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Polio Epidemics Cast a Cloud on Summer Fun

By Kathleen Jones



he golden days of summer—when children left the house after breakfast to play in their neighborhoods and explore the surrounding fields and creeks—were shadowed during the 1940s and 50s by widespread fear of polio.

In the decades before the development of the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) by Dr. Jonas Salk in the 1950s, and the oral polio vaccine (OPV) developed by Dr. Albert Sabin in the early 1960s, polio epidemics were widespread throughout the United States, reaching Louisville and other Boulder County communities. According to a website provided by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: "In the late 1940s to the early 1950s, polio crippled an average of over 35,000 people in the United States each year." More than a dozen Louisville residents were stricken during those years, most of whom recovered, but nearly everyone was affected by the community's efforts to limit the disease's spread by closing swimming pools, movie theaters, baseball games and other gathering places, especially those likely to attract children.

This photo shows a seventh grade class in Louisville in the 1940s. Young people such as these were especially susceptible to the polio virus. (This photo was taken in the gym at Louisville Junior High & High School at 1341 Main. This was the class of 1953.)

Adrienne Kupfner, whose younger brother Roger Delforge came down with polio in 1954 when he was seven, recalls how community fears constrained their summer fun even before Roger got sick.

"I just knew that every summer it was a scary thing," Kupfner said. "When summer came it was something that played in the back of your mind because you knew people who had gotten sick for months from it, but also because they shut everything down. When there was a case reported, basically things closed down, so socializing was limited."

An article in the June 14, 1945, edition of the *Louisville Times*, headlined "Public Health Service Cites Infantile Paralysis Increase," advised people to avoid exposure to "known cases, sewage contaminated streams, lakes, ditches and particularly... over-crowded places during an outbreak." The article went on to recommend that "over exertion and chilling should be guarded against."

Kupfner said when there was a case of polio in the

community, parents "tried to curtail your activities and, of course, tried to make you rest, but it was hard," she said, to keep children entertained with quiet occupations at home in the days before there were things like video games. "We had the great outdoors. We got up in the morning, ate breakfast and went out to play," she said.

Even in 1946, a year the town escaped having any polio cases reported, Louisville complied with the statewide polio bans in response to an epidemic that hit much of the rest of Colorado hard that year. Front page headlines in the Aug. 22, 1946, edition of the *Louisville Times* announced that "Big 3-Day Labor Day Fete Is Off," and "Both Schools Postpone Their Opening Dates." The Boulder County Fair and Loveland Fair were called off to avoid attracting crowds of 4-H children, according

to the newspaper, and "The Rex Theatre will be closed to all children under the age of 16, Carmen Romano, owner, announced yesterday. He said this ruling will hold until the ban is lifted over the state. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Camp Fire Girls will not meet again

until the ban is lifted. The Methodist church Sunday school board announced they will have no Sunday school until the ban is lifted. The Baptist church had taken no action yesterday but were expected to do so last night when the pastor was here for prayer service." The following week's paper brought the news that the Platte Valley League Football Championship would be cut to a single round robin due to the polio driven delays in starting the fall sports programs.

Researchers have determined that infantile paralysis, or polio as it came to be known, most likely has been around for most of human history. In a sad twist of irony, improved sanitation was probably largely responsible for the polio epidemics that struck much of the western world in the first half of the 1900s. Prior to that, most people were exposed as infants through contaminated water supplies while they still had some immunity passed on from their mothers to help them fight the virus and then developed their own immunity to the disease that protected them the rest of their lives.

Boulder author Kathryn Black wrote in her book, *In the Shadow of Polio*: "For centuries no one associated the disease's vague and inconsistent early symptoms – fever, headache, nausea, sore throat, stiffness – with the occasional, surprising paralysis, or even death, of a child. Where those crippling deformities came from mystified generation after generation of parents and doctors. Unknown to them, poliomyelitis, spread from one susceptible child to another, creating a natural, almost universal immunity through mainly harmless and inapparent infections occurring at very early ages."

First known as infantile paralysis, in 1947 the disease acquired the "more scientific, formal name of poliomyelitis, meaning inflammation (itis) of the spinal cord (myelos) gray anterior matter (polios)," Black writes. The name was later shortened to polio.

It seemed to strike seasonally as the weather warmed up in late spring, peaking in the heat of summer, and then decline with the arrival of cooler weather in the fall. One of the most frightening aspects of polio was its unpredictability. Some years Louisville saw multiple cases of polio, while other years there were none reported.

Bob Del Pizzo was 10 years old when he came down with polio in September 1945, one of at least five children from Louisville who caught the disease that year. Del Pizzo said he had played a rough game of football with some older boys the previous day and

when he got out of bed the next morning his neck, back and legs felt so sore he couldn't sit in a chair. He remembered it felt different than typically sore muscles, "like the ligaments wouldn't stretch."

He was taken to Children's Hospital in Denver where a spinal tap confirmed that he had polio. Del Pizzo remained at the hospital until the early part of December, although he was only quarantined for part of that time. Treatments included hot packs that were wrapped around his legs, back and neck several times a day with heavy plastic wrapped around the hot packs on his body to help keep the heat in. He also received physical therapy once a day after the initial quarantine period.

"For about the first two months I didn't see my parents or anybody because I was in quarantine," Del Pizzo said of his stay at Children's Hospital. "It wasn't too bad. The nurses down there were great," he said, adding that he became especially close to one of the physical therapists who took a special interest in his case.



During polio epidemics, there was concern that the virus would spread in public places like schools and churches. This photo shows the Louisville grade school and the Methodist Church at Spruce and Jefferson in 1961.

