

Dolores Kopel

Celebration of Life



January 8, 1931 – August 19, 2022

Denver Botanic Gardens, Sept. 25, 2022



Program

Dottie Lamm. First Lady of Colorado.

Mary Grace Wake. District Governor, Colorado & Wyoming Optimist Clubs.

Janet MacFarlane. Wife of J.D. MacFarlane, former Colorado Attorney General, State Senator, and State Representative.

Kathleen, Margaret, and Andrew Kopel.

Rep. Diana DeGette. United States Representative, 1997–present. Colorado State Representative, 1993–97, Assistant Minority Leader. Treasurer of Jerry Kopel's final two campaigns, 1988 & 1990.

David Kopel. Research Director, Independence Institute. Colorado State Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law, Denver University.

Video of the life of Dolores Blanke Kopel. Background music by Jerry Kopel.

Donations

Persons who would like to make a gift in Dolores's memory are encouraged to donate to either:

1. The Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado. <https://www.legalaidfoundation.org/>

2. The Denver Public Library, Western History Collection. The WHC is the repository of the Dolores Kopel Papers, and of the Jerry Kopel Papers. A conference room on the fourth floor in the DPL main building is named in their honor. Go to: <https://www.dplfriends.org/>.

The online form will give you the opportunity in the Comments field to make the donation in memory of Dolores Kopel and a that it be used for the Western History Collection. The DPL requires targeted donations be a minimum of \$100.

Further reading

Jerry and Dolores's website is <http://www.jerrykopel.com>. The site contains Jerry's *Colorado Statesman* columns from 1992 to 2012, and also a detailed guide to the Jerry Kopel Papers and the Dolores Kopel Papers in the Western History Collection. Additional material will be added to the site, including guides to more of the Jerry and Dolores Papers as they are donated. And also a video of today's event, and of Dolores's burial ceremony.

Family attending today

David & Deirdre Kopel

Kathleen Kopel & Héctor Banchs

Margaret Kopel & Martín Pereyra

Andrew Kopel & Elena Woughter

Deborah Berman

Bob & Denise Howd, Mark Howd

Chris Dolan & Melissa Taylor

Precedents

Cornelius & Bess Blanke

Stephen Kopel

Jerry Kopel

Written materials

The Hon. Diana DeGette. Tribute to Jerry & Dolores on their 56th anniversary and Jerry's 80th birthday. Congressional Record, June 12, 2008.

Dolores interviews U.S. Vice-President Alben Barkley about women's issues. *The Silver & Gold*, Oct. 19, 1950.

Blanke family moves from Boulder to Denver for Dolores to attend DU Law School. Because CU Law did not want women students. *Boulder Daily Camera*, June 11, 1951.

Dolores wins top honors at DU Law. *Rocky Mountain News*, June 6, 1954.

"Another Milepoint for Attorney." Two years after being married in the Colorado Supreme Court, Dolores returns to be sworn into the Colorado bar. *Rocky Mountain News*, Sept. 8, 1954.

"Fashion Show Planners." Dolores helps organize charity fashion show for Business & Professional Women's Clubs. *Rocky Mountain News*, 1958.

"Lawyers Share Love of Work." *Denver Post*, Aug. 3, 1960.

"Dolores (not Jerry) Named U.S. Trustee." *Denver Bar Association Journal*, Sept. 1979.

"Park Hill Patriot." *Greater Park Hill News*, Feb. 2021.

"Kopel Family Grateful for Recognition." Denver Public Library newsletter.

Kopel family background, from David Kopel, *Colorado Constitutional Law & History* (2d ed. 2022).

Obituary. *New York Times*, Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022.



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE **110th** CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008

House of Representatives

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

IN HONOR OF CELEBRATING 80TH BIRTHDAY OF GERALD (JERRY) KOPEL AND 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF JERRY AND DOLORES KOPEL

Ms. DeGette. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a dual celebration for two distinguished members of the First Congressional District. This week the Kopel family of Denver celebrates the 80th Birthday of Gerald (Jerry) Kopel and the 56th Anniversary of the marriage between Jerry and Dolores Kopel.

Jerry and Dolores have led an interesting and engaged life together, balancing careers in journalism, law, politics, and policy. They were the original "power couple" long before dual careers were more outwardly prevalent and socially acceptable. What is truly admirable is the Kopels managed to pursue these accomplishments while raising a family and contributing to the broader well-being of our community.

Dolores and Jerry met at the University of Colorado when Jerry was city editor of the Silver and Gold newspaper and Dolores was a reporter. Jerry graduated from the University and Dolores transferred to the University Of Denver College Of Law. They married at the end of her first year of law school, while Jerry was working for the Rocky Mountain News.

Dolores graduated from law school cum laude in June 1954. Jerry enrolled in law school in January 1955 but continued for a while to pull night shifts at the Rocky Mountain News as a copy editor. In 1958, Jerry graduated cum laude from the University of Denver. The Kopels had the unique experience of practicing law together until 1979, when Dolores was appointed U.S. Trustee for the District of Colorado and Kansas.

In the Kopel's life-long dedication to giving back to the community and preparing the next generation for careers in law, Jerry directed a review course for law students preparing for the Colorado bar exam from 1958 through 1985.

In 1964, Jerry combined his background in journalism and his law degree to become an influential member of the Democratic Party. He served as state representative for a total of twenty two years, spanning two decades.



WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008

Jerry was known as the consummate legislator, reading every bill and every amendment that came before the House chamber. He successfully carried 110 bills as chief sponsor, including the nation's first sunset law.

Jerry's 22 years in the State Legislature and his extensive involvement in community issues and Colorado politics are encapsulated in "The Gerald Kopel Papers", which are housed in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection. The papers are perhaps the most extensive archive of the public career of any American state legislator from the 20th century.

After retiring from the Legislature in 1992, Jerry continued to produce a printed newsletter, titled "Jerry Kopel's Report" until 1998. However, for many years, Jerry prepared weekly reports for House Democrats and suggested amendments to bills being debated on the House floor.

