



Issue #84

The Louisville Historian

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Miners Field – A Louisville Gem

By Sean Moynihan, Historical Commission Member

For many residents of Louisville, baseball is more than just the National Pastime that can be viewed occasionally over the local cable sports channels. It is, and has been, in fact, a timeless unifying activity for the community and a gateway to the past, when local youths would gather for a weekend afternoon of fun in the sun, or local semi-pro teams would square off in the evenings while spectators watched from wooden stands lining the field and then listened to an after-game concert from the adjoining bandstand after the last out. To appreciate this longtime and meaningful connection between the town and the game of baseball, one need only stroll a few minutes from Main Street down to the intersection of South Street and Courtesy Road (Highway 42), where Miners Field still sits amidst quiet residences situated along the city's eastern border. There, looking out over the diamond, one can sense the history and charm of the great game emanating from the acre of so of Louisville dirt and grass.

Known variously over the years as "Miners Field," "Miner's Field," and "Miners Park" (actually, a newspaper item from 1967 notes that the city officially proclaimed the newly-renovated field, "Miners Park," in a short ceremony), the classic baseball diamond one observes today has sat on the same plot of land in east Louisville and has been used as a ball field since around 1890 or even earlier. Stands for spectators lined the first base line and a bandstand was located on the west side, such that the spectators could take in both an evening of baseball and a live music concert in one location within the space of a few hours.

Because the local mines were shut down during the hot summer months, miners were typically available to play on the local teams and were eager to showcase their skills out on the diamond. In fact, some coal companies, such as the Hi-Way Mine, sponsored local clubs, as did

many Louisville businesses and fraternal lodges, like the Security Benefit Association, which helped support both men's and women's teams in the 1930s. The American Legion, too, fielded a club for many years, and even won the Rocky Mountain regional tournament in 1936 by beating a club from Albuquerque, NM. Clearly, Louisville was a city that valued a good game of baseball.



In this photo, John Balent, owner of the baseball park, appears proud and smiling in the middle of the back row. According to a resident's handwritten notes, others pictured in front of the park's bandstand may include Buck LaSalle, Frank Malone, John Giorzelli, Sandy Biella, William Zarini, Angelo Ferrari, Dominic Buffo, Jim Ferrari, Smiley Rosser, John Dionigi, William Porta, Gady Mann, and Joe Zarini, and the photo may date from circa 1912 or later.

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Women's teams have actually been an important part of the field's history. In a 1993 article printed in the *Louisville Times*, local historian Carolyn Conarroe points out that in the 1930s, in particular, the Hi-Way Mine and Security Benefit Association fielded softball teams that played other clubs in Boulder and Denver Counties and that these teams oftentimes played under the lights and were very popular with young women.

Although the city was really a small, tight-knit community located hundreds of miles from the nearest pro baseball team and the glare of big league baseball, it did produce its share of big-time talent. Bert Niehoff, whose family moved to Louisville in the 1870s and lived in a home right on Main Street, exhibited such skills that he made it all the way to the majors, playing for various teams from 1913-18. In 1915, he managed to play in the World Series when his team, the Philadelphia Phillies, lost to the Boston Red Sox, four games to one. The series was notable in that it featured such future Hall of Famers as Tris Speaker, Harry Hooper, Grover Cleveland Alexander, Herb Pennock, and a very young Babe Ruth. Unfortunately, Niehoff suffered a career-ending broken leg while playing for the New York Giants in 1918, but he did move on to a successful career as a scout and manager.

Phil Mudrock was also a local talent who made it to the major leagues, albeit for only a single inning as a pitcher for the Chicago Cubs in 1963. According to a 1996 article in the *Louisville Times*, Mudrock signed his professional contract behind the Miners Field backstop. Another local product, Toney (T.W.) La Salle, was in the midst of a successful minor league career and had even been offered a tryout for major league scouts when, like Niehoff, his career unfortunately came to an end following a serious broken leg suffered in a car accident.

