

LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

A publication of the Louisville Historical Commission & Society

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Eileen Schmidt-Editor

MUSEUM CORNER

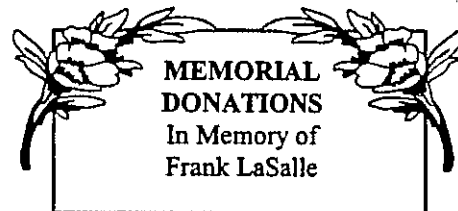
Many artifacts were recently presented to the museum from the estate of the late Lois Mall and Roy Austin by Barbara Hesson. The Austin family was one of the pioneer families which settled in Louisville. These articles are now on display in the museum. Several items were from the Billy Austin Store which was located on the east side of the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Spruce Street. This store is well remembered by those who grew up in Louisville during the 1920s and 1930s. The store was primarily a grocery store, but the children who attended the grade school which was located across the street (in Memory Square Park) patronized the store because of the fine selection of candy sold there. For 1¢, if you were pretty selective, you could buy one or more pieces of candy, but for a few cents a whole sackful of candy could be purchased. There was also an old cracker barrel, a wheel of cheese, and a pickle barrel. You were always greeted by a cat or two as you entered. We are pleased that Mrs. Hesson contributed these artifacts to us, especially, since there are many who have very fond memories of Billy Austin's store. A list of the artifacts follows:

- Enamel water dipper
- Astronomy book
- Tintex color remover box
- Kraft Velveeta Cheese box (wooden)
- Solitaire coffee can
- Assorted spice cans
- Glass plug fuses box
- Wooden box (contained figs) with Billy Austin's name on the bottom
- Army shovel with cover
- Army blanket
- World War I army uniform--
Jacket, trousers, belt and overcoat
- Hat
- Branding iron
- Air raid warden helmet used during World War II
- Large can which contained biscuits
- Pair of men's shoes
- Various pictures

The following have been reappointed to serve four-year terms on the Commission as their terms had expired January 1, 1994: Emajane Enrietto, Dick Franchini, Eileen Schmidt, and Pat Seader. Virginia Caranci chose not to seek reappointment. She

was the only member to have served on the Historical Commission since its beginning and was Chairperson of the group for twelve years. Virginia is a member of the Historical Society and has agreed to continue volunteering her services. She will continue to help conduct tours through the buildings and will serve in other capacities. 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. The Commission accomplished so much under her guidance and she will be missed. Cassandra Volpe will fill the vacancy left by Virginia. She is currently employed at the Norlin Library as an Archivist. Cassandra will direct the project of copying the photos now stored at the library so that a copy can be kept in our files also. The other members of the Commission look forward to working with her.

Anyone who wishes to donate artifacts to us should call the museum at 665-9048 and leave a message.



LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

<i>Emajane Enrietto</i>	666-4145
<i>Richard Franchini</i>	666-6272
<i>John Garcia</i>	666-7863
<i>Marion Junior</i>	666-8283
<i>Donald Ross</i>	666-6836
<i>Eileen Schmidt</i>	666-6853
<i>Patricia Scholes</i>	673-0311
<i>Patricia Seader</i>	666-8385
<i>Cassandra Volpe</i>	665-8542

LOOKING BACK ON 1993

The Historical Commission began the year, 1993, eager to begin work on several projects which had been pending for some time. In January, Mrs. Susie DiGiacomo was the recipient of the "Pioneer Award" which is presented at the Chamber of Commerce recognition banquet each year. Mrs. DiGiacomo was recognized for her many contributions to the welfare of our community. Her work with the Democratic Party and the St. Louis Church were two outstanding achievements along with many others.

In 1993, our Historical Commission was included in the city budget for the first time and \$12,170 was placed at our disposal. This enabled us to complete several projects and to begin work on others. Don Ross cleaned and painted a small room in the basement of the museum where he also installed shelves for storage. Both the house and the museum were given fresh coats of paint. A new roof was installed on the kitchen of the house. Of course, this repair work was much more complicated than was first anticipated, but the work was completed and has improved the appearance and condition of the building.

During June, the Pioneer Club celebrated its 80th anniversary as an organization and we were invited to attend, but because of previous commitments, we were unable to do so. As a result of this occasion, we have received some family histories of these early pioneers who settled so many years ago in this area.

Awnings were installed on the museum, and we have been very pleased with the appearance of the building and the fact that we can now exhibit almost any article without fear of damage being done to the materials.

