



Golden Landmarks Association
Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future

Living Landmark Award 2006

❧ Jo Ann Thistlewood ❧

If human compassion were coupled with intelligence, tenacity and grace and given a name, it would be called Jo Ann Thistlewood. Originally a native of South Dakota, Jo Ann came to Denver to study nursing at Saint Anthony's Hospital, where she completed her course work and became a registered nurse.

After marrying her husband Keith, they moved to the City of Golden in 1952, where they still occupy the house into which they then moved and where they raised their family. Today, their sons, David and Joseph often visit their parents, with wives Kelly and Mary and their children.

Jo Ann became the President of the Christian Action Guild, after working for the organization for 15 years. She held that office for the next 20 years, and this is probably the position by which she is best known by the residents of Golden. The Guild is an ecumenical not-for-profit organization, which not only runs a local food bank and thrift store, but provides emergency financial assistance in the form of rent, utilities and medical aid to the needy of the City of Golden.

Her work in Golden and with the Guild has provided her with countless honors, awards and notoriety. Despite all this recognition, Jo Ann insists that she is just doing 'the right thing'. She has said that the outpouring of the Golden community has kept her going through-out the years.

In 1976, Jo Ann was instrumental in bringing the one-room Guy Hill School down from Golden Gate Canyon to its new location in front of the old Mitchell Elementary School, as part of the celebration of Colorado's centennial.

When she and Lorraine Wagenbach co-authored the book entitled "Golden: The 19th Century", a number of years ago, they turned over its copyright to the Golden Civic Foundation. Its royalties continue to profit the Foundation and the City of Golden.

A few years ago Jo Ann said "In looking back over the years, I honestly feel that my efforts have been successful in helping make Golden a really great place to live and have fun in". She continued by saying that " If I wasn't having fun, I wouldn't be here".

Jo Ann Thistlewood is the conscience of our community. She is a doer. She daily provides love and care and comfort as well as worldly goods to the many troubled souls who constantly seek her out. Unquestionably, Jo Ann Thistlewood has been one of Golden's Living Landmarks for over fifty years.