



Colorado Biographies



Julie Lewis McMillan Penrose 1870-1956

- Julie was born in 1870 in Detroit, one of 13 children, her father was mayor of Detroit.
- She married James H. McMillan in 1888; had two children, Jimmie and Gladys; but later her husband developed tuberculosis while serving in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.
- The McMillans moved to Colorado Springs for his health and lived at 30 West Dale Street. Jim McMillan died in 1901 and Julie's young son, Jimmie, died of appendicitis that same year.
- In 1906, Julie McMillan married Spencer Penrose. They lived at her Dale Street house.
- Between 1911 and 1938, the Penroses built the Pikes Peak Auto Highway and founded the Pikes Peak Hill Climb auto race; the Broadmoor Hotel opened in 1918. (see Spencer Penrose Quick Facts for further information on what the Penroses gave to Colorado Springs.)
- In 1919, Julie gave the Dale Street house to be used for an art school and exhibition center, called the Broadmoor Art Academy. In 1935 the house was torn down and the present Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center was built on the site; it opened in 1936.
- In 1937, the Penroses created the El Pomar Foundation, which still gives funds to many Colorado charities.
- Julie Penrose died in 1956 and was buried at the Will Rogers Shrine like her husband.
- Before her death, Julie gave millions of dollars to build Penrose Hospital.

Great Resources on Julie Penrose

- Bertozzi-Villa, Elena. *Broadmoor Memories: The History of the Broadmoor*. Missoula, MO: Pictorial Histories Publishing, c1993. pp. 32-128.
- Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. *A Teacher's Guide: History of the Pikes Peak Region*. Colorado Springs: Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, c1990. p. 91.
- Sprague, Marshall. *Newport in the Rockies*. Denver: Sage Books, c1961, pp. 241-73, 282- 314.