

The Louisville Historian

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LOUISVILLE SCHOOLS

The history of the Louisville schools is wide and varied. How many of you remember the little two room school on Front and Spruce where the library stands today? No One? How many remember the "Little Red School House" where the Art Center now stands on the corner of Spruce and Grant as their school? No One? How many of you remember going to grade school located on Jefferson and Spruce at Memory Square Park? Many of you, I bet. How many of you remember the high school on the corner of Garfield and Walnut? If you graduated from high school before 1940, you remember. How many of you remember going to Louisville Jr. and Sr. High School on Main Street, which is now the Louisville Middle School? If you graduated between 1940 and 1972 you went to school there. Some of you went to St. Louis Catholic School which is located at 900 Grant and still is there. The rest of you either graduated from Centaurus which had the first graduating class in 1973 or Louisville Monarch High School which had its first graduation class in 2001. If you didn't remember any of these schools—you must be new to Louisville.

The memories of schools and their locations are nostalgic to us all. People always ask questions about schools and where they were located. Schools do bring back some good memories to those who attended them and interest to those who didn't.

Years ago our first school was one room located on the corner of Spruce and Front Street. This school had one teacher who taught all grades. In 1908 a two story school was built on the corner of Jefferson and Spruce, thus the name of "Memory Square Park". This school housed the 3rd through 12th grade with the 1st and 2nd grade going to the

Little Red School House on the Corner of Spruce and Grant now the Arts Center. The high school was on the second floor of the school. Located on the east and west side of the 2nd story, were fire escapes and these escapes were large slides. When the new high school was built on the corner of Garfield and Walnut, the existing school downstairs had the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades and a multi-purpose room. The upstairs had the 4th, 5th and 6th grade and a music room. With the windows whistling in the wind and the building shaking, it was time for a new school to be built. The present Elementary School, on Hutchinson Street replaced this school in 1964. The bell that sits in front of the Louisville Elementary School is the same bell that was in the bell tower at the old grade school at Memory Square Park. As Louisville began to grow, more schools were needed and Coal Creek Elementary opened in 1983, Fireside Elementary in 1990 and Monarch, K-8 in 1996.

We also had another grade school, St. Louis Catholic School located at 900 Grant, the same site as the present school. It was a 4 room building, 1st through 8th—opened in 1905 by the Benedictine Nuns from Peoria, Illinois. The children that graduated from the 8th grade, went on to the Louisville High School.

The first Louisville Jr. and Senior High School was built about 1920 located on the corner of Garfield and Walnut. The school was a small two story building with the gym located in the basement. The second floor housed the 7th and 8th grades plus a multi purpose room used for the library and study hall and auditorium. The main floor housed classrooms for 9th through 12th grade. The students had to walk from that building to the Little Red School House that is now the Art Center, for industrial arts because there was no room for that program in the high

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LOOK INSIDE FOR A PEAK AT LIFE IN LOUISVILLE FIFTY YEARS AGO.

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school. The last graduating class from that high school was in June 1939. If you go by that location now, it is apartments but looks exactly as the school did in the 30's.

In October 1939, a new high school opened and it was built by the Work Project Administration, WPA, located at 1300 Main Street and Lafayette Street. That school is presently the Louisville Middle School. The building looks the same only additions have been made to the north. The school seemed so large at the time, with classrooms upstairs and on the main floor with industrial arts in the basement. The auditorium and gym were on the main floor and the students now had lockers for their books, something they never had before. The football field is still in the same location, where the Louisville Pirates held many championship games. The track is also in the same location. In 1972 the last class graduated from Louisville High School. A big alumni dance was held for the first graduating class in Louisville in 1907 to the last in 1972. A book listing all of the graduates from 1907 to 1972 was published. It was called "The Last Voyage" and a copy was given to each person who attended the dance. A copy of "The Last Voyage" is presently located at the Louisville Historical Museum.

