

LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

A publication of the Louisville Historical Commission & Society
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Eileen Schmidt-Editor

MUSEUM CORNER

Members of the Historical Commission have spent the past few months finishing some of the projects that were started this past year. Both buildings were cleaned thoroughly, and some different artifacts have been put on display. Since there is so little storage space in our buildings most of our artifacts have to be crowded into exhibits. We are hoping to add some storage space to our buildings, but we have been unable to find a contractor who will undertake the work.

The Museums were open during the "Parade of Lights," December 2. All our porcelain Christmas ornaments were sold during the early part of the evening. A nativity set, hand-crafted by Marion Junior, was also raffled; and John Garcia, a former member of the Historical Commission, was the lucky winner. We have many requests for the Christmas ornaments throughout the year, and since we only craft one hundred of them, they sell quickly. The musical group "Broken Sixpence" played traditional music during the evening on antique musical instruments. Those visiting the museum enjoyed the music, and we would like to thank all our visitors for their continuing support.

The Museums weren't open during the holidays, but we have returned to our regular schedule and are open on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. or by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling any Commission member. We would like to thank Frank Domenico, who has been volunteering to help in the Museums. He has been a great deal of help to us and we appreciate it. If anyone is interested in volunteering to work with us, please contact any Commission member.

Few artifacts are given to us during the holiday season so we would like to remind everyone to call us if you have artifacts that you care to donate.

The "History of Louisville" video is now available for purchase at the Museum; the price is \$18.00.

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMEBERS

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<i>Dave Ferguson</i>	666-6000
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LOOKING BACK ON 1994

Looking back at 1994, we are pleased with the work that has been accomplished by the Louisville Historical Commission. Each January our Commission is asked to select a person to be awarded the "Pioneer Award" at the annual Chamber of Commerce awards banquet. In 1994, Lewton (Lute) McCorkle was selected to be the recipient of this award. Mr. McCorkle was a member of a pioneer family and was the owner of a grocery store in Louisville. He was a good friend to the miners, extending them credit when the mines were not in production. Mrs. Vera Taylor, a cousin of Mr. McCorkle, accepted the award on behalf of his daughter, Patricia Gelwick of Boulder, and her family. Mrs. Taylor taught in the Louisville High School for many years, and is a well-known member of our community.

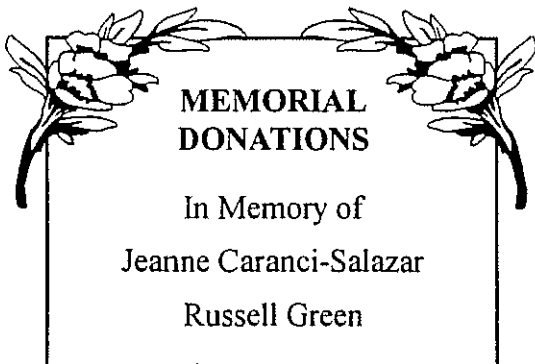
We were unable to find a contractor who would build a roof over the space between our two buildings so this project was not completed. Don Ross is continuing to pursue this particular undertaking, and we are hopeful that this work can be completed soon.

It was decided to hold the "Taste of Louisville" on June 11 this year instead of in August when many other activities were scheduled to take place. The Museums held an open house on this date, and several gift certificates from local businesses as well as some other items were provided for a silent auction. This proved to be a very successful fundraiser for us. Many people visited the buildings, and the "Broken Sixpence" performed in the front yard of the house. A few people were seen dancing to the music.

The Historical Commission received a grant from the proceeds of the gambling in Colorado this year. Cassandra Volpe completed the paperwork necessary to apply for the grant and assumed responsibility for seeing the project through to completion. The negatives of the photos which have been given to us have always been on file at the library along with the pictures. The grant was obtained to make another copy of the negatives and to also make prints of those pictures we do not have in our files at the Museum. We will now have the photos available at both the library and the Museum. Cassandra has worked very diligently on this project, and it will be completed soon.

Virginia Caranci chose not to seek reappointment to the Historical Commission. She was the only member to have served on the Commission

—continued on page 3



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PIONEER AWARD—1994

The Pioneer Award for 1994 was presented in memory of Father Benedict Ingenito, a priest of the Benedictine Order who was pastor of St. Louis Catholic Church from August 1933 until March 1946 when ill health forced him to return to the Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City, Colorado.

