

RECEIVED
DEC 30 2005

THE MUSEUM CORNER

We continue to upgrade the museum buildings and are in the process of taking bids to have the large building resided. Four steel cabinets have been purchased and placed in the basement for storage and two sets of shelves were obtained to display items. Bids are also being obtained to have the museum house air conditioned.

We would like to thank Dick Biella and Eugene and Virginia Caranci for their recent donations. Dick donated a metal ice box that has been placed in the Tomeo house and Eugene and Virginia have donated a picture of the Industrial Mine Coal Camp.

A proposal has been presented to the City to have a paid person in the museum for a minimum of six hours and a maximum of 20 hours per week.

Meredyth Muth has taken over Sara Godshalk's position as liaison between the City and the Commission.

The Christmas ornaments have been poured and work will begin on them in mid-July.

Bob Enrietto has enlisted in the help of his daughter, Paula, to make a sign for the house that reads "Louisville Historical Museum, Miner's House."

Marion is working on a memorial plaque for Eileen.

An epitaph inscribed on a bronze plate will accompany the names of all men whose lives were lost in the Monarch mine explosion and will be placed near the Jaramillo marker.

The museum was open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 13 for the Taste of Louisville. Unfortunately, the weather was windy but turnout was fairly good.

**LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- Virginia Caranci*.....666-6235
- Frank Domenico*.....666-6233
- Robert Enrietto*.....666-4145
- Dave Ferguson*.....666-6000
- Richard Franchini*.....666-6272
- Marion Junior*.....666-8283
- Donald Ross*.....666-6836
- Patricia Seader*.....666-8385
- Cassandra Volpe*.....665-8542

IN MEMORY OF

JOE SANTI

ESTHER DELFORGE

NAWATNY ANCESTOR VISITS LOUISVILLE

David Nawatny, great-grandson of Louis Nawatny, founder of Louisville, and his wife Gail visited Louisville over the fourth of July weekend.

Nawatny, who works for the Kellogg Company in Battle Creek, Michigan remembered his father telling stories of how his great-grandfather was the founder of small town in Colorado.

Several years ago he found a Web site for genealogy and typed in Nawatny and it went to Boulder County. He was excited to learn about Louisville. His wife, Gail, suggested that he call the Louisville library to obtain a copy of the book "The Louisville Story," which was written by Carolyn Conarro. Nawatny was able to contact Carolyn through the help of the librarian and they decided to visit Louisville.

Nawatny found an 1880 census recorded in Denver with his great-grandfather's name, but it goes no further. He platted Louisville in 1878. He is hoping to obtain additional information through another Nawatny that he discovered over the Internet and, perhaps, by tracing Nawatny's wife, Kathinka Kroeger, back to St. Louis, Missouri.

During the Nawatny's six day visit, they visited a railroad museum in Golden, as his great-grandfather worked for the railroad, hoping to find more clues and information regarding their heritage. They attended the Night Out in downtown and visited the Louisville Library.

A reception and open house was held in their honor on the evening of July 3. It was sponsored by the Historical Commission and the Louisville Times. The newspaper provided delicious food for the occasion there were many people in attendance. They were given souvenirs representing Louisville and its history including t-shirts from the Chamber, Carolyn's book, post cards, stationery, and a Louisville pin.

On the Fourth of July, the Nawatny's met with city

officials in Memory Square Park, where they were again welcomed to the town.

During their trip back home, the Nawatny's planned to stop in Omaha, Nebraska and look through the Union Pacific archives searching for more information on Louis Nawatny. David's main curiosity is where his great-grandfather was finally laid to rest.

The Commission is talking about making David an honorary member.

MAYHOFFER PROPERTY



The Mayhoffer house built east of Louisville along the banks of Coal Creek, may, indeed, be the oldest Louisville building on record. Carpenter's remodeling the house have uncovered a cornerstone with the year 1870 on it.

Although historians knew the house belonged to the Kerr family, they didn't know when it was built. David Kerr, believed to be one of the first settler's in Louisville, built it as a boarding house. Kerr's daughter, Isabella, married into the Mayhoffer family, who still own it. The house is quite charming with a beautiful porch which encompasses it, and sits among groves of trees next to the creek.

