

# THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

Summer 2004

Issue #63

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**Louisville Historical Commission Members**

- Sally Burlingame
- Elle Cabbage
- Virginia Caranci
- Robert Enrietto
- David Ferguson
- Donna Hauswald
- Alice Koerner
- Diane Marino
- Daniel Mellish
- Stuart Pritchard
- Donald Ross
- Patricia Seader
- Aline Steinbaugh
- William Unrau

## SALOONS

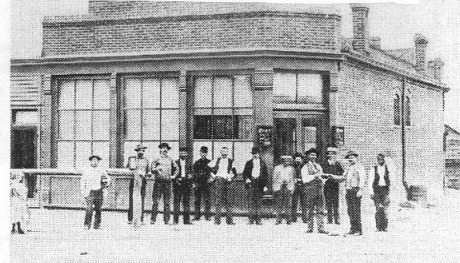
The previous issue of the Louisville Historian contained a piece explaining the use of tokens often used in places of business in Louisville near the turn of the century. A major economic institution using those tokens was the alcohol industry and while we know how the imbiber paid for his liquor it is interesting to investigate how saloons of Louisville operated.

It seems as though the pre-requisite to creating a drinking establishment was to come up with a catchy name or simply use the owners name. In Louisville it was the "Bucket of Blood", "Silver State", or "Old Louisville Inn". In other towns of the west it was, "Hotel de Drunk", "The Palace", or Judge Roy Bean's saloon, "The Jersey Lilly."

At the Bucket of Blood  
 The drinks are good.  
 At the Silver Dollar  
 For Jim Beam they Holler.  
 And the Lone Star  
 Has the longest bar.  
 At the Bull's Head  
 You can lay a bet.  
 At the Exchange  
 The Whiskey tastes strange.  
 At the Teller House  
 They serve Whiskey Sour.  
 From the rise of the moon  
 Until noon  
 Look me up at the Saloon.

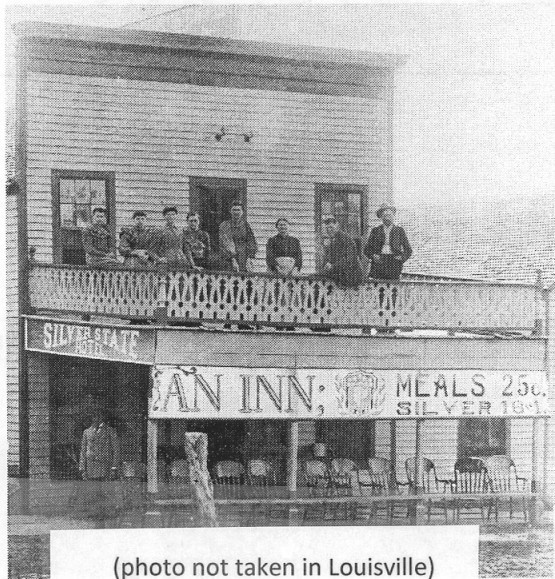
**Bucket of Blood Saloon Circa 1909**

(photo not taken in Louisville)



During the heyday of Louisville mining the drinking establishments lined Front Street. At one time there were as many as 13 saloons operating in a four block area on front street. This was typical of communities the size of Louisville but paled in comparison to other mining towns. In 1879 Leadville there were 4 banks, 4 churches, 10 dry goods stores, 31 restaurants, 19 beer halls and 120 saloons, 118 gambling houses and private clubs selling alcohol. Silverton had 40 saloons and dance halls, 27 gambling saloons, and 18 brothels all on one street. Early Louisville saloons were simple wood frame structures with meager furnishings and a basic offering of refreshments. Oftentimes there was a dirt floor and only a wooden plank supported by two kegs to serve as the bar. Ordering anything other than beer or whiskey was considered too "Eastern" and uppity. Later on false fronts would be added to the structures as can be seen on the Silver State Hotel. The sign on the hotel refers to "Meals 25 c. and Silver 16 to 1." This would date the photo to the 1890's and refers to the "Silverite" movement in the United States when western silver miners attempted to replace gold as the standard of currency.

The compromise made by the government was that silver could be redeemed for gold or used as payment for gold at the ratio of 16 to 1.



(photo not taken in Louisville)

**The Silver State Hotel and Inn Circa 1890s**

As Louisville became more prosperous so did the saloons. The picture of the "Bucket of Blood" shows a building made of brick and of a more ornate appearance than most early saloons and, in the case of the "Old Louisville Inn" a beautiful bar was put in place. To most hard core drinkers it mattered not that the establishment was finely decorated or employed the most conscientious mixologist. What did matter was that there was a place to go to unwind from a difficult day of hard labor. These places became widely known as the bug house, jughouse, whiskey mill, whoop-up, cantina, watering hole, pouring spot, hop joint, grogshop, gin mill, snake ranch, jugtown and, watering trough.

