



Louisville Volunteer Firefighters: A History of Service and Dedication *By Sean Moynihan, Historical Commission Member*

On a bright, clear day following a recent March snowstorm, two alert women dropped by a quiet cul-de-sac in the middle of Louisville to look over a friend's basketball hoop for possible purchase. While they were examining the hoop, the women suddenly noticed something very odd: smoke was slowly seeping out of the friend's upstairs bedroom. Knowing that the friend was not at home, the women rushed to make sure that there were no occupants inside and called 911. Several minutes later, units from the Louisville Police Department and Louisville Fire Protection District appeared. As the billowing smoke slowly turned to bright orange flames lapping against the outside of the bedroom window, several firefighters in full gear calmly strode inside the house with axes in hand. While bystanders watched from the sidewalk, the firefighters first broke out the window to the bedroom, and then quickly sprayed down the expanding fire with extinguishers. Within minutes, the emergency had been averted and a Louisville resident's home had been saved from possible destruction.

On that sunny late-winter's day in 2009, neighbors were able to witness a modern firefighting force with state-of-the-art equipment and impressive, brightly colored fire trucks quickly respond to the scene and immediately stifle a growing fire threat. This reassuring state of affairs, however, was not always the case in Louisville. According to Carolyn Conarroe in her history of Louisville entitled *The Louisville Story*, the first mention of an official volunteer firefighting force was in February of 1895, when a group of concerned citizens petitioned the town trustees for a local volunteer firefighting company. Based on this public concern, town trustees published an ordinance in the *Louisville Advance* on March 28, 1895, detailing a plan to establish

a local fire department. The trustees also ordered that incorporation papers be obtained from the state government at the February 1895 meeting of Town Trustees.



Members of Louisville's fire department are ready to take off down Main Street with the hose cart in this undated photo.

The town had been aware for some time that it needed a firefighting company. As noted by Conarroe in her town history, in an earlier ordinance published in November 1892, local leaders had asked community members with fireplaces and lighting devices to be extra vigilant about avoiding potential fires. This need to be keenly aware of potential fires was especially warranted given that the majority of the structures located in the town around the turn of the century were made entirely of wood.

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According to an article published in the *Louisville Times Centennial Edition* in August 1978, the Sanborn Map Co. of New York mapped the town in 1893 and disclosed that, with the exception of one two-story brick structure (the “brick store,” otherwise known as the Mercantile Trading Co. at the northwest corner of Pine and Main Streets), one brick oven, and two metal structures, “every other building and shed in town was a wood structure.” Moreover, the 1893 mapping project further revealed that the town had “no independent hose company.”



In this photo dated 1926, members of the Louisville Hose Team pose with their trophies in front of the old Town Hall and Fire Station on the west side of the 700 block of Main Street. Roy Austin is pictured at far left. The Austin-Niehoff House at 717 Main Street, now the offices for Louisville’s Parks and Recreation Dept. next to City Hall, can be seen on the right.



The original Fire Station, which also served Louisville for a long time as Town Hall, was built in 1902 in the 700 block of Main Street. This photo was taken on February 21, 1953, as the old bell was being removed from the bell tower.

Thus, in 1895, the town ordered its first firefighting equipment: a hose cart with five-and-a-half foot wheels costing \$125, and five hundred feet of Boston fire jacket hose. According to the 1978 *Louisville Times* article,

town trustee minutes from meetings note that a bell tower was first completed in January 1900. Thereafter, a new town hall was planned for construction in March 1902 for \$1500, and, in June 1907, the trustees ordered that the “old” bell tower be utilized as “a hose dryer.”

The town minutes from October 1910 actually refer to two hose companies: Number One and Number Two. This reflects the early organization of the fire department into several different hose companies that were strategically placed at different locations in the town. A local newspaper item from the late 1970s entitled, “Looking Back,” describes how, in February 1957, “John Ross, the last of the old hose cart team” retired from the volunteer force after 24 years. In the brief news story, the writer speaks of how Ross and his former hose team companions would perform their duty: “The . . . man-drawn hose carts date back to before the town’s first fire truck. Three carts were stationed about town, one at the town hall, one in ‘Little Italy’ in the northeast part of town, and one up on the hill near Henry Robinson’s home at the corner of South and Lincoln Streets. It took a ten-man team on a cart. Seven pulled the cart and behind came the man to pull the hose off the cart, one to connect it to the fire plug and one to put on and operate the nuzzle. Ross is the last man who worked on those teams to be in the fire department.”

