



Dorothy Norene Fritz Eck

Featured February 7, 2022

A huge thank you to Brenda Schye and the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum for providing us with more information about Dorothy!

We found Mrs. Hugo Eck at the top of a League of Women Voters of Montana (LWV) informational pamphlet (circa 1967-69) in our historical document collection. Within this pamphlet, Mrs. Eck is identified as president of the statewide organization and her address is listed as 10 West Garfield, Bozeman, MT. The pamphlet itself discusses the history and topical issues pertaining to various state institutions in Montana. She is mentioned in several newspapers across the state for her leadership of the LWV in 1969 and 1970.

Mrs. Eck's husband, Hugo, was an architect and professor at Montana State College (now Montana State University), and her daughter Dee was very active in local and national youth organizations in the United Methodist Church.

The League of Women's Voters is a national, nonpartisan organization that evolved in 1920 out of the women's suffrage movement, and now promotes active participation in government and understanding of public policy issues. BPL's archival pamphlet is a fascinating example of the LWV's efforts to educate and inform.

From Brenda Schye and the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum:

Dorothy Eck was a prominent and influential figure in Montana politics, serving as a delegate on the Montana 1972 Constitutional Convention, where she was an integral member of the Bill of Rights Committee. She was elected to the state senate in 1980 and served until 2000 working on issues such as education, healthcare for children and families and increased access to mental healthcare.

She was born Dorothy Norene Fritz on June 23, 1924 in Sequim, WA. Her parents were Ira E. Friz and Ida C. Hokanson. Dorothy married Hugo Gust Eck on December 18, 1942 in Kitsap County, WA. The couple moved to Bozeman, MT and had two children, Diana and Laurence. Dorothy passed away on September 23, 2017.

Sources:

BPL Archives: Vertical Files Collection

Billings Gazette, April 12, 1969, pg. 15

Billings Gazette, Sept. 9, 1969, pg. 7

Billings Gazette, April 4, 1970, pg. 3

Great Falls Tribune, Sept. 14, 1962, pg. 5

League of Women Votes of Montana <https://my.lwv.org/montana-league-women-voters/about>

Montana Standard, Sept. 9, 1962, pg. 26