



CAROL KARLIN
Community Activist

Born on April 22, 1933 in Los Angeles, California, Carol Karlin moved to Jefferson County with her family in 1960. She has lived here ever since, with the exception of three years when her whole family lived in West Berlin while her husband was teaching at a German bilingual school.

Carol joined the Jeffco League of Women Voters in 1961 and became an active and effective advocate for low-income housing, migrant labor, land use, national security and open space.

By 1971 Carol had become increasingly chagrined at the unbridled growth in the county, and the lack of concern for preserving open space. She presented to the League her idea of a $1\frac{1}{2}$ cent sales tax to purchase open space lands. She also formed PLAN Jeffco, a citizens' open space group which is still active today. Together they persuaded the county commissioners to place the item on the ballot, and in 1972 the sales tax passed by a wide margin. Since then over \$83 million in revenue has been generated and approximately 25,000 acres of open space have been purchased for the enjoyment of Jefferson County residents in perpetuity.

Open space and the protection of historical sites has finally become a priority in America's communities. But Carol was a pioneer. Her contributions will stand as an invaluable recreation and natural environmental resource.

Carol served on the Jeffco Human Relations Council which led to the formation of the Jeffco Action Center. She was appointed to the Rocky Flats Action Committee, and was nominated "Woman of the Year" by a local bank. In 1978 the National Association of Counties gave her an Annual Friends of Recreation award as a citizen activist volunteer. In 1987 the City of Lakewood chose her as one of the sixty "Women Who Made a Difference" in Colorado.

Carol has a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Arizona, has been widowed twice, and greatly enjoys her four daughters and four grandchildren. Besides all this, she sings in the Denver Friends of Folk Music, which she helped found 30 years ago.

She was elected to the Jefferson County Hall of Fame in 1992.