



KATHLEEN E. (KAY) KLEPETKO
Historian - Writer - Community Activist

Kathleen E. "Kay" Klepetko was born October 4, 1917 at Hotel Dieu, El Paso, Texas and attended public schools there. She graduated from University of Southern California with a degree in sociology. Kay married Ernest Klepetko, Jr. in June 1938 and as a result of his work and her thirst for adventure and knowledge, traveled the world. They had two sons, Lawrence and Frank Albert. In 1940 she earned a pilot's license.

The Klepetkos moved to Colorado in 1956 and Kay immediately became involved in the school library and 4-H. She eventually was appointed to eight years as a trustee on the Jefferson County Library Board. She became a club leader for the 4-H and then chairman of the leader's unit at started the Jefferson County Foundation to finance youth activities.

As the first chairman of the Jefferson County Historical Commission as well as the Centennial Bicentennial Committee, her leadership coordinated the committee activities while identifying many historical sites and twenty centennial sites for Jefferson County. Kay created the Jefferson County Hall of Fame. She was the first chairman of the Lakewood Senior Citizen Advisory Board and the Colorado Republican Senior Committee.

Her writings include the text of "Tales of Bar P.D.," a history of Outdoor Education in Jefferson County; she collaborated on "From Scratch", the first comprehensive history of Jefferson County. Kay was instrumental in the establishment of the Hiwan Homestead and became editor of the Society's quarterly bulletin.

Kay was an accomplished organist and shared her talents with the Applewood Valley Methodist Church. She died January 8, 1990, and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1995.