Once he came home, Del Pizzo was able to return to school, although he had to wear special shoes for a while and he continued to do physical therapy every day at home with the help of his aunt, Della Romano. He said that he feels blessed to have eventually achieved a full recovery.

After he was diagnosed with polio, his family was quarantined at home, probably for about two weeks, Del Pizzo said, but the community was generally supportive of them throughout the ordeal. His family also received

some funds from the local chapter of the March of Dimes to help pay for the medical care, he said, although he wasn't sure of the amount.

Del Pizzo said he was fortunate to have had a very good teacher for fifth grade—Ruth Blosser. He was in the hospital from September through early December and then initially attended school half-days when he came back. "She was really supportive, she really helped me get back into school, gave me books to bring home, helped with getting me the assignments, so I didn't get held back." he said.



The Rex Theatre at 817 Main, shown here in 1957, was sometimes closed to children under 16 during polio epidemics. It also played a role in raising money for the March of Dimes.

In the summer of 1954, Kupfner said their first indication that her little brother Roger was sick came when he didn't want to go when she offered to take him along on an errand to the post office, which he usually was eager to do.

"If I had to go to the post office for my mother or my grandmother, I always went on my bike and him being little, he'd ride in the basket of my bike," Kupfner said. "Then at the post office, he got his hand stamped, that was his big thing, he'd put his hand up and they'd stamp his hand like 'we're sending you off."

Roger finally agreed to go along until they got to the post office and he didn't want to go inside with her to get his hand stamped, she said. "He just said 'no, I'm just going to sit in the basket and wait,' and he laid his head up against the building and he started to fall asleep." When Kupfner got him home, she told her mother something was wrong with Roger so her mother took him to see Dr. Bock, but after examining Roger the doctor sent him home.

A few days later, several of the children were walking from their home at 544 Grant Street to the swimming hole in Coal Creek and Roger kept lagging behind, Kupfner said. He finally lay down on the ground in front of a house on Parkview Street and told them to go on without him because he was too tired and just wanted to go to sleep. Again, Kupfner took him home and told their mother something was wrong with Roger.

"That wasn't like him," Kupfner said, adding that Roger was normally a very active little boy. They took him back to the doctor, who told them to take him to the Boulder Community Hospital, where they gave him a spinal tap that confirmed he had polio.

Roger Delforge said he doesn't recall much about his two-week stay in the hospital, but he remembers the spinal tap. "It was more scary than painful," he said. "Back then they didn't have drugs, so they just held me down in a fetal position and talked to me while they did it." He was diagnosed with bulbar polio, one of three paralytic forms of polio, which affects the brain stem and can lead to difficulties with swallowing, breathing and speaking.

"They thought that he was going to be paralyzed from the chest up," Kupfner said. "They thought they were going to have to feed him through a tube the rest of his life." The family celebrated Roger's eighth birthday on Sept. 4, while he was still hospitalized, but he wasn't able to eat a piece of his birthday cake. Meanwhile, the

Louisville To Be Sprayed With DDT To Check 'Polio'

rest of the Delforge family was quarantined in their Grant Avenue home with a sign on the door warning visitors not to enter.

Local newspaper headline, Sept. 1945.

"It was not a fun time." Kupfner said. In addition to the forced isolation with her family during the quarantine period and feeling like outcasts in the community, she recalled bargaining with the Lord that she would be a better sister if he let Roger recover. "I can remember (after the quarantine period was over for the family) being at the Boulder Motorena, the drive-in theater, watching a movie and all of a sudden I just started crying because I'd been sitting back there in the back seat doing my bargaining," she said.

When Roger was finally released from the hospital, he initially stayed with John and Bessie Hicks, close friends of the family who never had children of their own and became a second family to Roger. While he had survived the worst of the infection, he needed continued rest and

care to recuperate and his mother had to return to work so was unable to care for him at home.

"I stayed down there (at the Hicks' house) for a month," Delforge said. "I missed September and October of my third-grade year at school." He said his throat remained partially paralyzed for a while which made it difficult to eat and talk. Eventually he fully recovered, although the family suspects his growth may have been affected by the polio since he never grew as tall as his older brother, despite a strong resemblance otherwise.

During his convalescence at the Hicks' house, Delforge recalls that most of his friends stayed away due to fears about possible infection, but one boy, George, came to play with the race car set the Hicks' gave him. "John and Bessie bought me a little race car set, a figure eight, and George would come over to play with it. He was one of the few kids that wasn't scared to be around me," he said.

During the quarantine period, and even afterwards for awhile, the family felt like outcasts as many parents were afraid to allow their children to be in close contact with a family that had had polio, Kupfner said. "Well, we did have the plague, basically," she said, adding that none of the other family members or their friends came down with polio.

Despite the understandable fears of contagion, Kupfner said people in the community were generally supportive of the family during Roger's illness as well as other times. In addition to the community's support for local families stricken by the disease, the people of Louisville responded heartily to appeals for donations to the local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, as well as public drives to improve sanitation, and even programs for widespread spraying of DDT in the mistaken belief that polio was spread by insects or other pests.

According to an article in the Sept. 17, 1945, edition of the *Louisville Times*, "A decontamination unit from Buckley Field sprayed Louisville Tuesday and Wednesday with DDT insecticide in an effort to check spread of the disease. The insecticide was used mainly to kill flies and mosquitoes which are known to carry polio virus."



This photo shows Dr. Cassidy after the polio epidemics of the 1940s and 1950s. He was a doctor in Louisville for about fifty years.