The students from Louisville started Centaurus in September 1972 which was considered Louisville, Lafayette High School located on South Boulder Road. In 1998, we again have a high school in Louisville named Monarch. The school campus comprised of a grade school, middle school and high school and was named after the Monarch Mine which was located near by, to depict the heritage of the Louisville Area, thus the Monarch Campus, as it is called.

Growth had come, more buildings have been built, but nothing is more nostalgic or interesting than the history of schools. As I mentioned at the beginning, the history of the Louisville schools is wide and varied, this is just one interpretation. I hope this article recalls great memories for some and information for others.

*Contributed by Historical Commission
Member Virginia Caranci*

*From The Louisville Times,
February 7, 1952:*

***FALSE PUBLICITY BRINGS CLAMP
ON GAMBLING, ANONYMOUS
PHONE CALL DUPES 2 DENVER
PAPERS WITH TALE OF FIGHT***

The lid is clamped on gambling in Louisville, according to local officers who dismantled all the gambling equipment in the pool halls here and said there will be no more gambling here. The action came on the heels of false rumors published in two Denver daily newspapers Saturday about gambling involving thousands of dollars and a fight among "big gamblers" in which one of them was knifed Friday. The Louisville officers declared the story false, saying there was no fight and no dices thrown. John Dionigi, town clerk, and Bill Leslie, town marshal, thoroughly investigated the reported affair. All reports they got from persons who were there bear out the same story. Two men from Denver came into Louisville Friday afternoon with intentions to gamble, but they got into an argument which never got past the name calling stage, and after making peace with each other, the men got in their car to go back to Denver. The two metropolitan papers, *THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS* and *THE DENVER POST*, proved themselves gullible in that they accepted and published a story turned in by an anonymous phone call, and failed to check for facts. The sheriff also received a call from *THE DENVER POST* telling him that a delegation of Louisville men headed by Art Hobson was up in arms and were going to descend on the sheriff's office demanding that the whole thing be cleared up. Another false rumor. *THE DENVER POST* called Hobson about noon Saturday and were assured the rumor had no foundation, but they went ahead anyway and printed that evening the same story carried by the *NEWS* in the morning. Sammy Weingart, the man reported to have been knifed in the brawl, went to the *NEWS* office Saturday and demonstrated that he had not be cut or stabbed. The *NEWS* cleared him Sunday morning but were still convinced there had been a fight.

*From The Louisville Times,
January 31, 1952:*

ALLEYS AND GARBAGE ARE NEXT

The story in the Times last week about Louisville's fine water plant and good water immediately drew an unexpected response from one source. No sooner had the papers been delivered than one man came to the Times office saying it was fine that Jay B. Mead, county sanitarian, had said the Louisville water filter plant was the best in Boulder County, but he had also said that Louisville's alleys were the dirtiest in the county.

Okay - we will not argue that point with anyone. But, we will say it is time for Louisville to get busy about that very thing and clean it up. Sewers will go a long way toward cleaning the town, but Louisville must not stop there for there are still the alleys, the chicken and rabbit pens, and the garbage to take care of before the sanitation problem is licked.

And licked it must be - and now - for the town is constantly under inspection by prospective home owners and business people. Nothing will queer Louisville's prospects for the future more than lack of sanitation. We can promise people, provided we have the opportunity to talk to them when they are making their inspections, that the unsightly outdoor toilets (to do them the honor of a polite name) will gradually disappear with the advent of sewers. But what can we tell them about the rest of the sanitation story? Is there any hope on that score?

Several times the problem of garbage disposal has cropped up in the town's business and at various times men have propositioned the town board about contracts to collect garbage and haul trash from the town regularly - some with very good deals for the town - but for some unexplained reason or reasons these deals have always fallen flat and nothing is ever done.

