



Golden Landmarks Association
Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future

Living Landmark Award 2013 Gudy Gaskill

When the Golden Spike ceremonies were held at Molas Pass, Camp Hale and Mt. Princeton on September 4th, 1987, friends and admirers may well have thought this was the highlight of Gudy's life. Maybe they were right...with a career as peppered with achievements and awards as Gudy's, it is hard to say. She earned the title "Mother of the Colorado Trail" for her tireless dedication to its completion. The Trail was originally conceived as a bi-centennial project slated to be finished in 1976. It was in 1974 while serving on the Colorado Mountain Club Trail and Huts Committee that Gudy was asked to help organize the program. The rest is history. Her efforts, along with the thousands of volunteers who joined her and the rest of the club, made this a premier outdoor draw for Coloradans and their families to enjoy year round. The Colorado Trail today runs the 500 miles from Denver to Durango.

Gudy was well prepared to lead the Trail Organization. Her experience with the Colorado Mountain Club began when she and her family moved to Golden in 1958. Her first position was on the Outings Committee and in 1965, she became the sponsor of the CMC – Juniors. Then her work with the Trail & Huts committee began, and in 1977, she was named the first woman President of the Colorado Mountain Club, a position she held for 14 years.

Gudy's love for the outdoors started at an early age. Her father served as a summer ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park where Gudy would spend her time hiking and exploring. She later decided to attend Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, working summers in Estes Park, Grand Lake, and Lake City, Colorado. In 1948, Gudy graduated from Western State with her Bachelor's Degree, married David L. Gaskill, and started a family. Gudy and her husband have four children, Robin, Steve, Polly, and Craig who inherited the same love of outdoors as their parents. During their lives together, they have run several of their own businesses, but it was David's position with the USGS that brought them back to Colorado for good in 1958.

Gudy's other achievements? She received her pilot's license in the early 1950's; she has been involved with 4-H, the Lookout Mountain Recreation Association, Mt. Vernon Artists, Mt. Vernon Players, the League of Women Voters, the Hill & Dale Society, and Mt. Vernon Country Club. She has also been a volunteer ski instructor and ski jump coach at Winter Park Ski Area. Gudy was doing all this while she continued to hike, climb, ski and mountaineer throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

Among her many achievements, Gudy has been the recipient of the Take Pride in America Award, presented by President Ronald Reagan in 1987; The 1000 Points of Light Award, presented by President George H.W. Bush in 1990; and in 2002 Gudy was named to the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

All in all, a life to be celebrated.