

LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

A publication of the Louisville Historical Commission & Society

Issue No. 22 May 1993

Eileen Schmidt-Editor

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MUSEUM CORNER

The Louisville Historical Commission has received funds from the city budget for the first time, and we are anxious to begin some of the work needed on our buildings. These funds will make it possible to accomplish many of the goals which we had previously set. The work on the buildings will be started as soon as the weather permits. Since we are in dire need of storage space, shelves have been installed in the basement of the museum. We are also planning to paint the buildings on the outside, repair the roof of the kitchen of the little house, install awnings to keep the sun from damaging the articles in the windows, and construct a shelter for the heavy articles which we have to exhibit outdoors between the two buildings. We have begun making plans to hold the auction in Memory Park at 10:30 a.m. on July 4. We hope to have the items for auction located on the south side of the park in the same location we have had in past years. The auction wasn't held last year due to unfortunate circumstances, and we hope you will plan to join us for this event. We will also have Christmas ornaments for sale. Please remember as you "spring clean" we are always looking for additional artifacts and would appreciate your contributions.

Election of officers was held during our February meeting and the following officers were elected: Chairperson--Eileen Schmidt; Vice Chairman--Pat Seader; Secretary--Emajane Enrietto; Treasurer--Don Ross.

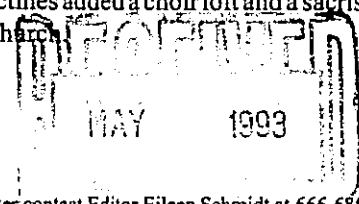
ST. LOUIS PARISH

St. Louis Parish of Louisville has recently unveiled plans to expand its present facilities to accommodate the growth which has taken place in the parish within the past few years. It is estimated that 600 families are now being served by the parish, with more than 700 children enrolled in the preschool, the elementary school, daycare, religious education, and youth programs. As the older members of the parish begin to work together to support the new building program, they recall the important role St. Louis has played in their lives and how influential this church and its members have been in the development of our entire community.

According to records, mass was first said in Louisville about 1879 at the home of David Kerr, who was one of the first white settlers in the Louisville area. After a mine shaft was sunk on the Kerr property, Louis Nawatny began platting the town. By 1880, Louisville had 450 residents and Father Anthony Abel, pastor of the Sacred Heart of Mary Church in South Boulder, was saying mass each week. He continued serving the parishioners in this capacity until 1881 when he was succeeded by Father Godfrey Raber, a newly ordained Swiss priest who had come to Colorado in hopes that the climate would be beneficial to his health. Father Raber, along with Bishop Machebuf, strived very hard to give Louisville its own church. Finally on October 9, 1883, Bishop Machebuf purchased two lots at the corner of LaFarge and Walnut Streets from C. C. Welch who owned one of the first coal mines. With the help of the parishioners, Father Raber, began construction of a small frame church, landscaped with trees and a white picket fence. It was completed in 1884. Father Raber remained in Louisville until 1887 when the Benedictine Fathers of Beatty, Pennsylvania, came to Boulder County at the request of Bishop Machebuf.

Father Rhabanus Guttman, O.S.B., headed the small band of Benedictines who were headquartered at the Sacred Heart of Mary and tended to the spiritual needs of the Catholics in Louisville along with other Boulder County churches. These circuit-riding Benedictines arrived in town on Saturday afternoon to hear confessions, spent the night with a family in the parish, and celebrated mass in the church on Sunday morning. In 1894, the Benedictines added a choir loft and a sacristy with a sleeping nook to the church.

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LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

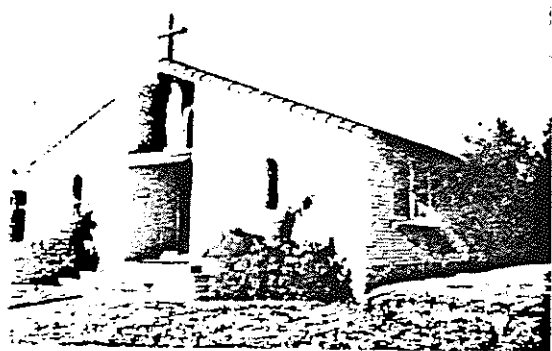
- Virginia Caranci 666-6235
- Emajane Enrietto 666-4145
- Richard Franchini 666-6272
- John Garcia 666-7863
- Marion Junior 666-8283
- Donald Ross 666-6836
- Eileen Schmidt 666-6853
- Patricia Scholes 673-0311
- Patricia Seader 666-8385

ST. LOUIS PARISH (continued)

Father Henry Hannun, O.S.B., became the first resident pastor purchasing a small cottage on Grant and Walnut Streets. Several additions were made to the original house, and this same structure served as the rectory until 1953. Italian or Slavic speaking priests were often sent to St. Louis bringing a great deal of joy to the two major immigrant groups which comprised the congregation. Although the priests received very little or no salary, they were rewarded with ethnic feasts and many other acts of kindness and devotion making the time they spent in Louisville a very happy period.