In the July 11, 1946, edition of the *Louisville Times*, Dr. Lucius F. Cassidy, the town health officer, reported that Louisville had no current cases of infantile paralysis and

he advised citizens to take precautions to prevent the disease from taking hold in town. The article went on to say: "John Dionigi and an assistant using a small spray used 55 gallons of DDT after town officials tried to get an army truck to spray the town again, but found none is available in this area. They sprayed all places where householders without cess pools run waste water from the homes out onto the ground, into ditches or pools. All such householders were notified to put in cess pools as required by city ordinance. Mr. Dionigi reported finding some very unsanitary and unhealthful spots created by this practice." Other measures taken by the town included spreading rat poison and cleaning up trash and residue from chicken houses and rabbit hutches. Efforts to clean up the town continued, culminating in the creation of a sanitation district for Louisville that was passed on May 4, 1951, by a vote of 465 to 68, according to an article in the May 10, 1951, Louisville *Times.* On July 16, 1951, a \$220,000 bond issue to pay for a sewage system passed, with 289 voting in favor and 20 opposed.

Kupfner said: "I remember the volunteer fire department did the spraying and we kids would go out and follow the spraying trucks around town because we liked the smell." When Dr. Bock came to town, she said, he told the town officials they needed to stop because DDT was a health hazard, a carcinogenic, which led to cessation of the spraying. The mother of one subsequent polio victim, who died, always blamed the volunteer firemen for her son's death because she felt it might have been prevented if they'd continued spraying DDT to get rid of insects, Kupfner said.



This ad for the March of Dimes appeared in the Louisville Times newspaper in January 1950.

Although children accounted for the majority of cases, adults were also susceptible. Kathryn Black's book, In the Shadow of Polio, was inspired by her mother's lengthy hospitalization and eventual death from polio. Perhaps the best-known polio victim, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who later became president, contracted polio at age 39, proof of polio's disregard for age, economic or social status. Raised in a privileged enclave of New York society, private schools and exclusive clubs, Roosevelt was devastated to be reduced to using crutches and wheelchairs for the remainder of his life. He responded to his personal disability by founding the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in 1938, which later became better known as the March of Dimes. From the money raised through local fundraising drives, half remained in the community, while the other half went to a national pool used to help pay the costs of treating the disease and for research into a vaccine to protect people from polio. Communities could request disbursement from the national fund when their local area was hit severely by polio cases.



March of Dimes poster. Courtesy: Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

From archived articles of the *Louisville Times*, it is apparent that the community strongly supported the various polio prevention efforts and drives to raise money to pay for treatments for the victims. An article in the Jan. 14, 1949, edition reported that the annual March of Dimes campaign to raise money for the Infantile Paralysis fund would be conducted in Louisville from January 14 to 31 with the community expected to raise \$300 for the fund. The article went on to say "The Boulder County group has helped every boy and girl in Louisville who has been afflicted with this dreadful crippler as well as all the other victims of the disease in the county."

A year later, the Jan. 12, 1950, edition of the *Louisville Times* reported that a drain on the polio fund the previous year had increased the need for donations. "Because during 1949 when polio took the blackest toll yet experienced in history, 29 victims in Boulder County were advanced \$11,942 to make their fight for life. Only recently the county chapter requested \$8,454, from the national foundation to defray expenses of Boulder County victims of polio. This in addition to some \$13,000 advanced in recent years after the county chapter's half of the March of Dimes campaign funds had been exhausted," according to the article.



John "Ring" Dionigi, shown here in 1956, helped improve Louisville's sanitation during polio epidemics and raised funds for the March of Dimes.

The community responded generously to the appeal, according to the Louisville Times. An article from the Feb. 16, 1950, edition, proclaimed "Record Fund Given To March of Dimes." The article went on to report that "Chairman S. M. Barbiero and assistant John Dionigi had \$618 on hand with more to be turned in, while the town's quota was \$400." Contributions came from throughout the community, according to the article, which said: "The \$618 included \$23.50 given by pupils at the St. Louis school, \$62.58 from the grade school, \$51.36 from the high school, \$50 collected at the Rex Theatre, and the collections from the boxes about town." Additional funds were raised by a benefit basketball game played between the Louisville American Legion and Lafayette VFW basketball teams. Admission to the game was one dime.

Strong community involvement, a factor in current-day Louisville's national distinction as one of the best places to live and raise a family, has helped the town survive and thrive throughout times of hardship and prosperity alike, and polio epidemics were no exception.

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In Memoriam

In February, Louisville lost two people who made unforgettable contributions to our community. Don Ross and Bob Enrietto, both former members of the Historical Commission, were instrumental in the development of the Louisville Historical Museum and were stalwart supporters of it.

My Uncle, Donald Ross by Diane Marino

There are few today who can say that they were born, lived their lives and passed on in the same town. For Donald Ross, there was no other place he could imagine living and raising his family than here in Louisville. With his passing on February 4th of 2012, Louisville lost a legendary citizen who gave back to the city he loved through a lifetime of service.



Don Ross (left) in 2006 with his friends Lucius "Pete" Cassidy, Jr. (center) and Eugene Caranci (right) at the Historical Museum.

Don's father and mother, Peter and Ellanora Beranek Ross, and older sister Betty were living on Harper Street in the Little Italy neighborhood of Louisville when Donald arrived at the family home on July 1, 1929. (Little Italy is located between the railroad tracks and Highway 42 near Louisville Middle School.) Like many in Louisville, Pete Ross was a coal miner and Ella was a housewife. Many of Pete and Ella's relatives also lived in the neighborhood and Don related in an interview that "everyone in Little Italy was one big family, whether you were actually related or not." Close friendships and family ties were forged here that would last a lifetime. The Ross family would move to Lincoln Avenue in 1944 and eventually, Don and his own family would settle just two blocks away on McKinley Avenue.

