

Excellence through Service



Lewis-Palmer School District

HALL of FAME

2014 Inductees

Lewis-Palmer School District Hall of Fame Award

Honoring the Past, Looking to the Future

The Lewis-Palmer School District Board of Education announced the establishment of the Lewis-Palmer School District Hall of Fame at its August meeting in 2013. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to publicly recognize those who have made significant contributions to the success of the district and its students. Former superintendent John Borman said, "This is long overdue. We are who we are because of people who did a lot of work to establish criteria for our schools, which turned into the foundation of this amazing district. We don't want that history to be lost."

Borman chaired the committee to establish nomination and selection criteria, solicit nominations, and select this year's inductees. The committee represented teachers, students, staff, community members, and elected leaders.

The nomination process generated many deserving candidates, all of whom made substantial contributions to education. Our district is blessed with a multitude of dedicated, talented, capable people committed to creating quality local schools, throughout our history and to this day. The selection committee was greatly impressed by the number of commendable candidates and their widely varying influence on the evolution of excellence in Lewis-Palmer School District.

Due to the large number of worthy nominations in this formative year for the Hall of Fame Awards, the applications for all nominees not inducted to the Hall of Fame in 2014 will be held for future consideration and will be included in the selection process in 2015.

Many more volunteers helped with award and display design, event coordination, research and publications, and publicity. A complete list of those participants is listed later in this publication.

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony September 20, 2014

Timeline: Some of the Major Milestones in our History

- Late 1880's Palmer Lake School District #33 established for grades 1-8
- 1874 Founding of Monument School District #5, known as "The Lewis School District"
- 1917 Class offerings expand to 9th through 12th grades
- 1920 The Lewis School opens in Monument serving high school grades
- 1935 Palmer Lake Elementary building constructed
- 1948 School Districts #33 and #5 combine to become "Lewis-Palmer Consolidated School District No. 38"
- 1957 Lewis-Palmer High School building built at 66 Jefferson St. in Monument, later to become Grace Best Elementary
- 1973 Lewis-Palmer Elementary School opens
- 1980 New building for Lewis-Palmer High School opens on Higby Road
- 1988 Ray E. Kilmer Elementary opens at 4285 Walker Road
- 1994 Lewis-Palmer Middle School opens at 1776 Woodmoor Drive
- 1996 Lewis-Palmer Charter Academy opens, later to be renamed Monument Academy Charter School
- 2001 Prairie Winds Elementary and Creekside Middle School open
- 2008 Palmer Ridge High School opens
- 2010 Reconfiguration closes Creekside Middle School, relocates Grace Best Elementary School to establish Bear Creek Elementary School
- 2012 Lewis-Palmer Homeschool Enrichment Academy opens at Grace Best Education Center building



Kilmer Elementary under construction in 1988

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Inez Johnson Lewis



Inez Johnson Lewis, County and State Superintendent of Schools, 1908-1946

Special Legacy Award: Inez Johnson Lewis

Special thanks to Colorado College, Tutt Library, Special Collections

In 1895, after graduating from Colorado Springs High School, 20-year-old Inez Johnson became an elementary school teacher. Miss Johnson taught at numerous elementary schools in El Paso County, including one in Palmer Lake. Records show that her annual salary was \$50.00.

During Inez's tenure in education, a career that spanned half a century, the offices of County and State Superintendents were elected positions with two-year terms. In 1908, Inez won the first of many County Superintendent of Schools elections.

According to a Lewis family scrapbook, "Harry Lewis the manager of Holyoke Lumber Yards was a passenger for Denver thursday (sic) evening. From there he will go to Colorado Springs where it is said resides the only girl in the world for him and some friends say they suspicion very strongly that this visit will in all probability settle the matter once and for all." Indeed, the matter was settled once and for all. Inez, thirty-five, and Harry, thirty-two, were married in December of 1910. Harry became a successful Colorado Springs businessman, and with his support, Inez became an increasingly accomplished leader.

As researcher Nawana Britenriker wrote, "These years of leadership in the Colorado school system would last two world wars and America's Great Depression. During her experience in office, 1908-1946, the face of America would change in every aspect, from social institutions to family lifestyles and she managed as so many did not, to stay abreast of those changes and even, in some cases, to outstrip them. Her life and her work evanesced with her effort and achievement, and her name was quite literally a household word. Her vision for Colorado school children would be considered contemporary even by today's standards. Her impact on the Colorado system was tremendous, yet her sole public memorial is the Lewis Consolidated School in Monument, Colorado..."

The Inez Johnson Lewis School at 146 Jefferson Street was built in 1920, and is known to many as "Big Red." As noted in the National Register of Historic Places, "It was one of the first buildings constructed in the region for the purpose of consolidating students in order to provide a quality education beyond grade school." "Big Red" and, in part, the Lewis-Palmer School District are named in honor of Inez Johnson Lewis.

When Inez took office, there were 58 separate districts in El Paso County. In 1929, when she ended her service as County Superintendent, there were 18. This was significant. Most of these districts were comprised of rural, one-room school houses. Many were strewn over expanses of farm and ranch lands. Some were located in the mountains. Local revenues generated by these individual districts were not sufficient to provide secondary education. Mrs. Lewis knew the increasing importance of a high school education, and she believed all children should have the opportunity to earn a diploma. "Education is Colorado's biggest business. Colorado believes in education. Children from homes in the country areas are entitled to an education



Plaque on "Big Red" reads, Inez J. Lewis School AD 1920



The Lewis-Palmer Consolidated School was hailed as an example of excellence in education for rural communities

Inez Johnson Lewis *Continued*

comparable to that of an urban child, not only for his own sake but for the sake of the nation," said Mrs. Lewis while addressing the National Education Association.

Mrs. Lewis embraced the challenge of convincing rural communities to give up their small school and consolidate with their rather distant neighbors. One can only imagine the hesitation and opposition she encountered, given that these schools were the heart of these small towns. Inez travelled far and wide, often at her own expense, in order to meet with community leaders, parents, teachers, and students. Travel wasn't easy, ranging from train to horse and buggy. In the month of December 1927 alone, Inez travelled 516 miles. While difficult, she insisted on these journeys because they made it possible for her to establish those personal relationships that she so valued. As County Superintendent, Mrs. Lewis required every 6th, 7th, and 8th grader to provide her with a sample of their writing. This so she could assess student progress and teacher performance. Mrs. Lewis didn't stop there. She personally responded to every student with words of encouragement. These correspondences often continued for years. By the time Mrs. Lewis left office, the high school graduation had notably increased. Because of Mrs. Lewis, a high school education and diploma became accessible to all county residents regardless of where they lived.

Inez's accomplishments were numerous. She assured that all schools had safe drinking water. She established preschools, vocational schools, and adult education programs. Mrs. Lewis established a

circulating library. She created school hot lunch programs and a student transportation system. She facilitated academic and athletic competitions among county schools. She brought the arts to local classrooms, and she organized an annual El Paso County choir concert. Inez was instrumental in improving content area curriculum at all grade levels. She believed, "...the school program if made broad enough will be the means of directing the energies of boys and girls and adult citizens toward a cultural field and will make their lives safer, happier, and better."

Seven consecutive terms as County Superintendent of Schools demonstrated her popularity. Her accomplishments in El Paso County attracted attention across the state and beyond. Headlines in a local newspaper read, "Schools in El Paso County Among the Finest in the Land." Another read, "The Lewis Consolidated School at Monument, Colorado - One of Colorado's Finest." Inez Lewis certainly did give District 38 a brilliant beginning.

It would be a mistake to think that her impressive professional accomplishments were due to a charmed personal life. During this time, Inez's mother died, leaving Inez to care for her two younger sisters, one of whom contracted polio. In 1913, Inez lost her father. After years of illness, Harry Lewis died in 1923. Inez was devastated by her husband's death. She stepped back a bit and took time to visit his family in Atlanta. Upon her return, she resumed her work.