Since retirement, Jerry has returned to journalism. He writes a weekly column for the Colorado Statesman and other newspapers and has joined the technological age with an extensive website chronicling his columns and exhibiting his extensive knowledge of Colorado politics, law, and history.

Over the years, Jerry has won numerous awards from the Colorado Press Association, most recently in 2006 in the Public Service writing category. All of his 600-some columns were edited by his wife, Dolores. Both Jerry and Dolores have received recognition from the Denver Bar Association for 50 years of practice. Their son, David, is an attorney and author who is a columnist for the Rocky Mountain News.

Jerry is also an accomplished cocktail pianist, and has entertained at many local functions. He has issued several fine CD's which are in my personal collection.

I have personally known Jerry and Dolores for many years, eagerly accepting Jerry's sage advice on politics and I am an ardent reader of his weekly columns. Jerry and Dolores have had a distinctive lifetime at the forefront of Colorado politics, policy, and history and their commitment to public service and the betterment of the their fellow Coloradans serves as a sterling example for younger generations and those entering public policy careers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Kopel and his wife Dolores a wonderful 56th Anniversary and Jerry a healthy and prosperous 80th birthday and pay tribute to their longstanding service and dedication to the City of Denver and the State of Colorado.

to house three to five... the housing problem would be alleviated.

Twenty-two member schools in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming are expected to be represented at the Conference. The conference was held at Utah State last year and five delegates from the University attended.

At the conference seven international problems have been selected to be discussed at committee meetings.

Saturday, Oct. 28, election of regional and University officers

Library Closed Till Noon

Because of the Regents convocation this morning, the Library will be closed between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Normal library hours will be resumed following the convocation.

By Jim Childress
A surprise opener for Homecoming's Varsity Knights performance is promised by the producers, Jack Bartram and Hugh McMillen.

The cast of 100 and the entire audience will be contributing in the opening of this year's Varsity Knights according to plans. Miss Jerry Briggs in a burlesque ballet will be a featured soloist in the opener in her role as Lady Godiva.

Lady Godiva, Jerry Briggs, and tap dancer Budd Martinez were added to the cast last week after competitive tryouts were held. Martinez does a top hat, white tie and tuxedo routine.

McMillen is working the Varsity Knights stage band on their part of the program. Composed of the hottest musicians on the campus, the band will feature "Tropical," Morton Gould's torrid Samba.

Modern Choir Sings

George Lynn's modern choir is scheduled to sing "Laura," "All The

Things You Are," "Common Bill," American folk song and other

The first 1000 seats for each performance go on sale to students October 23 at \$1. The limited number of reserved tickets will be sold through Wednesday in Memorial. Thursday general admission tickets will go on sale in Arts, Memorial and Engineering Administration at 75 cents.

songs. Several of the arrangements were done by Lynn.

Jim Van Dwyne, whom you've seen throwing his baton all over

the football field as he leads the marching band, is another of the featured acts. The "Merwin Hodel" of baton twirlers has won over fifty prizes for his baton twirling.

Presents Queen

Added attraction of Varsity Knight's is the initial presentation of the queen. The queen is officially crowned at the Varsity Knights show.

The Homecoming show will hit the road Nov. 11. It will be shown to Pueblo alumni, high school students and others in the Pueblo auditorium Saturday night after Homecoming.

Alumni may also be assured of seeing the show by purchasing reserved seat tickets from the alumni section of tickets now being sold in the Memorial ticket office.

fraternities were Phi Delta Theta and Phi Alpha Delta. The Coloradoan said of him: "I can be convinced, but it's a hard job."

Following his graduation from the University, he opened a law office in Denver, and became secretary to former governor George A. Carlson.

Lane Speaks On War At 11 A.M. Today

"Are We in World War III?" will be the question answered by Arthur Bliss Lane at 11 a.m. today when he addresses the student body in Macky auditorium. Lane, who will be introduced by President Robert L. Stearns, will be the main speaker at the Regents' convocation.

As a former U. S. Ambassador to Poland and well-known figure in the diplomatic field, Lane is well qualified to speak in international affairs.

American Women Play Large Part In Government, Vice President Says

By Dolores Blanke

"American women have an important part to play in government," said Vice-President of the United States Alben Barkley Tuesday in an exclusive interview with a Silver and Gold reporter.

"Ever since women's suffrage was granted under Woodrow Wil-

son, women have been expected to take their full responsibility as citizens. This responsibility is twofold. Women must exercise their duty by voting and also by teaching their children the principles of democracy to supplement the work done in the schools," Barkley continued.

Barkley believes that women who are properly trained are just as capable in public life as men, and they furnish a great contribution to the government.

Barkley left San Francisco at 10 a. m. Tuesday and arrived in Denver by plane at 2 p. m. Explaining his reason for being five minutes late he said that he had stopped at a jewelry store in Denver to buy his wife a pair of earrings.

He will continue his speaking tour until election eve when he will return to Paducah to participate in the traditional election eve motorcade in the First district of Kentucky.

Following appearances in Denver, he flew to Fort Wayne, Ind., sleeping on his United air lines chartered plane. From Indiana, he will go to New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois, and Kentucky.

When Vice-president Barkley's present 32-day tour is completed, he will have covered 19,000 miles, visiting 20 states and making more than 65 speeches in approximately 50 cities.

Barkley's expenses for this trip are being paid for by the Democratic National committee in cooperation with the various local democratic committees in the towns where he speaks.

President Robert L. Stearns said, "This is the first time in the history of the University that such a distinguished visitor has spoken on our campus. The University is happy and proud of the distinction of having the Vice-President of the United States here."



Alben W. Barkley

Temporary Magazine Head Releases Call For More Editors, Office Help

A call for college events and exchange editors, secretaries, and other office help for the new University magazine was issued yesterday by Bob Rahder, temporary editor.

The magazine received promise of financial aid if it needs it from ASUC last Wednesday. Editors must appear before the Board of Publications again for final approval.