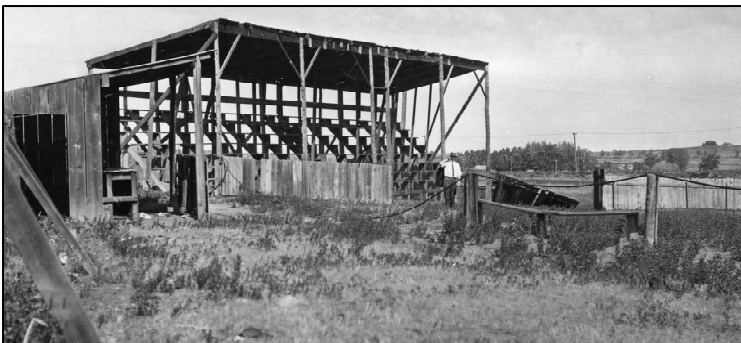
Many current residents of Louisville fondly remember the days when Miners Field was just an empty lot filled with weeds and dirt that nonetheless served as a wonderful meeting place for youthful ballplayers eager

to fill a long summer afternoon. Former resident Ed Domenico grew up on Courtesy Road and remembers the covered wooden grandstand near home plate, as well as the dugouts that had been built along the baselines. According to Domenico, the field actually had a gentle slope leading from right field down to home plate, and on rainy days, the dugout along third base would be filled with what seemed at the time to be two feet of water.

As a young player, Domenico would practice or play pick-up games from 9 a.m. until noon, when the players would hear a town siren blaring, which was the sign for them to go home for lunch. He also remembers that a nearby resident of South Street at the time, Mrs. DiLorenzo, would come out and offer the players a pail of cold water with a ladle to refresh themselves. Looking back, Domenico chuckles when he recalls that, after many dirty players had had a drink, they would notice dirt lying at the bottom of the pail but would still drink from it because their thirst was so overwhelming.

For an outfield fence, Domenico notes that the field had corrugated sheet metal attached to rail road ties that were driven into the ground and that the metal sheets had been taken from the Monarch Mine. There was also a small fire garage that had been transplanted to the field to serve as a storage shed and a light control booth when the overhead lights were installed after World War II. In addition, bleachers would be dragged every spring from "Pirates Park" at Louisville High School and would be returned back to the high school field for fall football season.

The first night game, Domenico recalls, was played by the Louisville Blue Devils—coached by Dixie Elrod, who owned the Wagon Wheel Inn on South Boulder Road that catered to many University of Colorado students who were recruited for the team—and a team sponsored by the Coors Brewing Company.



The stands at Miners Field can be seen in this photo from circa 1910.



This photo, taken in October 2009, shows the care and attention that Miners Field has received in recent decades.

To pay for the field's lights, citizens essentially "passed a hat" and took contributions, and the resulting evening facility was a great draw for the town. As Domenico explains, "When the lights were on, you couldn't keep the kids away." Eventually, however, with the construction in the mid-1990s of the Louisville Sports Complex across the road, and with growing complaints from residents who had to tolerate the extra evening noise and the glare from the lights, the City Council passed a resolution decreeing that "once the lighted Louisville Sports Complex is in operation, the lights at Miner's Field will no longer be used." And thus, Miners Field once again became a daylight ballpark.

Bill Buffo is another longtime resident who has cherished memories from the field. He recalls that once upon a time, "French Town," in the southern part of Louisville, would gather a team and compete against another team organized out of "Little Italy," in the northern section of town. He also remembers that the field was just dirt, "all dirt," and that there were "bullhead stickers," a certain weed that would stick out of the ground and would catch on the players' shoes as they practiced. According to Buffo, back when he and his fellow players were just kids and teenagers, there were no organized clubs and everyone would "just show up" and they would have to "make up your teams." When they got older, however, they would play games of softball against teams from Boulder and would wager a keg of beer: the losing team would buy and the teams would share the keg right there on the field following the game.

Past and present Louisville residents like Buffo, Domenico, and Bob Ferrari all recall with gratitude the various individuals who played a special part in refurbishing the neglected Miners Field, in coaching area kids who wanted to play, and in preserving the field for future generations. In particular, they note such selfless and concerned citizens as Vincent James, who coached and managed the pick-up teams that they played on as youths; John Waschak, Dick Franchini, Joe Colacci, Joe Carnival, Bill and Paula Elrod, and Dixie Elrod, who all played an important part in keeping Miners Field well cared for and who, in some cases, fought to have the field's evening lights retained; and finally, Halo Scarpella, a local resident who perhaps did the most to make Miners Field a lasting landmark in the town.

