial was instrumental in the preparation of a publication titled *Women in Congress*.<sup>1</sup> This book contained biographies of the 95 women who had served in the Senate and House of Representatives since 1917 when the first woman, The Jeannette Rankin of Montana, took her place in the House of Representatives. The *Introduction* states:<sup>2</sup>



Few women in our Nation's history have ever entered the mainstream of American political life; fewer still have amassed the kind of power enjoyed by their male counterparts. Neither class nor economic factors explains this phenomena; nor is there any difference between the two major parties in their readiness to include women.

As one of the *Current Members*, Pat was introduced as follows:<sup>3</sup>

When Pat Schroeder arrived on Capitol Hill in 1973, she was the only one of the 16 Congresswomen with small children. Endowed with resilience and wit, she has provided women all over the country with a new role model in politics: the young mother. Her example took on added drama one day when she brought her young daughter with her to the floor of the House of Representatives and to demonstrations over cuts in daycare funds.

Starting out as a young attorney with the Colorado Planned Parenthood organization, Pat Schroeder plunged directly into a campaign for Congress, ignoring the advice of members of her party to aim her sights on lower office. Even the women in the State Party refused their endorsement on the grounds that her running would "ruffle the waters," and that a man would have a better change of success.

To the surprise of those who discouraged her, Pat Schroeder turned out to be an excellent candidate. She drew large crowds to her speeches, and ultimately to the polls. With little money or party support, she beat a tough primary opponent and in the general election won her seat from the incumbent Congressman with a margin of over 8,000 votes. Even though the Party leadership failed to help, many precinct committee people turned to help her win the general election.

In Congress, Rep. Schroeder obtained a seat on the Armed Services Committee, despite the protests of its then chairman, F. Edward Hebert. . . . She is also a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee and chairwoman of its Subcommittee on Census and Population.

Criticism and ridicule have been heaped on her head, but Pat Schroeder has continued to represent women and children everywhere as well as the citizens of Colorado's District I. Legislation she has

---

<sup>1</sup> Susan J. Tolchin. (The Joint Committee on Arrangements for the Commemoration of the Bicentennial, Lindy Boggs, Chairman.) *Women in Congress* (Washington: House of Representatives, 1976).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 111.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 103.

sponsored has included the equality of rights, family leaves for medical reasons, protection of the rights of divorced wives of military personnel, medical research emphasizing women's needs, health care, and other issues of concern to people. Backing these issues resulted in criticism from conservative and fundamentalist women and men. She has always favored the issues supported by the League. In her advocacy for the family, she served on the *House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families*. In 1989, the Congresswoman wrote a personal and political biography titled **Champion of the Great American Family**. It is considered the great social issue of family policy in the United States.

Through the years, she was co-chair of the *Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues*. Its membership included most of the Congresswomen and the men in Congress who supported women's issues. Her committee assignments were *House Armed Services*, *House Judiciary*, and *House Post Office and Civil Service*. She chaired the *Subcommittee on Civil Service*, and co-chaired the *Task Force on Defense Burden Sharing*. After the 1994 election the Caucus and the Select Committee were no longer funded. Now she serves on the Judiciary and National Security committees.

Pat has been returned to office at each election with overwhelming support, and has now served in Congress longer than any other woman. In 1988, she briefly considered becoming a candidate for President. Will other women be elected to the Colorado Delegation? That remains to be seen!