In 1928, Inez ran for State Superintendent of Schools. She lost. Mrs. Lewis then used the next two years to prepare for future elections. She finished her Bachelor's Degree at Colorado College. She travelled as a delegate to the World Federation of Education Association

conference in Switzerland, and she earned her Master's Degree in School Administration at Columbia University. In 1930, Inez ran again for the office of State Superintendent. This time she won, and it was off to the State Capitol for Inez! In the following years, she was awarded two honorary degrees: Doctor of Education from the University of Colorado and Doctor of Law from Colorado College.

During her initial years as State Superintendent, the country was in the grip of the Great Depression. Dr. Lewis travelled the state speaking to educators, community leaders, and parents. She worked to keep the focus on education in spite of the extremely difficult economic conditions being suffered by families, businesses,

and government entities. She communicated frequently by writing articles for newspapers and magazines, and she participated in numerous radio addresses. As the Depression subsided, she was quick to promote renewed funding for education. In a letter to the editor of the Rocky Mountain News she vigorously protested an editorial that stated, "In rural communities, educational opportunities should be exactly what they can afford, no more or no less." Her response was lengthy and passionate. In part it included, "The problems concerning our schools are difficult. I am aware of their complexities. However, I have faith that if we can become more 'state conscious' and realize that Colorado is one great unit of vast and natural resources instead of unrelated, disintegrated social groups, that people of the state can by intelligent cooperation develop our natural and human resources. This development and growth can only take place by means of education in the broadest sense."

Inez was deeply concerned about school funding and would lead the charge to reform funding practices for the rest of her career. In a radio address she stated, "Public education is not, can we afford education, but rather how much we dare let the school program be curtailed in view a crisis of character and economic breakdown." Dr. Lewis would use her office to improve curriculum for Colorado schools, a curriculum that was deemed to be one of the finest in the country. She became an advocate for health and safety education that included drivers' education. She was a proponent of comprehensive statewide adult and vocational education. During World War II, she did much to include students in the war effort, while strongly encouraging them to finish high school before entering the military. After World War II, seeing the upcoming potential of

...The accompanying seems to me to set forth in a few words both the present condition of tenure and the ideal condition:—
"A man who is able to do at all times the best educational advancement is a matter of efficiency. In this country educational progress too often resolves itself in the final analysis into a matter of votes.

Boston Journal of Education
MATCHLESS RURAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
 BY A. E. WINSHIP, EDITOR - *Lecturer & Educator*

Mrs. Inez Johnson Lewis, Colorado Springs, country superintendent of El Paso County, Colorado, has to her credit the first great achievement of connecting the county superintendent's office with every rural child, individually, actively, and inspirationally. At least it is the most remarkable achievement of which we know by way of extension work of a county superintendent's office for school work improvement.

It goes without saying that any county superintendent who achieves great things has a distinct personality. Mrs. Lewis could not help being interested in children if she tried and her interest could not be transient.

Incidentally she found herself corresponding with some fifty pupils

women who can write letters in her name and under her suggestion.

This work began last September. She has an up-to-date office equipment for her card catalog of every child in the out-lying districts, and for keeping together, unfolded, all letters from each child.

In September the office wrote and sent through the mail a letter to each pupil. It was a brief, simple, direct letter which called for an answer.

The letters were not alike, no two to the same school were at all alike, practically no two letters going out of the office were alike. The letter asked a question about his school, or his home, or his studies, or about his pets, about his books, etc.



Lewis was commended in the *Boston Journal of Education* for success in bringing quality education to rural communities

Inez Johnson Lewis *Continued*

aviation science and related careers, she promoted aviation curriculum in schools. She assured the viability of these programs by attaining grant monies to fund them. Mrs. Lewis was a strong supporter of teachers. She worked to raise salaries to more professional levels, and she implemented a retirement plan for them, believing that teachers "brought us close to the heart of humanity and that their efforts to develop the mind, the body, and the spirit" were worthy of appropriate compensation.

Dr. Lewis retired from the office of State Superintendent of Schools at the age of 71. She returned to Colorado Springs in her early 80s. She died in 1964.


Inez considered teachers "intellectual and spiritual adventurers," and the same can be said of Dr. Lewis. With grace and perseverance, Dr. Inez Johnson Lewis selflessly gave her energy, intelligence, and heart to Colorado's children. To this day, she remains a most fitting standard bearer for the Lewis-Palmer School District.

<p>"Yes" on NDMENT NO. 2</p>	<p>...worry.</p> <p>MRS. INEZ JOHNSON LEWIS</p> <p>(By Request)</p> <p>If the vote were among school children of El Paso county, Mrs. Inez Johnson Lewis would be elected state superintendent of public instruction, unanimously. During her term as county superintendent here, Mrs. Lewis established a contact of friendliness between the office and the school kiddies. She brought an ideal to the office. Mrs. Lewis had faith in the children of the rural schools. And they, faith in her. If elected on November 4, she will bring that same spirit of practical idealism to the state office; to Colorado education and, more important, to Colorado children.</p>	<p>...ity of C</p> <p>...was duly first me Room No City of K 1930, at time said appoint i termine dispositio transact before an Dated a</p> <p>Published</p> <p>BANKRU In th</p> <p>To the F the D for th</p> <p>Public n</p>
<p>PUEBLOAN DIES</p> <p>Crockett, 57, active in business here many way from a heart at. He was associated business with his Crockett and was a</p>		

Lewis' popularity is described in The Pueblo Indicator

Education Is the Cornerstone of Democracy

*Her Program Today
is . . .
"Better Citizenship
Tomorrow"*



DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
FOR RE-ELECTION

Inez Johnson Lewis
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
— of —
Public Instruction
General Election November 7, 1944

Education Is the Cornerstone of Democracy

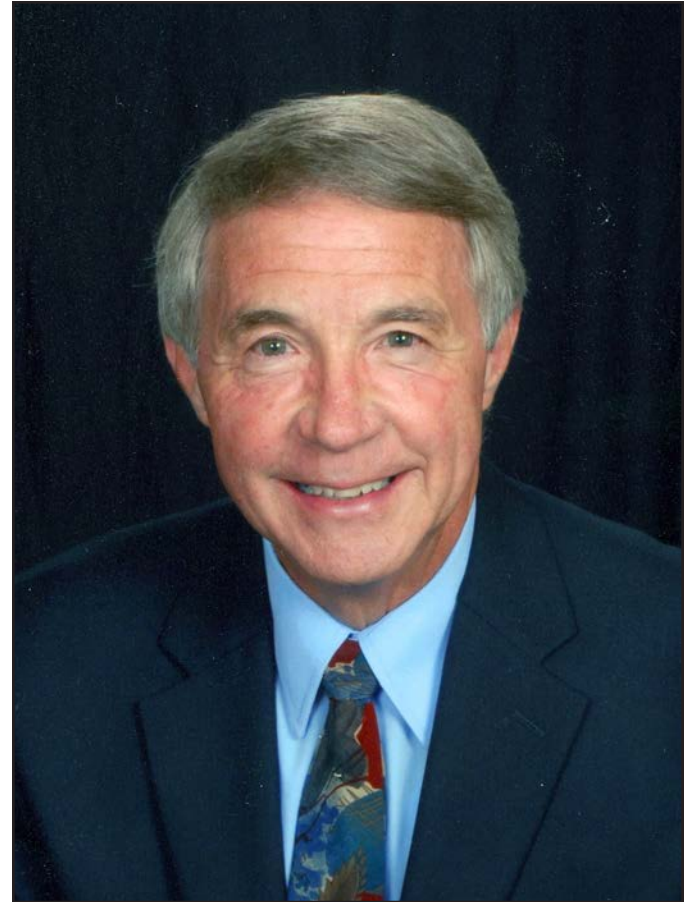
Campaign literature from Lewis' run for State Superintendent of Schools

Dwight “Ted” Bauman

Dwight “Ted” Bauman

Fortunately for the Lewis-Palmer School District, Mr. Dwight “Ted” Bauman fell in love with the mountains. He began teaching in his native Michigan at Rosebush Elementary School. He went on to become a band director at the junior high and high school levels. His travels playing the tuba with the NORAD band opened up the world to him. He knew he wanted more, and those mountains were calling! His first Colorado stop was Canon City. Then in 1988, Ted was hired as the principal to open Ray E. Kilmer Elementary School, and the Tri-Lakes area became home to the Bauman family.