According to Bill Buffo, Scarpella spearheaded the effort to put grass on the field and to construct a sprinkler system to help keep the grass fresh and thriving. Bob Ferrari, whose father helped Scarpella improve the field and who himself was also an important figure in the field's history, also lauds Scarpella for his tireless efforts to make baseball at Miners Field an

important part of the community's character. Ferrari reports that, on game days, Scarpella would place a loudspeaker on top of a car and would drive up and down the local streets announcing the approach of the game's first pitch.

At that time, baseball was undeniably a central component of the city's recreational life. As local resident Pat Seader observes in looking back on her own girlhood memories, "Everybody in Louisville loved baseball. It was THE sport at that time—we didn't have TVs and such and so it was just something that everyone gravitated towards." Seader recalls watching games every Sunday with her family, and even getting the opportunity to watch her own father and various uncles playing out in the field during games. In fact, Seader notes that an old wooden baseball bat monogrammed with the names of her father and uncles is now a part of the collection of the Louisville Historical Museum.

It is this notion of group commitment, community volunteerism, and togetherness that seems to best characterize the field lying at the intersection of South Street and Courtesy Road today. For in the gentle green lawns and manicured dirt infield and baselines that are encompassed by the chain link and wooden fences, one can sense the great dedication, passion, and plain hard work exhibited by residents such as Halo Scarpella, the Elrods, and Bob Ferrari and his father.

And perhaps the most telling observation of the field today is that its former inhabitants and trustees made it a better and more beautiful park than it was in their own day. As Domenico stated recently when asked about his feelings towards the lush, well-manicured field one sees presently, "What I wouldn't give to play in that park today. Man alive—I see it and just drool!"

Fortunately, the field remains today a viable venue in which local youths can still come out with their bats and gloves and, like their parents and grandparents before them, play out some enjoyable innings of ball under the summer sun. And, hopefully, with renewed commitment from succeeding generations of Louisville residents, the old ball field that used to be simply a dirt lot with weeds will continue to draw young players and crowds for many years into the future, and will continue to be one of the town's most cherished landmarks.



The Story Behind Louisville's Miners Field

By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

The history of Miners Field goes back so far in Louisville history that most residents today do not know how it came to be a ball park owned by the City, or why.

Louisville's first mine, the Welch Mine, was started in 1877 with the discovery of coal in this vicinity, and Louisville's founding came just a year later, in 1878. Jobs for coal miners were suddenly available, and the young town was immediately a desirable destination for families. An official 1885 school census recorded the names of 187 children who were already enrolled in school in Louisville.

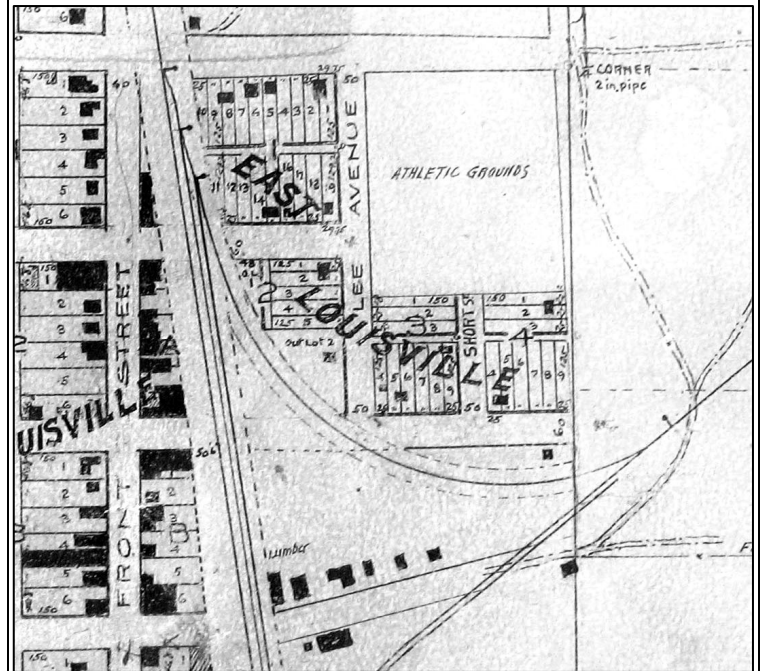
Not much is known as to why this particular plot of land was selected to be a ball field, but it's easy to see the need, with so many boys and young men who would benefit from a recreation field. (Times being what they were, the field would not have been intended for girls or women in those early days!) Records point to the field first being used as a ball park by 1890, and perhaps in the 1880s, not long after Louisville's founding. The owner at that time was Charles C. Welch, the prominent Coloradan who was so instrumental in the establishment of the Welch Mine and of the town of Louisville itself. He then transferred ownership to his wife, Rebecca. Rebecca Welch sold the larger piece of property in which the ball park was located in 1906 to William J. Lee and George Lee. The Lees were brothers who preparing to establish a subdivision of "East Louisville" that was to include the area of Lee Avenue between Spruce Street and South Street, and between the railroad tracks and what is now Highway 42.