Although there is scant written history of the early decades of the volunteer firefighting department, a vivid pictorial history remains of the legendary “hose cart” competitions that were held in Louisville and other surrounding communities. In these competitions, hose cart teams such as those described above would gather on city streets in a carnival-like atmosphere and attempt to complete three separate tests—the “Wet,” the “Hub to Hub,” and the “Replacement”—in the shortest amount of time. Photographs from Louisville’s Historical Museum depict young men in early 20th century track and field attire grinning confidently aside their carts before setting off on their races. Other photos are more action-packed, displaying, from the photographer’s vantage point of several stories up a building in Boulder, firefighters sprinting headlong down Main Street with their cart alongside the equally panting competing team, while an adoring crowd of townsfolk, either standing five-deep from the curb or camped comfortably on wooden bleachers placed along the race route, gaze with anticipation at the straining competitors.

In the middle decades of the last century, the department clearly modernized its equipment and facilities, and yet retained the more small town, laid-back feel to its organization that was characteristic of so many other smaller volunteer forces across the country. According to the 1978 article appearing in the *Louisville Times*

Centennial Edition, a new fire truck was purchased in January 1952 for \$9000. The article does not clarify, however, if this was the same “rural fire truck” that local farmers helped to purchase at around the same time. In an advertisement appearing in the *Louisville Times* on February 9, 1950, fundraisers announce in large bold type, “Donkey Basketball,” a competition between the Lions Club and local firefighters held at Louisville High School where fans could “[s]ee leading citizens attempt to play a rip snorting game of basketball while mounted on the hurricane decks of real live donkeys.” After promising readers “[m]ore fun than a monkey circus—less basketball than you ever thought possible,” the advertiser notes that the competition is “FOR BENEFIT OF RURAL FIRE TRUCK.”



In this photo, members of a fire department, believed to be Louisville’s, are about to cross the finish line. This hose cart race took place in another community, possibly Longmont. The size of the crowd testifies to the popularity of these races in which the fire departments of different towns and cities would compete with one another.

Ron Leggett, a 22-year veteran of the department and a former chief who began his service as a firefighter in 1955, remembers well the farmers buying the rural truck—“an International,” he mentions—in addition to other memorable aspects of the department. There was always a waiting list for a new opening, he remembered in a recent telephone conversation. There were three trucks stationed in the old city hall—the rural truck, a 1932 Chevy (which still appears in Louisville parades to this day), and a 1952 GMC. There were special fire phones located in the city hall, in the old Hacienda restaurant on Main Street, and in the chief’s house, and a switch connected to the blaring town-wide alarm system alerted members to the nature of the call: three rings

meant the problem was in town; four meant it was out of town; and two rings meant that there was some sort of an emergency.



The Louisville Team won the Governor Shoup Cup in 1920, 1921, and 1922, and is pictured in this photo next to bleachers that had been set up for spectators in front of the Boulder County Courthouse. Museum records indicate the following identifications of team members, left to right: Ange Ferrari, Roy Austin, Mike Petrun, Pete Zarini, Henry Hawkins, “Jugger” Machin, and Jim Fenolia (with his hand outstretched). Standing off to the left, not wearing a harness, is Ben Woods. The three to the right of the hose cart wheel have been identified as Jim Ferrari, Dan Schaeffer, and Mike Poydock. Those standing in back of the team have been identified as “Dutch” Busman, Jim Fabrizio, John Sirokman, Steve David, William “Dad” Thirlaway, “Samson” Harney, “Pug” Gierson, and Lawrence Mossoni.