Don attended St. Louis Catholic School, graduating from the 8th grade. As a youth, he served as an altar boy and choir member. He remained a devoted member of St. Louis Parish, volunteering in numerous capacities for the church and school. He graduated from Louisville High School in 1947 and was drafted into military service in the U.S. Army. Following his honorable discharge, he attended the Colorado State College of Education, known today as the University of Northern Colorado, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1956 and a Masters of Arts in 1959.

Don left Louisville for only two brief periods. One was his military service and the other was a two -year assignment in New Mexico as a Business teacher. He returned to Louisville to teach in the Westminster School District, focusing on the teaching of Industrial Arts and Drafting, retiring after 32 years of service. During this time he met and married Joyce Mullette of Erie, Pennsylvania and they raised five children: Sandra, Gwen, Patricia, Kevin and Nanette. A busy career and family life might seem to leave little free time, but Don found a way, with the support of his family, to give back to Louisville. His many volunteer activities included serving on the Louisville City Council, the first Recycling Board for Louisville and the Parks and Recreation Board, where he helped formulate Louisville's five, ten and fifteen year plans for recreation programs, including the transformation of Miners Field so that it could again be a suitable venue for athletic events. He was also very active in the Walter Rhoades American Legion Post, serving as a Post Commander and volunteer for the Fall Festival, Labor Day Parade and bingo.

Many in Louisville associate Don with his many years on the Louisville Historical Commission and the endless time, energy and skills he shared in converting the former Jacoe Store into The Louisville Historical Museum. He worked tirelessly to improve the Museum, including the addition of the Jordinelli House and out buildings to the Historical Museum Campus. One of his favorite activities was giving tours to elementary students on Louisville's coal mining history. He could usually be found at any open house or functions at the Museum, always ready to share his extraordinary knowledge of Louisville's history. Don also served as Chairperson of the Commission for many years. He retired from the Commission in 2011.

Don was the type of person who seemed to be everywhere and known by everyone. Mornings would find him at the Chamber of Commerce with life-long friend Eugene Caranci, keeping up with what was happening in Louisville. Don often helped with Chamber of Commerce events, including the Spaghetti Open and the Taste of Louisville.

In 2004, he was the recipient of the prestigious Pioneer Award, honoring those individuals in Louisville history who have given of themselves to the interest and welfare of Louisville. In 2011, the Louisville City Council recognized Don for his many years of service to the community.

Because he chose to live in Louisville, we have all been enriched by his life and legacy: giving back with joy, energy, and an ever-present sense of humor, with the occasional bit of mischief. You will be missed, Uncle Don, you will be missed.

Very appropriately, Don Ross's sister, Betty Marino, has donated funds in Don's memory to help cover the cost of the flower bed that the City has installed around the new Historical Museum sign on Main Street.

My Dad, Bob Enrietto By Paula Enrietto

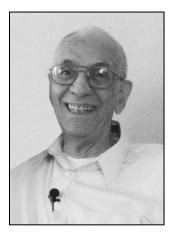
My Dad, Bob Enrietto, left us on February 25, 2012. Dad wasn't a Louisville native, although many thought he was. He was born in 1925 in the small town of Valier, Illinois to Laura and Peter Enrietto and spent most of his childhood in the St. Louis area. He graduated from Collinsville High School and entered the Navy shortly thereafter where he served as an Ensign. He dreamed of being a Navy pilot, but, sadly, he could not qualify because of his eyesight. He was left, though, with a lifelong love of airplanes, the ocean and ships.

During this time, the Enrietto family left St. Louis and came to Louisville. They had been preceded by Barney and Mary Enrietto and many friends and distant relatives. They joined a thriving community of proud Italians in Louisville. During leave from the Navy, Dad visited Louisville and became part of the community with the help of his cousin, Lawrence Enrietto. Dad and Lawrence were close childhood friends, spending many hours together in Illinois before Lawrence and his family came to Louisville. It was only natural that they should spend hours together in their new community. There were many stories of time spent dancing at the Redman Hall with the Louisville girls; adventures with Louisville buddies that usually involved cars and a drink or two!

It was because of these close ties that many thought Dad was a native of Louisville. His marriage to Emajane Sneddon, whose family had lived in this area for many years, helped enforce that notion. Mom and Dad were married in the First Baptist Church of Louisville, the church in which Mom had been raised. The church was just up the street from her home on Pine Street and just

down the street from Dad's home on Lincoln Avenue. In those days, nothing was far from home!

Mom and Dad moved to Denver for a short period after their marriage while Dad finished school at the University of Denver. But—they were never far from their families in Louisville. Lawrence and his wife, June Enrietto lived nearby in Denver and they spent time weekends with their friends Isabelle and Chuck Hudson, Jack and Larella Stout, Eileen and Albert (Schmitty) Schmidt, and Duke and Bobby Damiana-- among many others. Dad graduated from DU with a degree in electrical engineering and made his mother proud. It was her greatest wish that he should go to university—education was everything to these recent immigrants. After graduation, Dad took a series of jobs with Public Service Company and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal but



soon decided to look outside the state for employment. This was much to the dismay of both the Enrietto and Sneddon families! Mom and Dad lived in Grand Island, Nebraska and Grand Coulee, Washington where he worked on the Grand Coulee Dam. In both cases, Mom grew deeply homesick for Louisville and the family and they were soon home!

