



Golden Landmarks Association
Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future

Living Landmark Award 2007

❧ Mary Ramstetter ❧

Mary Ramstetter is an author of no small merit who has brought the early days of this area alive with her historical writings and her trilogy concerning a fictional family surmounting the difficulties of pioneer days to build this beautiful land.

She said her parents taught her "the magic of words." Her mother wrote poetry, her father wrote history. And they loved the mountains which is reflected in her novels, "Down the Mountains of the Moon" -- which is recommended reading for Southwest studies at Adams State College in Alamosa; "Down the Valley of the Shadow," and "Ride Boldly Ride."

As for "John Gregory Country" written in collaboration with her husband, Charlie Ramstetter; much more than a place-names book, this is an awesome chronicle of land features with so much fact and legend about them it becomes a remarkable historical narrative.

Growing up in Golden, she has fond memories of the small town and the open countryside around it. When she went to work in 1958 at Colorado School of Mines as secretary in the English Department it sealed her destiny as a writer. Long hours in the library and archives honed her gift for research that formed the basis of her writing. She said it was "a college education that lasted 23 years." She wrote a column for the school, "Window on the World," which ran in the Transcript.

Her family consists of four daughters and four grandchildren.

Writing awards include finalist at the Book of the Year Awards at the book expo in San Francisco in 2003 as well as the single best fictional account of the Mountain Meadows Massacre, Western Writers' of America; first place in Colorado independent publishers

Civic projects include helping defeat the proposed aggregate mining at the Clear Creek Canyon entrance and aiding in the preservation of more than 10,000 acres in the foothills by restricting high-density developments.

"I have known many people who became legends," she said. That I am a small keeper of their history is enough." Now her designation as a Golden Living Landmark makes her a legend in her own time.