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LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

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Eileen Schmidt-Editor

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VF Louisville Historical Commission

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MUSEUM CORNER

As many of you who drive by our museum occasionally may have noticed striped awnings have been installed over the front windows of the building. We will now be able to exhibit some items in our windows that we were not able to place there previously because the articles could have been damaged by the sun. The awnings are not only practical, but they seem to draw attention to the buildings. The outsides of both the buildings have been painted, and the front and back porches of the house were repaired and stained. The chimney on the side of the museum has been rebuilt by Luallin Masonry of Louisville. We are planning to have the roof on the kitchen of the house repaired soon. Plans are being made to have a shelter built over the space between our two buildings where the wagon is now located. Some of the very heavy artifacts which we now have outside will be exhibited there, and later we hope to add some much needed storage space in this area. The sign at the house was also repainted.

We have been busy supplying information regarding the history of our town to several groups for projects which they have undertaken. A few artifacts have been received, but we would like to remind everyone not to forget the museum when you find articles which you feel should be preserved.

The Historical Commission will host an open house during the "Taste of Louisville" which will be held on August 7. We will have the buildings open from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and would like to invite everyone to visit us.

We did hold an auction on July 4 this year, but due to the inclement weather and the lack of attendance at the event, we were not able to hold the silent part of the auction. We are planning to have those items for the silent auction on display during the "Taste of Louisville" and will accept bids for them until 1:30 p.m.

The museum buildings will be open again this year on Labor Day, September 6, and we will be serving punch and cookies. We hope to see many of you during the "Taste of Louisville" and again on Labor Day.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

We are enclosing a slip of paper for those who wish to join our society or for those renewing their membership to do so. Membership in our society runs from September to September, and the cost is \$5.00. Several persons have already paid dues for the year 1993-1994, and their names follow:

- Elaine Jacoe
- Kathleen Crannell
- Esther DelForge
- Mr. and Mrs. Don DelForge
- Berta Zarini
- Ruth (Affolter) Babcock
- Warren and Clemma Wiggett
- Leon and Nancy Wurl
- Ella and Lou Romans
- Ann Ahlberg
- Larella Stout
- Maribeth G. Bosko
- C.M. Volpe and Robb Abramson

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of
William Ferguson
Nicola DelPizza

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AN 80th ANNIVERSARY

On June 26, 1993, the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Pioneer Club was celebrated at a luncheon held at Haysienda located in Eldorado Canyon. In 1913 this club was organized by a group of ladies, and became known as the "Thimble Club." The ladies spent the afternoon sewing, visiting, and light refreshments were served. After a few years, the members decided to play a card game called 500, and the club became known as the 500 club. Sometime later they began playing bridge at their meetings. The membership was limited to sixteen by the original members of the group.

The sixteen members of the first Thimble Club were: Mrs. Allert, Alice Austin (Mrs. Ray), Bessie Carveth, Mrs. J. Arthur, Mayme Crannell (Mrs. Alvin), Nell Gibbs, Sadie Hamilton (Mrs. Frank), Emma Harris, Jane Hilton (Mrs. Thomas), Emma Kennedy (Mrs. George), Bertha Malcolm (Mrs. Joseph), Mary McCullough, Nell McCorkle (Mrs. Lute), Mrs. Charlie Powell, Mae Shannon (Mrs. Frank), Jane Williams (Mrs. Jacob), and Lulu Snair (Mrs. Walter). Many of these ladies remained in Louisville for many years, and because their husbands were in business became well known throughout the community; but some of them moved to other locations, and not much information is available about them or their families.