Opening RKES coincided with boundary changes, and these are often difficult. Ted quickly became aware of parent concerns. He spent the summer of 1988 reaching out to parents, often meeting them in their homes, listening to them, and demonstrating his ever present humility, care, and integrity. To create a sense of family among his newly formed staff, Ted invited everyone from custodians to lunch ladies, from office staff to teachers, to a retreat. There he set the tone of teamwork. At the end of that first year, Ted had created a dynamic school for all. He had befriended parents. He had engaged students with his daily classroom and playground visits. He had won the hearts of his staff. So much so, they sent a letter to the Board of Education members thanking them for hiring Ted Bauman as their principal. The letter was signed by each staff member. Ted’s seemingly boundless energy and creativity were apparent from the start at RKES. In addition to his regular duties as principal, Ted decorated the school’s foyer



*Dwight “Ted” Bauman, Administrator and Superintendent,
1988-2003/2010-2011/2014*

Dwight “Ted” Bauman *Continued*

with a different theme every month. These art projects were highly anticipated and provided a warm welcome to all who entered. John Quincy Adams wrote, “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, become more, you are a leader.” Mr. Bauman spent two years at Kilmer Elementary School before becoming the Assistant Superintendent. It was at this time that Ted began to inspire everyone in the district to dream, learn, do, and become more.



Ted Bauman plays in the Monument Hill Brass Quintet at high school commencement ceremonies prior to distributing diplomas to graduating seniors

From 1990 to 1998, Ted worked closely with district leaders, teachers, and parents. He helped write the initial District 38 Performance Standards and the Guiding Principles for District 38. He worked diligently to procure grants for staff development opportunities. He organized and taught numerous in-services and workshops. Ted's experience working as a teacher at both the elementary and secondary levels helped provide him with a keen and unique understanding of K-12 education.

Ted is a servant leader, giving selflessly of his time and wisdom. He seemed to be everywhere all the time, always encouraging, always embracing the possibilities, and, by example, always motivating everyone to work harder. Hard work along with good-natured fun were signatures of Ted in his role as district leader.

In 1998, Mr. Bauman became the Superintendent. He continued to move the district forward, working closely with the Board of Education, district leaders, parents, and community members. Ted coordinated the middle school transition process. He championed the opening of Prairie Winds Elementary and Creekside Middle School. He did this by meeting often with staff and parents, soliciting their visions for making these schools cutting edge. Always committed to communicating well and comprehensively, Ted wrote quarterly newsletters to patrons and an annual “Report to Patrons.” He did all this and more by remaining a friendly and approachable presence in the hallways and classrooms of every school.

Ted forged valuable connections between the school district and community organizations. As a member of SERTOMA and more recently Kiwanis, Ted made a meaningful difference in the lives of students, their families, and their teachers. For 15 years, Ted promoted the annual 8th grade essay contest, “What Freedom Means to Me.” Ted supported Boys and Girls State, helping secure financial support so that students could participate in this leadership training. He supported the DECA program that teaches youth about the free enterprise system. He invited D-38 performing arts students to share their talents with service clubs. Ted served as Board member for the Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership and the Colorado Preschool

Project. He was pivotal in helping local veterans become involved in the Lewis-Palmer Middle School Veterans History Project. He helped initiate service learning clubs at all district schools. In addition, Ted worked with local religious leaders on the Ministerial Council to create a healthy relationship between places of worship and the school district. Many of the collaborations pioneered and promoted by Ted are still benefitting the community today.

Mr. Bauman retired from District 38 in 2003. In 2010, the Board of Education asked Ted to return for a year as Interim Superintendent. Ted needed to give this some thought. A day later, Ted agreed to serve once again. The district was struggling. He facilitated the district's return to financial security, and he did so much more than that. He righted a wayward ship. He healed its crew. He renewed its sense of purpose and its vitality. In 2014, Ted once again came out of retirement at the request of the Board. During this time, Ted

worked to maintain stability, and he worked closely with the Board to hire a new Superintendent.

Through it all, Ted relied on the love and generosity of his family. His wife, Jeri-Gene, says of his career, including two returns after retiring, "Ted's career was a labor of love, a gift. It's been a two-way privilege to live and work here."

Mahatma Gandhi said, "I suppose at one time leadership meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people." Ted Bauman led the district by getting along with people, by showing them he cared, by bringing out the best in them, and by bringing them together. Ted hopes he has given LPSD a sense of joy. He has. He made the Lewis-Palmer School District feel like home for students and staff, a joyful place to learn, to grow, and to serve others.



Ted Bauman hired as principal of Kilmer Elementary in 1988



Ted Bauman shows Palmer Lake Elementary students that a superintendent has to wear a lot of hats



Ted Bauman congratulates student recipients of National Merit and Achievement Scholarships

Avis Barbour Cook



Avis Barbour Cook, Elementary Teacher, 1975-2002

Avis Barbour Cook

During the 27 years that Mrs. Avis Cook taught in the Lewis-Palmer School District, it was fondly noted that containing her energy and creativity was like attempting to fence in a cloud. It was her light and warmth, though, which brightened the lives of her students and coworkers. As one of her colleagues wrote in 1988, "Mrs. Cook can write a note, bring in a flower or just say something profound that is a reminder of why we are here and how lucky we are to be together."

In true Renaissance fashion, Avis taught both the academics and the arts with wisdom and vitality. Mrs. Cook taught grades one through five. She taught art, Great Books, enrichment classes, science, Title One, and she pioneered gifted and talented education at the elementary level. A valued staff member at Grace Best, Kilmer, Lewis-Palmer, and Palmer Lake Elementary schools, Avis taught outside the classroom and beyond the school day. She sponsored family geography nights and was one of only three teachers in El Paso County recognized by the National Geographic Society. Avis also sponsored family art nights. Serving on the Board for Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration, Avis was instrumental in bringing Imagination Celebration to District 38; she promoted it regionally as well. Prior to that, Avis founded PAYO, Performing Arts for Youth, which brought the Colorado Springs Symphony and other performing arts groups to elementary school children. Thanks to Avis, for a brief but important moment, the works of Matisse, Renoir,

and other renowned artists made their way from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. to Monument. Avis arranged for the Art in Celebration train, containing priceless pieces of art, to make a stop on the tracks that run by GBES. This included the task of making sure all train traffic halted for a time. Students and staff walked a short distance from school to the travelling world-class museum. Similarly, Avis arranged for the Olympic torch procession to swing by GBES on its way to Salt Lake City for the 2002 Winter Games. Children lined the street, cheering on the torch and the runners who accompanied it, excited to be a part of this ancient Olympic tradition.

Avis organized many grand events for our youngest students, but many of them have big memories of the smaller things their teacher did for them. The Angel Heart Project was a charitable organization that made healthy lunches and delivered them in paper bags to homebound individuals in the Colorado Springs area. Avis' students were called upon to decorate these lunch bags. As Avis says, "A bag is OK, but when it has a kid's picture on it, it makes special."

