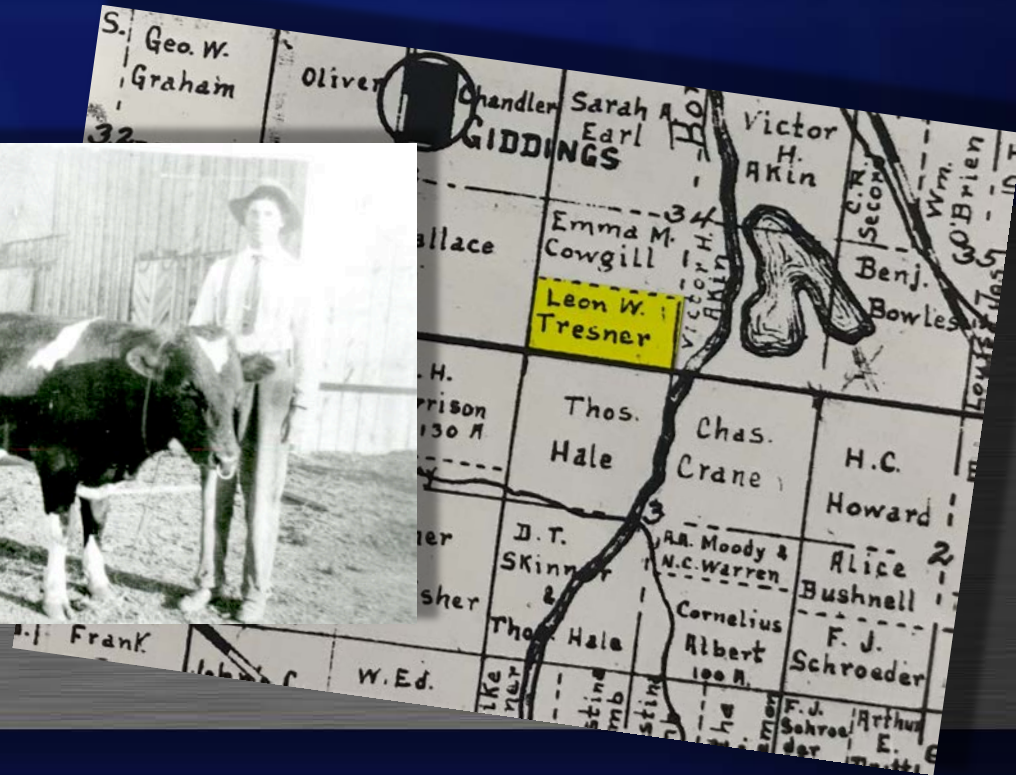
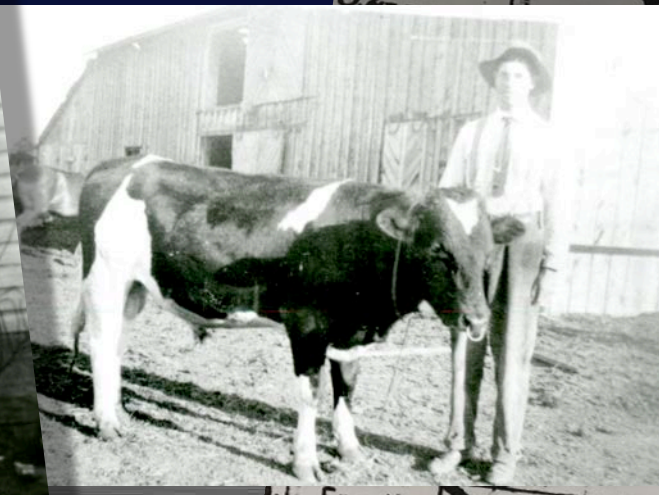


We often refer to Charlene Tresner as our patron saint in the Archive here at Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. She spent years of her life collecting thousands of photographs and hundreds of oral histories that continue to tell the story of Fort Collins.

