

active in this group for more than thirty-five years. Parker, who died at age eighty-two on January 15, 2006, made significant contributions to the world of scholarship and to humanity.

Kenneth Nebenzahl

### BARBARA SUDLER HORNBY

Barbara Sudler Hornby died on February 5, 2006 in Denver. She was born Barbara Welch on April 20, 1925, at Pearl Harbor to Navy Commander Leo Welch and Barbara Petrikin Welch of Denver. When she was three, her father taught her to read by reciting lines from Shakespeare. She lived overseas while her father served in China, the Philippines, and other posts for the Navy, and she spent summers in Denver with her grandfather, Will Petrikin, president of the Great Western Sugar Company. During World War II, her father's many commands included commodore of the Atlantic Ocean convoys carrying aid to Great Britain.

Barbara lived in Newport, Rhode Island, and Philadelphia, but her heart was in Colorado. During the war, her father was sent west to establish a Naval ROTC unit at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Barbara graduated from the university with a B.A. in English literature in 1944. She did war work at Buckley Field and Fort Logan and research for the University of Denver. Barbara Welch married architect Jim Sudler, a creative person, known for his contemporary design projects including the Denver Art Museum. He died in 1982; the following year she married William Hornby, senior editor, and now editor emeritus, of the *Denver Post*.

Barbara Sudler Hornby's vocation was the preservation of Colorado's history and the saving of the state's cultural and aesthetic resources. President of Historic Denver from 1974 to 1979, she spearheaded the preservation of the early Denver residences at Ninth Street Historic Park on the Auraria Campus, and

was instrumental in the rehabilitation of residences in the Curtis Park historic district. She was the first woman to serve as president of the Colorado Historical Society and led that organization from 1979 to 1989, ten years of growth and change. During her tenure, she raised funds for the implementation of the Society's master plan for the 30,000-square-foot core exhibitions gallery at the Colorado History Museum. She was also instrumental in establishing the twenty-year tradition of *Artists of America* exhibitions in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Denver, a fundraising project that helped to establish the Society's endowment fund. Additionally, her eye for design left its mark on every aspect of the Society's publications, membership, and marketing materials of that decade. Barbara exhibited a talent for making friends for history. She increased the Society's membership, raised funds for major projects, and encouraged the donation of historical documents and artifacts to the Society. She introduced young people to the wonderful history of the region. The Society was one of the happy beneficiaries of Barbara's enthusiasm for historic preservation. Her leadership guided the restoration of the Society's 1899 Pearce-McAllister Cottage in Denver and initiated the long-standing partnership with the Denver Museum of Dolls, Toys, and Miniatures. She also undertook the reconstruction of the nineteenth-century engineering marvel, the Devil's Gate high trestle bridge at the Georgetown Loop Historic Mining and Railroad Park and the restoration and public opening of the 1883 Byers-Evans House Museum.

After retiring from the Society, Barbara continued to participate in the Society's statewide preservation activities by serving as a member of the State Register of Historical Properties and National Register of Historic Places Review Boards. She served on the Denver Landmarks Commission during the terms of three mayors. Up to the time of her death, she served as vice chair of the Colorado Historical Foundation, which encourages and facilitates history and historic preservation projects, and which she helped found.

She believed very strongly in preservation, working often quietly but always tenaciously and effectively behind the scenes. She compared herself to the stage manager in *Our Town*, a role Thornton Wilder invented to operate outside conventional limits.

In 1995 Colorado Preservation honored her with the Dana Crawford Award, and in 2000 the University of Colorado named her Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. Barbara was elected to the American Antiquarian Society on October 19, 1983, and became a Councillor in 1986. In 1988 she became chairman of the committee on education. Her husband, Bill Hornby, was elected a member on October 16, 1991.

Barbara's influence was broad. A preservationist to the very end, her keen intellect, persuasive charm, and strong convictions made her a formidable force for the preservation of the material resources of Colorado's past. Her vigorous championing of history and preservation has left a legacy of which her family, friends, and colleagues can be proud.

Barbara had chosen as honorary pall bearers for her memorial service at Saint John's Cathedral fifteen women who are active in the region's preservation community, including a member of Congress, the wife of a mayor, historians, teachers, artists, civic leaders and volunteers. She is survived by her husband, William Hornby, a son Jamie Sudler, of Denver; a daughter Leli Sudler, of Concord, Massachusetts; and three granddaughters, Isabel Black, Cleo Sudler Ledet, and Hadley Mauro. It has been said that our lives can be measured by what we remember and preserve of the past, what we do in the present, and what we leave for the future. In this regard Colorado and the nation are blessed by the life of Barbara Sudler Hornby.

Robert Charles Baron

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