"Balent's Base Ball Park"

John Balent (pronounced with the emphasis on the second syllable), who had emigrated from Slovakia, came to Louisville in the 1890s. After some time working as a coal miner, a job to which he appears to have returned from time to time, he began to operate a saloon on Front Street at what is today the site of the corner of the Louisville Public Library. He was a family man himself, being married and with three young children.

Property records show that in 1906, Balent purchased the ball park from the Lee brothers just a few weeks before they platted the land to the west and south of the park for housing. Not only did Balent continue its use as a baseball field, but he became very involved as a sponsor and supporter of teams. The park was even

referred to in the minutes of the Louisville Town Board as "Balent's Base Ball Park." Perhaps his saloon was an early version of today's sports bar, and it may well have been a smart business move for him to buy the local ball park. Apart from enhancing the reputation of his saloon, there may have been more direct revenues as a result of being the park owner. A fence was erected around the field and fans had to purchase tickets to get in, and the fence had advertising for the Rocky Mountain News that presumably was paid advertising.



This segment of Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville from 1909 shows Miners Field as the "Athletic Grounds" next to the residential areas of East Louisville.



The fence around Miners Field advertised the Rocky Mountain News. Children who didn't have the money for a ticket would try to watch the ball game through a knothole.



Records of the town board show that Longmore and Fenolia approached the town leaders about making a donation of the ball park to the town, which at that time owned no parks at all. Longmore and Fenolia clearly did not want to leave it to chance that the park would continue as a field for baseball, and went so far as to legally formalize their intention. According to records acquired from the Boulder County Recorder's Office, the Town of Louisville paid a small amount of consideration and in return, the ball park that was to become Miners Field was transferred to Louisville in October 1923 "on the express condition and limitation" that Louisville continue to maintain it as a baseball park.

Park owner John Balent is standing in the back row, far left, of this photo. According to handwriting on the reverse, continuing to the right are John Sponske, George Cummings, Buck LaSalle, Tom Scott, Otto Smith, and Tommy James, scorekeeper. In the bottom row are John Kroell, Tony La Salle, Ray Rooks, Fred Smith, Ed Cribbs, and Joe Kroell. Handwriting on the reverse states that it was taken in 1910 by Louisville photographer Bill Schutz.

Prohibition Likely Led to Donation to Town

Colorado's adoption of Prohibition in 1916, four years before it was established nationwide, was understandably disastrous for saloon owners in the state. Moreover, property records show that it was common for Louisville saloon owners to be in debt to the breweries whose products they carried, and they would put up their property as collateral. Records show that after Prohibition started, the Ph. Zang Brewing Company of Denver held a legal ownership interest in not only the Miners Field property, but also in the Balents' own home!

In Louisville, some saloonkeepers dealt with the advent of Prohibition by shifting their businesses to billiard parlors (some of which still quietly served alcohol to regulars). Others started over in a completely new line of business, even moving away in order to do so.