Leggett also remembers that every Labor Day, the farmers and the firefighters would engage in a full-on tug of war before gleeful spectators. “And it always involved a keg of beer, of course,” he chuckles. The two main fires that stand out in his memory are the September 1974 fire that destroyed the legendary Steinbaugh hardware and appliance store that stood just north of the Old Louisville Inn on Front Street, and a conflagration that almost destroyed the classic State Mercantile Building on Main Street. According to a *Louisville Times* article that appeared the week of the Steinbaugh fire, the fire in the store was “unquestionably the worst in Louisville’s history.” As to the fire in the State Mercantile Building, Leggett recalls that it started somehow in the building’s basement, and then “got into the walls,” threatening the whole building. After a Boulder fire chief opined that nothing would be able to smother the fire and save the building, Leggett and his

colleagues thought differently and quickly requested some foam to be brought from Rocky Flats, which then was promptly sprayed into the walls. The quick-thinking strategy did the trick and the building—now an acknowledged jewel within Louisville—was saved for future generations.



The old bell can be seen above the new fire station that was built in 1957. This is the site of City Hall today (Spruce Street side).

Overall, former Chief Leggett feels that his experiences with the fire department were very rewarding and well worth the time and effort. “It was a great time, and there was a lot of camaraderie,” he says. In fact, the former chief and several of his colleagues eventually started a “former chiefs club,” which still has a strong membership to this day.

Larry Boven, another longtime member of the department who completed his twenty years of service in 2008, echoes Leggett’s sentiments. “It was a terrific time—you would meet people from all walks of life,” he recently stated. Boven actually applied at the behest of his wife, who believed that it might be a good way for them to get to know the people living in their new community. In looking back on his experiences, Boven fondly recalls the feeling of rushing down to the station upon receiving a call on his now archaic pager. “You remember the rush of going down to the department. And you always remember your first few calls the best—they are the most vivid images for you. When the tone went off, we rolled down to the station, and the first one there would get in the squad truck and be ready to drive.”

These images, of the regular citizen rushing down to the fire station to don his or her boots, coat, and helmet on a sudden call of an emergency somewhere in town, are what seem to be so timeless and classic when one ponders the meaning of a volunteer firefighting department in one’s hometown. Whether it be the young

miner rushing alongside a hose cart towards a fire at the turn of the century or the well-equipped firefighters often seen today traveling swiftly through Louisville within their imposing, modern fire trucks, the image of the next door neighbor who stands ready, at a moment’s notice, to rush to the aid of his fellow citizen in times of grave danger is at once thrilling and awe-inspiring. Louisville has a rich history of these brave citizen-firefighters who have kept watch over the town as others have slept peacefully in their homes, and hopefully, their continuing presence as our town’s modern-day “hose company” will enable further generations to prosper in their lives without the danger of smoke, sparks, or flame.

Thank you to Ron Leggett and Larry Boven for the information that they provided, and to Bridget Bacon for her research and guidance during the preparation of this article.

Fire on Main Street ***By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator***

Louisville has had its share of damaging downtown fires. Some are still remembered well by current residents, such as the fire at the Blue Parrot Restaurant. It resulted in the construction of a new building on the same site. Similarly, many people remember the fire that destroyed the Steinbaugh building on Front Street in 1974 and the one that threatened the State Mercantile Building, as described by Ron Leggett in the lead article of this issue.



This photo taken by Frank Jacoe shows the east side of the 800 block of Main Street before the 1926 fire. Going from right to left, the Hub Store, Bank, and Garage can be clearly seen, and the Telephone Exchange is just out of sight. This view can also be seen in the photo of the hose cart team on the cover of this issue.

Going farther back in time, a fire in 1927 destroyed the tipple at the Acme Mine. This mine was located close to the intersection of Hutchinson and La Farge in downtown Louisville. According to a newspaper report, two miners working in the bottom of the shaft were pulled out right away, and other miners were able to get out of the mine after the fire was out. Having active coal mining operations with the potential for a damaging fire located so near to frame residential and business buildings likely was a source of concern for Louisville residents.

A major fire in the downtown business district changed the look of Main Street in ways that we still see and experience today. The Wildwood Guitars building and the recently closed Tulien's Restaurant building currently stand where this destructive fire burned eighty-three years ago.

The Businesses Before the Fire

The properties at 800 to 808 Main Street, at the northeast corner of Main and Spruce, were part of Original Louisville that was platted and recorded by Louis Nawatny in 1878. They are notable for having been predominantly business sites from the early years of Louisville's existence at a time when nearby parts of Main Street were still residential.