Alice Austin, the wife of Ray, was a member of a family who were very early settlers in our town. Bessie Carveth was very active in the community. Her husband and family were part owners of the Carveth Bros. and Dalby grocery and general store. Mayme Crannell was the wife of Dr. Alvin Crannell who was a practicing physician in Louisville during the 1920s and 1930s. Dr. Crannell was one of the "mine" doctors, and the family is well remembered. The pump organ from their family home is now on exhibit in our house museum. Sadie Hamilton and her husband, Frank, were very well respected, and resided on Jefferson Street in a home which is still occupied. Mr. Hamilton was a mine superintendent, and one of their daughters taught school here. Emma Harris was employed by the Carveth Bros. and Dalby and worked at the store for many years. Jane Hilton was the wife of Thomas Hilton who was the superintendent at the Gorham Mine. Emma Kennedy was the sister of Bessie Carveth. Bertha Malcolm and her husband, Joe, were very active members of the community. He owned an insurance agency. Mrs. Malcolm was a talented author and wrote many poems and short stories. Nell McCorkle was the wife of Lute McCorkle who owned the City Meat Market which was located on the corner of Main and Walnut streets. Mr. McCorkle was a soft spoken man who became the benefactor of the miners during the months when they weren't working by extending credit to them. They would catch up on their summer grocery bills during the winter months when the mines were working. The husband of club member Mrs. Charlie Powell was related to William Powell the movie actor who was famous, especially for his role in the "Thin Man" series. Charlie Powell was the town mortician. Dr. Walter Snair was the husband of Lulu Snair, and had his offices on the corner of Main and Pine streets, across the street from the Blue Parrot Restaurant. He also was one of the "mine" doctors. The three Snair sisters continue to attend the yearly meetings of the club. Jane Williams whose husband, Jacob, was a manager for the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company was well known throughout the community.

The club became inactive for several years, but in 1953, they met to celebrate their 40th anniversary with a luncheon. It is unclear about when they decided to rename the group, "The Pioneer Club," but since many of the original members were very early settlers of our town this seems to be a very appropriate name. On May 22, 1968, Mrs. Fred Demoulin, Mrs. Earl Pickett, Sr., and Mrs.

Elmer Autrey decided to have a reunion luncheon commemorating the 55th anniversary of the club. As many of the former members as they were able to contact were invited to attend the luncheon along with their daughters, daughters-in-law, and granddaughters. In 1969, the group agreed to meet each year in May on the Saturday closest to Mother's Day. Since this proved to be inconvenient for those attending from other localities, it was decided that each year they would choose a convenient date in the spring for the yearly meeting. Then in 1970 the members voted to invite their daughters and daughters-in-law to join the group in order to maintain an active status and to retain an interest in the community in which their early descendants had played such an important role. Many of the members travel from other states to take part in this yearly event. Next year Midge (Pickett) Eberharter, granddaughter of Mrs. Earl Pickett, Sr. and daughter of Mrs. Earl Pickett, Jr. and one of the great granddaughters of Mrs. Jane Williams, Madhavii Shirman, plan to extend invitations to the great granddaughters of the former members to join the group. There are not many clubs in existence today that have been active for 80 years, and we wish to congratulate this group on their anniversary. It is hoped that the organization will continue to meet and maintain their interest in the heritage of the early settlers of Louisville. Congratulations to the Pioneer Club!

* * * * *

PIRATES – A 50th REUNION

The class of 1943 of Louisville High School was the first to complete four years of high school in the "new" building which was completed in 1940 by the WPA. These thirty-eight young men and women received diplomas in the auditorium of the new building during graduation ceremonies. The future of many of these young people was very uncertain because the United States was deeply involved in World War II. Many of the boys immediately entered into military service and many of the girls were involved in jobs which were part of the war effort. Not many members of this class could even hope to attend college. On August 21 and 22, 1993, this class will hold its 50th reunion. This event coincides with the "Festa de Louisville," an Italian fiesta which is held each year in Memory Square Park. Many interesting events have been planned for this week-end. A tour of the high school building which now houses the Louisville Middle School has been arranged for Saturday. Memorabilia of this era will also be displayed. Dinner, followed by dancing, at the Louisville Recreation Center located on Via Appia will be the highlight of the reunion. Vernon Zurick who was president of the senior class is in charge of organizing the event. Those returning to this area will note the many changes that have occurred in Louisville during the past 50 years.