The Balents chose to relocate. They moved to the Greeley area, where John Balent's in-laws had already moved from Louisville to operate a farm. In July 1923, he sold the ball park for \$425 to Louisville residents George Longmore and Tony Fenolia and ended his nearly twenty year involvement with, and strong support of, Louisville's ball park.

Bold Fat Men

The Fat Men's Base Ball Club of Louisville do hereby challenge any nine of Boulder county that weighs not less than 175 nor over 400, to play a friendly game of ball at Louisville on Sunday, June 28th, or any other date that may suit their convenience.

Len Wilson, Captain
Louisville, June 23

This item, including the title, appeared in the Daily Camera on June 24, 1891. It can be viewed at the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection website at: www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org.

The Circus at Miners Field?

While Miners Field has always been first and foremost a baseball field since the early years of the town, it has been used for a few other purposes. For example, it is believed to have been the site of Louisville's very first fireworks, and for many years it has been the location of the VFW's annual Easter egg hunt for Louisville youngsters.

The field was also the site of a three-ring circus that the Lions Club brought to town in July 1949. The *Louisville Times* reported that more than 100 large rolling units would be transporting the circus, which included wild animal acts and aerial sets. One local resident has recalled how, as a boy, he witnessed a circus wagon containing wild animals being temporarily stuck on the railroad tracks on South Street going from downtown to

the ball park. The circus elephants had to be brought in to get the wagon off the tracks.

Thank You to the Contributors

Thank you to Bill Buffo, Ed Domenico, June Enrietto, Bob Ferrari, and Pat Seader for their contributions to this issue about Miners Field.

Thank you also to Ella Marie Hayes, the granddaughter of John and Anna Balent; Lee Evans, the grandson of William J. Lee; and Peggy Ford of the Greeley History Museum for information that they provided.

If you have information about the history of Miners Field or about someone who was instrumental in its development, or you have historical photos of it to share, please call the Historical Museum at 303-665-9048. Also, if there are corrections to any of the photo identifications of the baseball teams, please contact the Museum.

Louisville Oral History Project By Diane Marino and Dustin Sagrillo, Historical Commission Members

The Louisville Historical Commission and Museum have begun an Oral History Project with the purpose of recording the life stories of longtime Louisville residents as well as former residents who grew up here, but who may no longer live here. The primary goal is to gather information about growing up in Louisville, including information about family histories, schools, activities, local businesses, and connections to larger world events such as the Great Depression and World War II.

There are currently over one hundred people to be interviewed, and the Commission anticipates that more names will be added. The Oral History Project volunteers hope to complete fifty interviews within the next year, starting with the older generation of Louisville, those now in their 80s or older.

The interviews will become the property of the Louisville Historical Museum and be placed in the archives. Eventually, these interviews will be available for public access and research. In the future, it may even be possible to show interview segments on Louisville's local channel 8. Each person interviewed will also receive a DVD copy of their interview.

Two or three person teams will complete the interview process. These volunteers will come to your home, with the process taking from one to three visits. While some

persons may be reluctant to be filmed, all stories are important, and are needed for the preservation of Louisville history. Even those persons reluctant to be filmed have said that once they began sharing their stories, they often forgot that the camera was rolling!

Volunteers are welcome, and will be trained in the interview and filming process. If you can spare a few hours a month to help interview, please call or email us. We are also seeking a person with technical expertise in editing. If you cannot volunteer but would like to help with this project, monetary donations would also be appreciated for the purchase of additional camera equipment and film processing.

Please call or email the Historical Museum if you have questions, would like more information, or have the name of a person who should be included in our interviews. Please send full name, maiden name, address, phone number, and email address to:

Louisville Historical Museum
303-665-9048
museum@louisvilleco.gov

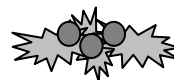
We look forward to future interviews and the sharing of these wonderful life stories with the community.

The Recipe for a Perfect Day - the Holiday Home Tour and Downtown Charm!