Bob Enrietto, 2010.

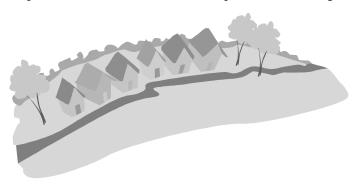
Mom and Dad spent the next 30 years in Louisville. Dad became an active member of the community and served on the Louisville City Council in the early 1960s. The big projects at the time were the installation of curb and gutter, paving of Louisville streets, and, most importantly, making sure that Louisville had an adequate water supply. Many times we would sit down to dinner only to be interrupted by a phone call from a disgruntled citizen who was unhappy about the changes coming to Louisville. As an active member of the Louisville Lions Club, Dad and Jack Stout drove a stagecoach in the Louisville Labor Day parade dressed in costume and proudly sporting a handlebar moustache!

All during this time, Dad's love of the ocean called. In 1980, he and Mom moved to Portland, Oregon. Like their other adventures away from Louisville, this one was short-lived. He was fond of saying that Mom spent more time traveling back to Louisville than she did living in Oregon. He finally had to agree with her that Louisville was truly home and they moved back in 1984 to the house that he had built on Hutchinson Street in

1952. Dad and Mom became deeply involved in the founding of the Louisville Historical Society and served on the Historical Commission for many years. Dad had an amazing memory and served as a repository of information about the infrastructure of the town, the mining history of the area and the people that helped Louisville grow into the place it is today.

In their final years, Dad and Mom enjoyed the friendships they developed over the years in Louisville. Dad had coffee every morning for years at The Marketplace Bakery with long time Louisville friends. He and Mom had breakfast every Saturday with Mom's high school classmates at Karen's in the Country. They were a welcoming group and soon newcomers to Louisville were incorporated into their circle. Dad relished the companionship of these new, good friends until a few weeks before his passing.

Even though Dad was not a Louisville native by birth, Louisville was in his blood and he couldn't stray far away. Dad knew what many will, sadly, never know, the strength of deep roots and a community of friends for life. Dad shared that love of Louisville and the roots he felt through his stories and work at the Louisville Historical Museum. He is missed deeply by all who helped create those stories and were part of their telling.



The Louisville Grain Elevator ... Past and Future, Together

The Louisville Grain Elevator is now miniature in size! Louisville resident Richard Wheeler has designed a Paper Craft Model of the Grain Elevator for people to enjoy assembling for themselves.

Come to the Historical Museum to pick up a few complimentary Paper Craft kits and enjoy the satisfaction of building a Grain Elevator yourself - perhaps with your daughter or son, or grandchildren. This Louisville-centric family activity is being funded by the Louisville Historical Commission as a way of promoting its membership program this year.

(Alternatively, the sheets and instructions will be available to be printed out at home from a PDF at the Louisville Historical Museum website, www.louisville-library.org.) It takes about an hour to assemble from start to finish, and would be most appropriate for children ages 8 and older.

Included with the kit is a story by Mary Kay Knorr about how a local boy might have accompanied his father to deliver wheat to the Louisville Grain Elevator in 1948. (The Elevator itself was constructed in 1905-06.) Richard Wheeler designed this Paper Craft Model while simultaneously keeping in mind both the Elevator's past and a vision of what the Elevator could look like in the future. The model is dark red, the same color as the Elevator used to be, and Wheeler hand drew the authentic lettering that appeared on the side of the Elevator (seen in historic photos). The scale for weighing vehicles loaded with grain and its wooden cover are gone, however, as they are currently gone from the actual Elevator. Grass and bushes shown next to the Elevator on the model give an impression of how this National Register landmark might look someday.

Children ages 8 – 12 can come to a Library program on a Saturday in August to put together this Paper Craft model. See information about the program elsewhere in this issue of the *Historian*.

If you enjoy this activity, please let us know, and please consider becoming a member! Thank you to the Louisville Historical Commission for funding the kits.



This Grain Elevator is about seven by three by two inches in size. The real Grain Elevator is located at 540 County Road in downtown Louisville.

The Museum Corner Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

Writing this regular column always presents a welcome occasion to publicly thank the many people who contribute their time and talents to the Louisville Historical Museum. It also presents the opportunity for me, personally, to reflect on all of the outstanding, and touching, support that our Museum receives from the community and even from people in other states who have ties to Louisville. In addition to the many donors, members, Business Sponsors, and oral history volunteers who are thanked elsewhere in this issue, I have many more people to thank below (and I hope that I haven't left anyone out). I feel truly grateful!

Thank you so much for Kathleen Jones for developing and writing the lead article of this issue about polio epidemics in Louisville. People sometimes tend to think about history as something that happened a long time ago, somehow how of reach, but the polio epidemics of the 1940s and 1950s occurred within the lifetimes of many Louisville residents. This is also a topic to which people can relate even if they didn't grow up in Louisville. Kathleen is a journalist who lives in Louisville and has started volunteering at the Museum. I hope that you enjoy reading her article as much as I did.

Thank you, also, to Pete Lindquist for his article in the last *Louisville Historian*, a special edition about Louisville in the 1880s and 1890s. While he was doing research for his article, he put together a 278-page timeline of newspaper articles about Louisville before 1900 (entitled "Louisville General Timeline (1877 to 1900)") that he has generously donated to both the Historical Museum and the Louisville Public Library. Also, thank you to Pete for his June Brown Bag presentation about his article. It included interesting reflections by Pete and the audience on the robber baron Jay Gould and his legacy, and on improvements that could be made in how history is taught to young people.

