



*RUTH SMALL STOCKTON
Legislator - Community Leader*

Ruth Small was born in Ridgely Park, New Jersey on June 16, 1916. She had three brothers and three sisters. She attended Vassar College, Columbia University, and the University of Colorado. When she was twenty her father took her to a National Republican Convention where she met her future husband Truman Alex Stockton of Denver. They were married in 1937 and lived in Denver until they moved to their lifetime home on Glen Dale in Lakewood. Ruth and Truman had one daughter, Alex (Boots), and one grandson, Truman Edward Beran.

During her early married years Ruth worked with many community groups including PTA, reorganization of the Jeffco schools, United Way and Cerebral Palsy Center. In addition, she was active in Republican politics serving as precinct committeewoman, Co-chair of Western States Young Republicans, Co-chair of the National Young Republicans, and National Republican Committeewoman from Colorado.

In 1960 Ruth decided to run for public office and was the first woman from Jefferson County elected to the legislature. She was re-elected to the House of Representatives in 1962. In 1964 she was elected to the Colorado Senate and served until her retirement in 1984. During her 24-year tenure in the Colorado legislature she served on many committees including 10 years as Chairman of the Health, Environment, Welfare and Institutions Committee. She had many firsts for a Colorado woman legislator; the first Caucus Chairman, first to serve as Pro-Tem in the Senate, and first to serve on the Joint Budget Committee and as its Chairman. While Ruth had many interests she was a champion of people who couldn't help themselves or needed a hand to help them be independent. Her primary areas of interest were education, senior citizens, and persons who are developmentally disabled, mentally ill, and with drug and alcohol abuse problems.

Ruth passed away on October 21, 1990.