

The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

MAUREEN MARGARET JONES WARREN MEEHL

September 27, 1967

(1932 – 1971)



Maureen Margaret Jones Warren Meehl was born on December 11, 1932, in Boise, Idaho the daughter of Helen and Thomas J. Jones, Jr. Her father, T.J., was a well-known attorney in Boise and her mother, Helen, raised her family after working outside the home immediately after college. Meehl had two brothers, T.J. (III) and Jerry. Both of her brothers received their law degrees, although only T.J. practiced and worked with his father in Boise.

Meehl attended St. Theresa's Academy in Boise for elementary school, North Junior High and Boise High School, from which she graduated in 1951. During her last year of high school, she also attended classes at Boise Junior College (later Boise State University), but did not receive a degree from the school. Her brother, T.J., describes his sister as very bright and energetic and as someone who "pursued everything to its limits." "She was vivacious" he says, "she made friends with everyone." Meehl was always active and athletic and pursued her love of skiing with vigor beginning in high school, eventually becoming a Junior National Ski Champion and traveling throughout the West for ski races.

In 1951, Meehl began college at the University of Idaho where she studied history. Following her interests in athletics, Meehl was a "Hell Diver" with the swim team (following in the footsteps of Edith Miller Klein, No. 17 on this list) and skied whenever she could. On March 10, 1953, she married Richard Eddy Warren in Colfax, Washington. In September 1953, she left UI to study history at the University of California at Berkeley for a semester until January 1954. The couple then moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where Richard served in the Army until the end of 1954. Thereafter, the couple returned to the University of Idaho in 1955 and Meehl graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1956.

After college graduation, Meehl returned to Boise where she worked as a history teacher at Boise High School and Richard worked as an engineer. After just a few years, however, the couple moved to Utah because Richard was offered a better job. Together the couple had four children, three boys and a girl.

By the early 1960s, Meehl's marriage to Richard was in trouble and she returned to Boise and her family to raise her four young children. Once again, Meehl taught history in the Boise Public Schools. After her divorce became final in 1963, Meehl's father, recognizing his daughter's intelligence and drive, strongly encouraged her to go to law school. So, in the tradition of her father (T.J. Jones, Jr.), her brother (T.J. Jones, III), and her uncle (Felix Jones - attorney and judge), Meehl decided to become a lawyer. The fact that she was a woman didn't deter her given her parents' support and encouragement.

From 1964 to 1967, Meehl attended the University of Idaho College of Law, spending one summer in 1966 at the University of Denver. On September 27, 1967, Meehl was admitted to practice law in Idaho. Immediately thereafter, she returned to Boise and began her legal career in her father and brother's firm doing general practice work. It was during this time that Meehl met fellow attorney Daniel Meehl. Shortly thereafter, Meehl moved to Twin Falls (where Dan was) and began working as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Twin Falls County.

In 1969, she married Dan (now a retired Fifth District Judge) and he adopted her four children giving each of them his name. Meehl continued to pursue her interests with vigor in Twin Falls, including skiing. After a hard day of skiing with her young children in 1971, however, she unexpectedly passed away of a heart attack. Dan, a widow and father of four young children after just two years of marriage, raised the children to become successful adults. Mark and Bob currently work in business in Portland, John works in acquisitions at Albertson's in Boise, and Helen works for the county in Twin Falls. T.J. says that Maureen would be proud of each of her children and, in particular, of the love and devotion that Dan showed each of the kids over the years.