



Living Landmark Award 2003

Irma Wyhs

Irma Wyhs was born in St. Charles, Missouri and moved to Golden in 1963. Irma is an accomplished journalist, playwright and historian. Irma was one of the founders of the Foothills Art Center, which grew out of a series of international watercolor workshops that she organized in the early 1960's. She served as the Center's first director in 1967.

Irma's career as a journalist has brought her national recognition. She has worked for several local and regional publications, winning national honors for her stories and serving as Assistant Editor of the Golden Daily Transcript from 1969 – 1970. She has had several poems published, her *Prairie* (1994) and *Last Days* (1996) were given awards as outstanding poetry by the National Library of Poetry and are included in an anthology in the Library of Congress.

In 1982 she was appointed to the Jefferson County Historical Commission. From 1988 to 1995 Irma served as director of the Golden Pioneer Museum, bringing the museum national recognition for its curatorial standards and exhibits. In 1995 she received the first honorary title of Territorial Marshall for contributions made toward maintaining the historical character and significance of Golden. Coors has recognized her with an award for her work on their "History of Golden" video. Irma also received an award from the City of Golden for establishing 'Columbine Day', an annual event that honors historical aspects of the area.

Irma has served on the Golden Chamber of Commerce Task Force and as President of the Golden Cultural Alliance, initiating the popular Heart and Souls month. She was a member of the Golden Landmarks Association, co-chairing the Christmas House Tours and writing several fund-raising "history-mystery" plays based on true history of the area.

In 1995 Irma received the first honorary title of Territorial Marshall for contributions toward maintaining the historical character and significance of Golden. She played a principle role in the campaign to save two historic cabins in Golden Gate Canyon. In conjunction with Jefferson County Open Space, the City of Golden and Golden Landmarks Association, Irma was successful in having the Pearce and Reynolds cabins moved to their present location on 11th Street. These cabins formed the basis for what is now the Clear Creek History Park.

In 1999, Irma was inducted in to the Jefferson County Historical Commission's Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions to historic preservation in Jefferson County. Irma currently writes the "History Page" for the Sentinel and Transcript newspapers. She is also a freelance contributor to other regional and national publications.