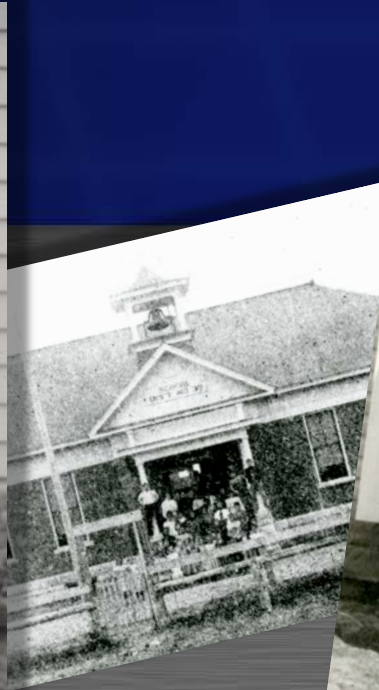


Charlene Tresner
1918-1990

Charlene was born on April 21, 1918 on a farm about five miles northeast of Fort Collins. It's highlighted in yellow here on this 1914 map, about Mountain Vista and I-25. She was the daughter of Charles and Flossie Tresner, both descendants of pioneer families.



Her family later moved into town, where her father was a minister at the People's Tabernacle church for 27 years. They were a very community-focused family and well-connected in town.



Charlene attended Laurel Elementary, Lincoln Junior High, and Fort Collins High School. We have several of her personal items in the Archive's collection, and some favorites are her report cards. Her string of As in history show that she was prepping for her career as early as 8th grade!

16

FORT COLLINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 FORT COLLINS, COLORADO
 1932-1933

WARD I. MILLER, SUPT.
 W. W. YOUNG, PRIN.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL REPORT CARD

SUBJECT: History 8X1

PUPIL: Charlene Trimmer TEACHERS:

HOME ROOM: 2

PERIODS		ABSENT	
1ST	<u>A</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Mr.</u>
2ND	<u>A-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Mr.</u>
3RD	<u>A-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Mr.</u>
4TH	<u>A</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Mr.</u>
5TH	<u>A</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Mr.</u>
6TH	<u>A</u>	<u>0</u>	
EXAM.			
FINAL AV.	<u>A</u>		



CHARACTER AND SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP

TRAITS	1	2	3	4	5	6
WASTES TIME						
HOME WORK POORLY DONE						
ABSENT TOO MUCH						
LACKS INTEREST						
COURTEOUS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VERY HELPFUL			✓	✓	✓	✓
DEPENDABLE			✓	✓	✓	✓
TRIES HARD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of Scholarship Marks

done with independence

needs more help

ent.

of class in quantity,

ess.

done; failure to do class

to illness or to absence.

GRAHO PRINTING CO.

Charlene was assistant editor of the student newspaper, called *Spilled Ink*, at Fort Collins High School. After she graduated in 1937, she attended Colorado A&M, present-day CSU, where she was feature editor of the *Collegian*. While in school she also worked as a proofreader for the *Fort Collins Leader*, a weekly paper published in town. Clearly, she was no stranger to getting the scoop on local stories. Here are some photos of her with her high school friends. They called themselves “The Old Maids’ Club.”



Her Bachelors in Home Economics in hand, her first job out of college was as a home demonstration agent in La Plata County. She then got married and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she had three daughters and worked as a teacher at the Living Way Bible College. She would return to Fort Collins 23 years later to join her mother after her father died.



From



MISS CHARLENE TRESNER
Home Demonstration Agent
La Plata County

★ ★ ★ ★

**HOME
DEMONSTRATION
CLUBS**

- November started off the new year for Home Demonstration Clubs of La Plata County.

With the new year, the county executive council composed of Mrs. Clem Biggs, Mrs. Milo Martin, and Mrs. Harold Peterson, has formulated county goals for Home Demonstration Clubs, which are as follows:

