

THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Virginia Caranci

The new year always brings in new ideas, new plans and new resolutions, so after 11 of my 13 years on the Commission as Chairperson, I'll let the new year give the Historical Commission a new Chairperson.

Everything as Chairperson I wanted to see accomplished has been completed, so now it's time for someone else to look forward to leading the Commission in preserving Louisville's history. When I say that everything I want to see accomplished was completed, it was only by the hard work, and I mean 100% commitment, from all the Commissioners.

We were able to get 12 buildings on the National Register, have the old Community Building refinished on the outside to preserve the bricks and windows, start our annual fund raiser (the auction) and raise enough money to refurbish and open two museums. We have been able to get enough artifacts for the museums and we continue to get more, thanks to all of you who donate them. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for enabling us to give the Pioneer Award to someone who played a big part in the history of Louisville.

As we look forward to the new decade, I know you all will continue to support and work hard for the preservation of our wonderful history. I know that I'm committed to that goal and will support the efforts of the new chairperson with all the enthusiasm everyone did for me.

I want to thank the City of Louisville for all their in-kind services they give us, the business community for their continuous support and donations and most of all to the members of the Commission and Society who never said "No" to anything I ever asked of them. It has been a good and rewarding 11 years for me as chairperson, THANKS TO YOU ALL!

MUSEUM CORNER

We have completed our backlog of cataloging and our files are now current.

New blinds are being installed on the front windows of the store museum. Although the windows have been treated to screen out harmful rays of the sun, some damage has been done to articles displayed in the windows. It is hoped that the blinds will be more effective in preventing damage to articles.

The following artifacts have been donated since May 1990:

Nettie Rooks: Louisville Times, October 7, 1920 and February 18, 1920; Photos-Firemen hose cart race, Redmen Hall, Firemen-1935, Neighbors of the Wood Craft-1929, Thirlaway Store.

Emajane and Rob Furietto: Abstract Deed of Acme Mine-September 18, 1875-June 1, 1951

Mary Meier: Dress Form

Ed Borg: Needle (a mining tool); tamping bar; Auger with breastplate.

Robert Sneddon: Composite-class of 1952 (Louisville High School)

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Waneka: Anvil; Two connecting iron links for coal cars; Pin used in coupling on coal cars

George Morrisey: White Apron; Long black and white check apron; blue wool bathing suit

Beth and Daryl Decker: Glasses used for 3D movies-one green and one red lens; package of assorted plastic charms

Bill Sompayrac: Ansco Camera


We continue to conduct group tours through our museums. They are open on Thursday afternoons 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Special tours can be arranged by calling the museum (665-9048) or Eileen Schmidt at 666-6853.



LOOKING BACK IN 1990


Many improvements have been made in the store museum. Bill Buffo and Bob Enrietto have installed lights, fans, and spot lights where needed. Lights for the windows were put on a timer so exhibits could be viewed from the street in the evenings.

The bank history was written by Ron Buffo and presented to Clair Beckman to be used in commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the First National Bank. The safe used in one of the old banks was sandblasted, painted, and put on display at the museum grounds.




A Valentine's Day exhibit of old valentine cards and other memorabilia was placed in the store windows during the month of February. March was designated as "Louisville Historical Month" and artifacts depicting "Early Day Social Life in Louisville" were displayed in City Hall.

The by-laws of the Commission were reviewed and some changes in our operating procedures were made. The museum consent committee determined what procedures would be used when accepting and cataloging artifacts.



A display of wedding gowns and old wedding pictures were on exhibit during the month of June.



Our fourth of July auction was very successful again this year. Some of the more costly items were placed on a silent auction table and bids were made for them. This type of auction proved to be quite profitable. Chances were sold on the doll made by Marion Junior. Pins, cards, stationery, and Christmas decorations were also sold at the Fourth of July celebration.

Air conditioning was installed in the store museum since a constant temperature is necessary for the preservation of artifacts stored there. The outside of the house museum was painted by Don Marques. New signs showing the hours that the museums are open were displayed in the windows of the buildings.

An exhibit of Italian artifacts was held at the Community Building in conjunction with the Italian Festa which took place on August 19, 1990.

The sale of porcelain Christmas ornaments was very successful. All of the ornaments made by the Commission members were sold. The

museums were open for the "Parade of Lights" on December 7, 1990. Vignettes, presented by the Louisville Theatre Group in the house museum, were enjoyed by more than two hundred people. Wassail and cookies were served in the store museum as people waited to visit the house.

We continue to add new artifacts to our collection. Tours of school children and other groups are conducted through the museums on a regular basis. We hope to proceed with plans to make some improvements at our house museum this next year.

In looking back, we feel that the year 1990 has been a very rewarding one for our commission and society members.



OLD MILL PARK

A few months ago a short biography of Edward Affolter appeared in this newsletter. His daughter, Ruth Babock, has informed us that the cabin located at Haystack Mountain, where Mr. Affolter was born, has been reconstructed in Old Mill Park (Pratt Street-south of 3rd) in Longmont. Flower gardens have been planted around the structure and the Affolter family is collecting articles with which to furnish the cabin. This park is often the scene of weddings. Programs for children are often held here and many groups visit as part of field trips.