Mark your calendars for the eighth annual Louisville Holiday Home Tour on Saturday, December 5th. This event is a wonderful way to explore the interiors of five historical homes in Louisville's Old Town and learn about the families that lived in them. Make a day of it and enjoy arts, shopping for gifts, and activities such as WinterSkate and the horse drawn carriage downtown! Show your ticket that day to receive Home Tour special deals at the Blue Parrot, Old Louisville Inn, and the Huckleberry.

And on the Home Tour day only, new Historical Society annual memberships can be purchased at a special discount: \$10 (instead of \$15) for an individual membership and \$15 (instead of \$25) for a family or group. This includes gifts of new memberships, so consider giving a year of *The Louisville Historian!*

Tickets for the Holiday Home Tour will be sold at the Historical Museum and other locations, and will be \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the tour. For more information, please call the Museum at 303-665-9048.



The Museum Corner
Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

Louisville Historian readers have come forward with more information about two historical photos that have appeared in recent issues! In the photo previously identified as showing mine superintendent Lewis Wilson at the Acme Mine (Summer 2008 and Summer 2009 issues), the woman on the right is now believed to be Lewis' wife, Mae Wilson. Thank you to Dorothy Wilson Hensley and Benita Hensley for this information. Also, we now know that the photo of the family shown on the front page of the most recent (Summer 2009) issue shows members of the Jacoe, Jordinelli, LaTronico, and Muro families. Thank you to Dick DeRose and Virginia Caranci for letting us know!

The History Book Club, which meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Louisville Public Library, will have as its next topics Western Railroads (and related culture and travel) for November 4th and Louisville History for December 2nd. Anyone with an interest in history and reading is welcome.

Many thanks to Donna Hauswald for her years of service on the Historical Commission, including three years as Chair. The Commission and I greatly appreciate her countless contributions, not least of which was leading the efforts for the annual Silent Auction that led to the funding of the beautiful fencing that now encloses the Museum campus.

Thank you to Vern Zurick for calling me to add his grandfather's store, Joe Biella Groceries, to the list of downtown Louisville grocery stores in the last issue! Joe Biella's store was located in the historical building at 927 Main, which is the current location of Zaremba Graphic + Web Solutions.

Thank you to Museum volunteers Mona Lee Doersam, Mary Kay Knorr, Gail Khasawneh, Debby Fahey, Bill Buffo, and Chandler Romeo, and to the Museum volunteers (in addition to Commission members) who are getting the Museum's Oral History Project off to a great start: Jean Morgan, Adrienne Kupfner, John Leary, and Katie Kingston. Thank you also to Karen Lloyd and Pete Lundskow for their recent suggestions and advice on collections care.

The next time you walk or drive past the Historical Museum campus on Main Street, take a look over – our historical buildings have been freshly painted and look beautiful!



How Well Do You Know Louisville?

1. Who is pictured in the accompanying photo?
2. The home of John Balent (long time owner of Miners Field) and Anna Balent and their children was on the Holiday Home Tour in 2005. Where is this home?
3. What Louisville coal mine was closest to Miners Field? (Hint: it was a few hundred feet to the north.)



*Answers appear
on page 10.*

***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 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 <http://www.LouisvilleCO.gov/> 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.

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@Louisvilleco.gov 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
 - Issues 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.
 - Historical 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.
 - Historical records relating to Louisville businesses
 - Historical photos relating to food preparation or dining, and recipes historically used in Louisville
- New Items:**
- Photos of Miners Field and the surrounding area

Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these recent memorial donations.

In Memory of Carl Morrison (1932 - 2009)

Eugene & Virginia Caranci

*In Memory of Robert Kupfner, Sr. (1939 - 2009)
On His 70th Birthday*

Adrienne Kupfner



Thank You for Your Monetary Donations!

Thank you to the following people for their recent generous monetary donations, other than memorial donations, to the Louisville Historical Commission and Museum.

Lee & Virginia Evans



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. Please call the Museum at 303-665-9048 to find out the current hours or to schedule a tour. Museum staff can also be emailed at museum@Louisvilleco.gov.

Playing "Hose Team"

***By Harry Mayor,
Historical Society Member***

Harry Mayor wrote in response to the Spring issue of The Louisville Historian, with its lead article "Louisville Volunteer Firefighters: A History of Service and Dedication," that he has many memories of the town's hose teams. He wrote: "When we were growing up, the hose team was the source of civic pride, and we kids idolized the hose team members. In fact, we invented our own version of the hose team and we took on the names and function of these heroes."