Avis created the Famous Americans Project. Students researched their historical figures, dressed the part, and presented their findings with flair. Because Avis was willing to do anything for anyone, she often spent late nights sewing elaborate costumes for children whose families were unable to provide them. To teach economics to 5th graders, Avis

organized the much anticipated, annual mini-mart. Every fifth grader was charged with creating and producing a product, advertising it, and selling it to students, staff, and parents at the mini-mart. In doing this, students learned first-hand the basics of a free market economy. Always working quietly behind the scenes, Avis made sure that all students broke even. So that no one was left in the red, Avis often purchased surplus items herself. At the conclusion of the market, Avis encouraged her students to donate a portion of their profits to a local charity selected by her and the students. Avis had the ability and drive to integrate a variety of disciplines into one unit. Evidence of this is the hot air balloon project. This endeavor had children transforming tissue paper and wooden reeds into real hot air balloons. Students learned the science behind them and then wrote reports. Undaunted by bringing the flame needed to launch the balloons and delighted kids together, Avis culminated the lessons with a hot air balloon festival. A former student, all grown up now, recalls, "We met with Mrs. Cook in an oddly-shaped building



Avis taught art, as well as literature, science, enrichment, Title I, and gifted education classes



Avis Cook in the classroom

Avis Barbour Cook *Continued*

adjacent to the school, and it was like a separate universe of fun and challenging schoolwork taught by the most creative teacher.”

Parents were thrilled to have Avis guiding their children. She seamlessly met the challenge of serving children of all abilities. Her classroom, dubbed “The Place,” was known for being completely inclusive. “The Place” was where all children flourished because the teacher not only recognized their unique gifts, but she honored and nurtured them as well. Parents appreciatively recall Avis’ “exciting projects, positive attitude, and gentleness.”

Teachers with whom Avis worked refer to her as supportive, inspiring, and fun. One fellow teacher remembers, “Avis would come to us with an idea. We would listen to her plans and ask how much time she would need with the students. If Avis said two hours, we learned that probably meant three days. And that was okay, because she did such great things for kids!” She was generous with her colleagues, giving freely of her time, thoughts, materials, and kindnesses. Another peer says, “Avis encouraged us to be better than we were, to strive high.”

Avis Cook has a teacher’s heart. Much like the cloud to which she was compared, Avis, unstoppable and graceful, shared her heart with an entire community. In 1991, one of her third graders said, “Being in Mrs. Cook’s class is just like going to Mr. Wizard!” May Avis Cook’s magic continue to resonate in the district she served so beautifully.



A few Grace Best students headed to the Smithsonian’s Art Train, which Avis brought to Monument



Avis on staff at Grace Best Elementary



Avis received the Service Award from the Colorado Council for Exceptional Children in 1986

Jeffery Ferguson, PhD



*Jeffery Ferguson, PhD, Board of Education
1987-2003/2009-2013*

Jeffery Ferguson, PhD

When Dr. Jeffery Ferguson talks about the Lewis-Palmer School District, he often emphasizes, "People really care about what's going on here. Day in and day out, they're doing hard work. The teachers in classes, the bus drivers, the maintenance and food staff, everybody on the front lines is so important. That's what excellence is about - it's the people."

Jeff is one of those people. He committed more than 20 years and incalculable personal investment to making a difference in the lives of children. He served twice on the Board of Education from 1987 to 2003 and again from 2009 and 2013, ten years of which he was Board President. He says that he and fellow Board members shared a common focus on the same thing: the students. "We would do whatever it takes to do what's best for kids. At the end of the day, that's why we're here."

He was twice awarded the McGuffey Award by the Colorado Association of School Boards for committed and passionate service. Ferguson has consistently been a champion for quality education and emphasizes the importance of schools in the community. He was also named a member of the All-State School Board, and received the Colorado Athletic Directors' Association School Board Member Honor Award. In his "day job" as Professor of Business at CU-Colorado Springs, his work on the Lewis-Palmer School Board contributed to his receiving the University of Colorado Community Service Award.

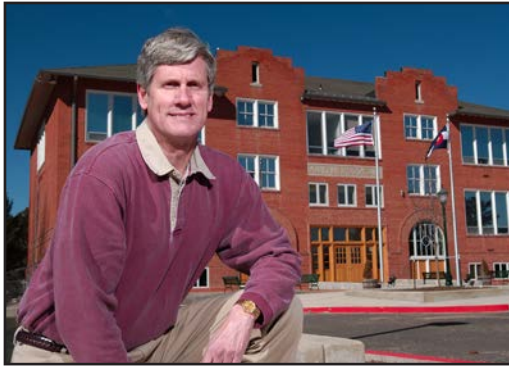
Jeffery Ferguson, PhD *Continued*

During his tenure on the Board, Ferguson had responsibilities over all hiring, budget, and policy considerations of the district. He helped manage years of intense growth in his early terms, as the district added three new elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. In 1996 a bond issue helped fund an addition for the high school, but the population growth was still relentless. There were many discussions, intense and lengthy, about how to accommodate the increasing number of high school students. That question also led to debate about what would be the next question to ask voters, and when to ask it. Ferguson helped break ground for the new middle school in 1993. By 1994 the district was growing at an even faster rate, with a ten percent increase over a single summer. During his service, the district developed a contract and operating

guidelines to work with a brand new kind of school: a charter academy that opened in September, 1996. Our fourth elementary school opened, and acquired the name of long-time teacher Grace Best.

Ferguson helped pass four ballot issues for taxpayer funding, including funds to build Prairie Winds Elementary and Creekside Middle School, and for other capital improvements like elementary school ventilation systems and technology improvements. A mill levy override vote was also successful, to enhance reading programs, expand gifted and talented services, reduce class size, and provide instructional materials.

Ferguson directed the long-range facilities planning committee, chaired the transportation committee, and developed means for the district to assess and improve public communications. He helped develop a 20-year long-range plan that considered growth



Ferguson in front of Big Red



Ferguson and fellow board member, Robb Pike, receive navy and orange hoodies, symbolic of the cooperation and camaraderie between the two high schools in the district



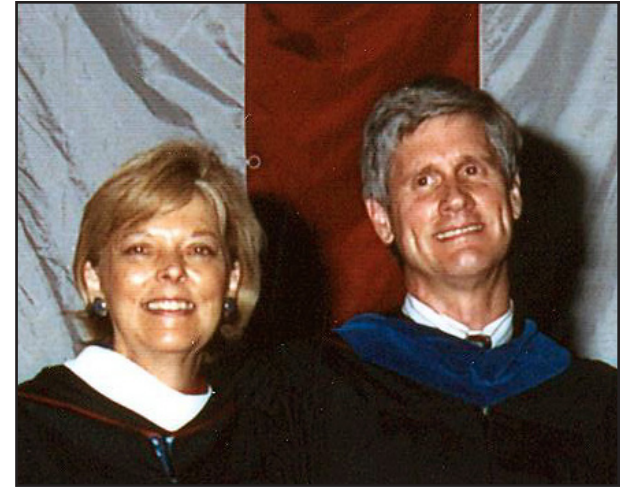
Jeff Ferguson interviews a young robotics engineer about his project. Ferguson said the very best Board meetings were the ones that kids attended to talk about their education

projection, facility capacities, and future funding options. School safety and security, a growing concern, was added to the comprehensive management plan. Ferguson thinks having a long-term vision and explaining that to residents helped secure voter approval when it was needed.

He later saw the district through some unexpected economic and enrollment downturns. He admits that made his work more challenging, especially when he returned to office in 2009 in the face of severe budget shortages. "We had to make some very real cuts, it was terrible. We always wanted to keep budget decisions from directly impacting students and teachers but we just couldn't." He says he was amazed at the responses he and the Board heard from employees throughout the district, "Every time we'd go to staff we'd get the same response: We'll get it done." And "get it done" they did, maintaining Accreditation with Distinction and numerous honors for academics, student activities, athletics, and arts in spite of money issues.

