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THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN



Issue No. 14

A Publication of the Louisville Historical Commission and Society
May 1991

FOURTH OF JULY

Our annual auction will be held on Thursday, July 4, 1991, at 10:30 a.m. in conjunction with the activities planned by the City of Louisville at Memory Square Park which is located at the corner of Jefferson and Spruce Streets.

This auction is our principle fund-raising project of the year and has been very successful due to the generosity of the Louisville business people and residents. As in previous years some of the more valuable items will be placed on a "silent auction" table and written bids will be made for them.

We will be selling pins and other small items. Tickets for the raffle which will be held on Labor Day will be on sale at this time. We would like to invite everyone to participate in the activities planned for this day.

As our plans are being formulated for July 4, 1991, some activities that took place on the fourth in previous years are recalled. On July 4, 1909, the following events were recorded:

A floats parade was held and first prize for the most attractive float was awarded to Mr. J.J. Steinbaugh. A "horseless carriage" which was a mule harnessed to the wrong end in the shaves of a buggy and driven by James Connors received first prize for the most comical float. A wagon drawn by a "William Goat" took second prize in this category. A fire hose cart race was won by the Eric team although the Louisville team was faster, they failed to get water. The 100-yard race was won by Centerfield Brown and the old man race by H.D. Tobey. Adam Dixon came in first place in a quoit contest. Quoit is a game similar to horseshoe pitching. An iron ring (quoit) is aimed at a stake which has been pounded into the ground and the object, of course, is to get the ring around the stake. It was noted that there were no arrests or disorderly conduct and since there were no accidents reported, it was concluded to be a regular, good-time, old-fashioned fourth of July.

THE MUSEUM CORNER

We are going ahead with our plans to install a ramp at the back entrance of the store museum and this project should be completed within a short period of time. The City has inspected the foundation of the house and has made recommendations for the repairs. This work will begin as soon as bids can be obtained.

Artifacts pertaining to mining will be on exhibit at the Louisville Recreation Center through the month of May when "History Month" will be observed in keeping the national designation. The exhibits on display in the museum windows continue to attract attention of people passing by.

Several group tours have been conducted during the past few weeks. Fifteen residents of the Meridan Retirement Community were shown through both museums on Tuesday, February 26. Mrs. Grace (Fabrizio) Ardourel, a former resident of Louisville, was one of the visitors. On March 24, a group of thirty members of an antique car club toured the buildings. A group of sixteen tour guides from the Arvada Art Museum accompanied by Welcome (Henning) Miller visited on April 16. These groups were generous in their donations. Several girl and boy scout groups have been conducted through the buildings.

The museum is open on Thursday 1-3 p.m. and special tours can be arranged by calling the museum at 665-9048 or any Commission member.

The following artifacts have been donated to the museum from January 1 through March 31:

Vaughn McNally: Squib, canning jar, blasting cap crimper, First Aid Training Certificate, lamp base in which to carry extra carbide

Earl & Barbara Bolton: Newspapers dated 1906, 1916, 1919, 1963, 1964, 1965; printed program presented in memory of President William McKinley

Jenny Milano: Letter of commendation, various programs of high school plays, ration book, photographs

Carolyn Markham: Lincoln Avenue street sign

Emajane & Bob Enrietto: Newspaper, dated January 17, 1991, "IT'S WAR", Jets bomb Iraq

Betty & Ernie Marino: Photographs of Coal Creek Flood

Larella Stout: Various documents

The classes who participated in the reunion held August 18, 1991 donated the surplus money collected to our museums.



4th of July Auction

Thursday-July 4, 1991-10:30 a.m.

Memory Square Park

on behalf of

The Louisville Historical Museums

MARRIAGE REPORTED

The following article was found in a copy of "The Louisville Times" dated September 9, 1920.

NEWLY WEDS GIVEN RIDE THROUGH STREETS OF BOULDER



A wedding of much interest to a wide circle of Boulder people took place Monday afternoon at Brighton when Miss Doris Manchester of this city became the bride of Harry Jenkins of Louisville. The ceremony was performed by Rev Bancroft of the Brighton Presbyterian church and was witnessed by Mrs. Roy Nelson and Mrs. Frank Winkler of Cheyenne.