Records show that Thomas Allenton operated a "meat market and saloon" business on the corner site in the early 1880s. Jacob C. Williams acquired the property in 1895, which was the start of ownership and control by members of the Williams Family that was to last over 75 years. Jacob Williams was a coal mine superintendent who oversaw the operations of numerous mines in Boulder and Weld Counties.

Under Williams' ownership, two businesses grew on the corner site. Starting in about 1915, 800 Main was the site of the Hub Store, the primary destination for local residents to purchase clothing. Just to the north, 804 Main was the site of The First State Bank of Louisville.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Louisville show a general store standing at the 808 Main site by 1893. The general store gave way to KJK Motors, then the Perrella Garage. The Telephone Exchange building was added to the north side of this store by 1908.

Fire Threatened the Entire Business District

As reported in the Rocky Mountain News edition of November 30, 1926 (but without a specific date given for the fire), the fire started after midnight behind the garage. The manager of the Telephone Exchange, Catherine Curtan, was sleeping with her children in their living quarters of that building, located next to the

garage. They managed to escape before the Telephone Exchange building collapsed.

An unidentified passenger getting off the Interurban at about 12:30 a.m. saw the fire and managed to raise the alarm. The Louisville Hose Cart Team responded, but, as the Rocky Mountain News reported, it could do little to control such a large, intense fire, so the Boulder fire department was called in. The buildings on the opposite side of Main Street were at risk of catching fire, but fortunately did not due to the wind having died down and the efforts of the firemen. As noted by the Rocky, the risk to the entire business district that night was great.

The fire at least severely damaged the Hub Store and First State Bank, and is believed to have totally destroyed the Perrella Garage and the Telephone Exchange, at a loss estimated to be \$75,000.



The 1926 fire was to destroy this Telephone Exchange building, which was also the living quarters for the manager, Catherine Curtan, and her children at the time. The three women in this undated photo, who are believed to have been switchboard operators, have been identified as Maude Machin, Esther Thirlaway, and Myrle Swanberg.

For School

Boy's Shirts

Shoes
Underwear
Shirts
Waists
Hats
Caps
Hose

Girls'
Shoes
Hosiery

The Hub

This ad for the Hub appeared in the September 9, 1920 issue of The Louisville Times.

After the Fire

Following the fire, Jacob and Jane Williams rebuilt the corner building. Available records do not shed light on whether any part of the original buildings were salvaged and incorporated into the new building. (Boulder County records indicate that only remodeling occurred following the fire.)

The two stores that were on the corner before the fire, the Hub Store and the First State Bank, stayed in the same locations. The Hub Store continued at 800 Main until the 1950s. Similarly, the First State Bank remained at 804 Main until it moved in 1953. (In 1932, it was the site of a classic bank robbery when two men locked assistant cashier Annie Varley and two customers in the vault and took \$12,000.) Howard Hoyt is said to have responsibly guided the bank through the difficult years of the Depression. G.R. Henning, owner of Henning Mortuary on the other corner of the 800 block (and Mayor of Louisville from 1926 to 1930), was also an important figure at the bank, serving as President and in other capacities. After the bank moved, 804 Main then became the location for Public Service offices until about 1990.



This photo, taken by Frank Jacoe after the fire, shows extensive damage. The building at 740 Main, which is now the location of the Double Happy Restaurant, can be seen in the background.

Following the fire, a new building for the Telephone Exchange was constructed at 913 Main, and the Perrella Garage found a new home on the other side of Main Street (on the corner where the Chase Bank is now).

808 Main has been the location of several of Louisville's popular restaurants since the current building was constructed in 1946. Over the decades, these eateries have greatly contributed to Louisville's reputation as a restaurant town. The building is the only example of a Mediterranean Revival style building in downtown

Louisville and was home to Pennetta's Restaurant and The Hacienda (both operated by Phillip Pennetta), the Blue Parrot II, Luigi's (operated by Luigi Colabello), Beverley's (operated by Beverley Thirlaway), and Tulien's (operated by Tulien Loittrinh).



It appears that this photo was taken after the burned debris from the Telephone Exchange building was taken away.