Jeff was on the Board when the district took possession once again of an additional elementary school, one that would not house students but would be a reminder of our long history and our commitment to excellence in education that started in rural communities. In 1998, the Pine Grove School, a one-room school house from a rural part of the district, was moved to the grounds of Kilmer Elementary as a permanent tribute to history and tradition.

About his selection for the Hall of Fame Award, Ferguson humbly credits everyone who has been part of the Lewis-Palmer School District for its success. "It's critical we never lose touch with the heritage of our school district, because the tradition of excellence didn't just happen - it's the result of a lot of people in the trenches that worked to make it exceptional. So many people have given so much of their lives to make a difference for students. They may be out of the spotlight, but they're making an impact. Excellence has been built into our system. It's a legacy that lives on, built by a lot of people with a real commitment to kids."



Board members Ferguson and Tommie Plank in robes for commencement



Jeff Ferguson teaching

Dr. Genevieve H. Garcia



Dr. Genevieve H. Garcia, Teacher and Principal, 1972-2000

Dr. Genevieve H. Garcia

Dr. Genevieve Garcia recalls that as a child growing up in Iowa, her favorite Christmas present was “a real grade book and a red pen.” With her trademark positivity, Gennie says, “I always wanted to be a teacher!” Inspired by her mother, a teacher, Gennie grew from a little girl who played school to an extremely accomplished educator who devoted 28 years to the Lewis-Palmer School District. Dr. Garcia taught kindergarten at Lewis-Palmer and Palmer Lake Elementary schools starting in 1972. In 1985, she became the principal at PLES. Ten years later, Gennie opened Grace Best Elementary School. Gennie served as the principal there until she retired from the district in 2000. As a teacher and an administrator, Gennie embraced her responsibilities and went far beyond them with a passion more befitting a calling than a job.

Gennie’s accomplishments as a teacher are numerous and long-lasting. When Gennie began her teaching career in District 38, there was little, if any, designated kindergarten curriculum. Gennie quickly determined that this would not do. She developed and taught sound and appropriate curriculum for this grade level, which included content area writing and math. She was the first kindergarten teacher to serve on the District Math Committee. In this role, she added kindergarten to the district’s math scope and sequence. In addition, Dr. Garcia organized kindergarten testing and screening, which gave school personnel vital information that equipped them to better

serve the needs of incoming kindergartners. She created a monthly preschool story hour, inviting little ones and their parents into the school setting. During this time, Gennie read to the students and accomplished so much more. She familiarized her small charges to the school environment, easing that all-important transition into the world of school. Once in Gennie's kindergarten class, she prepared students for the school years ahead. A parent comments, "Mrs. Garcia's classroom management was unbelievable. She never raised her voice, was so calming, and she cultivated creativity." Upper-grade level teachers credit Gennie for providing students with a solid foundation that served them well long after leaving Dr. Garcia's care.

When Dr. Ray Kilmer hired Gennie to be the principal at PLES, he asked her how she thought she would do in this new position. Her reply: "I think I'll do just fine. After all, I do know how to line up people and get them going in the same direction." Clearly, reopening PLES after years of closure was a challenge, but bringing people together and motivating them to collaborate for the good of the cause are at the heart of everything Gennie did for the district. The first woman principal in District 38, Gennie took on the Herculean effort of overseeing the restoration

and construction of PLES. This even included rallying her staff to push past a near disaster of a broken water pipe that flooded a portion of the school right before its reopening. When the doors of Palmer Lake Elementary School opened on time, Gennie and her staff once again welcomed the students and families of the community. As construction concluded and Gennie hung up her pink hard hat, she proceeded to build a family-like culture. She was instrumental in creating and implementing a site-based program to serve medically fragile and severe needs students. Because of these programs and the training Gennie provided the entire staff, these children with special needs were able to attend their neighborhood school. Gennie says of these students, "They teach us much more than we can ever teach them." Gennie facilitated the "Playground



Dr. Garcia at her desk in Palmer Lake Elementary



Gennie Garcia with Keith Jacobus while she was principal at Grace Best Elementary

Dr. Genevieve Garcia *Continued*

of Dreams,” organizing community fundraisers and assisting with the construction on weekends to build what became arguably one of the best places for recess in the region. Gennie also worked closely with community members to establish the 4th of July Run, an annual tradition that continues to benefit PLES. Gennie welcomed people of all ages to this building, hosting breakfasts and lunches for local seniors. Gennie made Palmer Lake Elementary School not only a successful school; she made it a community hub.

In 1995, Gennie left PLES in order to convert what had been Lewis-Palmer Middle School at 66 Jefferson Street, into Grace Best Elementary School. Once again, Gennie turned a staff into a family and a building into a warm and welcoming place for young children and their families. Gennie was ahead of her time, implementing safety practices that were unheard of in those years. Safe and secure were just the beginning. Gennie encouraged staff to participate in



Garcia received state honors for improving student reading programs

the annual and much loved “Teacher Musical.” She continued to be a constant presence in classrooms. She was adept at marshalling hard-to-get resources, and she remained focused on supporting her teachers. It was always family first with Gennie.

Gennie and her husband Vic are proud parents of Eduardo (Ted), whose Lewis-Palmer education is serving him well. When Ted was born, Gennie took a year’s leave of absence. It was at this time that Vic was in a serious car accident. In addition to caring for their newborn son and helping Vic recover from his injuries, Gennie also babysat for several of her colleagues’ young children. This commitment to creating family beyond her own is a legacy for which her staff will always be grateful.

Also part of Gennie’s legacy is her goal of helping everyone to be a life-long learner. She did this as a teacher by developing curriculum, by being inclusive of all, and by creating a nurturing and joyful classroom. As a principal, Gennie valued and supported her teachers in both their personal and professional lives. She had high expectations and insisted on no surprises, but she was always there for them. A teacher remembers, “Gennie was our mentor, our teacher, our administrator, our guide, and most important: our friend.”

Dr. Genevieve Garcia, recipient of numerous professional awards and honors, has moved on and is now teaching at the university level. However, Gennie Garcia, a revered kindergarten teacher and beloved elementary school principal, will always remain a dear and true friend of the Lewis-Palmer School District.

Victor R. Garcia

Victor R. Garcia

For Mr. Victor Garcia, the teaching profession was about, as the poet Virgil wrote, "...what one was put on this earth to do with such passion and intensity that it becomes a spiritual calling." Vic turned down a contract to play professional soccer and began teaching at Lewis-Palmer High School in 1968. He admits that he did not start his career with as much strength as he later developed. He credits mentors, especially Principal Don Breese, for showing him what it meant to be the outstanding teacher they expected. Garcia recalls, "I told myself I'm going to listen. I'm going to learn and not get defensive. A lot of people spent time with me so that I could grow as a teacher." And grow he did into a giant who positively impacted the lives of his students and his school.

At LPHS, he was instrumental in developing and teaching a number of various history classes, including Advanced Placement American History. A former student remembers Vic's exuberant approach to teaching history. "He made classes fun and engaging by stepping away from the lectern and having us participate in historical simulations. This was unheard of at the time. He encouraged students to make history come alive by sponsoring many field trips around the state." Vic also started Spanish classes and developed that program as well. Vic recalls a student who was surprised that Mr. Garcia expected the class to actually speak the language, rather than quietly conjugating verbs on paper. He organized three spring break field trips to Mexico.



Victor R. Garcia, High School Teacher and Coach, 1968-2000

Victor R. Garcia *Continued*

In addition to traditional courses, Vic also developed and taught electives. He built a dark room so that his photography students could develop their pictures. He started the district's first video production class. This resulted in the creation of the school TV station, and visits to TV stations and video companies. Always cutting-edge, Vic also developed and taught a web writing and design class.