Father Cyril Rettger, who was pastor at St. Louis from 1903 to 1916, purchased twelve lots in the block west of the rectory and began the construction of a four-room, one-story frame school house. In the fall of 1905, four Benedictine sisters from Erie, Pennsylvania, arrived and established the "St. Louis School and Business College." In spite of its prestigious name, the school could only afford one textbook, "The Baltimore Catechism" which was also used as a reader and a speller. More than 200 students from Louisville and the other nearby coal mining towns of Erie, Lafayette, Marshall, and Superior were enrolled in the school. The Franciscan sisters of St. Francis Convent, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, succeeded the Benedictines in 1909 and continued in charge of the school until 1927. The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and the Presentation Sisters from Ireland staffed the school in later years with the aid of a few lay teachers.

In 1907, at the school dedication ceremony, Bishop Matz told the parishioners that "the church" would defend the rights of the working man and would bring new churches and schools to their farms and mines. Father Rettger sympathized with the working class who were trying to establish a local of the United Mine Workers Union. His support of the miners apparently led to an attempt to assassinate him while he was saying mass. This act was substantiated by a bullet hole in the window nearest the altar.



Father Benedict Ingenito, O.S.B., took over the leadership of the church in 1933 and was very highly respected and loved by the members of the parish. The need for a new church had become apparent so after the arrival of Father Benedict, the annual bazaar to raise money for the building of a new church, was begun. The brick church designed in the Romanesque style with a red tile roof and a very elegant bell tower was constructed--the cost was \$40,000. On June 28, 1942, Archbishop Vehr dedicated

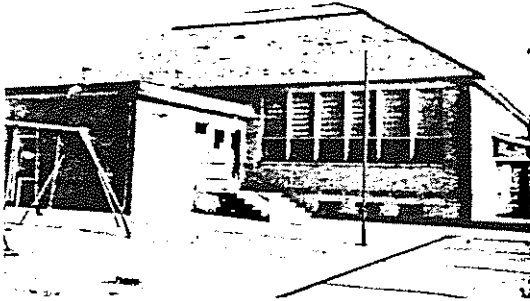
the new church which became a reality because of the hard work and cooperation of the parishioners. On December 22, 1940, the first mass was held in the new church. The bazaar was held in the fall each year for the next ten years. Until the new church was completed the bazaars were held in the old Redmen Hall which was located where the pre-school now stands. In addition to selling crafts and having game booths, a chicken dinner, which was the highlight of the event, was held on Sunday during the bazaar. Many people who had left Louisville, returned to attend the dinner and to renew old acquaintances and visit with old friends. A typical menu for the dinner was: fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, pickles, sliced tomatoes, cinammon apples, beets, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, celery, rolls, jelly, ice cream, cake, and coffee. The price for this great feast was 50¢ for adults and 25¢ for children. By the time the last bazaar was held the price had risen to \$1.50 for adults and 75¢ for children. Approximately 100 women of the parish cleaned and dressed 250 chickens in preparation of the dinner. The preparation of chickens had to be done shortly before they were to be cooked because there were no modern refrigeration methods during the early years. This was a tremendous undertaking for such a few people, but they were very dedicated to improving the parish, and once the church was built attention was focused on other projects. The bazaar continued to be held until 1957. Only the dinner was served that year, and other fund-raising projects were discontinued.

Father Benedict served the parish and the community during the depression and the years of World War II. He organized a waste paper drive as a fund-raiser for the service men, and this became one of his pet projects. Many times when help was scarce, Father could be found in the church basement baling 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. Father Benedict had to leave Louisville in 1946 due to ill health. When he died in February 1947, the eleventh annual bazaar was dedicated to him. Father Benedict was sadly missed.

Father Dominic Scalfani became pastor in 1946. During the time Father Dominic was pastor, St. Louis parish purchased the Redmen Hall which gave ownership of all four corners at the intersection of Grant and Walnut Streets to the church.

Father Thomas Zabolitsky followed Father Dominic and the St. Louis School was remodeled during the summer of 1950 at a cost of \$35,000. Although the building of a new school had been planned to begin in the late 1940s, due to the scarcity of materials following World War II, it was impossible. The existing building was remodeled to include four classrooms with a hall running through the center of the building, indoor toilets, an office, and stairs to the basement which was also excavated at this time. Brick veneer was used to reface the outside of the building, and other features were added to further modernize the structure.