* * * * *

A CENTAURUS REUNION

A reunion of the first class to graduate from Centaurus High School was held on July 3, 1993, at Karen's in the Country, which is located on the site of the old Hecla Mine. This class was formed by combining the senior classes of Louisville and Lafayette High Schools. Although the attendance was not as large as the committee had hoped it would be, those attending enjoyed the evening.

CRACKER JACKS AND BASEBALL

The 1993 baseball season has become especially important to Denver fans as the Rockies play their first season of major league ball. As we can see by watching television, the stands are almost always packed even when they are losing. Denver fans are very supportive of their teams—the Broncos, the Nuggets, and now the Rockies. As all fans know an important part of attending any game is the snacks that can be purchased. No other hot dog ever tastes as good as one eaten at a game. Now there is quite a variety of foods sold including pizza, along with the more traditional snacks such as hot dogs, peanuts, popcorn, and Cracker Jacks.

In the June 16, 1993, issue of the *Denver Post*, it was noted that Cracker Jacks was one hundred years old this year, and its history was included. The following information is taken from this article.

The celebration of the 100th birthday of Cracker Jacks was begun on June 16, 1993, at a baseball game played in Chicago's Wrigley Field. F.W. Rueckheim introduced his treat of peanuts, popcorn, and molasses at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Sailor Jack and his dog, the trademark of this product, was modeled after Rueckheim's grandson and his dog, Bingo, but they didn't appear on the boxes until 1918.

Prizes were introduced in 1912, and Cracker Jacks soon became even more popular with the children of the era. More than 17 billion prizes have been placed in the boxes over the years. All the prizes that were manufactured in the United States are now considered collector's items. The little trinkets were treasured during the depression years and reflected the era in which they were produced. In the 1940s, prizes dealing with World War II such as soldiers and sailors were found in the boxes; in the 1950s the prizes were baseball cards and cowboy memorabilia; and in the 1960s flower child items appeared.

In 1908, the song, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" was written by composer, Albert VonTitzer, and lyricist, Jack Norworth, thus tying Cracker Jacks to baseball with the line, "Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks." Today three-quarters of the nation's ball parks sell this snack.

In 1982 and 1983 eight boxes of Cracker Jacks included a four inch by two inch booklet containing some very explicit sexual photos. The manufacturer said the incident was a result of an employee hoax, and nothing of this nature has appeared since.

Baseball has always been important to Louisville residents. During the early days, a baseball game was held almost every Sunday afternoon at the ballpark (now known as Miner's Field) and following the game a band concert often took place. Various Louisville businesses sponsored town baseball teams during the early 1930s. The teams were members of the Northern Colorado League, Southern Division. The other members of the League in which they played were Boulder, Frederick, Brighton, and Ft. Lupton. Some of the businesses which sponsored the teams were the Rex Theater, Model Theater, J.J. Steinbaugh, Louis Eberharter (grocery and general store), Kate Allera (general store), Celeste Romano (saloon), Mike Colacci (restaurant), Mike Forte (grocery store), City Meat Market (Lute McCorkle), John Pellillo (shoemaker), The Hub (clothing store), Carveth Bros. and Dalby (general store), First State Bank, C.W. Powell (mortician), and the Louisville Elevator.

Louisville's own, Bert Neihoff, played ball from 1913 to 1918 in the major leagues. In 1915, when he was a member of the Philadelphia Phillies he played in the World Series. Although the Phillies lost the series to Boston this was one of the highlights of his career because President Woodrow Wilson attended the game. His baseball career came to an abrupt end after his leg was badly broken, but he went on to manage several teams and became a scout in California.

Another well known baseball player who hailed from Louisville was Toney (T.W.) LaSalle. Although he played in the minor leagues he had been spotted by the major league scouts, and was to report for a try-out when he suffered a broken leg as the result of an automobile accident.