We would like to correct some of the information we were given regarding Mr. Affolter. His mother was Elizabeth Ruch Affolter and he was the fifth child of ten. The Affolter family were long time residents of this area and this park will prove to be of interest to many.

FAMILY HISTORIES

Many have notified us of the fact that they were writing their histories, but have not yet completed them. We have decided to not begin our book until we receive them. People have been quite slow in responding to this request.

ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MUSEUMS

The Louisville Historical Commission hosted a meeting of the Association of Northern Front Range Museums in the Crown Mine Room of the Louisville Recreation Center on Monday, January 14 at 11:30 a.m. Twenty-four people attended the meeting and box lunches from Karen's Country Kitchen were served.

The guest speaker was Carol Mehles of Lafayette who spoke on the subject "Joining the National Register and Local Uses of the National Register." Ms. Mehles told of some of the surveys which she and her husband had completed. The survey which they conducted for the Louisville Historical Commission was typical of the work they do. During a tour of Louisville, one hundred-twenty five buildings, constructed during the 1878 to 1920 period, were selected as possible candidates for registration on the National Register. Of this number, seventy structures were selected for the actual survey and of those seventy, twelve were eventually placed on the register. The funding of this survey came from a grant. Most structures which are fifty years old or older are considered to be of historic value. Ms. Mehles answered questions posed by the group and offered her assistance to them.

During the meeting the representatives from Lafayette invited members from Louisville and Erie to the next meeting of their group which will be held on February 14. The Lafayette group is hoping to offer a tour of the area in England from which most of the early miners in Louisville, Lafayette, and Erie had emigrated.

Following a business meeting during which officers of the Association for the coming year were elected, the group then adjourned to the Louisville museums for a tour of those buildings.

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.



NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

Did you know in 1986 the twelve buildings listed below were put on the National Register of Historical Places?

ORIGINAL ADDRESS	PRESENT OWNERS
Denver Elevator, 500 Front St.	-Charlie Thomas
Stolms House, 616 Front St.	-The Duran House
Lackner's Tavern, 1006 Pine St.	-The Track Inn (Charles Grosso)
National Fuel Co. Store, 801 Main St.	-Unknown
Lego Brs. Drug, 700 Main St.	-Karen's Kitchen
State Bank of Louisville	-Karen Mulholland
Robinson House, 301 Spruce St.	-Unknown
Thomas House, 700 Lincoln St.	-Bessie Thomas
LaSalle House, 1124 Main St.	-Donnell Wilson
Rhodes House, 1024 Grant St.	-Carol VandenBos
Jacoe Store, 1001 Main St., Louisville Museum	-City of Louisville
Janucci House, 1124 LaFarge St.	-John Leary

Take a ride around Louisville and see these historical places. For those of you who have not lived in Louisville for a long period of time, it will be enlightening. For those of you who have lived here for a long period of time, it will certainly bring back a lot of pleasant memories as you reflect back on how it used to be.



IN MEMORIAM

In memory of the Brothers who were members of Local Union 6617 who were killed in the explosion 4 years ago January 20. They are sadly missed but not forgotten. Signed: Members of Local 6617

-Louisville Times, January 1940 regarding the Monarch Mine Explosion

VALENTINE'S DAY

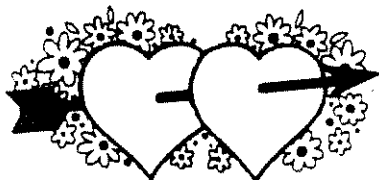
There are many stories associated with the history of Valentine's Day. One of the most popular dates back to the third century when hordes of hungry wolves lived outside the city of Rome. The Roman God, Lupercus, watched over the shepherds and their flocks protecting them from the wolves. Therefore the Romans decided to celebrate a feast call Lupercalis, honoring the God. This celebration was to be held during the month of February (around the fourteenth) and even after the wolves disappeared, this holiday continued to be observed. At this feast the young men and women selected the person who was to be their companion throughout the festivities by drawing lots.

Later this ancient festival became associated with the Christian bishop St. Valentine who lived during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius. Claudius was continually waging war against some other society and since the young men rebelled against leaving their wives and sweethearts, he banned all marriages and canceled all engagements. Bishop Valentine secretly performed marriages for many of the couples and when Claudius became aware of this he threw Valentine into prison. During the time he spent in prison it was said that he fell in love with a jailer's daughter after he had cured her blindness. Valentine wrote his lover letters and signed them "from your Valentine." In the year 496 the reigning pope set aside February 14 (the date he was beheaded) to honor him. Lovers choose this day to send each other greetings and small gifts such as flowers in St. Valentine's honor. The first commercial valentines appeared about 1800 and were very fancy and sentimental. The red heart, which has always been an accepted symbol of love, was chosen as the favorite motif of Valentine's Day.