ST. LOUIS PARISH (continued)



Father Harold Glentzer served for one year as pastor in 1951, and was replaced by Father Raymond Layton. Father Raymond continued with the building program and directed the building of a new convent for the nuns. The Redmen Hall was demolished and the new convent was constructed on this site. The cornerstone was laid on August 14, 1953, and the sisters took occupancy on December 14, 1953. The interior of the convent would accommodate five sisters; a chapel, vestry, music room, parlor, community room, refectory, kitchen, laundry and bath-rooms. In order to have the exterior match the church, cream-colored brick was used.



Father Raymond moved into the house which had served as the convent, when the sisters moved into the new structure. In 1955, when Father Raymond left, Father Paulinus Hammer became pastor. St. Louis Church celebrated its 75th jubilee in 1958. On May 26, 1959, the grotto and the shrine which stood in the yard of the rectory and were a gift from Mrs. Martha Eberharter, were blessed by Father Paulinus.



In 1959, Father Harold Glentzer returned to St. Louis and remained until 1973. The present altar, lecterns, and baptismal font were the handiwork of Father Harold who was a very competent carpenter. The old rectory was demolished and a new one replaced it. Open House was held January 21, 1962, and Father Harold moved in a week later. He built the kitchen cabinets, desks, and other cupboards in the rectory which could accommodate several priests as the need arose at a future date. House-keeper's quarters were also included.

The sisters of the Precious Blood left St. Louis in 1970 when the Presentation Sisters of Ireland took charge of the school and remained there until they were recalled to Ireland in 1975. Sisters from various religious communities taught at the school until 1985, when there were no nuns available to continue teaching. Lay teachers make up the staff of the school at the present.

Father John Casey, a Jesuit priest, succeeded Father Harold and served as pastor until June 1980. He was responsible for adding a kindergarten to the school.

Father John McGinn followed Father Casey and celebrated mass in Memory Square Park on September 16, 1984, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of St. Louis parish. The theme of the ceremony was "World Peace and Freedom." Mass began with a procession of parishioners, led by the children, who marched from the church to the park. The daycare center was founded by Father McGinn and was housed in the former convent. He also purchased the Harney property west of town in anticipation of the growth which would take place within a short time.

Since Father Don Willette, who followed Father McGinn as pastor, has been present at St. Louis both the church and school have shown tremendous growth. At the present time, plans for the new expansion have been developed and the work of raising the necessary funds has begun. Many generations of Louisville citizens have attended the St. Louis church and school. This parish is an example of what can be accomplished by a group of hard-working dedicated people and it is hoped that St. Louis will continue to serve its parishioners and our community for many more generations to come.

WOMEN IN HISTORY

March has been designated as "women in history" month. We are reminded of those women who played important roles in the various facets of our lives such as teaching, theater, government, and other areas of endeavor in which women have played a prominent and outstanding role. The women who really are the workers and doers usually fade into the background. As we reflect on the history of our country we realize how very important the women really were. The women who labored long hours just to feed and clothe their families and to maintain the family home played a most important part in the history of our world.

As we look at the history of Louisville, we learn just how important a role the women did play in making this community what it is today. In addition to raising children and caring for their homes, the wives of the miners often found themselves beside the men when picket lines were established at the various mines during the strikes. Before the time when children were immunized against certain very serious diseases, these mothers nursed their children through bouts of very dangerous infections while carrying on with their other chores.

The history of the various churches reflects how important the ladies groups were in the establishment and success of the churches and community.

The women of the Methodist Church were instrumental in the establishment of the Sunday School where they taught classes and found ways to raise funds to keep it going. They were the first ones to distribute treats to the children of the community at Christmas time. During the depression when the church was having a difficult time just providing a minister, the ladies began having a "fall festival" to raise funds in order to pay the minister. Although just a few booths provided hand-crafted items and games in the beginning, this celebration grew to include participation of most of the organizations in the town and even a carnival was added. This event has become our annual "Labor Day" celebration and people from surrounding areas flock to town to participate in the fun. When the need for a social hall became apparent, the Ladies' Aid went to work to secure funds for this addition to the church in the early 1940s. The members of the Ladies' Aid also prepared and served a dinner at noon each election day to the citizens of the town for a very small charge.