Thank you so much to Bradford and Gerra Lewis of R L Security & Supply for donating their labor to replace the locks on the Museum buildings. It was a pleasure to work with them.

Thank you to many people who have provided information or assistance to the Museum! These include Tim Camps, who shared information about 641 Main Street; the late Norm Mossoni and Michael Ferrera, who separately provided information about past uses of the Old Louisville Inn building at 740 Front Street; Mark Zaremba, who brought in an item from 1996 about Karen's Country Kitchen; John Negri, who visited and shared many stories about Louisville buildings and

people; James Peltzer and Betty Lackner Schmoll, who separately shared information about the Casa Allegre building at 1006 Pine; Helen Anderson, who is a descendant of the Harney family; the children of John Tovado; former resident Julia Rivers Madonna and her family; Neil Kabrun; Don Buffo; David Beach; and others.

Thank you to Alan White for sharing his family history research about the Rossi family that lived in the Tomeo House that is part of the Historical Museum, and to Tomeo family relatives Linda Shephard and Donna Serfozo who separately visited the Museum and shared information about the Tomeo family.

Thank you to people who are continuing to give information about relocated buildings in Louisville! We are grateful to Heather Lewis for reprising, in recognition of National Preservation Month in May, her fascinating presentation about why people moved buildings in our area. (Heather's article on the subject appeared in the Fall 2011 *Historian*.) Jeremiah Whitney also donated information about 1004 Griffith in Louisville's Little Italy being a relocated house.

Similarly, we are still receiving information about the members of the 1908 Louisville Bachelor Club! (Sean Moynihan's article about the Bachelor Club appeared in the Winter 2012 *Historian*.) Thank you so much to Sean for leading a Brown Bag discussion based on his Bachelor Club article in March. Thank you to Laurie Halee for her great work in taking a photo replicating the photo of the 1908 Bachelor Club. Thank you to Anne McWilliams and Jill McWilliams for information about their family members, bachelor Robert Kerr and the wife he found, Anna Stecker. And our appreciation goes to Darlieen Del Pizzo and Barbara Stahr for the information that they provided about their grandfather, John Bowes, who was in the Bachelor Club.

Thank you to Chandler Romeo for transcribing a notebook kept by her grandfather, Louisville resident Anthony C.V. Romeo. This notebook is in the collection of our Museum. Romeo was a union organizer in 1913 who traveled extensively and kept notes of his union activities. This was at a time when there were mine strikes taking place in several states, and this important item from our archives has relevance for not just Louisville history but American history in general.

Thank you to the Louisville Arts District, and particularly Janet Russell of Creative Framing, for including the Historical Museum as one of the downtown destinations on the First Friday Art Walk Map. Thank you to Kelly Johannes and Melanie Muckle for their work on the Museum's reverse directory project. Thank you to Bob and Melanie Muckle for their

donation of color fire insurance Sanborn maps for Louisville in digital form for the years 1893, 1900, and 1908.

Congratulations to Wayne Lee and Maggie Snyder for being recognized at the May Square Nail Awards put on by the Boulder Heritage Roundtable. They are the authors of *Louisville: At Home in a Small Town*, a book about Louisville that is available for purchase at the Museum and other locations.

Thank you to Richard Wheeler for his design of the Grain Elevator Paper Craft Model. Thank you to Mary Kay Knorr and Kathleen Jones for making a scavenger hunt-style brochure for kids who visit the Museum.

We had another fun open house at the Museum during A Taste of Louisville on June 2nd. Thank you to Pat Seader and Virginia Caranci for continuing with the annual tradition of making pizzelles, which they gave out. Thanks also to Duane Elrod, Katherine Linstrom, Becky Harney, and Karen Watts for helping out that day! And thank you to Susan Loo for the donation of a pizzelle maker that can be used for future pizzelle making at the Museum.



During A Taste of Louisville on June 2, 2012, Katherine Linstrom was a wonderful roving ambassador for the Historical Museum. Here, she is shown in costume in front of the historic Rex Theatre movie curtain at the Museum.

In addition to the Museum's volunteers for its Oral History Program, who are thanked elsewhere in this issue, thank you so much to regular volunteers Mona Lee Doersam (for her work doing the layout of every issue of *The Louisville Historian*), Mary Kay Knorr, Deborah Fahey, Robert Sampson, Gail Khasawneh, Kate Gerard, Kathleen Jones, Becky Harney, Becky Velthoen, Duane Elrod, Patty Lester, Allie Pierce, Christine Gray, Katherine Linstrom, Karen Watts, Kristie Chua, and Ardeshir Sabeti.

Many thanks to Diane Marino and Anne Robinson for each giving two Louisville historic walking tours this summer. The upcoming walking tour dates and times are listed elsewhere in this issue.

I am looking forward to exhibiting a selection of Marion Junior's handmade porcelain holiday ornaments at the Library in December. This tradition for Marion to make and sell ornaments to raise funds for the Louisville Historical Commission goes back twenty-five years. If you would like to be added to her list to purchase ornaments, which are \$10 this year, please call the Museum.

Brian Chamberlin, who is a member of the Historical Commission, has offered to look into requests for genealogical information having to do with Louisville families. If you have a genealogical puzzle on your hands, please let us know! Some of Brian's findings will appear in a future *Louisville Historian*.

Last, thank you to Diane Marino (again) for her tribute in this issue to her uncle, Don Ross, and to Paula Enrietto for her tribute to her dad, Bob Enrietto. Don and Bob will each be greatly missed at the Museum.

