

## Josephine Aspinwall Roche: Humanitarian (Great Lives in Colorado History)

Martha Biery



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Josephine Aspinwall Roche: Humanitarian (Great Lives in Colorado History) Martha Biery Josephine Aspinwall Roche moved to Denver in 1906 while she was attending Vassar College in New York. She studied economics and later earned a Masters Degree in social work from Columbia. She became Denver's first female police officer and worked with Judge Benjamin Lindsey, who created one of the first juvenile court systems. Josephine later held jobs in Denver and Washington, D.C., where she was active in progressive causes. After her father's health failed, Josephine returned to Colorado to run his coal mining company at which she enacted a variety of pro-labor policies, including an invitation for the United Mine Workers to unionize her mines. Josephine ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Colorado in 1934 and was appointed Assistant Treasury Secretary by President Roosevelt. Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of President Roosevelt, called her "one of the greatest humanitarians of her time."

Number 8 in the Great Lives in Colorado History series.

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