Of course, we all remember or have heard about the wonderful bazaars which the women of the St. Louis Catholic Church helped to make successful for a number of years. The work associated with the bazaar is covered in the article about the St. Louis Parish which appears in this newsletter. In addition, to working on the bazaars these ladies did many other important tasks. The altar linens were laundered, starched, and ironed by the members of the women's groups. At one time these groups took over the actual cleaning of the entire church. During the fall festival these women (known throughout the town as great cooks) provided a food booth where hamburgers, hotdogs, home-made pies, cakes, and other refreshments were served. This was one of

the highlights of the fall festival. The women groups of the parish also provide flowers for Christmas and Easter and decorate the church on these occasions.

The ladies of the Baptist Church were instrumental in maintaining the Sunday School and staffing it although a few men also acted as teachers. The women also started the first Vacation Bible School held during the summer in Louisville. Everyone knew they couldn't argue with the "Baptist" kids about quotes from the Bible because they all knew this subject thoroughly due to the dedication of their Sunday School teachers.

Not only were the ladies groups of the various churches active in our community affairs, many other women's organizations played an important role in the development of our citizens. The Saturday Study Club was originally formed by three friends who wanted to organize a women's club for the study of certain literary and scientific subjects. The club took over the management of our local library in 1926 and many members still maintain an active interest in our city library.

One group of women who always have been helpful during crises and at other times is the Firemen's Women Auxiliary. These women have always been on hand to lend assistance to the men and the community during times of distress. Many recall the time a group of men from Louisville returning from a hunting trip were passengers in an airplane which crashed somewhere between Wyoming and Colorado. The ladies of the Firemen's Auxiliary worked to provide food for the men searching for survivors. They also kept the community informed about how the search was progressing. These young women continue to support the firemen as emergencies arise, and are a definite asset to our community.

The ladies of the Tri-City Elks Lodge also are very supportive of our community. This group has made financial contributions to the Louisville Historical Commission each year for some time. They are very active in the activities which are held at the lodge and take part in many charitable projects.

During World War II the women of the community rallied to do their part in support of the war effort. Many joined the Red Cross and took part in the various programs they conducted. They assisted doctors who brought a portable blood bank to Louisville where citizens donated blood to be used for the treatment of men who were serving in the armed forces and were in need of transfusions.

There are many other women's organizations which have been very active and supportive of our community, and their participation has been greatly appreciated. The real heroines of history are the women who maintain their family values and who contribute to the molding of the future citizens. These great ladies have in the past and do continue to play the most important role of all in the history of our city, country, and the entire world. A salute to all the "Women in History."

A GIFT OF MEMORIES

Theresa Myers

On February 26, 1993, Ernest Zarina died from congenital heart failure at Avista Hospital in Louisville. He was 86.

Buried with Ernest on that blustery first Monday in March was another piece of Louisville history and the spirit of a man who impacted many lives in this small Colorado town, including mine. With May being designated as Older Americans Month, this is an appropriate time to remember those elderly friends and relatives who have shaped and influenced our lives.

Uncle Ernie, as his many nieces and nephews affectionately knew him, never had any children of his own. But his love of children and family was very pronounced, and he provided for us a grandfatherly image we cherished. Through his life, his practical knowledge and his crotchety sense of humor, Ernie was a stable, positive influence on all his "kids."

Ernest Zarina was born October 7, 1906 in Louisville, the son of Italian immigrants who made their way from the small village of Villadocia in Northern Italy to Colorado, seeking relief from the field work they did in that large agricultural area.

When I was about 13 years old, I had the opportunity to interview my uncle Ernie for a school project. Luckily, I saved the cassette tape. Now that he is gone, it has become a valued treasure. On the tape, Ernie somewhat reluctantly chronicles his life, from his career in the coal mines of Louisville, to his service in the army during World War II, to his retirement.

Ernie's life got a rough start. As a baby, he contracted spinal meningitis. The doctor had just told Ernie's mother, Savina, he probably wouldn't live when his father, Peter, came from a day's work in the mines. "His hands were black from all that black coal dust. So he went and got some whiskey and put it on his finger, with his dirty old hands, and fed it to me," Ernie said. "I guess that's the only thing that pulled me through."

Early in his life he was given the nickname "Tuffy" which he carried the rest of his days. There are many stories as to how this nickname was given to him, but no one in the family is quite sure of its origin. One story is told about his father digging a cesspool in the backyard when Ernie was about three years old. When the hole was about three feet deep, he begged his father to put him down there with the others who were helping. They told him that he would have to get out himself so when he scaled the dirt wall, the men called him a tough little kid--thus the nickname, "Tuffy."

At the age of 15, Ernest went to work in the coal mines, first at the Brooks mine south of town, where he shoveled coal alongside his father. Throughout his early life, he worked at many Louisville mines, including the Monarch, Matchless, Imperial, and Centennial mines.