Early saloons served their own hard liquor concoctions based on questionable recipes and, often, dangerous ingredients. Such infamous favorites included Red Dynamite, Bumblebee Whiskey, Red Disturbance, Tongue Oil, Snakehead Whiskey was fermented with a rattler's head nailed to the inside of the barrel, Tiger Spit, Tangle Leg made with tobacco, molasses, red peppers, and alcohol, Widow Maker, Wolf Whiskey, Stump Puller, Gut Warmer, Phlegm Cutter, and Coffin Varnish. Consumption of these beverages made for some very unpleasant scenes when individuals got drunk up, pickled, struck with bottle fever, painted his nose, rusted his boiler, suffered an attack of the prevailing epidemic, got the jim-jams, went booze blind, gathered a talking load, or was drunk as a boiled owl. It wasn't unusual for people to suffer lasting side effects and even death when quenching ones thirst. Some local brews included ammonia, cayenne pepper, creosote, turpentine, oak bark, oatmeal, soap (for a good head on the beer), and even gunpowder.

(Continued on page 5)

## The Jordinelli House

The siding on the house has been replaced and painted, and wainscoting and screening are being added to the front porch. Grading and sidewalk installation will be completed this month. The flooring material has been selected along with the type of baseboard and installation of both are expected this month.



## THE MUSEUM CORNER

Carol Gleeson / *Museum Coordinator*

Summertime at the Louisville Historical Museum means an increase in activities both inside and outside of the buildings. Inside of the buildings, staff and volunteers are busy with summer visitors, conservation projects, and docent training sessions. Outside of the buildings, City of Louisville employees and local contractors are installing drainpipes, maintaining buildings, and residing the Jordinelli House. If you haven't visited the Museum this summer, please stop by to see how the Museum is growing and changing.

The summer months also mean an increase in the activities of the Louisville Historical Commission. Starting in May with the Annual Membership Meeting, Commission members are busy throughout the summer months with their participation in City of Louisville events. Commission members hosted a booth in front of the City Hall and served pizzelles at the Museum during the Taste of Louisville. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Commission members hosted a booth at Memory Square Park sharing historical information and selling items to raise funds for the Museum. Two new sale items are a selection of post cards with historic photographs and copies of Coal Mining in Colorado's Northern Field by Carolyn Conarroe. These new sale items are also available at the Museum. If you missed the Commission members during

the summer events, then plan to join them at Memory Square Park during the Louisville Fall Festival. Commission members will be hosting their Silent Auction to raise additional funds for the Museum.

In the spring *Louisville Historian*, I announced that the Louisville Historical Museum was the proud recipient of a 2004 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>, a conservator and two preservation architects conducted thorough assessments of the Museum's collections and four historic structures as a result of this grant. City of Louisville staff, Museum volunteers, and Historical Commission members participated in the assessment by providing information and insight. The assessment will result in two survey reports that address immediate and long-term conservation action for the care and preservation of the collections and structures. With the survey reports, the Louisville Historical Museum will more effectively meet its commitment to properly caring for the irreplaceable collections and historic structures that comprise our unique Museum.

I want to recognize the comings and goings of volunteers at the Louisville Historical Museum. During the summer months, we said good-bye to Dawn Shenton-Schenk who volunteered for two years as a researcher. Dawn and her family

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### LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

1001 Main Street  
Louisville, CO 80027  
303-665-9048  
museum@ci.louisville.co.us

**MUSEUM HOURS**  
Tues., Wed., & Thurs.  
10AM to 3PM  
First Sat. of Month  
10 a.m.—3 p.m.

## New Members

Jeff and Heather Lewis  
 Curt Chanda  
 Don Monson  
 Beverly Clynke

The above names consist of recent memberships in the Louisville Historical Society during the months of May through July. We apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please contact the museum with corrections to the above list of names.

## Share the Gift of History

Share the gift of history by sharing the gift of membership in the Louisville Historical Society. Your gift will be the one remembered throughout the year. A yearly membership is \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a family, and \$100.00 for a business. Membership means receiving our newsletters and an invitation to our Annual Historical Society Meeting. Membership also means helping to ensure the preservation of Louisville's unique history and cultural character.

Visit our web site at [museum@ci.louisville.co.us/museum.htm](mailto:museum@ci.louisville.co.us/museum.htm) for a membership form or call the museum at 303-665-9048. You may also write to us at Louisville Historical Museum, 749 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado, 80027. Please remember to communicate your name, address, and telephone number as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) to whom you wish to give the gift of membership. We accept cash or checks. Please make checks payable to Louisville Historical Society.

## DONATIONS

The Louisville Historical Museum has accessioned the following donations during the months of May through July. We sincerely appreciate these recent donations.

