



Conrad E. Gardner

Conrad Earl Gardner was born the youngest of four sons in St. Louis, MO on February 16, 1938. Growing up in Arkansas City, KS, he was a gifted student who while working as a swimming pool lifeguard, saved a teen from drowning. He graduated from Ark City's High School in 1956 and as a two-way player in football, earned a scholarship to Dartmouth College.

Paying his way through college as a brakeman on the Santa Fe Railroad, he majored in English and as a campus disc jockey, he hosted the Nightwatch romantic music program. As a photographer and later Editor for the *Aegis* yearbook, he led the production of the *Freshmen Handbook* and under his leadership the 1960 edition of *Aegis* won a journalism award. Conrad graduated Dartmouth in 1960, he went on to Stanford University, graduating in 1963 with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree. He served in the U.S. Army and Colorado National Guard and was honorably discharged as a Captain.

Admitted to the California Bar in 1964 and the Colorado Bar in 1965, he joined the Golden law firm of Fleming & Pattridge, becoming a partner in 1967. In 1967 he was also admitted to the bar of the US Supreme Court. On June 22, 1968 he married Golden music teacher and organist Ingrid Norquest. Together they raised two children, Heather and Richard. Being active in politics he chaired the Jeffco Young Republicans, successfully fighting the threatened takeover of the party by the John Birch Society.

In 1975 Gardner moved his family to 5095 Pine Ridge Dr., a home which he designed himself. There he spent his life adding to its wild grove of trees, creating a small forest that is now officially a certified wildlife habitat. Conrad served as a member of the Jeffco Library Board for 19 years, from 1969 -1988. While serving he helped oversee the establishment and construction of the new Villa, Evergreen and Columbine libraries, and the new home of the Golden Library. In 1985 he began his individual practice, moving into the historic Quaintance Block in 1990. He supervised its restoration enabling it to become Golden's first storefront listed on the National Historic Register. Its companion Piggly Wiggly building next door, was also restored under his supervision and given historic designation in 2017.

As an advocate of historic preservation, he joined the board of GLA, serving as President from 1995-1998. He was instrumental in saving the Burgess House and Brickyard House and helped supervise the relocation of the Pearce and Reynolds Cabins and Guy Hill School to the Clear Creek History Park. It is for these endeavors that he is now being recognized as a Living Landmark by the organization. He was recognized by the Colorado Bar Association for 50 years of service, and is very possibly the longest serving attorney in Golden's history.

Conrad will be remembered by many for his engaging, humorous and optimistic personality, his love of photography, music, sports and more. Conrad Gardner passed away peacefully on October 29, 2017. He is survived by his brother Ronald, wife Ingrid and children Heather and Richard and numerous beloved nieces, nephews and relatives. His legacy lives on through the trees he planted, the places he built, and the landmarks he saved.