FOR SALE:

At Louisville Times office, bundles of old papers for use on pantry shelves, under carpets, etc. 5 cents a bundle

-Louisville Times, February 1940



For many years Valentine's Day has been celebrated by school children who make cards for their friends. During the depression years the children covered large boxes (such as hat boxes) with fancy decorations of crepe paper or other colored paper and placed their homemade cards in them. Later these valentines were distributed by the teacher and refreshments were served to the children. Today each child usually decorates a paper bag and "valentines" are placed in them by their friends. The traditional refreshments of heart shaped cookies and punch are still served.



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of
Joyce Tharp
Dennis DelPizzo
Charles Scarpella

Since 1947 the post office in Loveland, Colorado, has offered to postmark all valentines sent there with "Loveland" and remail them. This tradition has grown from a few hundred being postmarked in 1947 to several thousand today. Next to Mother's Day florists do their largest volume of business around February 14. This has become a special day and is one of the favorite holidays for many school children. Please visit our Louisville Historical Museum and see our Valentine exhibit.



GEORGE RUSSELL HENNING

George Russell Henning was born in a sod house in Box Butte County, Nebraska in 1891. His parents were George and Magdalene Henning. The family later moved to Omaha where he attended North High School and met his wife, Marguerite Lay. He was affectionately called "G.R." by his friends. G.R. and Maguerite were married in Omaha where they resided until he enlisted in the Army during World War I. After he was sent overseas, he served in the Medical Division of the Base Hospital #29 in France. He worked at the hospital for the duration of the war as a medic and embalmed the bodies of boys who were killed and were being sent to the United States for burial. After the war, he attended and graduated from the Chicago School of Mortuary Science. He was licensed in Illinois, Nebraska and Colorado as an embalmer and Funeral Director. Since he needed a rest after his war experiences, he and his wife moved to Keeline (near Douglas), Wyoming, where they lived for several years on a homestead. Their first daughter, Blossom, was born while they lived in Keeline.

After a short time Mr. Henning, along with his wife and daughter, moved to Thermopolis, Wyoming, where he returned to his profession as a mortician. A mortuary supply salesman informed him of a mortuary in Louisville that was for sale. G.R. moved his family to Louisville in the early part of 1923. A second daughter, Welcome, was born into the family in November, 1923. They were living in a building which housed a home and a mortuary (located on the corner of Main and Walnut Streets). This building was replaced by a more modern structure built by the Fabrizio Brothers and it still stands in this location although in recent years it has been converted to a shopping area and offices. When the mortuary in Lafayette went up for sale, G.R. purchased it and Mr. and Mrs. Lay (Maguerite's parents) lived there managing this branch of the business until their retirement when they moved to Louisville.

Mr. Henning served as mayor of Louisville from 1924-1926 and took an active part in making improvements to the town. Sidewalks instead of boardwalks were constructed during this time. All the churches were supported financially and personally by Mr. and Mrs. Henning. He organized the first town basketball team and was instrumental in getting the new high school built in 1940.

For many years, Mr. Henning operated the only ambulance service to the mines and also served the general public in this capacity. If someone couldn't afford this service, he simply didn't charge. One of his most enjoyable experiences was acting as the town Santa Clause and giving sacks of candy and an orange to the children on Christmas Eve each year. This was especially

rewarding during the Depression years when this sack of goodies was perhaps the only treat received by some children. After he finished at the Christmas tree located on Main and Spruce Streets, he visited the homes of sick children who weren't able to be out. When the Methodist Church was in need of financial aid, he, Mrs. Henning and the "Ladies Aid" group organized the first "Fall Festival".

Mr. and Mrs. Henning came to realize that there were no organizations or entertainment for teenage girls in Louisville during the depression. In 1923 they organized the Lafayette Assembly Order of Rainbow Girls under the sponsorship of the Lafayette Masonic & Eastern Star Lodges. They served as "Mother and Dad" of this assembly for many years. The "Pot of Gold Ranch" at Eldorado Springs was built for the girls to visit and enjoy at little cost to them or their parents. Most important to him was being called "Dad" by many young women who relied on him for guidance and support during their formative years.

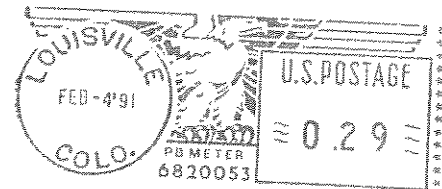
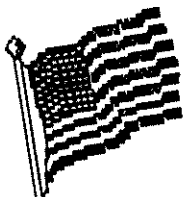
He served on the Welfare Board of Boulder County during the Depression and on the Rationing Board during World War II as well as being a member of the Draft Board. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, a Past Commander of the American Legion Post, a volunteer fireman, a life-time member of the Masonic Lodge, a life member of the Boulder Elks Lodge, Past Patron of Excelsior Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, and was a member of the Methodist Church. He was very supportive of all the churches and considered Father Benedict and Father Paulinus of the St. Louis Church to be two of his dearest friends.

G.R. Henning has always been remembered for his love of the people of Louisville and for the pride he took in being a part of our community. The services he administered during times of death and grief were not those of a businessman, but those of a dear friend.

Mr. Henning has been chosen as the recipient of the "Pioneer Award" for 1990 which is presented by the Louisville Chamber of Commerce annually.



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