

Obituary of Dr. Sarah Moore Seidel



December 14, 1942 to February 19, 2025

Dr. Sarah Moore Seidel of LaPorte, Colorado passed away suddenly the night of February 19, at 82 years of age.

Sarah was born in Del Norte, Colorado, the daughter of Joseph Behney Moore and Jane Elizabeth Ross Moore. Joe was an accomplished chemist and entomologist that pioneered the extraction of Pyrethrin insecticide from chrysanthemums, and inventor on the patent that would lead to Raid bug spray when in synthetic form. Beth was a trailblazer for women in agricultural sciences at a time when women were not welcome in higher education for that area of study, and collegiate fencing champion for Cornell University.

With her father working for MGK, they spent cold heavy winters in Edina, Minneapolis, where Sarah remembered going to the bus stop with a parade of farm animals in tow. Summers were a great relief, spent in Pagosa Springs where her father cultivated chrysanthemums to produce insecticide for WW2 on a stunning 360 acre ranch, and her mother raised horses and mules, including holding a Lipizzaner at stud. Pagosa Springs played large in her life; raised up by mules, and a local prospector named Ed Spielman, who guided the family on adventurous pack trips through the San Juans /Wimenuche wilderness. He was a deeply kind man and father-like figure in her upbringing, along with friends of her parents such as the egalitarian and spirited Jean Warren.

Sarah spread her wings, attending leading liberal arts college, Carleton, in Northfield Minnesota. She later attended Cornell University, where she earned her PhD in German Literature, studying abroad in Heidelberg and Freiburg Germany, and later teaching in Fairbanks, Alaska. Importantly, she also met

her husband of more than 40 years, George E. Seidel, Jr. while they both boarded at a house owned by her family in Ithica.

She and George went on many wild adventures, including Peru and Greece during civil unrest, and some of the first American scientists welcomed in China as it opened up. They also had many road trips and hikes with close friends Duane Norman, Michael T Kane, and others.

She was dedicated supporter of her husband in all regards, which enabled him to catapult to worldwide success as a top reproductive physiologist and member of the National Academy of Sciences. She helped him grow the scientific organization, the International Embryo Technology Society, into a leading academic and industry body, serving as its Executive Secretary in its early years from 1977 to 1999. She was known for her organization, international mindedness, and strong sense of humor. She had the ability to recognize the hundreds of attendees by face and correctly pronounce all the names.

In the 1980s, Sarah and George embarked on a venture to start a cattle ranch, which grew into a large complex of land, herd for George's experiments, and a valuable community resource for land conservation, education, and employment (and source of many a disaster to feed the family's famous Christmas Letter).

Sarah also volunteered as a counselor, known for her strong ethics, sense of humor, and reminding people to live their values. Her mind was sharp to the end and she had a deep positive effect on so many lives, particularly felt by her family. She will be sorely missed as a mother, friend, collaborator, and confidante.

She is survived by her son, Andrew, daughter-in-law Yuan, and grandsons Gregory and Michael, of Fort Collins, Colorado.

A celebration of life will be held on June 8th at 10:30am on the family's Waterfall Ranch in Livermore, Colorado.