



Photo by Gary Chandler/National Civic League. Costume by Disguises LLC of Lakewood.

What I did this summer

by Kim Willprecht

For me, the highlight of summer 2005 was being part of the delegation representing Golden for the National Civic League's (ncl.org) top thirty cities of America. Each city was doing its best to win The All-America City Award, America's oldest and most prestigious community recognition prize. Our delegation presented a wonderful skit directed by Rick Bernstein and Pam Larson of Golden Miner's Alley Playhouse. It was such an inviting picture of Golden that attendees from all over the country vowed to visit!

A close second was seeing my idol, Stevie Nicks, at Red Rocks Amphitheater. Stevie was here 20 years ago and says it was her favorite place to rock, and the most memorable concert in her entire career.

My favorite summer read was "The Stars at Night" by Genesee resident Anita D. Hall, a book about successful, creative people finding self-awareness through dream work. Anita is highly respected in the field of dream work, and had a long standing psychotherapy practice in Westport, Conn. She can be reached at dreamweaverhall@mindspring.com. Now all I have to do is "Dream, Dream, Dream" of the summer of 2005!

This article is dedicated to the dream of rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. Here's hoping New Orleans will be reborn as the greatest city in America in faith and spirit.

Kim Willprecht of Golden Greetings can be reached by calling 303-216-2411.

Senator breaks new ground

Colorado Senate President Joan Fitz-Gerald, a long time Jefferson County resident, has racked up some important firsts during her years in the political spotlight.

She was the first woman ever elected as Jefferson County clerk and recorder, where she pioneered the use of mail ballots. During the last legislative session, Fitz-Gerald became the first woman to preside over the Colorado Senate.

Now there's talk that she may run for governor – which would shatter another glass ceiling since, if elected, she would be the first female in the state's history to hold the office.

Fitz-Gerald waltzes around the possibility.

"I love what I'm doing. I ran a good Senate over the last year, brokering compromises and working with both sides of the aisle." Some of her top priorities include working on the budget, healthcare, education, and tourism.

The 57-year-old New York City native is also chair of the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council, chair of the Legislative Council, chair of Senate Services and a member of the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee.

Fitz-Gerald stepped into the national spotlight last year when she became chair of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, based in Washington, D.C.



LAURIE DIBATTISTA

Given those responsibilities, the high-energy legislator who proudly recalls crossing the New York City Marathon finish line when she ran the course in 1993, has lengthy workdays.

When the legislature is in session the senator puts in 12-hour-plus days before heading home to the northwest corner of Jefferson County where she and her lawyer husband John now live.

The Fitz-Geralds' two sons, Matthew, 31, and Patrick, 29, have followed in their parents' footsteps. Both young men graduated from the University of Denver law school.

Now that their children are grown, the couple has downsized to house with a view of the Continental Divide – something Joan has always wanted. — LD

Meyer Hardware celebrates 60 Golden years

There may be hundreds of big box home improvement stores, but there's only one Meyer Hardware. This year the venerable downtown Golden retailer is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

"My grandparents, Joe and Ruby Meyer, moved out here from Nebraska after the war," said Meyer Hardware co-owner Steve Schaefer. "They had been here on vacation and really liked it."

Over the years, Joe's brother Roy signed on to work at the store. Then Steve's parents, Harold and Marilyn Schaefer took over. Eventually Steve and his siblings learned the nuts and bolts of the hardware business.

"When I was in elementary school, I'd walk down here after school to sweep the floors and clean the bathrooms," Steve recalls. He later graduated to assembling bicycles and other more complicated tasks. Today he just enjoys catering to the needs of homeowners, businesses, contractors and do-it-yourselfers.



MO'S FAMILY PORTRAITS

"Our customer service is what makes the difference. You hear that all the time, but that's the secret of our success," said Steve. "We run it with a high level of integrity, and we've had a lot of great people work for us over the years."

In fact, several have been with the company over 20 years, including the store manager.

"We're not a typical hardware store. We've retained the characteristics of a general store," he added.

Customers will discover a wide array of products: paint, tools, hardware, plumbing supplies, lawn and garden items, housewares, major appliances and sporting goods, including fishing equipment and ammunition.

"We also have a lot of hard-to-find items. Not just the faucet, but the items that go into the faucet. We have the blades for the Osterizer blenders and components for pressure cookers," he said. "We also have cookware like lefse grills, pizzelle makers, krumkake irons and tart pans."

Visit Meyer Hardware at 1103 Arapahoe Street or check out meyerhardware.com. — JB