

Former state Sen. Garnsey dies

Sometimes controversial Greeley Republican, 88, served from 1967-75

By John Ingold

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William Smith "Bill" Garnsey, former state senator and well-known Greeley businessman, died Thursday. He was 88.

Garnsey, a Republican, served two terms as state senator from Greeley from 1967-75. In that time he served as the chair of the Finance and the Business and Labor committees.

Sometimes controversial, Garnsey once walked out of a Senate Business Affairs Committee meeting to prevent the voting on — and thus the passing of — a consumer

credit bill.

Garnsey was a strong supporter of the University of Northern Colorado and was instrumental in getting the school university status and an independent governing board.

In 1996, UNC granted Garnsey an honorary doctorate for his services to education.

He was best known as the long-time co-owner of Garnsey and Wheeler Ford in Greeley. He took over control of the second-oldest Ford dealership in Colorado from his father shortly after returning from World War II.

In 1993, his son W. Herrick Garnsey took over full control of the dealership.

Garnsey was born in Billings, Mont., on Nov. 5, 1911. He came to Greeley with his family in 1919 and graduated from Greeley High School in 1928.

He went on to attend college at Yale, where he lettered in football and crew.

He married Louise Bolton Herrick of Long Island. After her death, he married state Sen. Roseanne Ball, a Denver Republican with whom he served in the Legislature.

Garnsey is survived by his wife,

Roseanne; his children, Herrick and Anson H. Garnsey of Denver, and Louisa G. Lambert of Pennington, N.J.; and three stepchildren. Garnsey also had 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. today at Trinity Episcopal Church, 3800 W. 20th St., Greeley. Contributions can be made to the Dayspring Christian School Building or to the University of Northern Colorado Foundation's Fund for the Garnsey Professorship, both in care of All-nut Funeral Service, 702 13th St., Greeley 80631.