

The Louisville Historian

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MESSAGE TO ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Louisville Historical Society is currently in the process of formulating a structure that will help us move in a cohesive direction with the Louisville Historical Commission. In a work session on March 9, made up of Society, Commission, and city staff, a consensus was formed that a partnership was the most logical way for the two groups to exist.

Committees are being formed by both groups that will work together in coordination and not in opposition. Society members will receive a letter informing them of progress regarding the formulation of committees.

Everyone is welcome to join us in our positive joint venture.

MEETING TIMES

Starting in March, Society meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Louisville City Hall.

Louisville Historical Commission meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Louisville City Hall.

THE REIGN OF KING COAL

The Miners Memorial statue on the lawn at City Hall is a symbol of the history of the people who made the town of Louisville—the coal miners and the coal mining industry.

In August 1877 the first coal mine, the Welch Mine, was opened and Louis Nawatny, a land owner in the area, platted his farm land into the town which he named for himself—Louisville. Nawatny registered his plat in February 1878.

Coal miners moved to the new town to work in the new, safer mine, and from the beginning Louisville differed from most coal camp towns. Miners lived in the town and walked to their work at the mines. They were involved in a democratic community life, with no domination by mine owners or companies.

Louisville is in area that was known as the *Northern Coalfield*, an extensive coal field in Boulder and Weld counties. Wages in the early days of coal mining were relatively high in the Louisville mines, and the mines were relatively safe. However, because the mining was seasonal and strikes too often interrupted production, the economy was generally depressed. Family gardens and odd jobs were the way of life during summertimes unemployment.

From 1890 to 1928, the Acme Mine operated directly beneath the original town of Louisville. Worked on two levels, the Acme produced nearly two million tons of coal and was one of 171 coal mines in Boulder County. There were 30 mines operated in and around Louisville, and during the peak years of 1907 to 1909, there were 12 mines in operation. The use of coal declined following World War II and the last mines near Louisville closed in 1952.

Many Europeans migrated to Louisville to work in the mines. Some came because jobs were plentiful and they learned the skills to become miners, some continued the mining skills they had used in Europe, and some probably were recruited as strike breakers during the several union disagreements with coal companies. They worked together in the mines, but they lived with their own relatives and fellow countrymen as neighbors.

The neighborhoods of Italians and French have gone just as the signs of the coal mines. Flowers grow in yards with never a hint of the passageways underground.

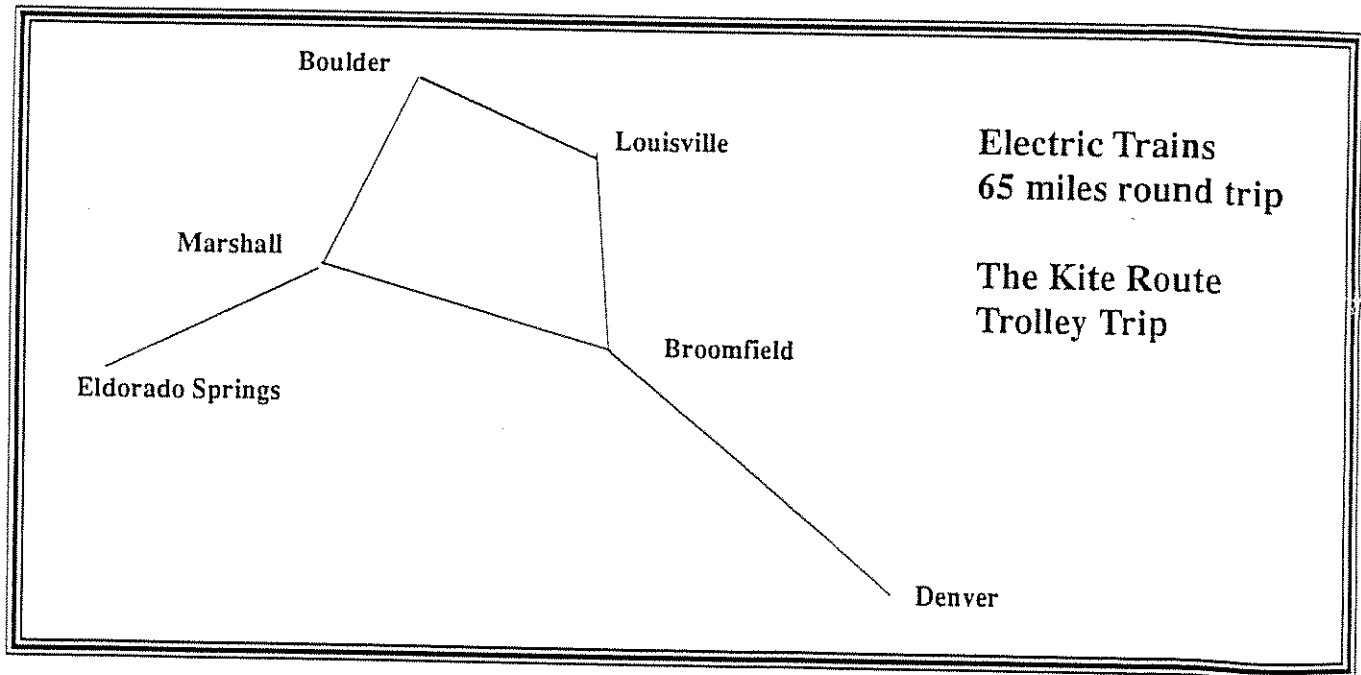
The unique history of Louisville and the rich cultural contributions give the community a character not to be found in the new suburbs.

The Kite Route

Travel from Boulder to Denver via Louisville at 50mph aboard an electric train for only 50 cents! A modern dream of things to come? From 1908 to 1926, the Denver and Interurban Railroad provided clean, high-speed, electric train service from Boulder to Denver via two routes. One route was via Marshall and Superior with a branch to Eldorado Springs; the other line passed through Louisville. The electric trains shared tracks with steam trains and used the same Burlington Northern tracks that still pass through Louisville. The railroad took its nickname, *The Kite Route*, because maps of the line looked like a kite.

The story of the Denver and Interurban Railroad is told in a new book *The Kite Route*, written by William C. Jones and Noel T. Holley, and published by Pruett Publishing of Boulder. The book includes several photographs taken in and around Louisville and is an interesting look at an important part of early Louisville history. The Kite Route is available at Trails West Books.

Reviewed by Jerry B. Day



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

The Louisville Historical Society is devoted to preserving Louisville's Heritage. This is being done through the development of a museum, oral, and pictorial history collection, and promoting the preservation of significant structures.

The Society is affiliated with the Louisville Historical Commission, a publicly chartered, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

JOIN US!

The Louisville Historical Society needs your help to carry out our programs. All members receive our periodic newsletter and membership card.

The Louisville Historical Society invites you to join us in protecting and preserving our town's history.

For more information, call:

Louisville Historical Society 666-6857
Louisville Historical Commission 666-7863

JOIN THE "LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY"

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | General | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron | \$100.00 |

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(Please make check payable to The Louisville Historical Society)

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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