### Barbara McKee

1918 photograph of the funeral of "Joe" DiFrancia and photograph of "Joe" DiFrancia and family, early 1900s.

### Aline Steinbaugh

Two photographs of the 1941 Louisville High School Women's Volleyball Team

### Victor C. Ament

1935 IBM electric typewriter

### Uldis Jansons

A Dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms, published 1968.

### Monarch High School

Mosaic 2004, Volume 6, Monarch High School

### James C. Davis

1938 photograph of the corner of Front Street and Walnut Street.

### Elizabeth Hutchison

Transcribed payroll records of the Industrial Mine (1896-1899), Louisville coal mines (1881-1908), and Vulcan Mine (1903-1904)

## Museum Wish List

The Louisville Historical Museum would like to add to its collection the yearbooks and photographs described below. If you would be willing to donate any of the described items, please contact the Louisville Historical Museum and let us know. A reproduction of an original photograph would be acceptable. All donations to the museum, a non-profit institution, are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

- \* Louisville High School Yearbooks (Cargos)  
1954, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, & 1972
- \* Photographs of Louisville High School's graduating classes  
1939, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1964 through 1971
- \* Centaurus High School Yearbooks  
1973 to 2000

## SALOONS (continued)

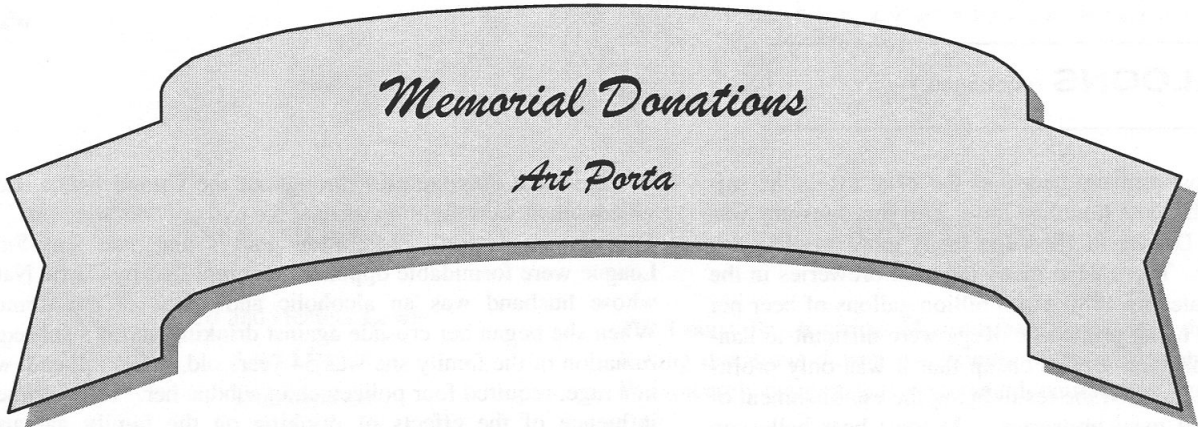
For most drinkers beer was the most available, safest, and cheapest liquor to buy. The first brewery was started in Denver in 1859 and many more would grow soon after. There were many licensed breweries in the United States by 1880 and 3 billion gallons of beer per year were being produced. Kegs were difficult to handle and the beer was so cheap that it was only profitable to sell nearby; the result being the establishment of many small local breweries. In most beer halls you could buy a small drink for five cents and a large one for ten cents and in mining towns like Louisville have your children bring a bucket to the bar and have it filled up to bring home to you for five cents. Alcohol content for beer varied between 3% to 10%

Like most communities throughout the United States, Louisville women were fighting against the evils of "demon rum." The Temperance Union, Prohibition Party, and the Anti-Saloon League were formidable opponents exemplified by Carrie Nation, whose husband was an alcoholic and "died of the tremors." When she began her crusade against drinking and it's subsequent ruination of the family she was 54 years old, 6 feet tall and, when in a rage, required four policemen to subdue her. The detrimental influence of the effects of drinking on the family galvanized women to eventually win the right to vote and make prohibition a reality on January 16, 1920.

(Source—Saloons of the Old West, by Richard Erdoes)

### Louisville Temperance Hall - 1905





### MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you for your membership in the Louisville Historical Society. Your membership entitles you to a quarterly newsletter and an invitation to the Annual Membership Meeting. Each member contributes to the teaching, collecting, preserving, and interpreting of Louisville's unique history.

Letters with renewal notices will be mailed during the month of November. We hope you will continue your membership in the Louisville Historical Society. Annual membership dues as of November 2002 are as follows:

Individual membership	\$15.00
Family/Group membership	\$25.00
Business membership	\$100.00

Lifetime memberships are not available.

Louisville Historical Commission  
1001 Main Street  
Louisville, CO 80027