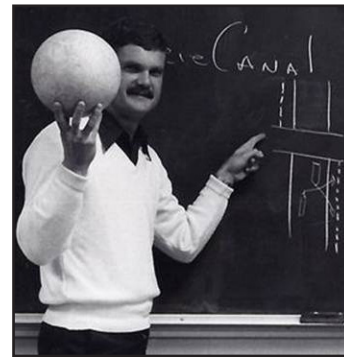
Vic says he expected his students "to really think, to think broadly, and to think for themselves." Clearly, Vic prepared students for future academic challenges. That's what good teachers do, but Vic was an extraordinary teacher. He prepared his students for life. One of them shares, "I would say that aside from my father and grandfather, Coach Garcia was the most influential leader in my life. He led by example with wisdom, a depth of perspective, and subtle humility."

In his ongoing effort to be more than "just a teacher," Vic sponsored numerous extra-curricular activities. He coached a variety of sports. He served on the North Central Accreditation Committee, curriculum development, and principal selection committees. He was the announcer at basketball games. He enriched his profession by supervising and mentoring 20 student teachers. One of his student teachers, now an accomplished educator, says, "He was a master who I modelled my teaching after. He clearly exuded a passion toward his subject(s) and always had kids eating out of his hand."

There was Mr. Garcia the teacher, and there was Coach Garcia, the soccer phenomenon. Teaching was a passion, but Vic says, "Coaching was my obsession." His coaching profile is epic. A soccer player all his life, he devoted unparalleled expertise to his coaching, not for personal recognition, but for the love for his athletes. He brought boys' soccer to LPHS in 1983 and girls' soccer in 1984. He says that getting involved in state and national athletic committees had nothing to do with procuring awards, although there were many. He became a leader in both state and national soccer and athletic organizations. He was a powerhouse when it came to promoting and enhancing the quality of high school soccer. He was an integral part of initiating an all-star soccer team for Colorado soccer standouts. He was pivotal in establishing national high school soccer rules. Vic has been awarded literally dozens of Coach of the Year awards. Vic reports that highlights of his career include the following: 2001 National Coach of the Year, 2003 National Lifetime Achievement



Vic (center front, on floor) with his high school Evolution of American History students



Garcia knew how to balance coaching and teaching

Award, and 2004 Colorado High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was the first Colorado soccer coach to receive this. Other highlights include the 2010 Tracy Fifer Award for Long-Term Achievement in Colorado High School Soccer. In 2011, Vic was the first and only Colorado soccer coach to be inducted into the Colorado High School Activities Association Hall of Fame. These awards and others represent an unwavering commitment to excellence.

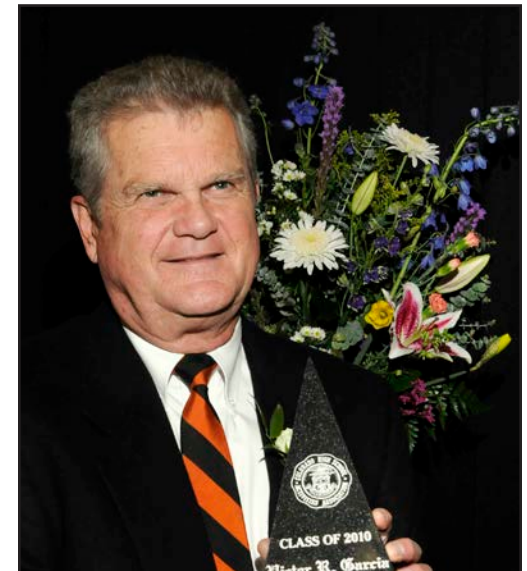
Fellow coaches comment on his outstanding communication skills, his knowledge of the game, his uncompromising dedication to his teams, and his impeccable attention to detail. His record as the LPHS Boys' Varsity Soccer coach was an impressive 189W-68L-14T. Under his leadership, LPHS varsity boys' soccer teams were often involved in post-season play. In 1994, Vic coached his team to a state championship. His winning ways were also the result of the care he invested in his players and the support he gave them on and off the field, telling them not only what they wanted to hear but what they needed to learn as well. He rewarded his players with team dinners, team-building outings, and an end-of-the-season banquet that was a huge celebration of everyone's contributions and growth. Vic made yearbooks of the season and gave every player this treasure to commemorate their time together. Vic built a premier program one individual at a time.



Vic with his prize retirement toy. The license plate was a gift from the team

Vic's most significant accomplishments go beyond the classroom and the field. He and Gennie are the proud parents of Eduardo, also known as Ted, who is a 2000 graduate of Lewis-Palmer High School. Vic was part of what he considers an extended family comprised of colleagues, students, and their parents. One of his soccer players remembers building a rocking horse with a friend for the "soon-to-be-born Eduardo." It was considered a gift from one family member to another.

Like the LPHS Ranger logo that Vic designed, he is an icon. Mr. Garcia spent his 32 years as a teacher well, serving in countless capacities with his signature passion and intensity, qualities which reflect the true spirit of Lewis-Palmer School District.



Garcia was the first soccer coach inducted into the Colorado High School Activities Association Hall of Fame, in 2010

Amy Jo O'Dair

Amy Jo O'Dair

It's been said that a volunteer's contributions are priceless. Amy O'Dair is certainly a testament to this. For more than 25 years, Amy dedicated her time and energy to elementary, middle, and high school students, their families, and District 38 staff members.

Amy and her husband Mike are the parents of Michael, Shannon, and Kim, all Lewis-Palmer High School graduates. Being a busy mom of three active children didn't afford Amy much free time. Volunteers, though, don't necessarily have an abundance of time; they do, however, have heart. Amy's heart, vision, and commitment were the force behind numerous and important district-wide initiatives.

Amy began volunteering in 1979 at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School. There she involved herself in PTO and accountability programs. Amy went on to become a long-time member and chairperson of the Lewis-Palmer School District Accountability Committee. This committee was comprised of school officials, parents, and community members who worked to improve not only children's educational experiences, but also their general well-being. As time passed, Amy widened the range of her contributions. Even as the O'Dair children graduated, she continued to volunteer. While her efforts benefitted all children, Amy was especially focused on those needing a helping hand.



Amy Jo O'Dair, Community Volunteer, 1979-2007



Amy (far left) helped organize students for the 4th of July parade for International Drug-Free Youth (IDFY)



All of O'Dair's children graduated from LPHS

Many of the programs organized by Amy were funded by grants that she wrote. These grants procured large sums of money, and Amy was a conscientious steward of these funds. Amy spearheaded the At-Risk Transition Committee which created an approach designed to ease the transition between middle and high school. Amy served as a volunteer coordinator and wrote guidelines for volunteers; these are still in place today. Especially concerned with the health and safety of children, Amy used her positions as organizer and coordinator for the Tri-Lakes Center for D-38 Students and Program Director for Tri-Lakes Health Advisory Partnership to promote wholesome lifestyle choices. She initiated Drug Free Youth, a club that trained students to educate their peers about substance abuse prevention. She wrote "Parent to Parent Talk," a monthly newsletter sent to parents of high school

students which provided information regarding young people. Amy brought the D.A.R.E. program to District 38 elementary schools. She created a partnership between District 38 and the Colorado Springs Health Department which resulted in hundreds of students visiting the health department and learning first hand the importance of making healthy choices. She also collaborated with personnel at the United States Air Force Academy. This partnership resulted in cadets providing weekly tutoring sessions to secondary students. In addition, The Buddy Brigade paired cadets with at-risk elementary students, providing them with positive role models. Amy worked closely with school staffs to organize Project Adventure, an experiential education program giving students the chance to navigate ropes courses, climb mountains, and to participate in Equine Assisted Therapy. Grant funds were also used to partner with local law enforcement and fire fighters. She furnished training in the area of law-related education; this prompted positive relationships between first responders and youth. It also made possible the hiring of a school resource officer. Amy cared deeply about helping students explore their hopes and dreams for the future. She established numerous student internships and job shadows with a variety of local professionals. Amy organized several career fairs and was very active in the

Amy Jo O'Dair *Continued*

school-to-career initiative that introduced secondary students to the world of work. Clearly, Amy gave to causes larger than herself, demonstrating what it is to be a servant leader.