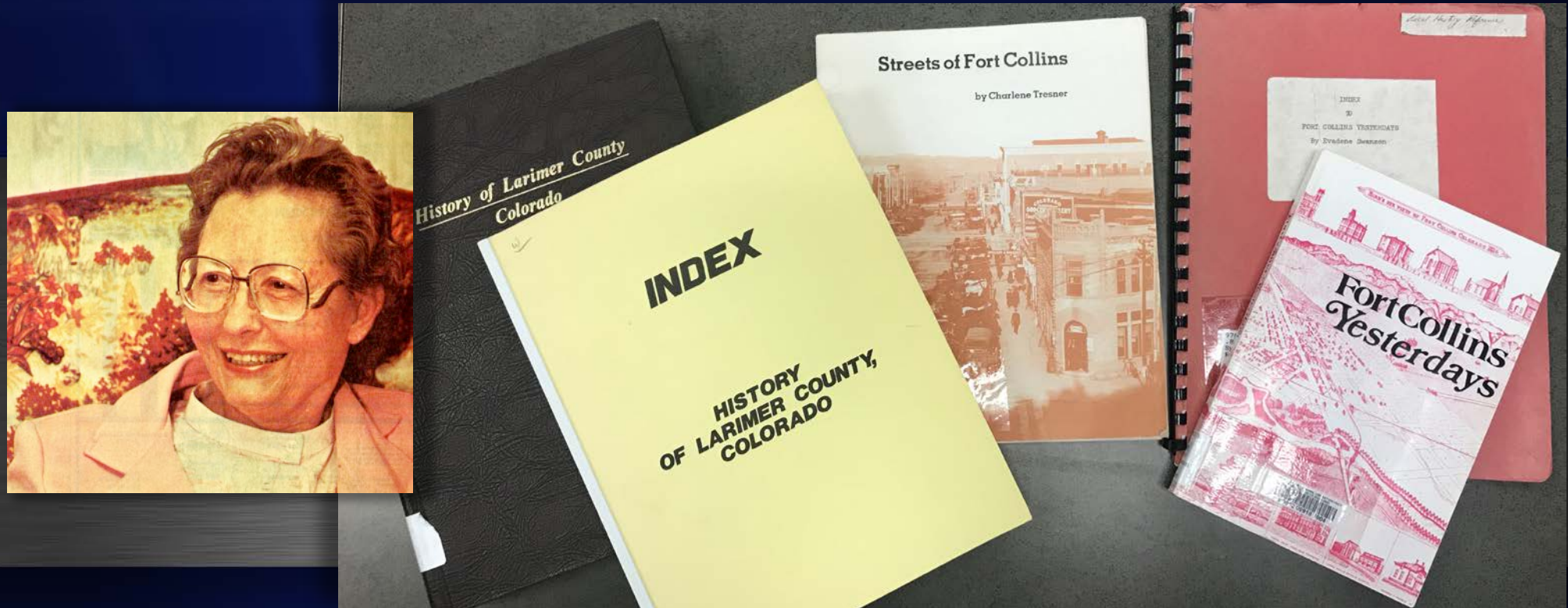
As the United States started gearing up to celebrate its bicentennial in the mid-1970s, Tresner learned there were plans to start a local history room at the new library. She secured grant funding to start a program interviewing long-time residents of Fort Collins. She and her small team interviewed over 70 people in the first summer alone. Altogether, Charlene personally interviewed over 200 people in Fort Collins, capturing their voices and memories and forming the nucleus of the Local History Archive. Pictured are just some of the many people she spoke to over the years.



Charlene also collected thousands of photographs and other archival materials, storing items under her bed until the local history section of the library was completed. Aided by members of the Fort Collins Historical Society and her personal connections, Charlene assembled and organized an amazing resource of tens of thousands of photos. Here are some photos of her at work.



She wrote many history articles for the local *Triangle Review* newspaper, assembling them into the book *Streets of Fort Collins*. She also did the current Archive and Collections staff a great service by indexing the 1911 tome *The History of Larimer County* as well as Evadene Swanson's book *Fort Collins Yesterdays*.



In 1985, Charlene suffered a stroke and retired later that year, eventually moving to Albuquerque where she passed away in August of 1990. She was 72 years old. Her work can still be seen all over the Archive today. We read her notes written on the backs of photos and scrawled on newspaper clippings. We hear her voice on nearly every oral history interview we have in our collection. So many people have worked to make the Archive what it is over the years, but Charlene truly was the one who started it all.



Learn more about local history by visiting the Archive at Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, visiting the Poudre River Public Library District, and by checking us out online at the Fort Collins History Connection.