Benedict Ingenito was born in Greensbury, Pennsylvania, on October 7, 1886, the son of Italian immigrants. He had a brother living in Greensbury and two sisters living in Chicago, Illinois, at the time of his death. He attended the local grade school in Greensbury, and later enrolled at St. Vincent's college and seminary. He entered the novitiate of St. Vincent's archabbey in 1905, and took his solemn vows in 1909. Father Benedict became an ordained priest on July 2, 1912, and sang his first mass in his hometown of Greensbury, PA.

After his ordination he went into parish work, and was named pastor of the Italian parish in Jeanette, PA. Father Benedict spoke very fluent Italian, and was able to converse with his parishioners in their native tongue. Following his assignment in Jeanette, he organized a new parish of the Ascension in 1917 and built the first church there. In 1922 Father Benedict transferred to Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City, and became pastor of St. Leander's parish in Pueblo. After spending a year in that parish, he was recalled to the Abbey and was made sub-prior. This assignment was followed by his appointment to St. Anne's shrine in Arvada from 1923 to 1927. After spending four years in Arvada, he was reassigned as pastor to St. Leander's parish in Pueblo where he remained until 1933 when he was transferred to St. Louis parish in Louisville to serve as pastor.

Father Benedict was held in highest regard by the St. Louis parishioners. Reverend Leonard Schwinn, of the Canon City Abbey received the following letter dated June 11, 1934, from Herman Winkler, Recording Secretary of the Knights of St. John, informing him of how well pleased the members of the St. Louis parish were with the work of Father Benedict:

Dear Rev. Father,

It gives us great pleasure to inform you of the wonderful work our Pastor the Rev. Benedict Ingenito, O.S.B. has done for St. Louis Church.

In the short time he has been pastor here, he had many people, young and old, return to the church, some of whom have been away for at least twenty years.

He is well liked by all, Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

Our parochial school ranks with any in the state, due to his interest in the school and the children in general.

It is our earnest hope he can stay with us for years to come, for we feel certain under his guidance St. Louis parish will prosper.

With best personal wishes, I beg to remain yours

Very Sincerely,

Mr. Herman W. Winkler

Louisville, Colorado

Rec. Secty. of K of St. John

Father Benedict was completely dedicated to improving the conditions of St. Louis parish. When he arrived here in Louisville during the month of August 1933, services were being held in the old frame church located at the northwest corner of LaFarge and Walnut streets. This building was built in 1884 by the Very Reverend Godfrey Raber. The congregation had begun to realize that construction of a new church would soon become necessary. In 1935, Father Benedict, with the help of the parishioners, held the first bazaar. The proceeds of this activity were earmarked for a new church building fund. The bazaar became an annual affair for the next several years and the entire community participated. It was held at the Redman Hall located at the corner of Grant and Walnut Streets across from the present church. Game booths for children were erected, the women of the parish donated fancy work and foodstuffs to be sold, a raffle was held and there were other activities. The highlight of the bazaar was the chicken dinner which was prepared and served by the women of the parish in the Redman Hall at noon on Sunday. A typical menu for the dinner consisted of: fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, pickles, sliced tomatoes, cinnamon apples, beets, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, celery, rolls, jelly, ice cream, cake and coffee—all this for the price of 50¢ for adults and 25¢ for children. Before the last bazaar was held the price had risen to \$1.50 for adults and 75¢ for children. Approximately one hundred women of the parish cleaned and dressed 250 chickens which had

been donated by farmers in the area. Because of the lack of proper refrigeration, the chickens had to be prepared shortly before they were to be cooked. All the food for this feast was donated. This was a tremendous undertaking for the people of St. Louis, but they were encouraged and helped by Father Benedict who worked side by side with members of his congregation. In 1946, the bazaar was dedicated to Father Benedict in recognition of his devotion to obtaining a new church and school for the St. Louis parish. The bazaar continued to be held each year until 1957, when only the dinner was served because interest in the other activities had dwindled.