The college events editor must be an experienced news writer and able to handle a camera. His is a paying job, Rahder said.

The exchange editor will maintain correspondence with and keep a file of other college publications. Experience is preferred but not absolutely necessary.

Those applying should fill out applications in the Supervisor's

office in Memorial and leave them in the magazine box in that office.

The new and as yet nameless magazine is a successor to Magazine X, itself a successor to the Dodo and Window, which were discontinued last winter.

Like Magazine X, the new publication will be departmentalized into humor, college events, fiction, and non-fiction sections. Its staff will be paid if the publication makes money and after a certain amount of the profits are set aside for reserve funds. Contributors will be paid on the same basis.

"If the magazine is sufficiently successful," Rahder said, "we'll try to cut the price to 15 or 20 cents. We plan to sell the first few editions for 25 cents."

Another name contest will be held soon, the winner to receive \$25.



What We Hear

Phone News Items to 2700

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Post left today by car for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, where they will spend six weeks visiting with relatives and friends. Both Mr. and Mrs. Post have two brothers and two sisters in the east, and it has been six years since they have visited there.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence T. Paddock and Mr. and Mrs. Field C. Benton attended the wedding Saturday afternoon in Denver of Miss Mary Philpott and Robert E. Heizer, Jr. The rites were held at the Montview Presbyterian church.

The Christian Women's Fellowship will hold a coffee at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, and installation of officers will be conducted by Mrs. Charles Poe. A short musical program is planned and the executive board will meet at 9 a.m. Leaders are asked to take their reports written out, and members are reminded that contributions for the migrant camp work should be taken to this meeting.

Mrs. Helen Evelyn Mellette, for many years a resident of Boulder, is now in the Memorial Home, Warren, Ind. She writes that she likes the home and is very comfortable. Mrs. Mellette went to California from Boulder.

Mr. and Mrs. William Aspinwall entertained 18 young friends of their daughter, Sally, at a birthday party on Friday afternoon. Sally marked her third birthday. Refreshments were served and favors were presented to each child. The host and hostess were assisted by Mesdames Wendell Black, Jack Rook, Jr., Henry Tanner, Charles Needham and Michael Trent.

The Back-To-The-Bible class met last week with Mrs. Crosley with 12 present. Several songs were sung, scripture and prayer given, and roll called and answered by giving scripture verses beginning with letters S. T. and U. Mrs. Betty Vendel, a visitor, favored the group with songs and Miss Mildred Greeson gave a reading. The next meeting will be July 3.

The Country Kensington Club picnic scheduled for next Wednesday has been postponed indefinitely. Watch the Camera for announcement of the date.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Blanke and daughter Dolores will move to Denver Tuesday, to make their home at 1350 Hudson St. Miss Blanke is transferring from CU to the University of Denver law school, which she will enter in the fall.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Edmonds, Jr., who were married in Boulder on May 29th, have completed a honeymoon trip and are to make their home in Boulder. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Edmonds of the Bureau of Reclamation, Estes Park. The bride is the former Miss Viola Parks of Boulder.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sosnowski have returned from Arizona, where they spent the winter. They have as their houseguests for a few days this week cousins of Mrs. Sosnowski, Mrs. P. B. Wisdom, and her mother, Mrs. K. Brown, of Hillsboro, Ill.

The Social Order of Beauceant picnic, scheduled for Chautauqua Arbor tonight, has been postponed indefinitely.

Mrs. R. C. Ferry, temporarily residing in Denver, came to Boulder for the flower show Friday. She is a past president of the Boulder Garden club and its present treasurer; and is chairman of life membership committee in the Colorado Federation of Garden clubs.

—★—

Woman Law Graduate Wins Top DU Honors

Future lawyers in Colorado courtrooms look highly decorative.

An attractive 23-year-old woman student will be graduated Friday at Denver University College of Law—with scholastic honors.

She is Mrs. Dolores Koplowitz, wife of Jerry Koplowitz, copy editor of The Rocky Mountain News. They live at 517 E. Seventh ave.

The petite brunet is the second-highest graduate in academic standing at the school.

FIRST WOMAN WINNER

She received the Jaffa Memorial Prize, given to the student who has the highest scholastic average in the first two years of law school work—the first woman to ever receive the award.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Blanke of 604 Emerson st., urged her to study law and were responsible for her entrance at the school.

She was elected to Kappa Beta Pi, international legal sorority, and became article editor for the law review magazine "Dicta."

GRADUATE CUM LAUDE

She will receive her bachelor of law degree cum laude.



Mrs. Dolores Koplowitz

Mrs. Koplowitz intends to practice law in Denver after graduation.

Duplers

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Another Milepoint For Attorney



Pretty Dolores Koplowitz, 37, Seventh ave. returned Tuesday to the Colorado Supreme Court to say "I do" the second time in as many years. Her first trip to the solemn chamber came June 16, 1952, when she was married to Jerry Koplowitz, Rocky Mountain News copy editor. The knot was tied by then-Chief Justice William Jackson. Tuesday, with 72 other lawyers, she revisited the Supreme Court and raised her hand to be sworn in as a full-fledged member of the Colorado bar. Administering the oath was Chief Justice Mortimer Stone. Mrs. Koplowitz is a graduate of the Denver University Law School. She is associated with the law offices of Sunshine, Bruno, Reed and Koplowitz.

