



Golden Landmarks Association  
*Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future*

## Living Landmark Award 2004

### ❧ Viona Mae Hader ❧

Anyone who knows anything about Golden would know how many years of work and unfailing devotion Vi Hader has given to making Golden a great community and great place to live.

Vi was born in Holdrege, Nebraska. Vi, a first generation Swede, moved to Golden in 1941. She attended the University of Nebraska and received a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Education from West Virginia University. She later went on to receive a Master's Degree from New York University.

During World War II, Vi worked with the American Red Cross in the US, Europe and the Far East. She served as Command Program Advisor for the Air Force in England. She returned from the service to be with her family in 1965 when her father's health failed. She became secretary to City Manager Walt Brown, who promoted her to become the first full time employee of Golden Chamber of Commerce. She was a staff of one, and is credited with reorganizing the office, editing the first Chamber newsletter, coordinated volunteers and developed Golden's first tourist programs, with trips, tours and local history.

One of the many things that Vi is credited for is revitalizing the Buffalo Bill Days, which is now Golden's biggest annual event. Last year she was honored for her vision by being named Grand Marshall of the Buffalo Bill Days parade.

Working with Irma Wyhs, Vi helped find a place to hold watercolor workshops and establish the Golden watercolor sidewalk art shows. Vi, Hal Shelton, and Virginia Weigand organized the board of directors to purchase the historic Presbyterian Church that is now the nationally known Foothills Arts Center.

There is not enough space to mention all that Vi Hader has given to this community. She helped to rescue the Golden Fire Department Bell that now stands outside City Hall. She enlisted the American Legion and the V.F.W. to take over the flag project at Golden Cemetery. She has been an active member of the Jefferson County Historical Commission since 1985 and the Festival of the West committee. She served as Curator of the Astor House Museum and is responsible for setting up many of the volunteer groups. She worked hard on renovating the house and redoing the gardens when there was practically no money available. As a member of the Eastern Star and the Methodist church the list goes on and on. You may not know Viona Hader personally, but she has touched your life. She has been a tireless, selfless advocate of our city and Golden would not be same without her.