Construction of the new church began in August 1940 and was completed that winter when the first services were held there on December 22. The church is located at 902 Grant and is still in use, although work of enlarging the structure will soon take place. This brick structure was designed in the Romanesque style with a red tile roof and a beautiful bell tower at the rear of the building. The total cost of construction was reported to be \$26,000. The ornate leaded glass windows in the church were purchased by various members of the congregation as memorials to their families. These beautiful windows have remained in the church. On June 28, 1942, the "new" church was dedicated by Archbishop Vehr. After the church was completed Father Benedict and his parish turned their energies to creating a fund for a new school building to replace the one built in 1905 and the proceeds of the bazaar were to be used for this purpose. The goal for completion of the new school was 1947, but due to the war, materials became scarce and there was a delay. According to Father Benedict's original plan, the building would have an auditorium for entertainment and a basement with rooms to be used for meetings. His plans were never really completed. Father Benedict not only served the St. Louis parish, but also became an active, productive member of the community, during the latter years of the depression and during World War II. Two of his pet projects were the collection of waste paper and scrap metal which were items used in the war effort. Many times because help was scarce Father could be found in the church basement bundling the papers by himself. He was also very active in other community affairs, serving as president of the Lions Club and working not only with the Boy Scouts, but also other youth programs within the town. He proved to be of great comfort to those who had loved ones serving in the armed forces. Early in 1946 when it was learned that he was a victim of cancer and it became apparent that his health was failing rapidly, he returned to the Holy Cross Abbey where he spent the rest of his days. After his return to the Abbey, he often expressed his happiness at being with his brothers once more. He often spoke of his regret that he had been separated from his brother monks during his many years of parish work. His parish work, accomplished under his vow of obedience, brought much satisfaction and happiness into his life also.

During the final weeks of his life, Father Benedict's pain became more and more intense, but he was always a model of patience and others noted that he seldom made even a small complaint. His last few months at the Abbey were spent working on his stamp collection which was one of the largest and most valuable in the state of Colorado. Often on weekends his old parishioners would call at the Abbey to visit him and, in spite of his great pain, he would insist on visiting with his old friends noting that since they had driven so far to see him it would be unfair for him not to receive them. When it became obvious that death was imminent, his fellow priests kept constant vigils at his side.

Father Benedict Ingenito passed away on Thursday, February 13, 1947, and was laid to rest in the monastic cemetery in Canon City with many of his fellow priests. His former parishioners attended his funeral mass in large numbers.

Father Benedict has always been revered and loved as a holy, thoughtful, and caring man. Many remember the smiles brought to the faces of the Italian women who attended mass daily, when he greeted them in their own language calling them "mother."

His tenure in Louisville not only produced a new church, but he also brought much happiness and love to the people of his parish and contributed a great deal to the parish as well as to the community as a whole.

Some of the information in the preceding article was provided by Father Kenneth Hein, Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City, CO, The Archdiocese of Denver, and The Louisville Times, October 26, 1946

MEMORIES

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

- It cost 10¢ for children and 25¢ for adults to attend the movies
- A loaf of bread cost 10¢ at the grocery store
- Enough steak for an entire family could be purchased for 15¢
- The Louisville high school was located on Garfield Street
- The Louisville Grade School was located on Jefferson and Spruce streets, and Louisville had its own school district
- Billy Austin had a small store across the street from the grade school where you could buy a sackful of candy for a few pennies
- A grocery store was located in each neighborhood
- The old Redman Hall was the center of all the social activities held in town
- The old City Hall housed the city offices, the police station which had a jail cell, and the town library
- An amateur hour was held each year at the Rex Theater during the fall festival
- The local Lions Club provided treats for all the children of the town on Christmas Eve at the local Christmas tree located in the intersection of Main and Spruce streets, and everyone was there
- All the family's clothing from shoes to underwear could be purchased in one or two stores in Louisville
- Trees were planted by the grade school classes along the border of the grade school
- School plays were so well attended by people of the community there was often "standing room only"
- You could buy a "coke" at the local drug store for 5¢ and a small ice cream sundae cost 10¢
- A "store bought" cookie was a rare treat
- Wonderful smells of the Ostrander bakery permeated the whole downtown area
- A robbery of the First State Bank took place during the daylight hours
- Town Marshal Helburg was shot to death in a dispute over a \$1.50 license for a vendor
- There was an explosion at the Monarch Mine, and everyone rallied around to help the families of the victims and to take part in rescue operations
- Doctors made house calls and even provided medication from their "little black bags"
- Mass vaccination of all school children was held to prevent the dreaded disease, small pox
- You could take the train in Louisville to Boulder in the morning, and return in the afternoon
- Telephone calls were placed by ringing an operator who connected you to the phone of the person with whom you wished to speak
- Everyone went to the post office each day to collect their mail and the cost of mailing a letter was 3¢ and a postcard cost 1¢
- Everyone had their favorite radio programs, and Kate Smith and Morton Downey were two very popular singers
- "Ma Perkins," "Pepper Young's Family," and "Our Gal Sunday" were favorite radio serials of the ladies of our town
- All the kids were reading books like the Bobbsey Twins, Nancy Drew, and the Hardy Boys
- Shirley Temple was the "darling" of the child movie stars
- Guy Kibbee and Mary Dressler were paired in movies, and became one of the most popular couples of motion pictures
- A whole sack of hamburgers could be bought for \$1.00 at Rocky Bilt's Drive-In
- The local bars provided their customers with "free" dutch lunches
- New sidewalks were put down in most of the town by the WPA
- Most of the local taverns frowned upon serving women
- It was considered "bad Luck" for women to go underground in the mines
- Dinner was served by the Methodist Church ladies on Election Day at the cost of \$1.50
- Most of the kids attending a senior prom walked to the school where the dance was held
- Girls wore dresses to school, and there were no blue jeans
- Saddle oxfords made their first appearance
- The city clerk was also the day time "cop"
- A "Milk Nickel" cost just that, and often the word "free" printed on the stick entitled you to another treat
- A bag of popcorn buttered or caramel at the Rex cost 5¢
- A large candy bar also cost 5¢
- The only school supplies expected to be provided by the parents of the students was a "Big Chief" tablet and a No. 2 lead pencil
- There were music and art appreciation classes, but there were no gym classes held in the local schools