A plaque was presented to Karen Mulholland recognizing the contributions she has made to our community by restoring the building located on the corner of Main and Pine streets and by locating her new restaurant, *Karens in the Country*, at the site of the old Hecla Mine. This plaque is on display in the lobby of *Karens in the Country*.

Although we were passed over for a grant to copy photos now stored at the Louisville Public library, early in the year, the grant was rewritten and submitted again. This time the grant was approved in November and work on this project, under the guidance of Cassandra Volpe, will begin as soon as the funds are received.

We continue to show many groups through our buildings. A group of senior citizens from Brighton visited our museums early in the year. Many groups of grade school students from the elementary schools here have toured the buildings in conjunction with their studies. Nancy Markham, who teaches a class in museumology, at the University of Colorado, presented her class to be conducted on a tour of our buildings. She has brought her classes to our museums several times and indicates that she finds them to be very well planned.

This year the porcelain Christmas ornaments which we handcrafted, were a Santa Claus face with a very long beard, shaped like an icicle. This proved to be a very popular item and all the ornaments were sold during the Parade of Lights which was held on December 3. During the evening a musical group, "The Broken Sixpence," played traditional music on very old instruments. This evening was very well attended and people made many favorable comments. Wassail and cookies were served.

As we anticipate the coming year we are anxious to proceed with the work of copying the photos, making improvements to the buildings, and collecting the history of Louisville. Each member of the Historical Commission does his or her share, and they deserve a great deal of praise and credit for their efforts. In addition to the many special events held each year each one has their special "job." Pat Seader has been Vice-Chairperson of the group and coordinates the tours of groups through the museums during the year. Emajane Enrietto is Secretary; she assists with the cataloging and the collecting of artifacts. Dick Franchini records information on the catalog cards, files them, and helps during the hours that the museums are opened. John Gracia, with the help of his wife, Mary, keeps records of the Historical Society and also helps with the work done on the buildings. Don Ross is our Treasurer, as well as our "right hand man" in all the projects concerning the maintenance of the buildings. He is very knowledgeable in matters of construction and is an excellent worker. Virginia Caranci helps decorate the windows, shows groups through the buildings, and lends a helping hand wherever needed. Marion Junior is chairperson in charge of Way and Means, and without her expertise the Christmas ornament project would have to be abandoned. She coordinates all the special events which involves a great deal of work and also places the exhibits in the front windows. Pat Scholes has done a great deal of work on grants this year and is always available for help during the special events. Although, Bob Enrietto is a volunteer and a member of the Historical Society, he spends many hours at the museum. Eileen Schmidt is Chairperson of the group and wishes to thank all for their cooperation and help during the past year.

PIONEER AWARD - 1993

Lewton W. McCorkle, better known as Lute, was born in Red Bluff, California in 1876 to Araminta Hake McCorkle and James Franklin McCorkle, the oldest of nine children.

He came to Louisville in 1901 and worked for his uncles, F.J. MacCormac, Charles Hake, and George Miller in the Superior Mercantile Company. He later worked for W.A. Burke in a general mercantile store, and after a few years he worked at the Northern Coal and Coke "Company Store" along with George Dalby and Robert and Owen Thirlaway, all of whom later had their own stores.

In 1903, he and Nellie Ellsberry were married. She was the daughter of Mary Kilker Ellsberry and George P. Ellsberry. On Main Street, a newly built house and a small barn which housed a new horse and buggy, stood ready for the newlyweds. In later years, they bought the house at 1101 Jefferson Avenue from the J. C. Williams family.

In 1906, Lute and his uncles, George Miller and Charles Hake, along with Art Foote started the City Meat and Packing Company with stores in Louisville and Lafayette. Two years later he bought out his partners, purchased the Thompson property,

where Bank One now stands and built his own building, calling it the City Market.

During the Depression, Lute was one of the business men who reorganized the Louisville-Lafayette Coal Company and opened the Hiway Mine. This was a boon to the two towns even though the miners were skeptical about a bunch of business men running a mine. It was in operation for many years. Always community minded, Lute invested in the Louisville and Lafayette banks. He was vice-president and director of the Louisville Bank, and a director of the Lafayette bank when those banks became members of Affiliated banks which are now known as Bank One. He remained in the mercantile business until 1948 when he retired and sold the City Market, which was the second oldest business in Louisville, to Charles and Quentin Thomas.