Kerr came to Louisville before it was known as Louisville in 1864 where he first built a rock house in order that his family have some kind of shelter while the boarding house was being built. This structure is surely older than the boarding house, however, there is no way of confirming the exact date of its construction.

Kerr moved his family here with the idea of farming the land, but when he began plowing his fields he discovered coal. He then contacted C. C. Welch Mining Co. who sent out Louis Nawatny to survey his property. Mr. Nawatny platted the town and named it after himself. Nawatny arrived here in 1869, five years after Kerr came here. Mr. Kerr paid \$1.50 per acre. He seemed to have an acute sense for business knowing that hundreds of miners would need somewhere to stay and then built the boarding house one year after Mr. Nawatny arrived.

The railroad also added to Mr. Kerr's prosperity when it was built two years later. It still runs along its original easement close to the Mayhoffer property.

Mr. Matt Louy was the carpenter who discovered the cornerstone during his work. Another cornerstone was found but had severely eroded and they were unable to see the date inscribed on it.

John Mayhoffer, the current owner of the home, said the porch was added on in about 1920. Mr. Louy has replaced the porch and says the house itself is in good

shape sitting on the original foundation which is two feet thick of stone and mortar. New footers have been poured to add support to the 127 year old home. The original porch's concrete shows little wear and tear, so the new porch was placed directly on top.

Mr. Mayhoffer has stated that as a little boy he once crawled underneath the porch while they were building it trying to find the cornerstone, but was unable to see it without the aid of a flashlight and the matches he used only set cobwebs on fire forcing him to exit in haste.

This is a fascinating discovery for anyone interested in Louisville's history. The work on the house continues and it will be wonderful to see the finished product. The remodeling project will make the already sturdy house even stronger with the help of modern tools tying the house to the frame making movement of the foundation more difficult.

LOUISVILLE PARKS & SCHOOLS

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

As a result of an increase in the population of the town, more classrooms were needed by the students attending the public school which was located at Memory Square Park, so in 1905, the red brick building was constructed across the street on the west corner of Grant and Spruce Streets. First and second graders attended classes in this building and high school classes were held upstairs in the main school across the street.

In 1920, a new high school was built at the corner of Garfield and Walnut Streets. Manual training (industrial arts) and home economics were added to the curriculum. Because there was no space provided for the manual training classes in the high school building, these classes were held in the "little red schoolhouse" until 1939 when a new high school located on North Main Street (Louisville Middle School) was built by the WPA. The "little red schoolhouse" served many purposes during the next several years.

In the 1960's the Louisville Lion's Club undertook the task of remodeling the building. They added a kitchen, a bath, cleaned up the inside, painting and refinishing the floors, and etc. The Club held meetings there on the first and third Mondays of each month.

The building was known as the Community Center for many years. Many social activities took place there during the 1960's and 1970's. Every Friday evening a "teen" dance, sponsored by various parents was held. Often local bands provided the music for dancing. Several scout groups held meetings there and other organizations held activities in the building regularly. There was a tennis court next door which was widely used.

During the period when the present city hall was being built, the Louisville Public Library was housed in this building.

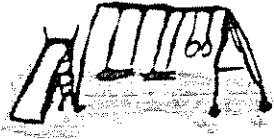
For many years, until the Louisville Recreation

Center was completed, the building was the location of the Senior Center, where many of their activities took place. The Art and Humanities group and many local artists and craftsmen also exhibited their work there.

Ironically, the building is now used as a preschool for children preparing to enter elementary school.

MEMORY SQUARE PARK

In 1880,



construction of a new school housed at the site of Memory Square Park was begun. It was to be a two story building with classrooms upstairs, and the first floor was to be used

as a social center for the town. At that time, the center of the town was quite a distance to the east of this location which was prairie and farmland. Many felt it was too far and the construction of the building became very controversial. There were reports that construction was delayed for sometime, however, by the end of April 1881, the first wing of the school house was completed and the first of many community dances was held downstairs.

The entrance to the classrooms upstairs was on the east side of the building. Due to an increase in population, an additional wing was built, probably by the Fischer Construction Company in 1903. The main door faced south instead of east and a bell tower was also added.