The bridal party returned last evening to the home of Mrs. J.E. Manchester of Valmont, where a very elaborate wedding dinner of sixteen covers was served. Later in the evening about thirty of their friends called and gave them an old fashioned charivari (shivaree). The noise makers were treated to ice cream and cigars. They were not to be bribed, however, by such gifts and capturing the bride and bridegroom placed them in a wagon which they later attached to an automobile. The newly weds were brot to Boulder and given a joy ride thru the streets. All the noise making appliances that the chariviers could scrape up were used in calling attention to the newly weds.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins will go to housekeeping in Louisville where he is employed as a miner. - - - The Camera

Since June, the traditional month for weddings, will soon be upon us, we thought the above report would be of interest to our readers. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins moved into the large two-storied house in the 700 block of Grant Street where the hospital was formerly located and resided there until their deaths. They became the parents of two sets of girl twins: Marge Barday and Mildred Conway; Nettie Rooks and Nellie Hoedel. They also had two sons, Laverne and Harry.

THE MONTH OF MAY

The first day of May has long been celebrated as the departure of winter and the advent of spring. May Day had its origin in pagan rites observing the beginning of spring. In early Rome the day was celebrated by honoring Flora, the goddess of flowers. Flower dances and processions were held. May Day was formerly one of England's major festivals and continues to be observed in many towns and villages. In the United States May Day was chiefly a festival for children and is still widely observed in many schools. Pageants, erection of Maypoles, folk dancing, and singing are part of the celebration.

In many countries, May Day is recognized as International Labor Day. Many of the countries under Communist rule hold parades and demonstrations on this day.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson designated the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day and directed that the American Flag be displayed on all public buildings on that day. An old English custom which was observed by attending church and offering gifts at the altar to mothers as tokens of love and gratitude was known as "Mother's Sunday". This is a day for families to be together.

Another holiday which is observed in May in our country is Memorial Day which originally fell on May 30. On this day tribute is paid to those who died in all of the United States' wars. Military and civic parades are held, graves

are decorated with flowers and flags fly at half mast until noon.

In our town of Louisville we took part in most of the customs that were celebrated throughout the world to commemorate the beginning of spring.

School children made baskets of paper and filled them with flowers. These "May baskets" were left as a surprise at the door of a favorite relative or friend. Maypoles were erected at the schools and the "Maypole Dance" was performed by the children. Long ribbons hung from the pole and during the dance they were woven around the pole in an attractive pattern.

One important "May event" in Louisville has been the crowning of the "May Queen" at the St. Louis Catholic Church. This event took place on the first Sunday of May. The Pi Epsilon Club which was an organization for the high school students who were members of the St. Louis Catholic Church selected a young girl from their membership to be the "May Queen". The "May Queen", dressed in a white formal and attended by several other young girls in formal attire, placed a crown of fresh spring flowers on the head of the statue of the Virgin Mary. This tradition continues to be observed by the St. Louis school children. Many people of other churches come to view this beautiful ceremony.

May is a beautiful month and very welcome after the gloom of winter. Many of the traditions commemorating the month have been handed down through the years and continue to be observed.

NEW MEMBERS OF HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Louisville Historical Commission is pleased to welcome two new members to our group.

Don Ross who is a native of Louisville has been very supportive of our group in the past and helped with the restoration of the store building. Our other new member is Patricia Scholes who is a relatively new resident of Louisville. She is enthusiastic and very interested in our city and its history.

THE KOREAN WAR

If anyone was a member of the Armed forces during the Korean Conflict, has relatives or friends who served during this time, please call the museum at 665-9048, or Eileen Schmidt at 666-6853 and leave a message.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of
Ralph Johnson
a staunch supporter of the historical museums

HISTORY OF THE JOSEPH KASENGA, SR. FAMILY

The following history of the Joseph Kasenga, Sr. family is condensed from information provided by his daughter, Elsie (Kasenga) Stucka.