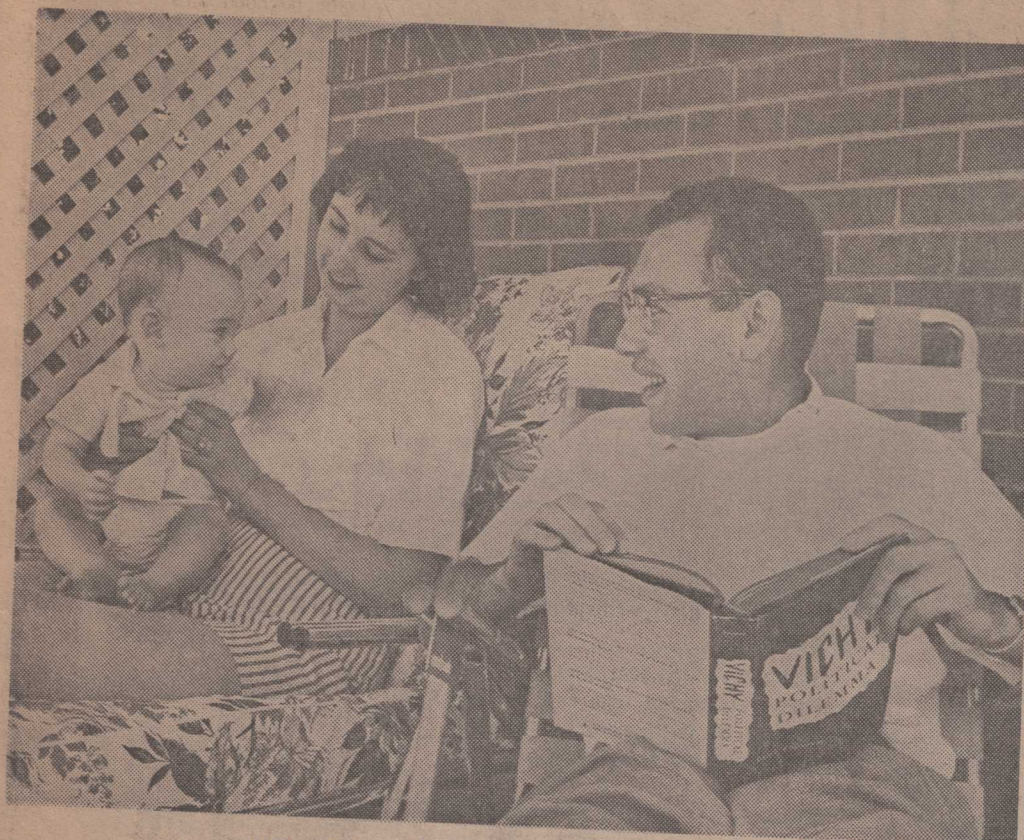
—Rocky Mountain News Photo.



Denver Post Photo

Fashion Show Planners

Filling advance reservations for the benefit fashion show and bridge party planned for Saturday by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Denver demands the attention of Miss Geraldine Hinkel, corresponding secretary, seated at typewriter. Assisting are Mrs. Colleen G. Van Nocker (left), chairman of the Career Advancement committee sponsoring the show, and Mrs. Gerald Kopel, co-chairman. Members of the eight other area Business and Professional Women's Clubs are invited to the event at Daniels and Fisher tearoom. Proceeds will go toward assisting unwed mothers in becoming self-supporting.



MR. AND MRS. GERALD KOPEL AND DAVID
Denver Post Photo by David Mathias

WORKING TEAMS

Lawyers Share Love of Work

(Fourth in a Series)

By MAXINE LOWRY

Denver Post Staff Writer

Gerald and Dolores Kopel, 2801 Grape St., have two great interests in life—their 6-month-old son, David, and law.

Both are equally important to the young couple who, under the title Kopel & Kopel, maintain law offices in the Professional Business Men's Insurance Building, 333 W. Colfax Ave.

Attractive, brunette Mrs. Kopel now goes to the office only four days a week so she will have a little extra time with David.

Whenever David is awake and they're home, he gets almost all of their attention.

But after he goes to sleep, they often adjourn to their home offices—her's is on the first floor; her husband's in the basement—and settle down to their "homework."

Although they handle many phases of law in their work, the young attorneys prefer personal injury cases. This is when a person involved in some kind of an accident must sue to collect damages.

"It's rewarding both financially and morally," Kopel said.

"It's something akin to a surgeon . . . you're restoring his financial status which has certainly been interrupted. . . ."

Mrs. Kopel also serves as one of ten trustees for the bankruptcy court in Denver. As such, she can be appointed by the court to collect a bankrupt person's assets and dispose of them so his creditors can be paid.

Her husband's other main interest is as director of the bar refresher for law students at the University of Colorado and the University of Denver. With the assistance of 16 other lawyers, he helps students prepare for their bar examinations.

The Kopels, who were married in 1952, met when they were undergraduates at CU. It was journalism, and not law, that brought them together.

Kopel, who majored in journalism and worked as a newspaperman before deciding to go to law school, was editor of CU's Silver and Gold newspaper and his wife was one of the reporters. She was a pre-law student.

He said he decided to switch to law because it "offered a

fascinating career" and because it would allow him more time with his wife. At the time, he was working nights for a local newspaper.

Why did Mrs. Kopel decide on a career in law?

"Mainly because my folks wanted me to go into law," she said. "I grew up with the idea and never wanted to do anything else." Both are graduates of the DU Law School.

Because of the demands of their work, and because they want to spend as much time as possible with David, the Kopels have few outside interests.

"If we go out twice a month, that's very good," he said.

Kopel said many of their friends also are husband-and-wife attorney teams and law is usually a favorite topic of conversation when they get together.

How does having two attorneys in the family work out?

"I think it takes a special combination of people to be able to get along together all day—and all evening," Kopel said. "We've found it works out fine, but I certainly wouldn't recommend it for everyone."

WOMEN IN POL

Jane Je

By JEAN RAGAN

Denver Post Staff Writer

Democratic women from throughout Colorado will gather in Denver Aug. 12 and 13 for their annual Federated Jane Jefferson Democratic Club seminar.

The two-day program will feature a panel discussion on the Colorado State Democratic platform for 1960, led by U.S. Rep.

Double Ring Vows Said In Denver

Bouquets of white gladioli, yellow and aqua daisies banked the altar of Our Savior Lutheran Church for the marriage of Miss Paulene Kaye Dodson, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Kenneth Dodson of Derby, Colo., to Donald Clay Gaunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Gaunt of Denver.

The Rev. Harold Riese performed the recent, double ring ceremony. A reception was held in the church parlor.