Amy was especially adept at reaching out to all members of the community and including them in the process of bringing programs to life. Requests from Amy were always accompanied with a smile and encouragement. Once a group was assembled, Amy would step back and let participants use their expertise to make magic happen.

Rare is the person who demonstrates unwavering commitment to children, many of whom she will never know. While we can't always control the future our youth will experience, this volunteer enriched the lives of so many. In doing so Amy O'Dair ensured a better future for all of us.



O'Dair (right) helps set up at the conference for the Colorado Association of Partners in Education (CAPE), for a mentoring program that she ran in District 38 and District 11. She was CAPE Volunteer of the Year in 2006



Amy O'Dair, long-time volunteer for schools and community organizations, with husband Mike, 2008

Dallas Strawn, PhD



Dallas Strawn, PhD., Administrator and Superintendent of Schools, 1984-1998

Dallas Strawn, PhD

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality; the last is to say thank you. In between the two, the leader must become a servant," writes businessman Max DePree. Dr. Dallas Strawn is a servant leader who has the capacity and the will to rally everyone in an organization to commit to excellence. For 14 years, Dr. Strawn's character and efforts made the Lewis-Palmer School District's reality a confident, proud, and successful one. Add to that, Dallas never forgot to say thank you.

Dr. Strawn came to District 38 as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Staff Development. Dallas used his experience from his days in the classroom to connect with elementary and secondary teachers. He led focus groups, modeled effective instruction, and taught training classes designed to help teachers enhance student learning. Dallas was instrumental in the development of curriculum guides for all content areas. He created the five-year curriculum review guide to ensure that a Lewis-Palmer education remained relevant and comprehensive. Dallas believes, "We all can improve." With a commitment to helping teachers flourish, Dallas developed a teacher evaluation process that promoted on-going professional growth. This process required a collaborative and supportive approach; it involved input not only from administrators who are typically charged with evaluation, but also from fellow teachers. Perhaps most notable and definitely indicative of Dallas, this process invited meaningful reflection intended to bolster, motivate, and even celebrate

Dallas Strawn, PhD *Continued*

teachers. This evaluation process proved so successful that it became a prototype for many Colorado school districts. While Dallas' title indicates expertise with curriculum, it simply can't convey the vitality he brought to this position. Dallas shares, "We're all important. We just have different jobs, different responsibilities." Upon joining the district, Dallas promptly reached out to all: bus drivers, custodians, food service staff, principals, secretaries, and teachers. He got to know them. He learned their names, and they learned that Dallas was a leader who cared about them.

In 1990, Dallas became Superintendent. When he arrived in 1984, the district served 1,800 students. When Dallas left in 1998, 4,000 students attended Lewis-Palmer schools. This kind of growth presented many challenges, ranging from facility and staffing demands to maintaining a unique and cherished culture. As the district grew, Dallas made sure it grew even better.

Dallas credits the Boards of Education with whom he worked as key to his accomplishments and the district's success. He explains, "I was fortunate to have worked with school boards who were supportive, intelligent, and whose real mission was about kids." With Dallas as Superintendent, the community passed four school bond issues. Together with the Board, he researched and defined the need for these additional funds. They attended numerous community meetings and many small gatherings in homes, sharing, listening, and encouraging taxpayers to support their schools. While Dallas was at the helm, good things happened. Palmer Lake Elementary

School was modernized and reopened. Grace Best Elementary School was renovated and converted from a middle school building. Kilmer Elementary School opened its doors. A new Lewis-Palmer Middle School building was built, and Lewis-Palmer High School received two additions. Under his leadership, district reserves grew to 30%, significantly more than what was required by the state. This is especially noteworthy given how Colorado allocates funding, with LPSD very low on the list.

Dallas attracted and nurtured outstanding leaders. He developed and implemented administrator hiring and evaluation processes. Dallas was a major contributor to the creation of the district's core values and guiding principles. He promoted D38's involvement and leadership in the Pikes Peak BOCES. He oversaw the development and implementation of special education programs, which made it possible for students needing those services to receive them at their neighborhood schools. In the early days of accountability committees, Dallas was actively involved in developing and refining this collaboration of all district stakeholders.

Dallas' diligence is evidenced in the strides made during his time in District 38. Less obvious but no less important is the culture of camaraderie that he made a priority. As a former school board member states, "Dallas loves educators. They know it because he shows it." Dallas demonstrated this often and in a variety of ways. He regularly visited classrooms, and he always followed up with a note or positive comment. He attended athletic events, school concerts, and plays. He was at every high school home football game carrying the down markers. One could also find Dallas sitting in a tiny chair

wearing a hat that resembled a large wedge of cheese reading *The Stinky Cheese Man* to elementary school children and singing songs with them. Dallas also created a culture of caring in quieter ways. After visiting a class being taught by a student teacher, Dallas sent her a note complimenting her efforts and wishing her well as she pursued her career in education. Many years later, Dallas was a guest speaker in this now veteran's graduate level class. There, she told Dallas and the class that during her many years of teaching, he was the only Superintendent to ever visit her classroom. She was able to thank him for the note, a correspondence that she still treasured.

Dallas gave of himself without reservation to the district and to education in general. Over the years, he has involved himself in

numerous professional organizations, and he has worked with state and national agencies. He continues to teach graduate level classes, and he even found time to be the assistant LPSD hockey coach for several years.

Introspective, intense, and sincere, Dallas made his responsibilities look easy to perform. That's what the best do. A former colleague shares, "Everyone knew that Dallas conveyed a sense of fun, but he's also known and respected for being willing to do the tough stuff." That's what servant leaders do. Dr. Strawn, a genuine servant leader, brought his philosophy to life for the betterment of the Lewis-Palmer School District. In his own words, "It's the people! People are the most important thing."



Dallas as Administrative Assistant in Curriculum and Staff Development, a new hire in 1984



Dallas Strawn visited classrooms often. In this reading session, the cheese hat is a theme from the book



Dallas Strawn

Dolores “Dodi” Whitelaw

Dolores “Dodi” Whitelaw

Dolores “Dodi” Whitelaw ran for a Board of Education seat in 1980. When she, her husband, and four sons relocated to the Tri-Lakes Region, they were part of the surge in the local population that saw the district more than double in size in ten years. The immense increase in student enrollment was a constant theme of school board discussion during her tenure.

“Growth was high, and very controversial”, she remembers. The district needed to add classroom space, fund new operations, hire leadership, make boundary changes, and assign students to new schools. Those requirements impacted every family, business, and taxpayer in the community.

Dodi’s professional background was in public relations, and she had a successful career working on national campaigns for a New York advertising agency. Her philosophy was that early and frequent communication was the key to solutions. She spent many hours in school buildings talking with staff members and parents. She visited with community groups and individuals to help everyone understand and share their opinions on the issues. As Board of Education President for six of her years in office, communication among Board members was a strong value, “We had a fine Board, we got along very well and although we didn’t always agree, we were able to arrive at decisions very effectively.”



Dodi Whitelaw, Board of Education President and Volunteer, 1981-1990

Her effort to promote open communication benefitted the district in many ways, as it helped strengthen confidence and trust. Palmer Lake Elementary was renovated beginning in 1986, the result of a successful bond issue and citizen support for the \$3.85 million for that project. Voters also approved \$4 million for a new elementary school, soon to be named after former Superintendent Ray E. Kilmer. The Colorado Department of Education inspected D-38 schools in 1988, and commended Whitelaw and all Board members for great vision in dealing with “a community, an economy, and a school district that is changing in many ways” and for “giving administrators freedom to grow and reach out for excellence.”