Maybe those were the "Good Old Days," but maybe not!

Looking Back - continued

since its beginning and was Chairperson of the group for twelve years. The members of the Commission regret that Virginia will no longer be a member of our group, but we look forward to continuing our association with her. Cassandra Volpe filled the vacancy left by Virginia. She is currently employed at the Norlin Library as an Archivist.

Later in the summer John Garcia, a long time member of the Historical Commission, resigned. John was a hard worker, and we appreciated the work he accomplished while serving with the group. David Ferguson, a native of Louisville, was appointed to fill the vacancy left by John's resignation. David (Ferg) is a former school teacher in the Denver public schools and has proved to be a valuable member of the group.

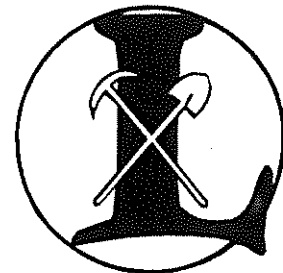
The city decided to produce a video tape to be used as a promotional program. The video portrays the history of Louisville. We were asked to provide information to the producers and to supply them with photos from our collection. Stuart Jacoby and his wife, Beverly, spent many hours taking pictures of the photos and producing the video for distribution. Mr. Jacoby, a native of Denver, is well acquainted with Louisville since he visited here often as a child. He was associated with several television stations in Denver before he moved to Texas and started his own company. The tape was completed in the late fall, and the city has given permission to the Historical Commission to sell these videos as a fundraiser. The "Louisville History" video was awarded recognition as the best documentary video produced in 1994. "Louisville History" competed with twelve other documentary videos for this prestigious award.

A committee of Commission members is working on producing a brochure which will be kept in the museum for visitors to pick up. The brochure will include a short history of the city, a membership slip for the Historical Society, and other interesting facts about our community.

We do have all the historical files that were in the library at the museum, but copies will be on file in the library soon.

We have big plans for the coming year, and know that some of our goals will be reached and others will have to be put on hold for some future date.

A great deal of credit for the success of the Historical Commission goes to the members of the group who spend many hours working on tasks dealing with the preservation of our history. So much has been accomplished in a relatively short period of time due to the perseverance of these hard working people.



1949 IN LOUISVILLE PASSES IN REVIEW

The following news items were found in *The Louisville Times* dated December 29, 1949, and reflect the events which took place in the town during the year. Of the improvements which were promised the town at the beginning of the year some were carried through while others were put on hold for another time. The business boom which was anticipated at the beginning of the year did not occur. Improvements at the filter plant of the town's water system were completed and city home mail delivery began. The St. Louis Catholic School was completely remodeled and has become a more modern structure. The following events also took place in 1949.

The new year starts off with a serious fire at Liley coal mine early New Year's morning which destroys nearly all the bins of coal and extends down into the shaft.

A blizzard stops all mail except that from the south.

City mail delivery for Louisville is approved in Washington, D.C.