Attending the couple were Miss Barbara Hedenskog, maid of honor; Miss Connie Dodson and Miss Margret Mora, bridesmaids; Jerry Gordon, best man; Larr Dodson and Russell Gaunt, ushers.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaunt are making their home at 7440 Krameria St., Denver. Both were graduated from Adams City High School.



DeSantis Photo

MRS. DONALD C. GAUNT



Dolores Kopel

Dolores (not Jerry) Named U.S. Trustee

Every time DBA's first vice president, Dolores Kopel, receives an honor or an appointment, the newspaper stories put the focus on her husband, Rep. Gerald Kopel.

Now that Mrs. Kopel has been appointed U.S. Trustee for the Colorado-Kansas district by Attorney General Griffin Bell, "The Docket" is determined not to make that mistake.

Dolores Kopel has practiced law in Denver for 25 years, with extensive work in the bankruptcy field during the last 20. A graduate of the University of Denver College of Law, she has been co-director of Colorado Bar Refresher Inc.; treasurer of the Denver Bar Association; president of the DU Metro Law Alumni Association and a member of the Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association. She was elected first vice president of DBA in 1979.

One of her first tasks as U. S. Trustee will be to fill a number of trustee openings in the Colorado-Kansas district. She has announced that applicants for these openings may send their resumes to her.

Judges Honored By Federal Bar

Judges of the U.S. District Court in Colorado and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals will be honored at the Judicial Banquet of the Colorado Chapter of the Federal Bar Association at 6:30 P.M., Sept. 12, at the Boulder Dinner Theatre. The banquet will be followed by a performance of "My Fair Lady."

Legal Affairs

GOING BACK to their original tradition of making only those people with "H's" or "K's" in their names partners, **Weller, Friedrich, Hickish and Haslett** has announced that **David W. Kirsch** has become a partner in that firm.

Richard J. Spelts and **Dean R. Vanatta** have announced the continuation of their practice under the new firm name of **Vanatta and Spelts** located at 1540 Energy Center One, 717 Seventeenth Street, Denver 80207.

The firm of **Sterling, Simon and Rubner, P.C.** has announced that it has relocated its offices at 1800 Emerson Street, Denver, Colorado 80218. We are sure that all of our readers are as anxious as we are to know how its offices became lost in the first place.

IN FURTHERANCE of the branch office tradition, **Marilyn S. Kite**, formerly Senior Assistant Attorney General for Wyoming has become counsel to **Holland & Hart** at its offices in Laramie, Wyoming. The firm has also announced that **Morris B. Hecox, Jr.** and **Gerald J. Schissler** have become partners. The firm is now looking for someone

named **Shecox** to make partner in order to satisfy their affirmative action program.

Gregory C. Tevis, formerly a staff attorney with the SEC is now engaged in the general practice of law with offices at One Park Central, 1515 Arapahoe Street, Suite 1585, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Al Wolf and **Walter Slatkin** have formed the firm of **Wolf and Slatkin**, practicing at 1350 Security Life Building, 1616 Glenarm Place, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Frank Plaut has added **Evan S. Lipstein** as a shareholder in his firm and the firm name has been changed to **Plaut and Lipstein, P.C.**

Cathlin Donnell has become a member of the **Kelley, Hagland, Garnsey and Kahn** firm and has added her name to the firm name. We assume that this was done with the permission of the rest of the firm.

Gary H. Tobey has joined **Constantine and Prochnow, P.C.** as a principal. Apparently they were looking for a lawyer to take into the firm, but a principal was the best they could do.

Jeff Weiborn

Hoffman Committee To Develop Plan for Evaluating Judges

The Judicial Planning Council of the Colorado Judicial Department has set out to develop a plan for evaluating the performance of judges, with the aid of a 20-member committee chaired by Dean Daniel S. Hoffman of the University of Denver College of Law.

Such a plan had been called for by House Bill-1033, ordering the Department to prepare the plan by Jan. 1, 1980, as a guide to voters in retention elections. But the department decided to act on its own, avoiding the question of whether the Legislature had the constitutional power to issue such an order to the judiciary.

Appeals Court Judge Donald P. Smith, chairman of the Judicial Planning Council, said the committee would "study the purposes and

methods of performance evaluation, solicit the views and ideas of judges, members of the Legislature and a variety of citizens, explore evaluation alternatives and prepare recommendations for the Judicial Planning Council and the Supreme Court."

Members of the Hoffman Committee are: Baxter Arnold, Sterling; Lewis T. Babcock, La Junta; Alex S. Keller, Denver; Anthony F. Vollack, Golden; Charles D. Pierce, Denver; George Manerbino, Denver; Harry Lawson, Denver; Rep. King M. Trimble, Denver; Sen. J. Robert Allshouse, Aurora; Emily Bocko, Littleton; Carol Green, Denver; Julian S. Garza, Jr., Denver; Ed Lehman, Longmont; Edith Sherman, Denver; Kenneth Kindelsperger, Denver; Roland Rautenstrauss, Boulder; Kenneth Monford, Greeley; Peter Holme, Denver.



Dolores Kopel with her granddaughter Margaret "Maggie" Kopel in November 2018, at the admission to legal practice ceremony for new Colorado lawyers.

Park Hill Patriot

Happy 90th, Dolores Kopel

By David Kopel

For the GPHN

Editor's Note: On Jan. 8, Dolores Kopel — one of Park Hill's original matriarchs in the battle for integration — turned 90. To help mark the milestone, we asked her son, Dave Kopel, to provide some background and context about his mom and his dad, the former longtime state legislator Jerry Kopel.

When Jerry and Dolores bought their first house in late 1959, they chose Park Hill because they wanted an integrated neighborhood.

Indeed, when Jerry Koplowitz was a journalism major at CU, he was a Tom Dewey Republican. When Dewey lost to Truman in 1948, Jerry lost a bet and shaved his mustache. The mustache never returned, and Jerry's then-Republican leanings didn't have much time left. By the early 1950s, he had become a Democrat for two major reasons: 1. the influence of Dolores, who had grown up as a midwestern farm FDR Democrat; 2. civil rights.

