



LORRAINE WAGENBACH

Lorraine, one of our city's most knowledgeable historians, has lived in Golden for 80 years. Lorraine grew up in Wide Acres and took the street car to school in Golden each day for 12 years. She enrolled in Denver University in 1936, and in 1942 she married Bill Wagenbach, a childhood friend. She remained a stay-at-home mother until her two children, Jim and Margo, were in junior high, then returned to DU to get her degree in business administration. She worked at the Colorado School of Mines for 15 years.

In 1978, when Lorraine retired from CSM, she took courses in journalism at Metro State College and was published in the Denver Post and Rocky Mt. News. In 1983 she became a charter member of the Historic Preservation Board. At this time she also began writing historical articles for the Golden Transcript, and has continued writing articles and books ever since.

In 1980 Lorraine edited a collection of stories written by members of the Pioneer Delphian Study Club, a women's group started in 1929 which still meets regularly. Entitled "A Woman's Life in Golden", the book depicted the lives of members who lived in Golden. In 1987 "Golden: The 19th Century" was published by Lorraine Wagenbach and Jo Ann Thistlewood. The book is now in its third printing. In 1999 Lorraine published "St. Joseph's Red Brick Church", which relates the history of the Catholic Church in Golden from 1899 to 1949.

In 1991 Bill Coors asked 34 old-timers to make a video of Golden's history from 1900 to 1950. Lorraine was the historian. The video took six months of painstaking research at the Pioneer Museum. Lorraine served on the Board of Directors of the Golden Pioneer Museum for two terms and now works at the Museum as a volunteer.

In 1996 Lorraine and Betty Simpson, a friend and long-time Golden resident, spearheaded a movement to bring senior housing to Golden. The soon-to-be-built project is known as Golden Ponds and will consist of 39 independent living units and 78 assisted living units on a 5-acre lot on North Ford Street.

Lorraine Wagenbach has seen years of change take place in Golden during the 80 years she has lived here. Ever conscious of the important need people have to understand their heritage, she has recorded hundreds of pages of the city's history after painstaking and thorough research.