Louisville History Book Club By Anne Robinson, Historical Commission Member

The History Book Club meets from 6:00 to 7:45 PM on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May in the second floor Board Room of the Louisville Public Library. Unlike most book clubs in which members all read the same book, in this book club we select a topic and everyone reads what they wish on the topic. Members read books or articles and we discuss what we learned with the group. Members of the public are welcome to join us, and newcomers should feel free to come and observe.

<u>September Topic:</u> Santa Fe Trail Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012

October Topic: Children's Lives in the West Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012

November Topic: Tourism in Colorado Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012

<u>December Topic:</u> Colorado Gold Rush Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012



Oral History Program Update

Thank you so much to the following people for allowing the Museum to interview them about their memories of Louisville! As a token of our appreciation, a complimentary annual membership is being given to each participant who is not already a lifetime member.

- ~Mena Tesone (with Gary Tesone and Judy DeNovellis)
- ~Shirley Helart
- ~Earl Bolton
- ~Keith Helart
- ~John Madonna
- ~Beverly and Robert Clyncke
- ~Rodney Sauer

Also, thank you so much to the Museum's Oral History Program team of volunteers: Barbara Gigone, Katie Kingston, Ady Kupfner, Diane Marino, Jean Morgan, Barbara Hesson, Dana Echohawk, and Dustin Sagrillo. Thank you to Phyl Thomas for sharing her expertise on doing transcriptions of oral history interviews. Also, John Leary and Mary Kay Knorr participated in the session with John Madonna, the purpose of which was for him to give a lesson on how to play the dice game of barboot (a game that was popular in Louisville), so special thanks to them. Thank you to the Louisville Historical Commission for its financial support of this worthy project.

Two particular needs at this time are for more volunteer camera operators for the program and volunteers to transcribe the interviews. If you are interested, please contact the Historical Museum!

Historical Museum Contact Information and Summer Hours

The Museum has new, summertime hours! It is open for the summer from 10:00 to 3:00 on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and from 3:00 to 8:00 on Fridays to coincide with the summer Street Faires and First Friday Art Walks. Special appointments at other times are possible. Museum staff can be reached at museum@louisvilleco.gov or 303-665-9048. If you are planning a visit, please check ahead in order to make sure of the current hours.

The Louisville Historical Museum is owned and operated by the City of Louisville as part of the Department of Library & Museum Services. It is located at 1001 Main Street. Its mailing address is 749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027.

Upcoming Historical Programs

The public is invited to join us for our upcoming historical programs! For more information, please visit www.louisville-library.org; email museum@louisvilleco.gov; or call the Museum at 303-665-9048.

Summer Historical Walking Tours: "Legends of La Farge," Saturday, August 4 or October 6.

Meet at 9:30 AM at the Historical Museum; suggested donation is \$5. This new tour will be led by Diane Marino and will focus on the early families and small homes of the 800 and 900 blocks of La Farge Avenue. These blocks were part of the first residential subdivision (Jefferson Place) to have been developed in Louisville.

Paper Craft Engineering, Saturday, August 25, 1 – 2 PM.

Come learn how to use math to transform a life-sized structure into a life-like paper craft with Richard Wheeler! Kids will then be able to fold a miniature model of Louisville's historic Grain Elevator. No registration is necessary. This program is for kids ages 8 – 12 and is being offered as a children's program by the Library. For more information about the Louisville Grain Elevator Paper Craft Model, see this issue of *The Louisville Historian*.

Location: first floor meeting room of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street.

Summer Historical Walking Tour: "Main Street Stories," Saturday, September 1.

Meet at 9:30 AM at the front of the Louisville Public Library; suggested donation is \$5. This tour will be led by Anne Robinson and will look at Louisville's development as a coal mining town as revealed through the downtown business district (saloons and all!).

Brown Bag Discussion, Thursday, September 6, Noon to 1 PM.

The topic of the next Brown Bag will relate to the topic of this *Historian* issue, "Louisville Polio Epidemics of the 1940s and 1950s."

Participants are welcome to bring their lunches. Location: first floor meeting room of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street.

"Homefront Heroines: The WAVES of World War II," Monday, November 5, 2012, 7 PM.

For this program being presented in honor of Veterans Day in November, University of Colorado professor Kathleen Ryan will talk about her project to collect and share stories about women who were World War II's WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

Location: first floor meeting room of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street.

Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these recent memorial donations. Donations received after this issue goes to print will be shown in the next issue.



In Memory of Agnes "Betty" (Clyncke) Hocheder (1926-2011)

Beverly Clyncke

In Memory of Donald A. Ross (1929-2012)

Larry & Kathy Martella Bridget Bacon & Andrew Calabrese John Leary & Jan Rowen Eugene & Virginia Caranci Memory Delforge Patricia & William Seader Sally Burlingame Rita Ferrera Jean Morgan Elle & Roger Cabbage Beth Barrett Mr. and Mrs. Dino De Santis Donna & Adam Elnicki Carol Gleeson Shelley & Dave Angell Evonne "Duke" Damiana Adrienne Kupfner David W. Ferguson Charles L. Sisk Ron & Pattie Varra Lois Del Pizzo Daniel & Heather Mellish Marie Slavec Alice Connor-Hall Judy DiGiacomo Fred & Lois Tesone

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In Memory of the Cannon Family

Kay Cannon

In Memory of Mariann Lastoka (1951-2012)

Jean Morgan

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.