This photo from circa 1950 shows this reconstructed section of Main Street and bears a strong resemblance to what we see today. The brick building contained the Hub on the south side and the First State Bank on the north side. The Hacienda Restaurant was just beyond.

Most residents and visitors today are not aware of the damaging fire that once threatened the town's entire business district and changed the look of this section of Main Street.

If you have any memories or photos of the 1926 fire on Main Street, please consider sharing them with the Historical Museum. We are also interested in other information about this location, including information, photos, recipes, and menus from the different restaurants that operated at 808 Main Street. Please let the Museum know if any important information is missing from what we know of this Main Street location.

***Louisville's Italian Heritage to be
Explored at May Historical Program
By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator***

In the late 1800s and well into the 1900s, Louisville was one of several colonies in Colorado to which recent Italian immigrants were drawn. Their travels to Louisville coincided with the wave of immigration by Italians to the United States. They came in search of work, and both coal mining and farming were available in this area. A Catholic Church and Catholic school that were established early in our town's history likely served to draw many Italian families.

Although Louisville's population was only about 2,000 for several decades, Louisville had a "Little Italy" neighborhood. Yet this fact is somewhat misleading because Italian families also lived throughout the rest of the town, as shown by old residential directories and by historical property records. Eliseo Jacoe and Joe D'Amato obtained fruits and vegetables from Italian grocers in Denver and sold them in their neighborhood stores here. Louisville once had several Italian restaurants that drew people from Denver and beyond to its downtown; the only one of the original Italian restaurants that still remains is the Blue Parrot Restaurant, Louisville's oldest business. Even today, an independently organized Society of Italian Americans in Louisville puts on an annual Italian festival, La Festa, at Memory Square Park in the summer.

On May 13th, the Historical Commission and Historical Museum are pleased to present a program by Alisa Zahller on *Reconstructing Italy in Colorado: Life Stories to Learn From*. Alisa, Associate Curator of Decorative and Fine Arts at the Colorado Historical Society, has been deeply involved in the Italians of Colorado Project. The development of a research archive consisting of oral histories, artifacts, photographs, and documents formed the basis for other parts of the Project. Some of our members had the opportunity to view the Colorado History Museum exhibit on *The Italians of Denver*, which she curated. Alisa also wrote the book *Italy in Colorado: Family Histories from Denver and Beyond*, which was based on the exhibit, and which is available for purchase at the Louisville Historical Museum.

The Italian American experience in the United States has been well documented by scholars and in popular culture. However, for decades, this attention has been focused on the experience of Italians in the Northeast and in cities in the Great Lakes area, as well as in a few other cities such as St. Louis, New Orleans, and San Francisco. Some of the enlightening information that I learned as a visitor to the

exhibit *The Italians of Denver* was that by the early 1920s, the Italian population of Colorado comprised twenty-two percent of its total population and that Colorado had several Italian colonies. However, it is clear that not only are other Americans unaware of Colorado's extensive Italian history, but Coloradans themselves largely do not have knowledge of it. The Italians of Colorado Project has put a welcome spotlight on Colorado's Italian heritage.

Our speaker also has a personal connection to Louisville! Alisa's Italian grandparents, Sam and Emma Carpenter, raised most of their children (Alisa's aunts and uncles) in a house in Little Italy through the 1930s. Their surname was originally Carpanzano. The family is related to the Iannacito, DiGiacomo, and Rizzi families of Louisville.

Alisa's book will be available for purchase, and she will be signing books, after the program.

***Reconstructing Italy in Colorado: Life Stories to
Learn From***

Louisville Center for the Arts

801 Grant Ave.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 7:00 pm



The Carpenter (Carpanzano) family lived in a home along this stretch of Harper Street in Louisville's Little Italy.

Louisville Historical Commission

Sally Burlingame	Daniel Mellish
Virginia Caranci	Sean Moynihan
Brian Chamberlin	Anne Robinson
David Ferguson	Donald Ross
Donna Hauswald	Dustin Sagrillo
Alice Koerner	Patricia Seader
Diane Marino	
Colleen Vandendriessche	

Help with Our Oral History Project!

The Historical Museum and Historical Commission are continuing with plans for a Louisville Oral History Project in order to preserve the stories of our community. At this time, we are seeking volunteers to help. Ideally, two person teams would work together, so there is a need for both interviewers and people who can separately operate the video equipment for interviews. Interviewers should have an interest in local history and be willing to do some research ahead of time.