Hundreds of children attended grade school in this building. In the 1930's, in observance of Arbor Day in May, the students planted trees around the border of the grounds. Each class wrote something about the events that were taking place at that time, enclosed it in a bottle, and placed it in the hole where the tree was to be planted.

In 1962, after a new elementary school was constructed on Hutchinson Street, the old school was condemned as unsafe. The building was demolished and Memory Square park became the first major park in Louisville.

It is an ideal location for those living in the older sections of town and is a very busy place during the summer. The bocce courts, swimming pool, and playground provide a variety of activities.

PIRATES PARK

Pirates Park is located on Lafayette street near the Louisville Middle School. It is owned by the school district, but is maintained by the city and has been used as a park since the early 1950's. The members of the Louisville Lions Club constructed the shelter house and fireplace at the site during those early years.

Jack and Larella Stout donated the large blue spruce tree which stands there and for a few years the Lions

Club passed out Christmas treats to the children of the town at this location. It was decided that it would be safer for this activity to take place at the park rather than on Main Street where it had been held for many years. It was moved back to Main Street after a few years because of poor attendance. Tennis courts were added in the 1960's and playground equipment was installed. It was again remodeled in the 1980's where safer and modern equipment replaced the old.

Many young people attending classes at the nearby school ate their lunch there during those early days.

Almost every weekend during the summer the park is filled with people from Friday night until Sunday night. It is also the site of many family picnics.

MINERS FIELD

The land where Miner's Field now stands was originally owned by John Balanti. It was used as a baseball field before 1890. A wooden fence surrounded it where The Rocky Mountain News and The Denver Post were both advertised.

Neighbors later tore the fence down and used the lumber for shed in their yards.

Dixie Elrod had another fence built and the same thing happened.

There was no fence around the field when it was used as a playing field by the high school.

During the early years, Lawrence Mossoni let the teams use his store to dress in and keep their equipment.

Ky Brown and Shorty James were two early team managers.

The old field had bleachers on the east side. A bandstand was located on the west side and there was a band concert after the games. Mr. Jacoe and Mr. Jannuci were two members of this early band.

The field was neglected for a number of years.

In the 1960's, Dixie Elrod, Bob Ferrari, and Dick Franchini had a drive to improve the field.

They collected money and were instrumental in having the lights installed and the field improved.

For many years little league football, baseball, softball, and the annual 4th of July fireworks were held at the field.

BENNY PHILLIPS -- LOUISVILLE LEGEND

By Ron Buffo

The mines in and around Louisville provided a basic income for many families but also brought death and very often disabling injury upon others. While not everyone was touched by the consequences of hazards in the mines, it is easy for old timers to recall many occurrences where lives were either ruined or snuffed out in the dark, cold caverns. Once such occurrence involved a truly amazing young man named Benny Phillips whose life would be drastically

changed because of a mine accident.

Born on August 20, 1913, Louisville. Benny Phillips was to grow into a strong, hardworking, athletic young man who would become well-known for his prowess in track and skill in baseball. After high school, Benny played two years of professional baseball with the Saint Louis Cardinals and later for the local Centennial Coal baseball team and was admired as a hard hitting outfielder with great speed. In fact, Benny was capable of running the 100 yard dash in 10 seconds flat. Benny loved sports and excelled in all that he participated in.

Benny, the son of Harvey and Ella Phillips, was two years old when his father was killed in the infamous Ludlow Massacre. Ella and her three children, Benny, Orville, and Hazel would soon form another family when Ella married Steve Fotis. From that bond would come four children; Dorothy, Sylvia, Helen, and Stanley. Ironically, Stanley would die in a mine accident in 1942.

