

# THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

NOV 20 2003  
ISSUE 669

LOUISVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fall 2003

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## Louisville Little League



**Founding Fathers**

Top L-R John Waschak, Bill Buffo, Bill Kimmitt

Bottom L-R Joe Colacci, Bob Ross, Bob Ferrari

Not pictured: Dick Franchini, Halo Scarpella, Joe Carnival (deceased)  
Leroy Warembourg (deceased)

### Louisville Historical Commission Members

- Elle Cabbage
- Virginia Caranci
- Robert Enrietto
- David Ferguson
- Donna Hauswald
- Alice Koerner
- Diane Marino
- Patricia Seader
- Aline Steinbaugh
- William Unrau

“Single-wing twenty-eight to the right on two. Down, set, hut one, hut two.”

“Hey batter, batter, hey batter, batter, SWING!”

Those words would be familiar to scores of young boys as they learned the language of football from a group of men dedicated to providing a sports outlet for Louisville youth. Football and baseball would be the early focus of Little League in Louisville and the Jefferson County youth program would provide guidance necessary to begin competitive programs.

Louisville was well known from coal mining days for having outstanding men’s baseball teams but it wasn’t until the late 1940’s that organized youth sports programs in Louisville were reflected in baseball teams like

those coached by John Waschak in 1947 and Bill Kimmitt in 1952 and sponsored by local merchants like barber Bob Woody who bought uniforms for the teams. (See photo on page 7) There weren’t many organized leagues so teams from neighboring communities like Erie and Lafayette were contacted for games. Pioneers like Waschak and Kimmitt would provide the catalyst for Louisville’s later entry into the Jeffco Baseball organization.

The earliest beginnings of youth football can be traced to 1952 when Bill Kimmitt organized a team made up of Catholic School players. In 1956 Joe Colacci, Halo Scarpella, and John Waschak would contact and meet with the Jeffco Football League and eventually become a part of that organization. Money had to be raised so organizers

obtained use of the old fire truck and canvassed the town for donations. That initial drive garnered \$2000 and Bill Kimmett put together a tournament made up of a variety of teams from the Denver-Metro area and made sure that entry fees (about \$1500) for the tournament provided seed money to buy much needed equipment and uniforms for the city teams. Equipment was later bought from Dave Cook Sports and athletes were provided with the best available at the time. Halo Scarpella made sure that each piece of equipment was perfect and, surprisingly, sideline jackets were bought for the teams.

Two age groups (8-9 and 10-11) in football were formed and players on the first team were given the honor of naming their teams. The 8-9 year olds would be the Blue Panthers (coached by Bill Buffo, Bob Ross, Dick Franchini) and the 10-11 year olds (coached by Boots Ferrari and Leroy Warembourg) would be the Red Devils. A full schedule would be played against the Jeffco League that included Kaibab Lumber, Golden Optimists, Bolero, Lakewood Meadowlarks, Jefferson Drug, Fillmore Drug, Craig Chevrolet, Howell's of Arvada, and Johnny Harper Ford.

After the equipment was bought, sign-up complete, and required doctor physicals finished it was time to start practices. Coaches brought with them the latest in football strategy that included the single-wing and T-formations. Practices took place after work and school at the high school field (after the Pirates practice) or in the "Sunken Gardens" (the area just south of the high school). It was a familiar scene to see scores of young boys riding their bikes or walking to practice and, if you were lucky, you were able to watch the end of the high school practice and marvel at, what seemed to be, the biggest and fastest football players you had ever seen.

Home football games were a special celebration in Louisville at the high school and little league level. Since the high school football field was wider and longer than the requirements for little league, adjustments had to be made. A spool of canvas strapping was laid along the length of the field and secured to provide the boundary lines and portable goal posts were constructed for the end zones. Louisville was the only field that provided an announcer for the games with a speaker system and the mothers ran a concession stand to help pay for replacement equipment. In addition young girls made cheerleader outfits and cheered during the games (home and away). Most teams enjoyed coming to Louisville particularly because of the chance to eat at the Blue Parrot or Colacci's restaurants. (continued on page 7)

## The Jordinelli House

The decking for the South and West porches has been installed by the city and the porches will remain open until wainscoting and screening can be installed together as required by building codes. An additional partial wall will need to be removed to provide access for a display of Downtown Louisville dating from the 1920's. The picture window has been replaced and the sliding glass patio door has been removed. Light fixtures have been purchased and installation of same is progressing, as well as repairing of cracks in the dry wall.

