

## WOMEN FROM OUR PAST

Teachers don't start their careers intent upon having a building named after them. But look behind the names of some of Fort Collins' buildings and you're likely to find a person who simply did her best and expected nothing less from her students and colleagues.

Take, for example, the Roberta L. Price Civic Auditorium at Thompson Valley High School in Loveland.

Over her 30 years in the Thompson School District, former Colorado State University student Roberta Price participated in and/or ran the district's theater center, music guild, school and summer productions. Theater became the passion for this woman who had wanted to teach since she was in third grade.

"So often, teachers can become discouraged because people are down on public education... when you look around... there are lots of good students in public schools," she said. "There's a

wealth of talent."

Price, who retired from teaching in 1994, commends her mentors, a veritable litany of "who's who" in drama and theater from exceptional programs at Colorado State College (now UNC), Colorado State University, Denver University and the University of Colorado.

Local entrepreneur Chauncey Taylor believes Price seemed to have a strategy for every kid she encountered as a motivator, mentor and coach.

"She challenged, encouraged, made me stretch and touched so many lives," Taylor said. "I feel compelled to 'pay it forward' because of her."

Former student Peter Muller says he would not be doing what he is today – opening the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse – without Price's influence.

"Price was one of those teachers who



*since well-behaved women rarely make history...*

cared deeply about her students... was deeply respected because of what she demanded from her students, not for being chummy with them," he said.

Kathy Browne taught art in a mandatory humanities class for high school juniors. Price taught drama and Laurene Edmondson handled music in the class.

"I was fresh out of college team teaching with these ladies," she said. "I'm not sure who was teaching who – I was learning as much as any student!"

Browne added that as a teacher, Price could be inspiring and intimidating at the same time because she believed in her students more than they believed in themselves.

And so the progression goes... the mentored become the mentors. ✦

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**PAST ARTICLE BY MARYJO FAITH MORGAN ✦ JOURNEY CONTRIBUTOR**

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