Bruinsma Family Arie and Gladys Pilz Susan Loo & Larry Donner Jennifer Kochanowski & Christina Ostrom Hank & Penny Dalton Kyle Callahan & Associates, Architects Cynthia & William Frazier Pamela Forcey David Harwood & Ellen Marshall Bernard Funk & Deborah Brady Janet Hummer Kathleen Cummings & Mark Reynolds Avnet, Inc. Helen Strong Anderson The Tovado Family Julia Rivers Madonna

Donations to the Museum's Collection and Records

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

James Lastoka – scans of photos showing the Matchless Mine and showing a panel on which miners

would hang their metal ID tags before descending into a mine

Duane Elrod – yardstick from Tony LaSalle Furniture Co., a long-time Main Street business, and scans of newspaper articles and advertisements relating to the local artist "Cheyenne," Joe D'Amato, the Hacienda Restaurant, and the Wagon Wheel Inn.

Patty Lester – scan of a photo showing Main Street in 1952.

John Negri – newspapers, documents, and scans of historic photos relating to Louisville, including such items as a dance card from the 1938 Louisville High School prom, a program from a 1930s track meet, and issues of "The Lookout" school newspaper.

Grace Dionigi – historic photos, liquor menu from the Wagon Wheel Inn, photo album, newspapers, property tax receipts, and other items relating to Louisville.

Isabelle Hudson – postcard album of vintage postcards collected by her stepfather, Awra Park.

Don Buffo – *Louisville Times* newspapers from the 1960s and 1970s, and football helmet that he wore at Louisville High School during the 1968 football season.

Kris Foy, from the estate of Marie Blair – Centaurus Warriors items and St. Rita Auxiliary ribbon.

Charlene Hyslop – photo showing family members by 824 La Farge Ave in 1948.

Mariann Lastoka – items relating to Louisville, including business items, water dipper from the Harney Lastoka farm, photos, letters, rosaries, V-Mail stationery from World War II, and items relating to the St. Louis Church.

Shirley Elrod – Louisville City budget for 1978 from her father, former mayor John Waschak; photo; Centaurus High School items; *Louisville Times* issues from the 1950s-1980s.

Darlieen Del Pizzo – Family history information relating to the Moore and Bowes families; scans of family photos.

Barbara Stahr – Items relating to Louisville, including payroll records from the Electric Fuel Co. mine and the Ajax Coal Mining Co. from the 1920s, copies of the *Louisville Times from* 1974 relating to the fire at Steinbaugh's, and school items.

Helen Warembourg – 1967 booklet relating to Paclamar Farms of Louisville.

David Ferguson – program/itinerary of a trip of Louisville senior citizens to California in 1977.

Darlene Rohr – vintage curtain stretcher used by Louisville's Wilson family.

Shirley Helart – photo of 8th grade class upon graduation from St. Louis School in circa 1949, scan of photo of first communion, photo of Anna Patate, and other items relating to Louisville.

Graham Jackson & Connie Rodman – scans of two historic photo portraits found in the wall of a home on La Farge Ave.

Earl Bolton – scans of photos relating to the Bolton family.

Lyle Laughlin – reprint of 1902 Sears Roebuck catalog and original Macy catalog from 1903-04.

Keith Helart – copies of family photos and documents, including family history information relating to the Helart and McKee families.

Kathy Ryan – scans of newspaper articles relating to the Labor Day 1971 gambling raid in Louisville.

Virginia Caranci – notebook that she kept when she was in Louisville's Camp Fire Girls.

Shelby Counterman – scans of historic photos relating to the Robinson family of Louisville.

Arlene Leggett – copies of the *Louisville Times* and other newspapers as well as historical booklets, plus a scan of a page from a 1957 *Louisville Times* about the cornerstone of the new town hall.

Tony Slavec – photo showing the sixth grade class in circa 1936 and photo taken in about 1940 showing the Louisville baseball team members who were the American Legion champions.

David Buchanan – digital image of a historic photo of Emma Harris of Louisville with a woman identified as Pearl Jones standing by a lunch cart in the 1890s.

Monarch High School – yearbook for the 2011-2012 year.

City of Louisville – writings by community members from guest books provided to attendees of the dedication of the John Breaux statue on January 30, 2010.

Lani Melvin – undated photo of a Louisville grade school class in the 1930s.

Patrick Walsh –1968 edition of the *Louisville Times* found in a door frame at 836 ½ Main Street.

Betty Lackner Schmoll – prints of photos of the Lackner family of Louisville who had Lackner's Saloon at 1006 Pine Street.

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 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, except for 1990
- 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
- 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 Red Men's 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, and written memories relating to Louisville High School and Louisville Middle School.
- Historical records relating to Louisville businesses.
- Issues of *The Louisville Times*, or pages of it, from 1980 or earlier; particularly, issues from 1913 to 1942 and photos and information relating to Louisville's newspapers and publishers.
- Menus of Louisville restaurants.



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* with substantive articles about Louisville history.

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

Please visit the Historical Museum web site at www.louisville-library.org for a membership form or call the Museum at 303-665-9048. You may also write to the Louisville Historical Museum, 749 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado, 80027. Please make checks payable to the Louisville Historical Commission.

Thanks to New and Renewing Members

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REGRETS

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Historical Society regular members Donald Ross, Phyllis Nesbit Hawkins, Thomas Rizzi, and Mariann Lastoka, and the families of lifetime members Robert Enrietto and Raymond Caranci.

Louisville Historical Society 749 Main Street Louisville, CO 80027

Return Service Requested

The Louisville Historian, Issue #95, Summer 2012



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