Thank you to Harry for sending the following piece that he wrote about this game that he played in Louisville!

When I was growing up in Louisville, my friends and I developed a game called "Hose Team." Each town in our state with any civic pride had a volunteer fire department, and a point of great pride was the "Hose and Nozzle" team. The fastest and strongest young bucks in town vied for a place on the team.

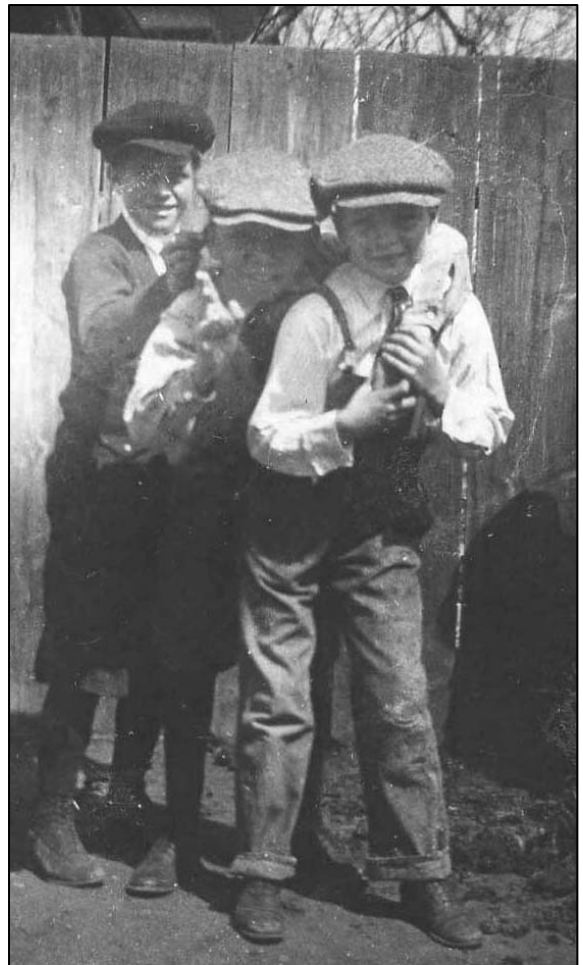
The basic idea of the team was to pull a hose cart down a specified length of street, unreel a given length of hose, attach the hose to a water hydrant, and have water spurt out of the hose nozzle in the shortest possible time.

The hose cart consisted of a two-wheeled cart with a large hose reel that would accommodate a hundred foot of fire hose mounted between the wheels. The cart wheels were as tall as a man. The whole rig must have weighed a thousand pounds. This rig was pulled by seven men in harnesses strung out in front of the cart. In addition, there were several other men involved. The hose men were responsible for pulling the hose from the cart as it sped down the street at frightening speed. Other key men were the nozzle man, the hydrant man, and the key man. The members were carefully selected and bitter feuds developed if certain favored sons were not selected.

In District meets and in State meets at the annual volunteer firemen's gatherings, your town's pride and honor were at stake. There was usually a great deal of money bet on your favored team, and the pressure was severe.

Because of the pressures involved, each of the team members were selected for his particular ability. The pullers had to be strong in order to get the ponderous cart moving, but they also had to be fast runners to accelerate the cart to breckneck speed, and have endurance to pull the cart for the distance of the course.

The hose men had to be strong in order to pull the hose from the speeding cart at the precise moment so that the end of the hose would be exactly positioned to allow the hydrant man to engage the hose to the hydrant without any lost time or motion. The hydrant man had to engage the hose to the hydrant without any lost time, and the key man had to be able to spin the hydrant open and have water rush through the hose as soon as the hydrant man had sufficient threads engaged to allow water to flow without rupturing the connection. As the water rushed down the length of the hose, the nozzle man had to grab the end of the hose as it was flung from the reel, secure it, and spin the nozzle in place as the water writhed through the hose. Any misstep or miscue along the way spelled disaster and the effort would be for naught.