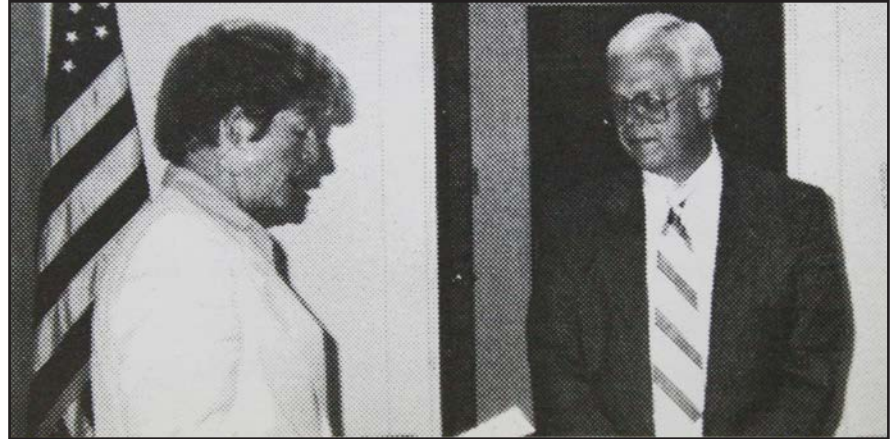
Dodi wanted to be on the school board, she says, because she saw the opportunity to “raise expectations of education in our community.

If you want change, you have to put your feet in the water.” Local school boards represent a core value of American democracy. They develop goals and priorities that reflect the values and culture of the local community. They also help shape those values by engaging citizens to improve schools and to garner public support. They are accountable to taxpayers and residents.

One area she worked immediately to improve was to get Lewis-Palmer School District on board with technology. “I sought out John Peterson to run for the Board. He was into computers and added a good dimension. At that time the Board was talking a lot about a ‘computer room’ - one room, for our first computer. I saw a great value to adding technology.” She told her colleagues about computers, “They’re here, they’re going to be everywhere, we just don’t



Dodi Whitelaw greets a Colorado Department of Education representative at a gathering in 1987. In background: Avis Cook and Jeff Ferguson



Whitelaw swears-in John Peterson to the Board, a man she encouraged to bring more knowledge and support for technology in schools

Dolores “Dodi” Whitelaw *Continued*

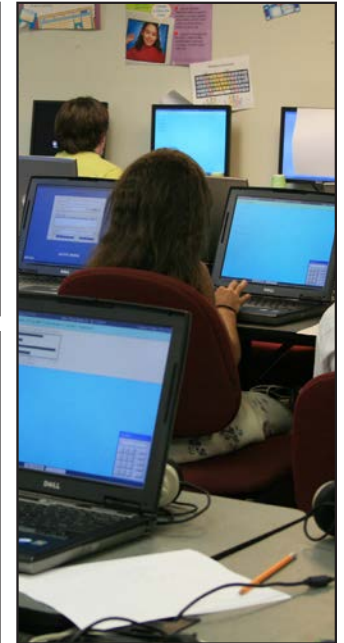
know it yet.” Peterson joined the Board and Dodi presided at his swearing-in ceremony. And they did purchase a computer. They researched the options for several years, and had to find a creative way to finance it. The monthly newsletter described one of the district’s early machines as “the latest,” able to keep student contact, grade, and attendance records, with networking capability for six work stations!

She was also at the helm as the district launched a formalized study of gifted and talented programs, to determine the best long-term plan for a unified approach to servicing high-achieving and highly-capable students. She also saw the district through two successful superintendent changes, helping hire James Smith in 1987 and Dallas Strawn in 1990 - as well as his close accomplice for many achievements, Assistant Superintendent Ted Bauman.

Whitelaw was there when the district decided to stop allowing students to smoke at school, in 1987. At the time, there were 44 identified students on the tobacco user list. The district secured a grant to offer stop-smoking classes to students and staff. Then in 1988, the district added staff members to the non-smoking policy.

Whitelaw also served on the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce supporting local businesses success, and is currently a volunteer for Tri-Lakes Cares. Her four boys are all L-P grads and grown, and she is active helping her ten grandchildren succeed.

She played a seminal role in a critical time for the district, in determining how educational programs were delivered, how facilities were constructed, how staff were hired and developed, and in setting long-term education goals. Her commitment and volunteer spirit have made a lasting impact in our legacy of excellence, and in the future success of generations of children.



Dodi understood the importance of technology in our schools and worked hard to make sure all students would have access



Teaching students under the watchful icon portrait of Grace Best



Dallas Strawn and Dodi Whitelaw 1987



Amy helps coordinate a Drivesmart safety promotion at Woodmoor Fire Station



Dr. Garcia and Mike Burris at the annual retreat



From left: Joe Subialka, Ted Belteau, Dan Lere, Ted Bauman, and Maryann Wiggs look over blueprints



Vic with 1995 Men's Soccer 3A State Champions



Breaking Ground for Prairie Winds Elementary in 2000. From left: Dave Dilley, Ida Leibert, Tommie Plank, Ted Bauman

Nomination Process

More Lewis-Palmer School District Hall of Fame inductees will be added in coming years. Candidates may have served the District as classified or licensed staff members, volunteers, elected officials, or in other capacities. Nomination forms are posted online at <http://lewispalmer.org> under the “community” menu.

Completed forms, questions, and comments may be sent to Lewis-Palmer School District Hall of Fame c/o Community Relations, P.O. Box 40, Monument, Colorado 80132.

Volunteers willing to participate in the selection process or future awards programs may submit their interest online, or call (719) 785-4223 for more information.

Lewis-Palmer School District September 20th, 2014
Superintendent of Schools
Karen Brofft
Assistant Superintendent
Cheryl Wangeman

Board of Education
Mark Pfoff, President
John Mann, Vice President
Robb Pike, Secretary
Dr. John Magerko, Treasurer
Sherry Hawkins, Director

2014 Selection Committee

Special thanks to the volunteers who played a role in establishing the Hall of Fame, including those who assisted in selecting the award winners for this year:

John Borman - Nominations & Selection Chairperson
Caryn Collette - Research and Publications Chairperson
Deb Stumpf - Induction Event Chairperson
Marie Revak - Design Chairperson

Mike Burris
Meg Edmonds
Ken Emry
Hal Garland
Craig Ketels
Ray Kilmer
Ida Liebert
Tommie Plank
Frank Royal
Betty Socha
Kathy Thirkell
Kate Valenta
Paula Whittier
Jodi Wyss



Pine Grove school moves to its current home at Kilmer Elementary, 1998

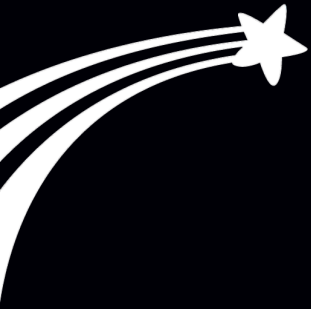


Construction on the PLES commons during 1992 renovation work



*Groundbreaking in 1993 for a new Lewis-Palmer Middle School building,
From left: Ted Belteau, Dallas Strawn, Jeff Ferguson, Dave Jones, Tommie Plank,
Mike Burris, and Marty Kiernan*

“Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Lewis-Palmer School District. Your support and participation strengthens our community and builds a better future for us all.”



*for Significant Contribution to the
Success of the District and its Students*

Lewis-Palmer School District #38
146 Jefferson, P.O. Box 40, Monument, CO 80132
(719) 488-4700 • info@lewispalmer.org • www.lewispalmer.org