Background information about Louisville history and interviewing tips will be provided. Camera operators should be technically inclined, but training will also be available for doing this task.

If you lived in Louisville in the 1950s or earlier, please consider sharing your stories of the Louisville area so that we can have a better understanding of the families, homes, businesses, and daily life in our town.

Please call the Historical Museum at 303-665-9048 or email museum@ci.louisville.co.us if you are interested in helping with the Oral History Project, or if you have any questions. Volunteers will have the satisfaction of getting involved with the Louisville community and knowing that they are helping to preserve our history!

Thank You to Mike's Camera

The Historical Commission recently purchased video equipment for the Oral History Project being undertaken by the Commission and Museum. Thank you so much to Andy Horton of Mike's Camera, 2500 Pearl Street in Boulder, for providing a generous discount to the Historical Commission. We appreciate it!



Historical Museum Hours and Contact Information

The Louisville Historical Museum is owned and operated by the City of Louisville and it is located at 1001 Main Street.

The current hours of the Louisville Historical Museum are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and the first Saturday of the month from 10 to 3. Please call the Museum at 303-665-9048 for the latest information or to schedule a tour.

Museum staff can also be emailed at museum@ci.louisville.co.us.

The Museum Corner ***Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator***

Thank you to Sean Moynihan for his lead article about Louisville's volunteer fire department! I think that the article will make many people more aware of the excellent work that our fire department has done throughout Louisville's history. For those who would like more information about the individuals who served in the department, the Louisville Fire Department Honor Roll can be viewed at the department's website, www.louisvillefire.com. It includes a list of former chiefs and of deceased Louisville firefighters.

Please contact the Museum if you are able to supply information about the photos in this issue or about other fires in Louisville history, or if you have any corrections.

I would like to share a recent observation about a feature that can be seen in some of the houses in Old Town Louisville. Carol Beam, Historic Preservation Specialist for Boulder County, has been working on the rehabilitation of the buildings on the Harney-Lastoka Open Space site. She asked if we had knowledge of any homes with stained glass in the upper sash of the window in a rectangular design, since the Harney-Lastoka house can be seen with such windows in old photographs.

Although I had never noticed them before, once I started looking, I realized that Louisville has quite a few historic homes with this type of decorative glass. I asked Peter Stewart, a Louisville architect who is also a member of the Louisville Historic Preservation Commission, if he could give me additional information about these windows. According to Peter, it is a window detail associated with Victorian houses, especially those built in the Queen Anne style. As many of Louisville's houses were modest miners' homes, they tended to be simple buildings, but often had "some identifying features which are clearly Victorian." He added that presumably, the size of houses and amount of Victorian detail was limited by a family's budget.

I invite you to see if you can spot any of these rectangular stained glass windows, an example of which is in the accompanying photo, as you walk or drive around downtown Louisville! Typically, they consist of a rectangular pane of glass surrounded by smaller panes. Not every block has a house with this feature, but there are enough to keep the search fun and rewarding. One can also see examples of stained glass windows in other decorative patterns. Thank you so much to Peter Stewart for his information, and to Carol Beam for alerting us to this interesting feature of Louisville history.

Pelican Books recently released the book *The Journey of the Italians in America*, which is a photographic history of Italian-American life by Vincenza Scarpaci. Vincenza visited the Louisville Historical Museum in 2004 and selected photos of Louisville for inclusion in the book.

The Historical Commission recently elected Daniel Mellish as Chairperson, Anne Robinson as Vice-Chairperson, Diane Marino as Secretary, and Dave Ferguson as Treasurer for 2009.

Thank you so much to the people who have regularly given of their time and talents for the Museum in the past few months: Mona Lee Doersam, who does such a wonderful job on the layout of *The Louisville Historian*; Mary Kay Knorr, Gail Khasawneh, Gail Wetrogan, Pete Lindquist, Bill Buffo, Mike Oliver, and Chandler Romeo.

Last, the Louisville Historical Museum will be open from 10:00 to 3:00 during "A Taste of Louisville" on Saturday, June 6. We expect many visitors to stop by to sample the delicious Italian pizzelles freshly made by members of the Historical Commission in front of the Museum!