Louisville boys made their own fun.

A well-honed team was a joy to watch. To see the strain as all of the men struggled to get the cart moving, the dash of the men as the cart gained momentum, the brute strength of the hose men straining against the rushing cart, the precision of the hydrant man and the key man, and the drama of the water rushing down the hose a short distance behind the racing cart, with the nozzle

man struggling to engage to the nozzle with just enough threads engaged to contain the water and not be drenched by an uncontrolled gusher – this was high drama to our young minds. These men were our heroes.

We attempted to duplicate our heroes in our make-believe world. We each had a favorite, and we became that man in our game.

A kid's wagon became the hose cart. The watering hose became the fire hose, and the faucet in front of our house became the hydrant. We coiled the hose in the wagon, detached the nozzle, and pulled the wagon to the limit of our property. We used an old Ingersoll watch as our timer. At the moment that the big hand reached a mark on the watch face, we were off. In a pandemonium of effort, the hose was pulled from the wagon (usually in a tangled mess) and a scramble ensued to find the faucet end of the hose or the nozzle end. The nozzle man, in the meantime, found the end of the hose and struggled to attach it, but he was usually late and got a real dousing. A quick review of the time resulted in violent arguments as to the merit of each kid, and blame was placed on the underperformer – or the eager beaver who turned on the water too soon.

The hydrant man usually got assigned to the nozzle on the next round, and the nozzle man insisted on operating the faucet for revenge.

The ordeal was repeated many times with reassignment of duties. The best time was recorded for future reference and comparison. There were long discussions held as to the best way to coil the hose, or the right way to pull the hose from the wagon, or the quickest way to engage the faucet or nozzle, and most importantly, who was the best guy for each position on our hose team.



Louisville Historical Commission

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

Donations to the Museum's Collection and Records

The Louisville Historical Museum accepted the following donations during the months of August and September. The City sincerely appreciates these recent donations!

Dave Ferguson – hatchet used by the Todd family and plane used by the Ferguson family in Louisville

Jean Morgan – vintage potato cutter in original box

Sally Burlingame – glass mug from Senor T's Restaurant

Claudine Seader – scans of photos, postcards showing Louisville, and other items relating to her family, the Eberharter family, who lived at the site of the present Chamber of Commerce

Mark Leiding - scan of a historical photo of his great grandparents, Ethel and Fred Lawrence, and their family

Bridget Bacon – campaign flyers from successful 2003 Louisville Public Library campaign; campaign flyers and yard sign from successful 2008 historic preservation tax campaign; Pasquini's menu from 2005; and last edition of the Rocky Mountain News in 2009

Vera Taylor – numerous historical items, including a scrapbook from when she graduated from Louisville High School in 1925, historical photos, and "Lookout" newspapers and "Cargo" yearbooks from she was a teacher at Louisville High School

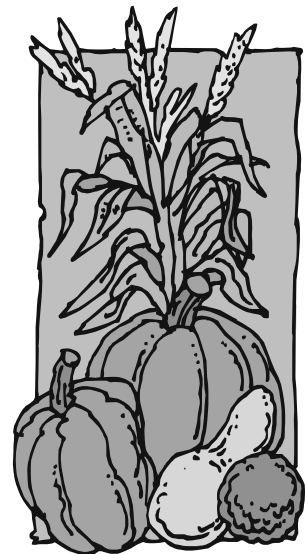
Answers to How Well Do You Know Louisville?

1. Bert Niehoff is shown in his Phillies uniform in around 1915. He was born in 1884 at 717 Main Street, which is now the Parks & Recreation building that is next to Louisville City Hall.
2. The Balent family's home was at 829 Lincoln Ave.
3. The Caledonia Mine was located a few hundred feet north of Miners Field and was in operation from 1890 to 1899.

*Photo from the Collection of the
Louisville Historical Museum*



Taken in 1908, this image by photographer Ed Tangen shows (from left) Ellen Wilson, Grace McNeil, Ethel Ball, Bessie Dixon, Minnie Allert, and Nelle Wolfer of Louisville.



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Regrets

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Historical Society members Clara Jo Zarret and Barbee Dinkel (Berry).

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