Mr. McCorkle was a quiet, gentle man with a good sense of humor. He was a loyal friend of the miners. He allowed the miners to charge groceries in his store during the summers when the mines were not working. After they returned to work in the fall, they attempted to repay him. During the five year strike (1910-1915), Lute extended credit to many miners during the entire period of the strike. His agreement with the miners was that they would pay what they could. He always thought that the miners were honest, hard-working people and would do their best to repay him. After Mr. McCorkle's death, his daughter, Patricia Gelwick, received money often without names from individuals saying that they could finally afford to pay the debt they owed him, and they would feel better knowing that they had done so.

Mr. McCorkle was a charter member of the Louisville Lions Club, and was a fifty-year-member of the Elks Lodge in Boulder.

The City Market was a busy place, and many individuals shopped there daily. People could always count on fair treatment there and often received a little more than they expected. When purchasing a soup bone, patrons knew there would be enough meat on the bone to make stew for another meal. As you entered the store, there was a glass case containing several varieties of cookies. The children often stopped to admire the treats, and many times were presented a cookie by one of the employees.

The McCorkles had one daughter, Patricia, born in 1912. She married Clyde C. Gelwick in 1936. They have two children, Barbara and James Patrick.

The grandparents of both Lute and Nellie were early pioneers in Boulder County. William and Emeline Hake came in 1859 and settled on Coal Creek (Superior). They had six children. Araminta, the oldest, was Lute's mother. Owen and Bridget Kilker, Nellie's grandparents, bought land three miles south-east of Louisville and settled there in 1872. Mary, the oldest of nine children, was Nellie's mother.

The information about Mr. McCorkle's life was gathered by his daughter and presented to the Louisville Historical Commission to be included in our files.

Mr. "Lute" McCorkle is the recipient of the 1993 Pioneer Award which was presented at the Chamber of Commerce Awards banquet on January 27, 1994. Since Mrs. Gelwick is spending two months in California and was unable to attend, she asked Mrs. Vera (Dixon) Taylor to accept the award on her behalf. Mrs. Taylor's mother and Mr. McCorkle were first cousins. As many of you know Mrs. Taylor taught English and Latin at the Louisville High School until her retirement in 1973. She has

continued working as a volunteer in the library at Centaurus High School, and volunteers for a few hours each week at the Louisville Public Library. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Taylor accept this award for the Gelwick family. Mr. and Mrs. McCorkle were very respected members of our community and certainly contributed to the welfare of Louisville and its residents in many ways.

MEMORIES

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

The streets of the town were all dirt or red ash

The grade school was located on the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Spruce Street where Memory Square Park now stands

The Louisville High School was located at the corner of Walnut and Garfield--an apartment building now occupies this corner

A nickel could buy a double decker ice cream cone at Celeste's pool hall; a large candy bar; a sack of penny candy at Billy Austin's store; a bag of popcorn at the Rex Theater; or an Eskimo pie

There was a dance every Saturday night downstairs on the main floor of the old Redman Hall

All the high school kids were looking for a ride to the "Jitney" in Longmont on Friday night

Art appreciation was taught at the grade school and each student received a small print of whichever famous painting was being studied that week

Admission to the Rex was 5¢ for children and 15¢ for adults

Ostrander's bakery put out delicious baked goods that could be smelled all over town

Neighborhood grocery stores were located throughout the town; Kate Allera's, Mike Forte's; Martha Eberharter's; Lute McCorkle's; Carveth and Dalby's; and the Red and White and perhaps, there were even more

There was an "amateur" show at the Rex Theater during the fall festival

The post office was located in the building which now houses "Karen's Country Kitchen"

You could ride the train to Boulder leaving at 9:30 a.m. and returning at 3:30 p.m.

There was an 8:00 p.m. curfew enforced for the young people of town

The St. Louis Catholic Church was located at the corner of LaFarge and Walnut Streets.

Both the Hub Store and Mangus's sold clothes and shoes

The high school kids used to congregate in the back room of the Blue Parrot to have sandwiches after events were held at the school

The sidewalks were made of wooden planks

Softball and baseball games were played almost every Sunday at Miner's Field, and a band concert was held following the game

No one living in Louisville locked their doors

Most families kept chickens in their backyards

If you can remember all or some of the above occurrences, you have been around quite some time!

LOUISVILLE - 1933

Sixty years ago in 1933 our nation found itself in the midst of a depression with farm workers threatening to strike and other labor unions making disturbing accusations and threats in their efforts to improve their working conditions and keep their families safe during the hard times. The government urged the American people to be patient, work together to solve the problems facing the nation, and not to be greedy. Several individuals who were growing up in Louisville at this time were asked about the impressions they had carried through their lives concerning the years of the depression. They all agreed that they did not consider themselves to be especially poor nor did they suffer from the effects of the depression as much as some people in other parts of the country because they were accustomed to hardship and the conditions that prevailed at this time. There had always been a strong feeling of family, caring about each other, and people were of great help to one another, sharing whatever they had with others. Life had always been difficult for the people of our town. They had learned the lessons of caring and sharing very early in their lives. The suggestions being offered to the country to help in their survival of the depression were not a new way of life for our community--this was "our way" of surviving every crisis.