About a year ago Mr. Mead conducted a survey of the town for a rat eradication program, but apparently it entailed too much of a clean up campaign to get it across in the town and was abandoned without ever being put into effect. In that survey, Mr. Mead turned up some shameful evidence of unsanitary conditions in the town -

most of which was never made public for self evident reasons. In order for the rat eradication campaign to do any good, cooperation on all sanitation problems was necessary. For to spread poison; to kill off some of the rats while breeding places and feeding spots were maintained was not common sense. It might give a little temporary relief, but not enough to amount to anything in a drive to rid the town of rats which are disease carriers and destroyers of property which runs into enormous unbelievable sums in the nation every year.

That is the story in the past. Now Louisville is looking to a new era - one of growth and prosperity. If this hope is to be realized, the old Louisville must do considerable face lifting and one of the most important places to start is with sanitation and unsightly trash.

Right now is the best time of the year to work alleys for there is no weed growth to cover the litter that has collected there. The town should sponsor and pay for a campaign to scour every alley in the town and then demand through and ordinance that persons living on properties adjoining the alleys keep them clear of trash, garbage and litter of any sort. The weeds in those alleyways could and should be kept down during the summer by periodic cutting by the town power mower.

Then to follow up the town program to clean up the alleys, householders should take pride in the back end of their lots and clear away all the debris that has been collecting there through the year - trash of absolutely no value - and keep the back door to their property as presentable as they do the front entrance - and most Louisville householders do take pride in their front yards.

Another step imperative in Louisville's preparation for growth is garbage disposal. We can't stick our heads in the sand any longer on this problem. It is impossible for any community of persons living in close proximity to remain sanitary and clean if disposal of garbage is left up to each household. The only solution is regular hauling of garbage. This is a matter for the town board to take hold of and keep after it until it is settled. This is not a program to be supplied at town expense, but one for every householder to pay his share. It is an absolute necessity and we must accept it as such and do something about it immediately.

THE MUSEUM CORNER

Carol Gleeson
Museum Coordinator

Happy 2002! Museum staff and Historical Commission members are looking forward to another good year at the Louisville Historical Museum. The year of 2002 promises to be as busy and interesting as last year. With the welcome addition of the Jordinelli House and the growing list of donations, life at the Museum promises to be filled with new challenges and exciting possibilities. We invite you to visit the Museum and to share in the excitement.

January 2002 brings new changes to the membership of the Historical Commission. The Commission says good-bye to a long-standing member and hello to a new member. Dick Franchini, who served on the Commission since April 1992, will not be returning to the Historical Commission. Dick's contributions extended beyond his work on the Commission to countless hours of cataloging donations at the Museum. Dick will be sorely missed by all of us who worked with him.

The Historical Commission welcomes Alice Koerner as the newest member of the Commission. On January 15, 2002, Mayor Tom Davidson and City Council Members appointed Alice Koerner to the Historical Commission. Alice is a 1981 graduate of Centaurus High School and has lived in Louisville for seventeen years. Welcome Alice!

As of January 2002, *The Louisville Historian* will have a new look. Members of the Historical Commission will be contributing editors to the winter and spring editions of the newsletters. Ron Buffo will continue to be the editor for the summer and fall editions. We hope you enjoy the variety in the quarterly newsletters.

The Louisville Historical Museum is honored to be a part of the Women of the West Museum's history trail project. The project, "Revealing our Routes: Women of Boulder County," explores the contributions, accomplishments, and challenges of women throughout Boulder County. The project will include an illustrated trail map, a K-12 curriculum guide, and a web site with links to biographies and photographs. The Louisville Historical Museum and the Louisville Library will

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

Lifetime Members

Toots DiLorenzo

Yearly Members

Jack Bowes

Maribeth G. Bosko

Saturday Study Club

Sally Burlingame

The above names consist of recent membership in the Louisville Historical Society during the months of February and March. We apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please contact the museum if you have corrections to the above list of names.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of:

**Charles K. Thomas, John Bosko, and
Varena Marie DeSantis**

be institutions highlighted on the trail map. The anticipated launch date of this project is March 15, 2002. The Museum has started preparing special exhibits that feature women in Louisville who have made significant contributions to history.

