

TRENHOLM, VIRGINIA COLE
March 12, 1902-January 16, 1994

Virginia Cole Trenholm, a nationally-recognized authority on both the Arapahoes and Shoshone Indians of Wyoming, and a long-time Platte County resident, died in her sleep in Roy, Utah, Sunday, at the home of her son, Jim.

Mrs. Trenholm received both a B.A. and an M.A. from Missouri University, and taught at Stephens College in near Columbia, Mo., before she was married. When she and Robert Trenholm were married Sept. 1, 1932, the couple moved to Platte County to operate a ranch.

When the couple retired from ranching, where she resided until recently when she moved to Utah to live with her son.

Marion Huseas, an authority of Wyoming history, called Trenholm "undoubtedly the number one authority on the two Indian tribes of the Wind River Reservation."

Trenholm's two books about these Indians, *The Arapahoes, Our People*, and *Shoshonis: Sentinels of the Rockies*, written with Maurine Carely, brought her many awards. She was honored by the Western Writers of America, and received top writing awards from the National Federation of Press women.

Nominated by the Wyoming state NFPW chapter for the National Woman of Achievement Award, Trenholm placed among the top five from a field of nationally-known figures.

She was also recognized by the Wyoming Commission of Women. Because of her background with the Indian tribes, she was approached by James Michener when he began writing *Centennial*. She worked with Michener over a period of months on the Indian phase of the celebrated novel.

Published by the University of Oklahoma Press, her books remain the most respect resource material on these Wyoming tribes, according to Huseas.

Both books received international recognition, and are presently being printed in Italian.

Her success with these Indian tribes, according to Huseas, was Trenholm's ability to "treat each tribe fairly." Trenholm spent a great deal of time with tribal members and won their lifetime respect, said Huseas.

Trenholm's only novel, *Omen of the Hawks*, was published by the Laffing Cow Press of Cheyenne, now of Saratoga.

Trenholm is survived by her son, Jim, of Roy, Utah, a daughter, Virginia Phillippi of Cheyenne, a friend, Joe Chasteen of Cheyenne, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Trenholm in 1966, her parents, Dr. J.B. and Virginia Cole, two sisters, three brothers and one grandson, John Phillippi.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m., at Wiederspahn-Radomsky Chapel of the Chimes in Cheyenne, with the Rev. Delbert Hansen officiating. Friends who wish may contribute to St. Stephens Indian Foundation, in care of the Wind River Reservation.