This stained glass window was photographed on a home on Grant Avenue, but it is typical of many that can be seen in Old Town.

How Well Do You Know Louisville?

1. The photos in this issue of the old fire station and of the newer fire station show a bell that was rung when there was a fire. Where is that bell today?
2. The State of Colorado has documented coal mine fires that continue to burn at a location in Boulder County. Where is it?
3. In what year was there a major fire at the Blue Parrot Restaurant?

Answers appear on page 11.

Don't Miss an Issue of The Louisville Historian!

Membership in the Louisville Historical Society is a must for those interested in Louisville's unique history and cultural character! Members receive the quarterly *Louisville Historian* and an invitation to the annual Historical Society Program.

A yearly membership is only \$15.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family. A yearly Business Sponsorship is \$100.00.

Visit the Historical Museum web site at www.ci.louisville.co.us/museum.htm for a membership form or call the Museum at 303-665-9048. You may also write to us at Louisville Historical Museum, 749 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado, 80027. Please make checks payable to the Louisville Historical Commission.

Memorial Donations

Donations to the Museum have been made in memory of:

John Breux (1951 - 2009)
Elizabeth "Beth" Madonna (1911 - 2009)
Lula Belle Fletcher Madonna (1918 - 2009)



Thank You for Your Monetary Donations!

Thank you to the following people for their recent generous monetary donations to the Louisville Historical Commission and Museum. These include memorial donations.

William & Betty Buffo
Ronald & Arlene Leggett
Marilyn & Edouard Valette
Carol Gleeson
Joann Petrelli
George & Cynthia Autrey
Herm & Virginia Fauson
John Leary
David Kalian
Bridget Bacon
Judy DiGiacomo

Donations to the Museum's Collection and Records

The Louisville Historical Museum accepted the following donations during the months of February through April. The City sincerely appreciates these recent donations!

Pat Seader – wooden butter mold made by her grandfather, Robert DiGiacomo, for use on the DiGiacomo farm.

Jean Morgan – old City of Louisville street signs (previously disposed of by the City) and a key chain from Pasquale's Pizza, a Main Street business

Don and Barbara McKee – photo of the Moffitt House and shop that stood on south Main Street.

Darlene Rohr – scanned photos from the Wilson family showing family members and their home on La Farge Avenue.

Darleen DelPizzo – historic photos of Louisville and other items from the estate of Viola Bowes Owens.

Shirley and Dick Bodhaine – historic photos relating to Louisville; photos of the Louisville Panthers, 1968-70; *Louisville Times* issues from 1939 and 1971; and a certificate for Frank Varley showing that he received the most votes for town council.

Ron and Arlene Leggett – two vintage cameras.

Gail Wetrogan – mail carrier uniform used in Louisville.

Memory DelForge – receipts, letters, photos, and other items relating to her grandparents, William Clark and Nora Metz Clark of Louisville.

Ronda Leggett – framed certificate relating to Gene Barday (former Louisville Police Chief) documenting that he had crossed the Equator (possibly connected to his Navy service during World War II).

Rita Ferrera – school items including Louisville Middle School yearbooks and a 1973 Centaurus High School yearbook, an item that was on the Museum's wish list (in fact, it is the first Centaurus yearbook that has been donated to the Museum for the years that Louisville students attended Centaurus).

Virginia Caranci – 1942 Red Cross card for her mother, Minnie DeRose, and the Warranty Deed for the sale of the Jordinelli House in 1914 by Herman Fischer to Frank

and Rosa Jordinelli. (The Jordinelli House is now located on the campus of the Historical Museum.)

Barbara Thomas Stahr – scrapbooks of local newspaper articles kept by her mother, Iona Bowes Thomas.

Anthony C. Romeo – scanned photos of Louisville's Romeo family.

Larry Martella – historic photos relating to Louisville, scrapbooks of Louisville newspaper clippings and of holiday cards, newspapers (including *Louisville Times* issues from the 1960s), and other items relating to the estate of his mother, Rose Beranek Martella.