In 1927, the International World Workers staged a strike over wages. The only mine still working was the Columbine mine, and strikers gathered there to picket. Ernie was in the crowd. "That was the mine that was working and they had a bunch of scabs there," Ernie recalled.

The state militia had been called in to control the crowd. In an attempt to keep the strikers from trespassing, militia men began shooting into the crowd and Ernie was hit by a bullet in the face.

"We were picketing, peaceful picketing. So we were all at the gate," Ernie said. "We just got there as the whole bunch started going through. Then they started shooting at us . . . They shot right into the crowd. They killed seven of us. I should have been the eighth."

He used to tell the story how his brother-in-law and another man took him to a hotel in Erie and tried to feed him doughnuts and coffee. He said they didn't know he was seriously injured. But a doctor saw Ernie and told him he needed medical assistance. The men then took him to St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver. Although the bullet passed through Ernie's face, it missed his brain. He suffered sinus problems later in his life from the injury.

Ernie then took a job driving mules in the mine. Later, the miners went to contract work, where they picked and loaded their own coal. It was during this time that Ernie had another brush with death. While driving a mule in 1935, he got caught between the heavy coal cart and the wall of the mine. It tore off his ear and part of his scalp. "One-hundred and forty stitches to put it back on," Ernie recalled, chuckling. "I never lost consciousness."

But, like with many of these stories, Ernie had a humorous anecdote to add. "My mother and Tini, one of my sisters, came over to where I was at, and my mother looked at me while I was sitting on the table all bandaged up. She said, 'Well, as long as they keep hitting you in the head you'll be all right. If they ever hit you in the butt, they'll kill you.'"

Although he was "stone deaf" in that ear, he had a full head of hair until the day he died.

Like many miners, Ernie survived the physical challenges and injuries, including cave-ins and devastating explosions. But, it's the mental drain he was most likely to recall. Ernie would tell stories about going months without ever seeing daylight, going to work before the sun rose and coming home long after it had set.

In 1943, at the age of 37, Ernie started another chapter in his life. Too old to be drafted, he joined the Army and was sent to Panama as a firefighter with a regiment guarding the Canal. Although he received a Medal of Valor for "courage shown above and beyond the call of duty" for a fire he fought there, Ernie was typically modest about the experience.

"It wasn't too much duty, really," Ernie said. "We'd go to nightclubs at night and sight seeing in the afternoons." During his service, Ernie met Ed Boulanger. Ed's sister-in-law, Olivia, in St. Louis, began writing to Ernie. She and Ernie married in 1946 after the war.

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A GIFT OF MEMORIES (continued)

After a brief stint in the mines, Ernie held various jobs, from bartender at the Twin Light and Hacienda restaurants in Louisville, to mail man. While a bartender, Ernie was well-known as a man not to mess with. He didn't tolerate any "funny business" with his waitresses, and was known to be less than kind when breaking up bar fights. But, others remember him as a generous man, who would loan money to young men for their dates. He usually got paid back.

Ernie also volunteered as a firefighter and was active in many civic organizations. He and his wife, Lee, had a close circle of friends and enjoyed attending Bronco football games and Bear baseball games. One of my fondest memories was attending the Fourth of July Bear games with Uncle Ernie and Aunt Lee and staying to watch the fireworks afterward.

In 1956, he went to work for Sundstrand in Arvada. He eventually retired from there, and spent much of his retirement playing golf, enjoying a beer with a friend, and chasing potential boyfriends away from his nieces.

In 1982, Ernie suffered a stroke. Although he fought his way back from being partially paralyzed, he was never the same. He became more quiet, less active, and somewhat introspective. But he always had time for a visit from the family, was quick to offer you a beer, and would jokingly ask for "a little reimbursement" every time Aunt Lee gave us some trinket or knickknack she'd been saving.

Although Ernie has left us now, a part of him survives in everyone who was his friend, his co-worker or part of his extended family. He was a fighter until the very end, a survivor of the highest order.

I can still see his crystal blue eyes, his curly salt-and-pepper hair, and if I try, I can hear his gravelly laugh. Memories were certainly his greatest gift.

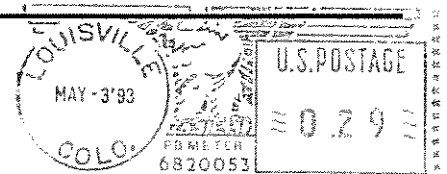
Theresa Myers is a reporter on the Greeley Tribune, Greeley, Colorado.

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In Memory of

Marian Thirlaway
Ernest Zarina

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