A donation of \$1,000 has been received from the sponsors of the 5K race. The Commission wishes to express

our gratitude and deepest thanks to the sponsors as well as those volunteers working on the house, namely Alex Szouosi, Peter Isherwood, and David & Donna Paitri.

### AGAIN, THANK YOU!

The balance in the Jordinelli Renovation account as of Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> is \$5727.



*2003  
Louisville Holiday  
Home Tour  
Saturday, Dec. 6  
10:00 a.m. to  
2:00 p.m.  
Proceeds to benefit the  
Jordinelli House  
Renovation.  
(See page 4 for details)*

## THE MUSEUM CORNER

Carol Gleeson / *Museum Coordinator*

The Louisville Historical Museum is a popular destination for elementary students, scout troops, and specialty groups during the fall season. Second graders from Louisville's four elementary schools tour the museum and local businesses on Main Street to learn about their community. Scout troops visit the museum to learn about local history and to tour the museum's two historic buildings. Specialty groups, like the Red Hat Ladies, combine a tour of the museum with a self-guided walking tour of Historic Downtown Louisville and lunch at one of the local restaurants. Walking Tour Maps, available in the newspaper stand in front of the museum, provide self-guided tours of historic buildings in Historic Downtown Louisville. If it has been a few years since your last visit to the museum, I invite you to visit the museum to see the new fall exhibits and to enjoy the historic buildings in Historic Downtown Louisville.

I want to extend a special thank you to Duke Damiana and Lois Kershner who re-

cently responded to my written request for volunteers in the summer issue of *The Louisville Historian*. Duke joined the volunteer staff in August to guide historic tours at the museum. Lois joined the volunteer staff in September to manage the collections databases. The continued growth of the Louisville Historical Museum is largely dependent on the efforts and talents of volunteer staff members like Duke and Lois.

The Louisville Historical Commission sponsored its Silent Auction in Memory Square Park during the Louisville Fall Festival. The success of the Silent Auction is a tribute to many of the Historical Society members who continue to support the Commission's special events. The Society's support through annual memberships and participation in the Commission's events is greatly appreciated. The Historical Commission will be hosting two special events in December. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will open the museum prior to and following the Louisville Parade of Lights. Commission members will be serving re-

freshments and selling holiday ornaments, copies of *The Louisville Story*, *Historic Louisville* videos, coal sacks, and stationary. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Historical Commission will be sponsoring the second Holiday Parade of Homes. Look for advertisements and flyers in local newspapers and at local businesses.

In closing, I want to recognize the volunteer efforts of Ron Buffo, Betty Buffo, and Dawn Shenton-Shenk. Ron contributes his time and talent to format the summer and fall issues of *The Louisville Historian* and to write the history articles in these issues. Betty works tirelessly every week to exhibit and care for the museum's collections. Dawn researches objects in the museum's collections and provides invaluable documentation on the history and use of the individual objects. Special thanks are extended to the volunteers mentioned in this article and to the many volunteers, past and present, who contributed their time and talents for the betterment of the Louisville Historical Museum.

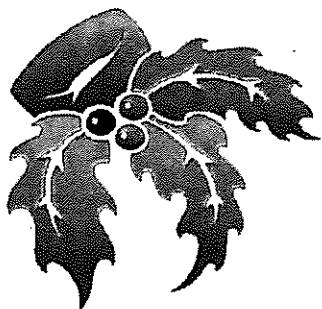
### DONATIONS

Paulette Warembourg	_____	1939 program from the Future Home Makers of Louisville High School
David Damiana	_____	Accordion, Flexible Flyer sled, & bible
John Stead	_____	Advertising sign for Dr. J. D. Bartholomew
Robert Enrietto	_____	Carbide cap lamp
Betty Buffo	_____	1920s Valentine greeting cards, photograph of the 1953 Louisville High School Senior Class, and jar of red ash
George & Regina Daddario	_____	Early 1900s gardening tools & coal shovel
Eugene Soppeland	_____	Tokens from Tri-City Elks Lodge
Don Ross	_____	Two copies of photographs of the demolition of Red Men Hall, 1953
Glenn & Aline Steinbaugh	_____	1974 photograph of the fire that destroyed Steinbaugh's Hardware & Furniture Store and 1907 receipts from J. J. Steinbaugh. General

### LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

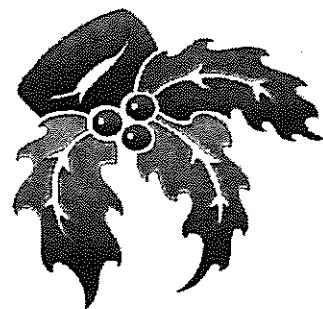
1001 Main Street  
Louisville, CO 80027  
303-665-9048  
museum@ci.louisville.co.us

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



# 2003 Louisville HOLIDAY

Home Tour  
Saturday, December 6  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



*\$8 for tickets purchased in advance,  
\$10 for tickets purchased at the door*

*Including a holiday boutique and refreshments at the United Methodist Church,  
and tours of the Louisville Historical Museum, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Proceeds to benefit the Louisville Historical Commission's  
Jordinelli House Renovation Fund.*



*500 Spruce Street*



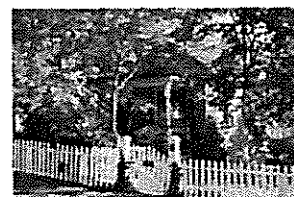
*605 Grant Avenue*



*509 Lafarge Avenue*



*1100 LaFarge Avenue*



*1116 Lafarge Avenue*



*United Methodist Church  
741 Jefferson Avenue*



*Louisville Historical Museum  
1001 Main Street*

*Tickets available at the following locations:*

Louisville Historical Museum, 1001 Main Street  
Louisville Chamber of Commerce, 901 Main Street  
About Books, 900 Main Street  
Heritage Bank, 801 Main Street

Marketplace Bakery, 820 Main Street  
United Methodist Church, 741 Jefferson Avenue  
Birds of Prey Thrift Shop, 1140 Pine Street  
Boulder History Museum, 1206 Euclid Avenue, Boulder



**Miners Field—Summer 1947**

**Bat Boy—Gilbert Leslie**

Row 1—Richard Channel, Don Gomez, George Brown, John Chiolino, Richard Kasik, unidentified, Leo Deborski, Jim Graves, Coach John Waschak and daughter Shirley Kay.

Row 2—Joe Petrelli, Harry Jenkins, Frank Campana, Jack Leslie, Bob Ross, Ron Leggett, Albert Nace, Bobby Sneddon

Not Pictured—Johnnie Gaz, Dickie McDonald

**Thanks to New and  
Renewing Members!**

**New Members**

Lois Kershner & Thomas Scannell  
Gloria Brandt

**Renewing Members**

Sylvia Kilker	Dawn Shenton-Schenk
Clemma Wiggett	Charles Bottinelli
Martin Buffo	Frank & Mary Patete
Eileen Hogg	Pat McHugh
William Unrau	Barbara Leichy
Helen Silko	Julie Boyd
Joyce Hyslop	Sally Burlingame
Evelyn Harr	Bill Johnson
Michael Koertje	Delbert McNally
Melvin DiLorenzo	Marion DiGiacomo
Eugene & Virginia Caranci	Bette Sirokman-Friden
Diane Marino	Don & Joyce Ross
Meredyth Muth	Margorie Nell Pickett
Phyllis Hawkins	

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

**Footballers Run So Randy Can Walk**

In the Fall of 1962 the Louisville Panther youth football team played the Wilmore-Richter American Legion Post 9 years olds in a benefit game for Broomfield resident Randy Breymeyer, 12 years of age. Breymeyer was suffering from bone cancer and had his left leg amputated just a month previous to the game. Proceeds from the game were to be used for medical expenses and the cost of fitting Randy with an artificial leg so he could walk. The Legion Post defeated the Panthers by a score of 26-24.

**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](http://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.

**Museum Wish List**

We wish to extend a special thank you to **Historical Society Member, Betty Buffo**, who recently donated a composite of the 1953 Louisville High School graduating class. Betty's donation is a wonderful addition to the museum's collection of historic photographs. If you would be willing to donate any of the items listed below, please contact the Louisville Historical Museum and let us know. 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

## Louisville Little League

(continued from page 2)

The crowning achievement of the season was for the top two teams to make it to the championship game called "The Carnation Bowl." Louisville teams had a distinct disadvantage in that they had combined age group teams. 11 and 12 year old Red Devils played against teams that fielded only 12 year olds. The Blue Panthers made it to the Carnation Bowl twice and the Red Devils once.