Joseph Kasenga, Sr. was born on March 22, 1885, in Uloza, Austria-Hungary which is now known as Czechoslovakia. He was one of a family of three brothers and one sister. His two brothers had come to America before him and settled in Indiana, Illinois, or Pennsylvania, but since Joseph was intrigued with the west he decided to come to Colorado. He settled in Pueblo where he worked in the steel mills. Eventually, he moved to Louisville and worked in the coal mines. Some of the mines where he worked were the Hecla, Highway, Brooks, Acme, Centennial I and II and the Monarch. He was very upset by the explosion at the Monarch Mine. For years his job was to place the dynamite in the mines to break up the walls of coal and he received a shot fireman's certificate for this work. He held many responsible jobs during his mining years. His leg was broken in a mining accident.

Joseph told his family many stories about the strikes and mining. During the Five-Year strike, Joseph, Louis Gutfleider, and George Golden took their guns, hid in a ditch north of the railroad tracks (near the Hocheder farm) and were ready to fire on the "scabs" when someone turned on the water in the ditch and they almost drowned. He also spoke of the time that the officials of the I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World) more commonly known as the "Wobblies" came to town to encourage the miners during the strike. The "Wobblies" held meetings to keep the miners riled--they sang songs, had speakers and always took a collection. Joseph recalled attending a meeting one night and learning that the representatives of the "Wobblies" had taken the money collected at the nightly meeting and left town--what a letdown!

Joseph had very little formal education, but could read and write in both English and Slovenian and he was a whiz at math. He was very proud of the fact that he had become a naturalized citizen before his marriage.

On April 20, 1909, Joseph married Mary Elizabeth Sirokman at the St. Louis Catholic Church in Louisville. Mary was born on October 18, 1892. They became the parents of five children: Joseph, Jr., Margaret M. (Hogan), Elsie (Stucka), Albert, and James Wilbert. Joseph insisted that only English be spoken in the home and his children remember that he only spoke Slovenian when he didn't want to be understood. The family attended the St. Louis Catholic Church. Joseph and Mary became custodians of the St. Louis Catholic School after his retirement from the mines. He was a great admirer of Josephine Roche and John L. Lewis who assisted the miners in their struggle for eight-hour days, fair wages, and improved safety conditions in the mines.

In 1919, the family moved to a ten-acre farm Northeast of Louisville where a gas station and the Christopher Village office park are now located. While living on the farm, they raised fruits and vegetables as well as chickens. They also supplied white popcorn which was sold in the Rex theater. During the Depression and in the summers when the mines weren't working, they not only lived on the food raised, but they also sold it to people living in town. Mary was known for the "baker's dozen" she gave

her customers when they bought her eggs. She was an excellent cook and baked all the bread and rolls served to her family. Fruits, pickles, relishes, and jam were canned by Mary and she even made sauerkraut in a barrel. She also sewed clothes for the entire family often using flour sacks. Each year the St. Louis Church held a bazaar to provide funds for the church. Mary was one of the women who prepared a chicken dinner which was served to the public. As many as one thousand dinners were served. On the day she ironed clothes using irons that were heated on the coal stove she also baked bread in order to use the hot stove to a greater advantage. Mary was the first one in Louisville to have a Maytag washing machine and she was instrumental in selling them to several others. Her fancy work including scarves, pillowcases, and tea towels is cherished by her family.

Joseph Kasenga, Jr. was born on April 20, 1910, in Louisville. He was a coal miner for about fifteen years and was working at the Highway Mine when he retired from mining. Joseph then went to work for the Mead and Mount Construction Company of Denver and was employed by them for about thirty-five years. On June 4, 1933, he married Lorraine Scott and they became the parents of one daughter. He was known as an avid fisherman and lover of the outdoors. Joseph passed away on October 31, 1983.