In 1940, Benny was working in the Centennial Mine southeast of Louisville. On Tuesday, November 18, Benny and three of his buddies had signed up for military duty in naval aviation and were to report for duty the following Monday. On Wednesday, November 20, 1940, Benny Phillips reported for his last day of work at the mine and the beginning of the most difficult struggle he would ever encounter. In Benny's own words, "It was the very last minute of the very last hour on the mine job that a runaway 18-car coal train smashed me up against a tunnel wall." Benny was riding the coal train to the exit of the mine when the train went out of control. He tried to jump into a side tunnel, but missed and was immediately pinned against the side of the tunnel with only 3 inches separating him and the coal cars. As the cars went past him, he was rolled 54 feet down the tunnel and in the process was pinned and crushed by 17 of the 18 cars. Incredibly, Benny was still alive, but just barely. His left arm was cut off near the shoulder, five vertebrae in his spine were crushed together, all the flesh had been ripped off of his back and legs, a hip and leg were broken and a cut on his forehead would require 24 stitches. When he was brought to the surface, it seemed apparent that Benny Phillips would die soon. He was rushed to Boulder Sanitarium Hospital where he received eight blood transfusions that night and tried to hang on to life.

After the first week, Benny stabilized and when he emerged from, as he called it the "black hole of pain," he painfully questioned why he was allowed to live. Not only would Benny go on to live, but his attitude and determination would be an inspiration to everyone.

Benny's stay at Boulder Sanitarium would be for a period of eight years and all of those years would be spent lying on his stomach. Early on, the pain would be almost intolerable and his physical condition deteriorated. Before the accident, Benny weighed 183 pounds. He would eventually reach bottom at 100 pounds. Because of the

incredible trauma to his back and legs, Benny was forced to undergo numerous skin grafts. In many places there was just skin covering bone since the muscle had been torn away.

In spite of all this and faced with the likelihood that he would never walk again, Benny was determined to see this through and make the best of a truly negative situation. According to Benny, the next eight years were rough. "I spent them in bed, lying on my face, while doctors forced flesh to grow on my legs and back. In my heart, I was determined that someday I would sit up again, that I would be out of that hospital bed, that I would take care of myself.

Not long after Benny's accident, the Fotis family moved to Boulder to be closer to him. Benny's mother, Ella, would make daily trips to the hospital for the entire time he was there. In addition, there was an outpouring of goodwill from the citizens of Louisville and Lafayette. There always seemed to be visitors to his room who most often brought gifts, food, and reading material to him. During Christmas, it was not unusual for people to bring in as many as four or five Christmas trees, which Benny would usually give away to other families.

Being such an avid sports fan, it became a tradition that Benny Phillips would attend the annual Louisville/Lafayette football game. He would arrive by ambulance and would view the game from one end of the field so as not to show any bias toward one team or the other. At other times, Benny would be taken to Fort Collins for a high school football game or to the Army All-Stars versus the Chicago Cards.

After spending eight years in the hospital, most of them on his stomach, Benny was given the opportunity to travel to California where he might possibly have surgery on his spine. On his departure, he was given two Louisville Slugger baseball bats with autographs of the 1949 World Series players. Benny's destination was Kabot-Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, California. The many surgeries eventually enabled Benny to use a bucket type crutch, but he would constantly rely on his wheel chair.

While in California, Benny enrolled in a business program at the University of Southern California and was eventually hired by the Kaiser Foundation as a purchasing agent.

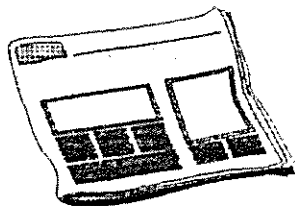
Benny was married to Rosalie Hitchner on December 17, 1955. He and his wife would remain in California for the rest of his life. Benny made a few visits to Colorado and whenever he came back, everyone remembered him and saw cause for celebrating with him. After all, Benny was the epitome of courage and perseverance and his example was a guidepost for everyone.

Two years before his death, Benny's health began to deteriorate and he was unable to work. The massive injuries his body sustained were finally catching up with him. Benny died in 1962, having lived twenty-two years longer than the doctor's believed he would.

We can still benefit from the inspiration of Benny

Phillips today. In his own words:

PERSEVERE, HAVE FAITH, VISUALIZE, YOU CAN'T MISS



The following articles were taken from The Black Diamond World, Louisville, Boulder County, Colo., July 10, 1909.

THE FOURTH

The day in Louisville was appropriately observed, many amusements and attractions being on the program. No arrests, no disorderly conduct by any one and no accidents--a regular old time Fourth celebration.

