

Boulder lawyer dies at age 75

By Mike Patty

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Mansur Tinsley was a quiet man. But when he did speak, it paid to listen.



Mansur Tinsley

April 7. He was 75.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, April 20, in the Crist Mortuary, 34th and the Diagonal Highway, Boulder.

"He wasn't what you'd call real gregarious, but he had a deft, analytical intelligence," said former District Judge Roscoe Pile, a long-time associate. "There would be times when a bunch of us would be arguing about something and Mansur would make a statement and that was it. There was nothing

more to say. He didn't participate in conversations as much as end them."

Mr. Tinsley, born Jan. 24, 1915, in Boulder, graduated from Boulder Prep High School. He attended the University of Colorado, where he was a fraternity boxer.

After graduating from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Mr. Tinsley worked several years for a newspaper in Evansville, Ind., before returning to CU to get his law degree.

During World War II, he served as a public relations officer at Camp White Oregon and Bushnell General Hospital in Utah. He later served in the judge advocate General's office in Utah and Washington, D.C. He was discharged as a captain in 1946.

Returning to Colorado, Mr. Tinsley began his law practice. He was a senior partner in the firm of Tinsley, Frantz, Fleming and Davidson. Active in Democratic politics, he successfully ran for the state legislature in the normally

Republican district of Jefferson County in 1948.

"He was unusual in that he was elected majority leader in his freshman term," Pile said.

Mr. Tinsley lost his re-election bid in 1950 and he served as Jefferson County Attorney until 1957. He was Jefferson County Public Administrator until 1960.

Mr. Tinsley was past president of First Judicial District Bar Association, served on the Colorado Bar Association Board of Governors and was a member of the American Bar Association, American Arbitrators Association, Sigma Nu and Kappa Tau Alpha honorary journalism fraternity.

Survivors include a son, M. Patrick Tinsley of Boulder; a daughter, Mary Louise Kerns of Boulder; and five grandchildren. His wife, Helen Leona Holton Tinsley died in 1986.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Boulder County Hospice, 2825 Marine St., Boulder 80303.