The Security Benefits Association was one of the organizations which sponsored baseball teams. These teams often traveled to Elitch's or Lakeside to play teams from Denver. Two of the more interesting teams the Security Benefits Association players encountered were "The House of David" and "The Bearded Bandits." When the men on the House of David team removed their baseball caps their hair fell to their waists, and they also had beards. The Bearded Bandits had beards which fell down to their belt buckles.

Several of the mines sponsored teams at this time. The American Legion also sponsored baseball teams in the 1930s and on August 17, 1936, the Louisville American Legion team won the regional tournament when they beat Albuquerque.

In an article written by Carolyn Conarroe which appeared in *The Louisville Times* on July 7, 1993, she reports that women also played on ball teams. The information concerning these women's teams was taken from this article found in *The Louisville Times*. The women played softball, and recently several of these women met to recall the teams on which they played. The Hi-Way mine was a generous sponsor of one of the women's teams. The Security Benefits Association also sponsored teams of women as well as men. Some of the women who played on the Security Benefits Association team were Inez (Tavado) Graham, Katie Rosser, Mae Clark, Bernice (Ferguson) Sneddon, Iona (Bowes) Thomas, and Olive (Clark) Sneddon who pitched. Other women who played on various teams were Mina (DiGiacomo) Tesone, Mary (DiGiacomo) Poydock, Mary Thomas, and Bessie Thomas. In 1935, the players on the Hi-Way Mine team were Elsie Melcoff, Ann (DiFrancia) Romano, Eloise (Guffy) Coet, Mary Geitz, Jewel (Guffy) Coet, Inez (Tavado) Graham, Rita (Cook) Byrd, Marge Martella, and Vivian (Stevens) Dhieux. When asked why they played ball, the ladies recalled that they had to make their own fun, and there really wasn't much to do in Louisville at that time.

Even now when Louisville residents hear the words "Play Ball," they hurry to the playing fields with their snacks, including Cracker Jacks to watch their favorite teams—baseball and Cracker Jacks continue to go well together.

BIOGRAPHY OF ANGELO BOTTINELLI FAMILY

Angelo Bottinelli (1875-1952), along with his wife Maria and three-year-old son Attilio, migrated from Caversaccio Valmorea, Province of Como, Italy to Louisville, Colorado in 1903.

Angelo was the youngest of three brothers to settle in Louisville. Baptist, the oldest, first settled in Como, Colorado, and after one year moved to Louisville. He lived at 822 LaFarge Avenue where he raised his four children, Charles (Big Charlie), Frank (Curly), Margaret Bottinelli Troxel, and Celia Bottinelli Fenolia.

Peter resided at 929 LaFarge Ave. He also had four children, Savina Bottinelli DiAndrea, Margaret Bottinelli Smith, Charles (Chuck), and William.

Angelo Bottinelli first resided in "Little Italy," on 1417 Cannon Street. He also had four children, Attilio (Tealie, 1900-1986), Stella Bottinelli Giorzelli, Charles (Chelote), and Dolinda Bottinelli DiFrancia. Twin boys were lost at birth. In 1918 Angelo sold the house in Little Italy for \$110.00, and purchased the house at 1025 Front Street for \$300.00.

All of the brothers were employed in the numerous coal mines in the area. Some of the more prominent were Acme, Rex #1, Rex #2, Big Six, Brooks, Centennial, Monarch, Hecla, Imperial, Matchless, Vulcan, Caledonia, and the Industrial. Angelo first worked at the Gorham located west of the Town of Superior, Colorado. He had no means of transportation, so he walked five miles to and from work each day. Some of the more fortunate people went by horse and buggy. Coal mining was a seasonal occupation, which meant unemployment in the spring and summer seasons. Since unemployment insurance did not exist at this time, the miners relied on the goodwill of the Louisville merchants to extend their charge accounts (without interest) until the mines started up the next winter.

Since phones or radios were nonexistent, the mines would use a steam whistle, which was audible for miles, to inform the miners if there was work the next day. Each day at 4:00 pm and the next morning at 5:30 am the whistle would blow three times (three long blasts) if there was work and one long blast if the miners were not to report to work.