In closing, I want to thank Betty Buffo and Isabelle Hudson for their continued support in the Museum. Their volunteer work is essential to the caring and exhibiting of the Museum collection. Betty and Isabelle recently identified and inventoried over 150 oral history cassette tapes that were recorded in the late 1970s. As a result of their efforts, these tapes are available to the public for research or personal interest. Thank you, Betty and Isabelle, for all of your great work!

DONATIONS

The Louisville Historical Museum has received the following donations from January - mid-April. We sincerely appreciate these recent donations.

- *Jean Morgan*, Wooden spools of thread and boxes of laundry starch
- *Rita Ferrera*, Cloth sugar bags and a variety of books and documents from the Royal Neighbors
- *Paula Enrietto*, 1850s blouse and skirt, 1915 patent, 1908 pay statement, and a variety of photographs and containers for food and medicine
- *Dave Ferguson*, Matchbooks from the Three Coins Restaurant and a medicine tin
- *Don Ross*, Two photographs of Louisville High School, 1922 and 1925, and tools
- *Frank Yakes*, Photographs and documents from the Hi-Way Mine
- *Marilyn LaSalle*, Coal mining booklets, hats, and household items from the estate of James and Mary DiGiacomo
- *Betty Schmoll*, Louisville High School report cards, photograph, and Order of Red Men commemorative badge
- *Betty Buffo*, Photographs of Kate Allera's Store and Main Street (1940s)
- *Tim Feaver*, Leather ski boots
- *Esther Ambrose*, Framed composite of students from the Louisville High School Class of 1959
- *Harrison C. Wroton*, Phonograph record titled "Dick Hull at the Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Organ" recorded at the Three Coins Restaurant
- *Glenn & Aline Steinbaugh*, 1932 letter to the State Historical Society

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 for an individual, family, group, or business is \$10.00. A Lifetime Membership is \$50.00. 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.

Call the Museum at 303-665-9048 or write to us at Louisville Historical Museum, 749 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado, 80027. Please remember to include 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. Make checks payable to Louisville Historical Society.

Museum Wish List

A special thanks to Historical Society Members, *Betty Buffo, Dave Ferguson, Marilyn LaSalle, Jean Morgan, Don Ross, and Glenn & Aline Steinbaugh* who recently donated to the Museum. Their donations are wonderful additions to the Museum collection. If you have any of the items listed below, please call 303-665-9048 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, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1964 -1971

HAPPENINGS IN LOUISVILLE 50 YEARS AGO FROM THE LOUISVILLE TIMES OF 1952

Jan. 31 - *Color Newsreels Coming to Movie Theaters* - The year ahead will bring to your neighborhood movie house a preview of something brand new-color newsreels. A motion picture called "Royal Journey" detailing the visit of Britain's Princess Elizabeth and her consort The Duke of Edinburgh to the United States and Canada will be released shortly. It is the first film made using a new Eastman Kodak color photography process which eliminates which eliminates the need for bright sunshine and shows color in its natural tones.

April 24 - *Mike Colacci Brings Bride From Italy* - Mike Colacci and his bride, whom he married in Italy, arrived home Monday. They are staying at the home of his son Joe and are redecorating their home at 537 Main where they will move next week.

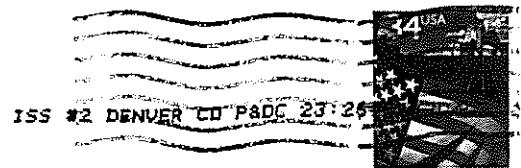
June 12 - *Telephone Rates Increased: No Fee Between Louisville and Lafayette.* Starting Monday; June 9, telephone calls between Louisville and Lafayette will no longer have a toll charge, Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph, announced yesterday. The enlarged calling area is designed to meet the increasing social and business interests among the people of the two communities. Elimination of the toll charges will also tend to make the service between the two communities faster.

Louisville Historical Museum

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Hours:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays
&
the first Saturday of every month
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Louisville Historical Society
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Louisville Public Library
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