Elsie (Stucka) was born on June 29, 1913, in Louisville--she attended Louisville High School and graduated in 1931. She was employed as a private secretary and has been employed at Columbian Elementary School in Denver as a paraprofessional (aide) for the past twenty years. Elsie and Steve Stucka were married on September 25, 1943, and are the parents of two sons and one daughter.

On December 4, 1914, Margaret (Hogan) was born in Louisville and graduated from Louisville High School in 1932. She worked in a dentist's office, at Joslin's in Boulder, was chief cook at Mossoni's restaurant and worked at various places in Louisville. Margaret and Ed Hogan were married at the St. Louis Church on February 28, 1937. She became her husband's chief helper in the running of their ranch in Eldorado Springs--cooking and serving meals to those who participated in their well-known "steak fries". They were the parents of two sons and one daughter. After her husband's death in 1982, Margaret continued to oversee the ranch where they had made their home.

Albert Kasenga was born February 19, 1920, and graduated from Louisville High School in 1937. He was a member of the Signal Corps of the United States army during World War II and went overseas to serve in North Africa, Italy, France and finally on to Germany. His outfit carried out heavy construction assignments. After being discharged from the Army on August 15, 1945, and staying in Louisville for a few months, he traveled to California to take a vacation. He decided to settle permanently in the Los Angeles area. He was employed by a magazine binding company which assembled and printed Time, Life, Sports and People's magazines--retiring in 1983. Albert and Theresa Bliquez were married in Santa Monica, California, on September 4, 1948, and have five children--three sons and two daughters. Albert changed the spelling of Kasenga to Kasinga because his Army discharge papers had spelled the name with an "i".

KASENGA FAMILY HISTORY (continued)

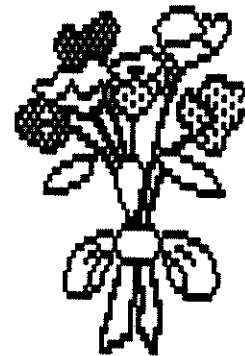
On May 1, 1923, James Wilbert was born. He attended Louisville High School where he became a student leader and was active in athletics. Wilbert was a member of the town baseball team which took the state championship in 1940. He earned a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado in 1944 and did graduate work at the Universities of Denver, Nebraska, and Mississippi.

During World War II he served with the Navy as a radioman and weather forecaster on the Marshall Islands from 1944 to 1946. While stationed on Midway Island he began making shell jewelry for which his brother-in-law, Ed Hogan, provided the necessary tools. After his discharge from the Navy, he worked for Prouty Brothers as a construction engineer for the dormitory buildings on the University of Colorado campus in Boulder. In 1948, he was employed by the Department of Highways and after working throughout the state for several years, was assigned to the Denver office as Design Engineer in 1952. He married Theresa Panzella of New York City on July 26, 1948, and they became the parents of two sons. Wilbert was an enthusiastic outdoorsman and an avid fisherman. He performed volunteer work for the Boy Scouts and Head Start programs. Wilbert passed away in Denver on June 8, 1982. A grove of trees was planted in his memory at the Chatfield State Park. Another memorial to him is located near the Business School and Activities Center at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

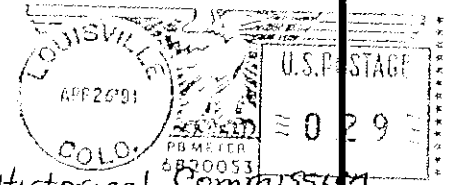
Mary and Joseph Kasenga celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren on April 20, 1974. Joseph passed away on March 15, 1977, and Mary on June 10, 1982. The entire community mourned the passing of these two well-known, highly respected individuals.

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Virginia Caranci.....666-6235
- Emajane Enrietto.....666-4145
- John Garcia666-7873
- Isabelle Hudson666-6630
- Marion Junior.....666-8283
- Donald Ross.....666-6836
- Eileen Schmidt.....666-6853
- Patricia Scholes.....673-0311
- Patricia Seader.....666-8385



**LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
749 MAIN STREET
LOUISVILLE, CO 80027**



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