So for Dolores and Jerry in 1960, buying a house at 2801 Grape St. wasn't just a real estate transaction. "Do you believe in the Constitution or not?" was how Dolores later explained their decision to buy into Park Hill. They put their money where their principles were. The same in 1967, when they bought the large house and property at 1755 Glencoe — a bargain in space-per-dollars, but a bigger version of the 1960 risk: would Park Hill's changing racial composition destroy property values?

Dolores and Jerry fully understood the historic pattern in other cities — such as Kansas City or Detroit — of what happened when Blacks started moving into a white neighborhood: real estate agents would panic the whites into rapid sales to escape while they still could; next, the now-vacant large houses would be chopped into apartments, which bring in a population without

long-term commitment to the neighborhood. Fewer people who bother to repair broken windows or mow the lawn, and a downward spiral intensifies.

Having decided to move to the front lines of the battle for integration, Jerry and Dolores threw themselves into community organizing in Park Hill. I don't need to tell you the story of the Park Hill Action Committee, the battles against taverns and liquor stores, and the fight to establish R-O zoning. For Dolores and Jerry, and for the PHAC, all this was Park Hill patriotism. It worked. Unlike comparable neighborhoods in older cities, Park Hill *did* successfully integrate. This is one reason that Denver was the one of largest American cities that did *not* have a race riot in the late 1960s.

Today, circumstances are different. Many people take Park Hill's racial integration for granted, as if it were a natural condition. Today, liquor stores are "essential businesses." Strict application of R-O zoning is no longer realistic, now that so many people have created home-based small businesses. Nobody says that yesterday's solutions must be applied to today's concerns.

Jerry and Dolores and the Park Hill Action Committee applied 1960s solutions to 1960s problems, and their success helped make Park Hill their thriving neighborhood it is today. Park Hill was always the Promised Land for Dolores and Jerry Kopel. Park Hill helped them achieve the American Dream; to Park Hill, Dolores and Jerry gave their all, so that all people could achieve the dream.

My mom, who was one of the first female lawyers in Colorado, is now fully retired. The last political campaign she worked on was Obama 2012. She looks forward to the end of the pandemic, and being able to resume meetings with her friends, such as her French group, and being able to do water exercise at the Jewish Community Center.

Mountains

Dan Recht, Notable Attorney and Bon

By Cara DeGette

Editor, GPHN

Dan Recht, Park Hill resident, celebrated criminal defense lawyer, former president of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, former chairman of the ACLU of Colorado and frequent television and NPR radio commentator on civil rights and constitutional law, has retired.

His partners and pals at the law firm he co-founded note that Recht — who lives on Ivy Street — is going out "on top while he's young and able to pursue his pent-up passions outside of the courtroom."

"Of course, we are happy for him in making this positive lifestyle decision ... but we are saddened to lose his zeal for criminal defense, his good nature and positive outlook on law and life generally, and his lead-by-example ethical advocacy," his colleagues noted in a January message.

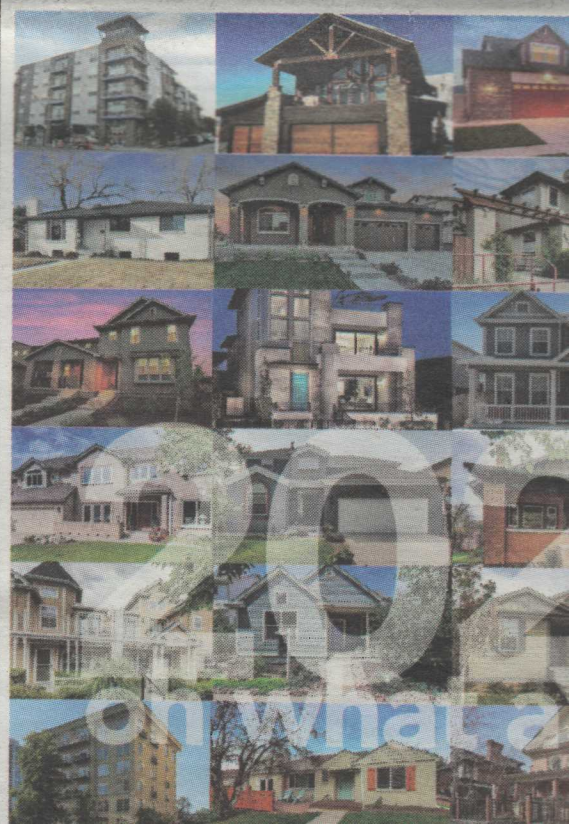
Recht, 67 ("but who's counting"), is also an avid cyclist — and those who know him will laugh at that gross understatement. In September, 2019 Recht was featured in the Greater Park Hill News detailing many of his cycling adventures, including riding to the top of Mount Evans — Colorado's highest peak — at least 20 times. That full story can be read at greaterparkhill.org/news-and-opinion/dan-recht-crushes-it/.

Over his career, Recht worked for high



Dan Recht at the state bar in Idaho Springs on a bicycle.

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DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Western History and Genealogy News

Kopel Family Grateful for Recognition

When library supporter Dolores Kopel first saw the bronze-plated sign that reads, "Jerry and Dolores Kopel Conference Room" in the Central Library's Western History Genealogy Department, she says she was overwhelmed-in a good way.

Dolores, along with her son, David, recently visited the library to admire the new sign and talk about their family's love of books and libraries.

"The library makes such a difference in people's lives," says Dolores.

As long-time library donors and users, the Kopel family has always had a love affair with books as well as a history of giving back to the community.

Throughout her life, Dolores Kopel has been a leader in educational, political and civic duties, as well as a strong supporter of cultural institutions and her community in general.

Dolores entered the University of Denver in the 1950s-a time when there were only three women in her law school class. After graduating cum laude and passing the bar exam, she opened her own practice and "took whatever work came my way."

