



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

## Living Landmark Award 2006

### 🎖 V. Gene Child 🎖

Gene Child should be nicknamed 'Mr. Golden' or 'Mr. Golden Landmarks Association', or both. The list of his accomplishments, contributions to and involvements with the City of Golden in general, and Golden Landmarks Association in particular, is nothing short of amazing.

Gene grew up in Concordia, Kansas, and went to school at the University of Kansas, where he met his wife, Arlone. After teaching in Munich, Germany for a number of years, Gene and Arlone moved back to the United States in 1964 and moved to Golden, where they have lived ever since.

In 1971, Gene and his close friend Larry McWilliams were fortunate to find out that the City of Golden was planning to purchase the then dilapidated Astor House and tear it down to enlarge the size of the adjacent municipal parking lot. Through their efforts, two supportive councilmen Ruben Hartmeister and Frank Leek were persuaded to promote a referendum to save the Astor House from demolition. When the referendum passed, the City council entered into an agreement with the Golden Landmarks Association to renovate and operate the building as a museum.

Gene, with the help of a myriad of friends and fellow volunteers succeeded in restoring the Astor House and furnishing it. Once completed, Gene then served on the Golden Landmarks Board of Directors, where he continued to serve in various capacities for the next 10 years.

In 1976, Gene was involved in the effort to move the Guy Hill School to the old Mitchell School site. He assisted Verna Katona and Jo Ann Thistlewood with furnishing the school with antique desks and getting it ready for tours.

The Clear Creek History Park has also been the recipient of much of Gene's work. When the old Mitchell School closed in 1995, Gene helped lay the new foundation for the Guy Hill School at the park so the school could be moved to its new location. Gene was also instrumental in moving the log cabins to this history park, working to number and move the logs and putting new roofs on the cabins.

Gene has also served as the Chairman of the City of Golden's Parks and Recreation Board for 5 years, was a member of the committee which studied the need and feasibility for a new city hall, was a member of the Golden Golf Course feasibility committee, was a member of several political action committees within the City, and has been the campaign chairman for numerous City Council candidates.

Gene rejoined the GLA Board of Directors in 1998, where he has served both as Treasurer and President. Presently, Gene is a member of the Golden Good Government League, and still attends the meetings of the Golden Landmarks Association Board of Directors on a regular basis.