The float parade was not so large but it did credit to the occasion. The judges were undecided as to which was the most attractive and divided the prize between Prof. Hessler and Mr. Steinbaugh.

The horseless carriage, a mule harnessed wrong end to in the shaves of a buggy and driven by James Connors, was awarded the prize as being the most comical. John Tartaglio took second comic prize with his wagon drawn by a William Goat.

The hose race was won by Erie, the Louisville team making the run in the shortest time but failed to get water.

The 100 yard race for men was won by Centerfield Brown, while V. Thirlaway took second place. Old man's race was won by H. D. Tobey while William McAllister came in for second.

Quoit contest was won by Adam Dixon. There were a number of other contests but we failed to get them.

Upon the whole all seemed to enjoy the sports in general and were well satisfied.

LOUISVILLE DOINGS

We did hate to be pulled up there alongside of them ugly old guies and would not have submitted only was sure of the box of cigars to be given by the Model theater Monday night to the ugliest man in the house, but to see that old mug. William Matlick given the box was too much, when there were Jim Butcher, Bob Tallon, Steve Rappa and oh, my, another fellow so ugly he had no name or no one scemed to know it. The judges (missjudges) were Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Tamao and Mrs. Rotolo. We should have had the cigars. Among those visiting the White City Wednesday afternoon were Mesdames. Zarina, Thirlaway, Kreiger and Black, Misses Austin, Morgan, Chambers, Fenolia and Messrs., Owen, Thirlaway, Black, Jones, Victor Thirlaway, Cinkers, Perkins and Wells.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Liddle and son of Ames, Iowa are here visiting for a few days. Mr. Liddle is engaged telegrapher and ticket agent for the Northwestern road at Ames. He is a brother to Mrs. Troyer.

Mrs. Irene Temple of Los Angeles, Cal., who came to Lafayette to attend the funeral of her father, John Simpson, is stopping a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Andy Teague and other friends of this place.

Little Miss Flora Metz is now pianist at the Model theater and for one so young she does excellent and if she continues to take lessons will excel in the art.

All members are requested to attend the joint installation of the officers of the Daughters of Pocahontas and Red Men Tuesday, July 13.

A party consisting of Messrs. and Mesdames. Powell, Hamilton, Kilker and Barrett picnicked at Eldorado Springs on Monday.

Dr. Nordlander and wife and R. Jay and wife of Boulder spent Monday with Dr. Slominski at the Louisville hospital.

Mrs. George Mink and family of Boulder were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Metz Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Sickman and little son Jimmie visited in Boulder last Sunday and Monday.

Anton Bilen is laid up at the Louisville hospital, suffering from sciatic rheumatism.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith returned Tuesday evening from a visit in Kansas.

Clyde Spencer visited with his sister and family, Mrs. M. C. Moore last Sunday.

George Wilson of Boulder was transacting business in this city Friday.

Mrs. F. J. Buchheit of Boulder spent the 4th with the Wolfers and Austins.

Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Moore and Miss Nina were at Eldorado Spgs. Monday.

Miss Edna Chambers and Felix Zurick spent Monday at Eldorado Springs.

John Oates of Denver spent the fourth in Louisville visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Johnson were guests at the White City Monday.

Mrs. A. Ranson of Nevada is visiting her sister Mrs. Ben Neihoff.

Mr. and Mrs. John Heilman were in Denver Monday.

IF YOU WISH FLOWERS

Work every day to keep the plants comfortable. They are like children--don't let them get lousy if you love them.

All non-bloomers should be stored in the cellar or other suitable place in order to give room to the flowering and foliage plants. Evaporation takes place slowly from tin cans

and glazed pots, and these may be used with advantage in the hot, dry air of the living room.

Azaleas object to lime water in any form or quantity. Try some other insecticide for ridding the soil of worms for this plant.

Look at the stored roots and bulbs. If there is any sign of decay remove the rotten spot and cover thickly with powdered charcoal.

Give plenty of sunshine these days. Curtains do not belong to windows where plants are kept. Roll up the shades; wash the glass.

At night draw the shade down between the plants and the window glass. On very cold nights wrap a blanket of paper around the plants.

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