Her law practice spanned 50 years, during which time, Dolores not only practiced law, but published articles, lectured locally and nationally, and even organized a refresher course for students preparing to take the bar exam. Governor Richard Lamm appointed her to be the

public member of the Real Estate Commission, and Governor Roy Romer appointed her as the public member on the Collection Agency Board.

Dolores and Jerry were both leaders in their field and the community. Jerry passed away in 2012, and Dolores says he would have also been overwhelmed and grateful to see the sign bearing their names at the library.

Today, Dolores travels to Europe, studies French and still finds time to frequent the Park Hill Branch Library. She recalls how much her son, David, who was a voracious reader, loved going to the branch as a youngster.

Dolores laughs and says, "It was easier-and cheaper-to feed his book habit with library books!"

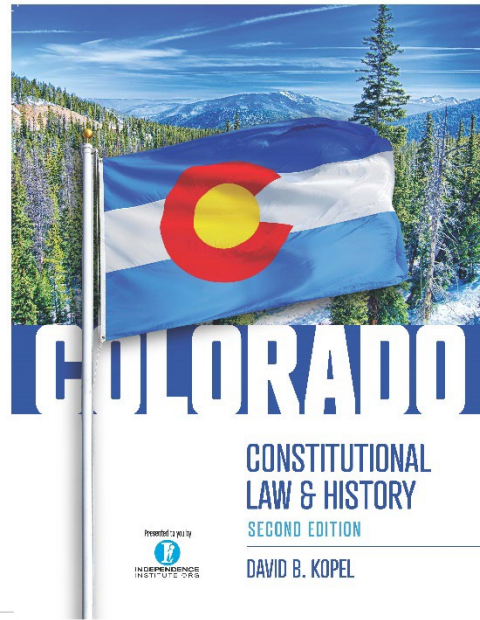
Today, an accomplished lawyer and published author himself, David says he has fond memories of walking to the Park Hill Branch Library as a youngster with his father. David serves as the research director at the Independence Institute in Denver. And, he still raves about the library.

"It's amazing the resources the library offers," David says, adding that he requests that interns in his office use the Western History and Genealogy Department to learn top-notch research skills from the staff. "It's good to understand that not everything can be found on Google."

David says it makes him happy to see the signage in one of his favorite locations in the city. "It's nice to see the public recognition of my parents."

While the acknowledgement of their generous gift-giving is appreciated, for the Kopel family it's the services their donations provide that warm their hearts.

Surrounded by books, maps and customers going about their business accessing information, Dolores smiles and says, "We just love the library."



Dedication

To the memory of my grandparents, Cornelius and Bess Blanke, for emigrating to Colorado, and for supporting my mother's decision to become a lawyer.

To my mother, Dolores Kopel, and to the memory of my late father, Jerry Kopel. In many decades of involvement in government and civic affairs, they worked hard to help Colorado fulfill its constitutional values of liberty and the rule of law.

Background

My mother's family moved from their farm in Iowa to Colorado Springs in the 1940s. At the University of Colorado, my mother, Dolores Blanke, met my father, Jerry Koplowitz. A Baltimore native who had emigrated to Colorado following service in the Army Corps of Engineers. As a Journalism major, he had been advised by the department head to find another field, but he persisted and became managing editor of the campus newspaper, the daily *Silver and Gold*. My mother was a reporter, and many of their dates consisted of preparing the next day's edition.

She attended the University of Denver's law school, because DU law school welcomed prospective female students and CU law school did not. Meanwhile, my father began a career in journalism, starting at the *Walsenberg World-Independent*, and moving to the *Rocky Mountain News*. Because the *Rocky* was a morning paper, journalists had to work every evening. Dissatisfied with rarely seeing Dolores, Jerry began attending DU law school part-time. They were both outstanding students. After he graduated in 1958, they shortened their last names and formed the Kopel & Kopel law firm. They practiced civil law, specializing in bankruptcy. Seeing how many bankrupts had been exploited by predatory lending practices led them to become champions of consumer credit reform. Their other great issue was civil rights. In northeast Denver, they were leaders of the Park Hill Action Committee, which worked successfully for the racial integration of Park Hill.

Early in his career, Jerry worked part-time for the Colorado state archives, and then for the Colorado attorney general as a legislative drafter. Some of the photographs of documents you will see in chapter 1 are those that he saved from being disposed by fire. Burning extra copies of books did not seem right to him, especially at the state archives.

In 1964, Jerry was elected as a Colorado state representative from northeast Denver. In the following decades, he compiled an 11–2 election record, and completed his final term of service in 1992. As a Democrat, he was in the minority for 9 of his 11 terms, but still passed many important bills. Among his early accomplishments were expanding Colorado’s Fair Housing Act (1965) and strengthening of the Uniform Consumer Credit Code (1971). With experience, he developed new insights into how laws can work against consumers. For example, licensing laws often operate to enrich incumbents and exclude potential competitors, thus raising prices for consumers and preventing people from following a trade or calling. So Jerry Kopel wrote the first Sunset Law in the United States (1975). Widely copied in other states, Sunset Laws declare that regulatory agencies for occupations automatically cease to exist after a term of years, unless affirmatively renewed by the legislature. He followed up with the first Sunrise Law, to control the creation of new regulatory agencies. He strongly favored regulation to protect consumers, and strongly opposed misuse of regulation to harm consumers.

As the best-informed lawyer in the legislature—and one of the very few legislators who read every bill in full before voting—he made countless amendments to Colorado statutes. He worked quietly with Democratic, Republican, and Independent legislators to improve the language of their bills and avoid unintended conflicts with other statutes.

He didn’t write the Martin Luther King holiday bill; representative Wilma Webb did that. Jerry’s expertise in parliamentary procedure made the bill pass, with Jerry’s three-step trap on a series of parliamentary motions. At step two, the bill’s supporters called out, “No, Wilma, that’s wrong.” So it seemed, until step three sprang the trap.¹

Perhaps most relevantly for readers of this book, Jerry Kopel shepherded more constitutional amendments than anyone else in Colorado history. All his amendments were to remove obsolete constitutional provisions. While the Colorado Constitution is one of the longest in the United States, it would be even longer without him.