A "Louisville Times" dated November 28, 1933, demonstrated that life went on here in much the same way that it always had. The following new items were taken from that newspaper:

"The junior class play "Introducin' Susan" is to be presented at the high school auditorium Friday evening, November 24. It promises to be up to the high standard of the past.

Mayor Wm. Jenkins and James Fenolia, Town Clerk, spent Monday at Colorado Springs attending a state meeting of state, city, and county officials who gathered to study together unemployment and adopt a uniform plan of putting 25,000 more men to work in Colorado. The meeting was attended by 1,100 representatives. Federal funds to the amount of \$4,000,000 will finance the improvement program. The plan means 776 jobs for Boulder County. Louisville will get 100 of these jobs.

The Times is in receipt of a telegram from the Washington office of Congressman Fred Cummings which states that George Binks, of Louisville, is one of the alternate appointments as mid-shipman to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Mae West, who "scorched" the nation with her first starring picture, "She Done Him Wrong" and then took Paris by storm, is returning with a new picture, "I'm No Angel." It shows Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at the Curran Theatre, Boulder.

Arnold Biella, Pasco Jacoe, Melvin Rockley, Lester Rockley, and Henry Walker, of Greeley, attended the football game Saturday, played at Boulder between the University of Colorado and the Colorado Teachers' College. The score was 24 to 0 favor of U.C.

A collision Tuesday at the post office corner between automobiles driven by Herman Steinbaugh and June Harmon resulted in considerable damage to the Harmon car, which was hit broadside. Both drivers failed to see the other car until too late to stop. Neither person was injured.

Twin girls were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Kerr at Frederick. The parents lived in Louisville until a few years ago.

Henry Frause's orchestra plays regularly at the J. I. Smith barn dances each Saturday evening. The location two and a half miles northwest of Frederick.

Frank Yakes has purchased the Lafayette grain elevator on the Burlington tracks, and will sell the remaining equipment and wreck the building for material in the spring.

Mrs. Auncey Porter and Mrs. Lisle Harris have moved their equipment from the Front Street Cafe to the Sandy home North Front Street, where the two will operate a boarding house. Johnny Williams will have charge of the restaurant service at the Front Street Cafe.

Miss Kathleen Crannell, Supervisor of the local Red Cross membership canvas, reports that a total of \$71.30 was collected for the fund. Fifty-seven memberships were taken here, and there were contributions of \$14.30 in addition.

Blossom Henning will give a piano recital at the Henning Mortuary in Lafayette next Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock under the direction of her teacher, Mrs. Hamilton. Miss Grace Fischer will sing several numbers with Blossom as accompanist.

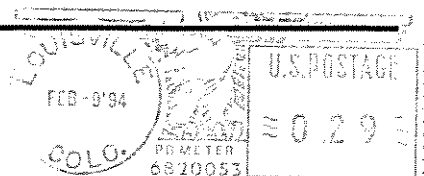
The members of the Study Club served tea this afternoon at the public library. Besides the Louisville ladies who attended there were two guests from Lafayette, Mrs. Claude Davis and Mrs. Merrill Angevine. Miss Thelma Dixon played several piano numbers. Miss Grace Fischer sang, and some of the pupils who won prizes for book reviews read their reviews.

The fall concert of the University Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Prof. Horace A. Jones, and of the combined University glee clubs, under the direction of Prof. Alexander Grant, will be given in Macky Auditorium Sunday afternoon at four o'clock. The concert will be free. There are sixty pieces in the orchestra and over a hundred voices in the combined Men's Glee Club and Women's Glee Club.

The Catholic ladies will hold their food sale Wednesday, November 29, at the Colacci grocery building, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be dressed chickens, cakes, pies, potato salad, slaw, rolls, baked beans and bread.

Mrs. Blanche Nicholas and her daughter, Mrs. Della Putnam, met a violent death last Thursday in the basement of the home of Fred W. Fedder, aged fifty-seven. Fedder had failed in his efforts to induce Mrs. Nicholas to marry him. He asked her to accompany him to his home so that he could give her some pieces of furniture. Her daughter accompanied them. Fedder killed them both and then suicided. Fedder lived in Boulder until two years ago. His wife had divorced him."

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