From 1910 to 1940 several neighborhood grocery stores served the Louisville area. Stores like Bill Austin, Eberharters (groceries and dry goods), Mike Forte, Kate Allera, McCorkles, Red & White, Colaccis, Carveth Brothers and Dalby, Robert Thirlaway, Joe Biella, and Jacobs served the miners during the good times and the bad. The main clothing store was the Hub Store, and later The Mangus Store.

Two movie theaters, Rialto and Rex, supplied the family entertainment. The men spent many hours entertaining themselves at Joe Lackners, Celeste Romano, L.J. Mossoni, Walt Duggan, and Lawrence Stoiber billiard halls. Redmen, St. Johns, St. Rita's, Woodmen, Forester's, and Knights of Pythias were social organizations that were popular during this time.

As the children grew older, they began to find work. Tealie began working in the coal mines at the age of fifteen. In 1934 he moved to Denver, Colorado, but continued to work the coal mines until 1938. After the mines closed, he was employed by Swift and Company Meat Packing until his retirement in 1962. In 1926 he married Beulah Wilson, but the marriage ended in divorce in 1927. In 1934 he married Doris Parker, who passed away in 1935. Tealie passed away in 1986.

Stella began working for Kate Allera doing housework and some clerking in her store. In 1925 she married Joseph (Pip) Giorzelli. During their marriage, Stella worked as a homemaker. They had one daughter, June Enrietto. June studied nursing, and worked as a registered nurse for many years. After the death of her husband, Stella went to work for Esquire, Inc., now NeoData. Stella has one granddaughter, Barbara DiSalle, and two great-grandchildren, Jodee and Melissa DiSalle.

Pip worked as mine clerk and surface miner and was an active member of the community. From 1926 to 1930 he served as Treasurer for the Town of Louisville. He was elected to the position of Town Trustee for two terms, and was a volunteer fireman for many years. After leaving the mines, he worked for NeoData until his death in 1953.

At the age of sixteen, Charles R. (Chelote) Bottinelli began working in the coal mines. In 1934 he was severely injured in a mining accident, and he left the mines. He served on the Louisville City Council from 1934 to 1936, and as a volunteer fireman from 1932 to 1941. In the Fire Department, he held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Chief, and member of the Firemen Pension Board. On September 3, 1939 he married Ada Pellillo. They moved to Longmont on January 1, 1941. He worked for the Boulder County Highway Department, and in 1942 he joined the Longmont Police Department. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1945, and Deputy Police Chief in 1952, a position he held until his retirement in 1967. An examiner for the Colorado Drivers License Bureau and Attendance Officer for the St. Vrain School District were two part time positions he worked during this time. After his retirement from the Longmont Police Department, he was employed as a Captain for the Boulder County Sheriff Department until 1970. From 1971 until 1977 he worked as a clerk for Boulder County District 3 Road Department. Charles and Ada have two sons, Charles A. who lives in Littleton, Colorado is a consultant for Public Service Company, and Robert, a Psychologist, practicing in Flint, Michigan. They have four grandchildren, Nick, Jed, Lia, and Gina.

Dolinda married Daniel DiFrancia in 1933, and lived in Superior until moving to Louisville in 1939. Danny worked the coal mines for thirty-six years and for Rockwell International until his retirement in 1965. Danny was a member of the Louisville Volunteer Fire Department for twenty years. Dolinda was a homemaker. They had no children.

During the early 1900s, Louisville was a melting pot of immigrants. English, Germans, Italians, French, Spanish, and Slovians were working the local mines and building a community. We hope that this brief history of Angelo Bottinelli and his descendants will add to the wonderful history of Louisville.

This biography of the Bottinelli family, submitted by Charles R. and Ada Bottinelli, is on file in our museum along with the histories of several other Louisville families. We would like to remind those of you who have not submitted family biographies to the Historical Commission to please do so. It is our hope that at some future date we will be able to consolidate these family chronicles and publish them in some form.

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