At the suggestion of the dean of DU law school, Jerry created a program to help students prepare for the Colorado bar exam. Together, Jerry and Dolores ran their Colorado Bar Refresher for a quarter century. For students on the cusp of passage, he provided personal tutoring to improve their essay answers.

One of the first female lawyers in Colorado, Dolores Kopel in 1972 organized a seven week “Women in the Law” seminar at the University of Denver College of Law. A bankruptcy expert, she was appointed as the first regional U.S. Trustee in a pilot program created by the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1979. The program was later adopted nationally. Dolores’s region comprised the federal bankruptcy courts of Colorado and Kansas. She oversaw the largest bankruptcy in the U.S. at the time, Storage-Tek in 1984.

She also served as first public member of the Colorado Real Estate Commission and of the Collection Agency Board. Jerry and Dolores Kopel were the first married couple on the Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association.

They were ardent Colorado patriots. He was Jewish and she was Methodist, and they knew that there was much more tolerance of mixed marriage in Colorado than in the places they had come from. They were both individualists and thrived in Colorado’s freer spirit. They paid it forward.

In the 1992 legislative session, when Jerry announced that he would not seek reelection, the *Rocky Mountain News* described some of the causes for which Kopel & Kopel had fought:

¹ For the House’s consideration of the Senate’s amendments to the bill, Rep. Webb’s motions were, in order: the House should adhere to its version of the bill; the House should request a conference committee; the House should concur in the Senate amendments. In the written note that rep. Kopel gave rep. Webb: “ADHERE, CONFER, CONCUR.” See Jerry Kopel, *Passing the Martin Luther King Holiday*, available on the home page of jerrykopel.com (1st published as *Using rules to pass Martin Luther King bill*, COLO. STATESMAN, Feb. 5, 1993).

State Rep. Jerry Kopel hopes to end his legislative career the same way he launched it 27 years ago: Prohibiting governments from seizing private property without due process of law.

Ask the Denver Democrat what bill he's proudest of and he immediately cites the first one he pushed through the legislature as a freshman in 1965. It prohibited creditors from going to court and garnisheeing wages without a hearing. Until then, they could attach your pay at the same time they filed their complaint.²

This year, his last at the legislature, Kopel is again confronting a greedy government. His HB 1219 would prohibit state law enforcement agencies from keeping the cars, cash and other goodies they seize from suspects unless they get a conviction.

...
"I think he was the most intellectually honest guy I ever served with," [former Republican state senator Steve] Durham said.

Peter Blake, *Kopel Fights to Last for Libertarianism*, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Feb. 10, 1992 (1992 WLNR 441816).

My parents never thought of themselves as libertarians. They were John F. Kennedy liberal Democrats, optimistic about the ability of affirmative government to promote the common good. They were also constitutionalists, and they well knew how big government can rob the little guy.

In the words of U.S. rep. Diana DeGette (D-Denver), "Jerry and Dolores have had a distinctive lifetime at the forefront of Colorado politics, policy, and history and their commitment to public service and the betterment of their fellow Coloradans serves as a sterling example for younger generations and those entering public policy careers." 154 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD E1229, E1230 (June 12, 2008).

They inspired me. Perhaps some of the great Coloradans you meet in this book will inspire you.

² A garnishment is a court order that an employer withhold some of an employee's wages and give those wages to a creditor of the employee.

KOPEL—Dolores B.



Dolores B. Kopel, widow of Jerry Kopel, passed away on August 19, 2022, at home and surrounded by family, as she had wished. In a law and public affairs career that spanned over half a century, she fought for justice, especially for women, minorities, and the poor. Born January 8, 1931, Dolores grew up on a corn farm in Mahaska County, Iowa, the only child of Cornelius and Bess Blanke. They moved to Colorado in 1946, where she attended Colorado Springs High School (class of 1948) and the University of Colorado. As a reporter for the CU newspaper, *The Silver & Gold*, she met managing editor Jerry Koplowitz. Many of their early dates consisted of laying out the newspaper for the next day's edition. After CU law school made it clear that it did not look favorably on the idea of female law students, she transferred to the University of Denver. Although she graduated at the top of her law school class in 1954, firms in Colorado would not hire a woman, and so she embarked on solo practice. She married Jerry in 1952, and after several years working as journalist for the *Rocky Mountain News*, Jerry decided that he wanted to spend much more time with her. He enrolled in the DU Law night program and graduated at the top of his own class in 1958. The Koplowitzes changed their names and founded the law firm Kopel & Kopel. "They were the original 'power couple' long before dual careers were more outwardly prevalent and socially acceptable," said U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette. Kopel & Kopel became leading bankruptcy lawyers in Colorado and then nationally. Additionally, Jerry and Dolores ran the Colorado Bar Refresher, to help law graduates prepare for the Colorado and Wyoming bar exams. In 1979, President Carter appointed Dolores as U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee for the districts of Colorado and Kansas. She led a pilot program for reform of the trustee system that was later adopted nationally. She was also the first public interest member of the Colorado Real Estate Commission, and of the Collection Agency Board. Together Dolores and Jerry served on the Colorado Bar Association's Board of Governors. As community activists, they helped lead the Park Hill Action Committee, which successfully promoted the racial integration of Denver's Park Hill neighborhood in the 1960s. Dolores was the sine qua non of Jerry's 22-year career as a reform-minded Colorado Democratic State Representative. In retirement, she appreciated friends in her French club, in the Business and Professional Women's Network, and her neighborhood. Dolores is survived by her son David and spouse Deirdre, and by her grandchildren, Kathleen and spouse Hector Banchs, Margaret and spouse Martin Percey, and Andrew. A Celebration of Dolores's life will be held on Sunday, September 25, at the Denver Botanic Gardens, at noon. Memorial donations may be made to the Legal Aid Foundation, or to the Western History Collection at the Denver Public Library.