Museum Wish List

The Louisville Historical Museum would like to add to its collection the items described below. If you would be willing to donate any of the described items, please email museum@ci.louisville.co.us or call us at 303-665-9048. If you would prefer not to part with an original photo or document, please contact us about how it can be scanned on our photo scanner. Donations to the Museum are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

- Centaurus High School Yearbooks: 1974 to 2000.

- Photographs of Louisville High School's graduating classes:

- All classes before 1936 except for 1909, 1915, 1921, 1923, and 1925
- The classes of 1954, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1962, and 1964 through 1971

- Copies of *The Louisville Times*, or pages of it, from 1980 or earlier.

- Coal mine photos and ledgers, and journals, letters, receipts, and other handwritten documents that relate to the Louisville area.

- Historic photos of homes and businesses in the old town part of Louisville (with or without people in the photos). Specific buildings need not be identified.

- Photos of the interior or exterior of Redman Hall; scenes showing Louisville's Little Italy and Frenchtown; and interiors and exteriors of Louisville's saloons and pool halls.

- Old home movies and negatives of photos relating to the Louisville area.

- Photographs, programs, *The Lookout* school newspaper, uniforms, and written memories relating to Louisville High School and Louisville Middle School.

- Photos of Victor Helburg and members of the Helburg family.

- Photos of Main Street showing the Christmas tree that used to be placed in the middle of the intersection with Spruce Street.

***Answers to
How Well Do You Know Louisville?***

1. The bell shown in the photos is now located in front of Station 1 of the Louisville Fire Department, 1240 Main Street.
2. It is in Marshall, south of Boulder, that coal mine fires continue to burn underground. According to a 2005 report of the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology, the affected mines are the Lewis Number 1 and 2 and the Marshall Number 1 and 2.
3. The damaging fire at the Blue Parrot was in 1988.

Thanks to New and Renewing Members

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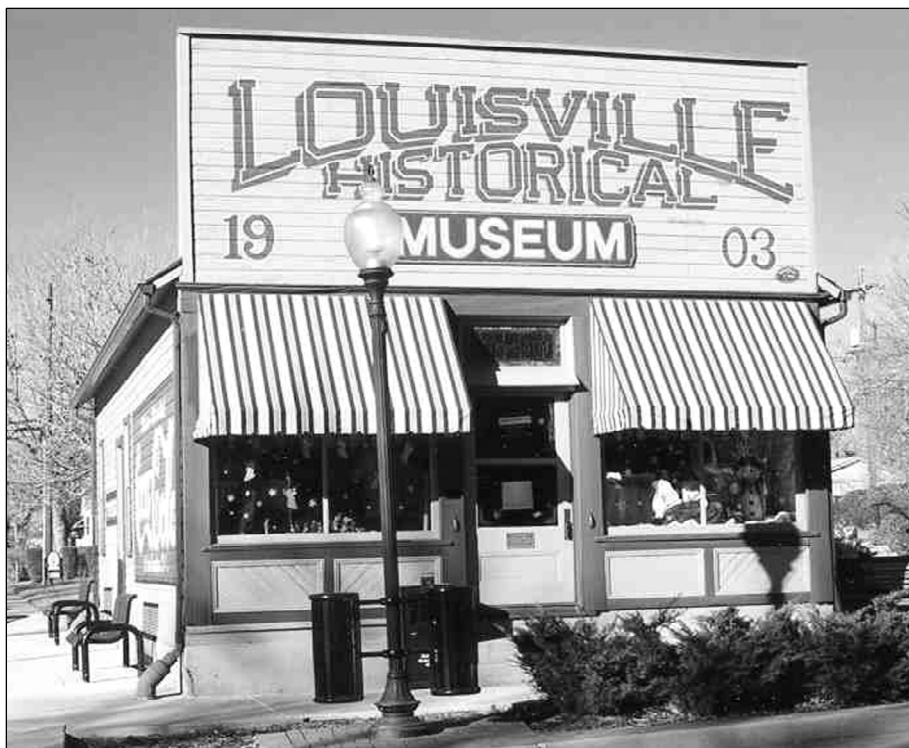
Regrets

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Historical Society members Belle Madonna and Sarah Beranek.



*Louisville Historical Society
749 Main Street
Louisville, CO 80027*

The Louisville Historian, Issue #82, Spring 2009



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