Hilton Cable is advanced to corporal in the State Patrol.

Wilfred Thirlaway is Louisville's first inductee in the army under the new selective service program.

The Saturday Study Club, one of the oldest in the state, celebrates its Golden anniversary.

Norman Mossoni sells his interest in the Twin Light Cafe to his partner, Paul Domenico.

Anthony Esposito of Denver opens a cleaning shop on Main Street in the Lombardi building.

Louisville meets its quota of \$300 for March of Dimes and donates \$30. to Tuberculosis Association through purchase of Christmas Seals.

Evonne Archer and Robert Damiana exchange wedding vows.

Brooder house fire kills 624 baby chicks at Paschal DiGiacomo farm.

Remains of Robert Francis Tovado, pharmacist mate second class with Navy who was assigned to Marine Corps and lost his life on Okinawa, were returned to United States for burial.

Gang of five young men from Boulder attack Dr. Walter Bock as he leaves his car to make a house call.

Date for examination for city mail carrier is announced.

Tony Delemma, 89 years of age, flies to New York for a week's visit and is United Air Lines oldest passenger out of Denver.

Glem Fischer and John Moffit are lowest bidders on contract for job of repair work on filter for town.

Boulder County Bar Association honors Edward Affolter who was unable to attend their annual meeting in Louisville.

Boulder Elks lodge authorize Superintendent S.M. Barbiero to buy an electric scoreboard for the high school gymnasium as a gift from the lodge to honor the 1948 state class B football champs of Louisville.

Adopted town budget for \$40,662.14 a raise of approximately \$2,500 over last year.

Ordinance provides for \$20 a month pay raise for town employees. Benny Phillips is made recreational director at Kabat-Kaiser institution at Vallejo, Calif., where he has been living for several months.

Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Lay, parents of Mrs. G.R. Hemming, observe their 61st wedding anniversary.

Charles Thomas wins place on school board, defeating P.W. Jacoe who sought election for a third term.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cable buy bakery from Edward Martella.

Louisville high school got five excellent and five good ratings at a music festival held in Fort Collins.

A second girls club with a membership of 2 gives Louisville 52 4-H girls, the biggest enrollment for a community this size in the state.

First State Bank deposits pass \$700,000 mark, an all time high.

Jules Jr. and Norman Fauson rejoin the army.

Miss Lois Zarini contracts to teach music in Cole Junior High school in Denver.

Louisville filled up the Monarch mine shaft and moved the dump to abandoned Industrial Mine at Superior.

Louisville starts project to give rural area fire protection.

Michael Ferrara and Ernest Zarina are appointed as the first mail carriers in Louisville.

County paves road from northeast corner of Louisville east to connect with highway 287, giving Louisville its third hard surface outlet.

Lions club brings circus to town, first one in years.

Lions club also pledges \$100 to rural fire truck fund from proceeds of this circus.

Louisville officers can be contacted immediately day or night. In emergency, Louisville telephone operator asks Boulder police to contact 95.

Benny Phillips invents an artificial arm for himself.

Public schools have enrollment of 341 on opening day. Louisville has its record number of students in higher schools, 25 plan to enter colleges and universities.

Rent controls are removed in Louisville.

A terrific windstorm wrecked trees, blew roofing off Grunkemeyer's house and did other damage.

New metal street signs are put in place.

Assessed valuation of Louisville property increases \$44,300 over last year.

Mr. John Mackie reopens Edward Affolter's law office.

Town increases mill levy.

Public library has 66 new books ready for the shelves.

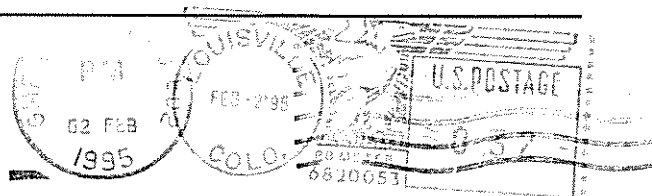
Benny Phillips walks again with aid of crutches and artificial arm.

Annual book review and tea nets \$11.85 for library.

Louisville Chinook Public Library opens in new location on Main Street with around 2,600 to 2,700 books on shelves, this includes 61 new books.

The year ends with plans for Christmas gatherings of families and other holiday parties.

Louisville Historical Commission
749 Main Street
Louisville, CO 80027



LOUISVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
950 SPRUCE ST
LOUISVILLE CO 80027