There was nothing quite like an away game when everyone met at the high school field with cars decorated with streamers and a caravan filled with excited kids. The games were enthusiastically anticipated but after game dinners at the Drumstick restaurant sometimes seemed even better.

Youth sports (boys and girls) are still going strong in Louisville through the volunteer efforts of many people. Without a doubt the area high school teams have benefited from the guidance, enthusiasm, and expertise given by youth coaches and parents. Competitive sports have played a major role in the history of Louisville and the roots are old and deep.

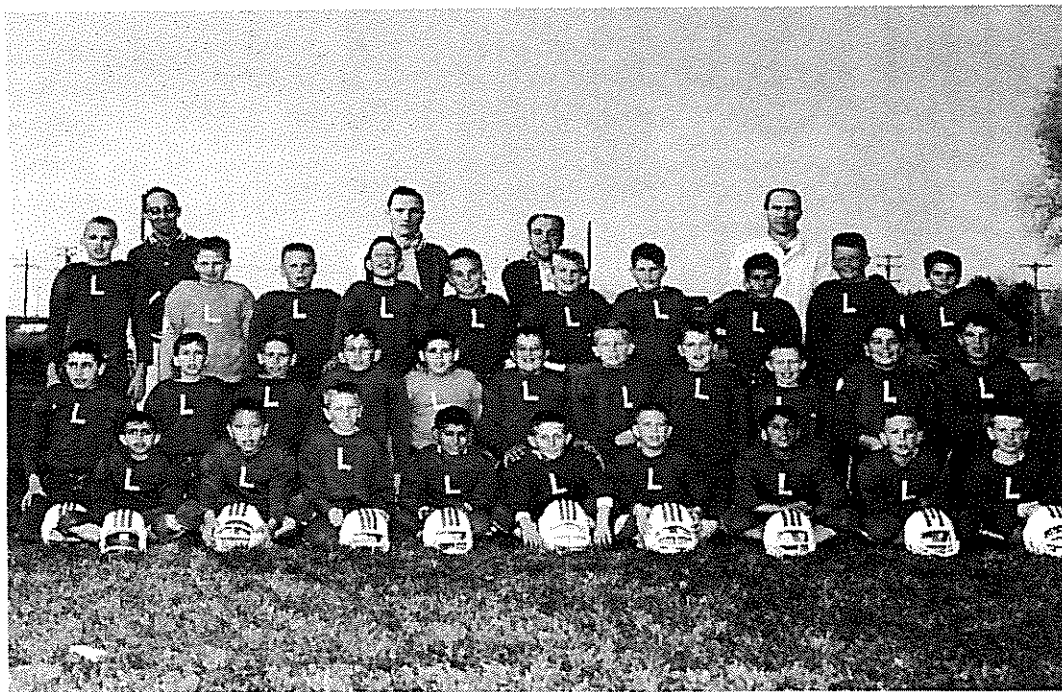
(Apologies are made for any names left out in the preceding story)

## Halo Scarpella

In speaking with the early organizers one name kept coming up over and over again. They said that without this man there would not have been a Little League program in the city of Louisville. **Halo Scarpella** worked hundreds of hours coaching, lining baseball fields, remodeling concession stands, attending meetings, budgeting for equipment, and arranging for umpires. Halo was the heart and soul of Louisville Little League and anyone who coached and played in the beginning or is doing so now owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

### 1963 Louisville Red Devils—Age Group 10 and 11

Coaches (L to R) Dick Franchini, Vern VanAckeren, Bobby Ross, Bill Buffo



## Memorial Donations

*Martha Beaufrey Harney, Mr. Angell, Wilbur Madonna, William  
Mizlikar, Nick DiGiallanardo, & Albert Martella*

### MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

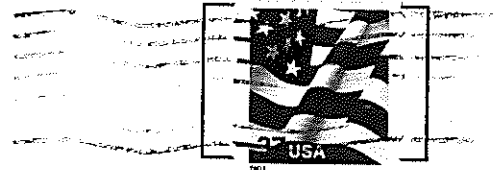
Thank you for your membership in the Louisville Historical Society. Your membership entitles you to a quarterly newsletter and an invitation to the Annual Membership Meeting. Each member contributes to the teaching, collecting, preserving, and interpreting of Louisville's unique history.

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



Louisville Public Library  
950 Spruce Street  
Louisville CO 80027