

Louisville Historical
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LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL

THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

Issue No. 11

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June 1990

Editor - Ron Buffo

4TH OF JULY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Virginia Caranci

Hello again and where does the time go? It's already June and summer is here. Why don't you all try to make an effort to come and see our two great museums on one of your summer outings. They really are beautiful and a great deal of love and labor went into both of them.

We are open on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. but we will be happy to open for anyone at anytime. Call one of our Commission members and we will set something up for you.

Changing the day we open the Museum is for two purposes. Cataloging is usually done Thursday afternoon and secondly, the Lafayette Miners Museum is open on Thursday, so we can now coordinate the time to enable people to see both Museums the same day.

The City of Louisville is fortunate to have two museums. Most cities the size of ours do not have even one. The supporters of the Louisville Museum have been so generous in giving us their treasures and because of them we have been able to display the history of our great little city. Again, if you have anything you would like to donate to the museum please let us know.

Have a great summer. We'll see you at the Museum or at our 4th of July auction.

On Wednesday, July 4, 1990 in conjunction with the festivities planned by the City of Louisville the Historical Commission will be holding our annual auction. The auction will take place in Memory Square Park at 10:00 a.m. and our auctioneer will once again be Mr. Joe Knight.

This has always been a great success for the Commission because of the incredible generosity of Louisville businesses and the high quality merchandise they donate to the event.

Throughout the day there will also be a silent auction taking place at the same location. We encourage everyone to take part in the auction as this is our major source of funds for the year.

Additionally, a raffle will be ongoing from the 4th of July until Labor Day with the winner receiving a handmade doll crafted by Commission member Marion Junior. After the 4th the doll will be on display at the 1st National Bank.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF:

**JAN CHAPMAN
JUDY STAHELIN**

4TH OF JULY AUCTION

WEDNESDAY - JULY 4TH - 10:00 A.M.
MEMORY SQUARE PARK

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

1001 MAIN STREET
HOURS - 1:00 P.M. UNTIL 3:00 P.M.
THURSDAYS
PHONE: 666-9048

CURATORS CORNER

by Betty Buffo

The following artifacts have been donated to the Museum since March.

- Glen Steinbaugh** - Book, war papers-1918, mine papers.
Ted Manzanares - Rex Theatre seats.
Raymond and Beverly Smith - Mine photo, books, papers.
Don and Monica Buffo - Wine press and wine barrel.
John Ross - Baseball bat.
Mrs. Anthony Jacovette - Miners hat, safety lamp, carbide lamp.
Ruth Babcock - Newspaper, articles, photos.
Lewis Romans - Shoes, photo.
Sylvia Kilker - Collection of buttons.
Leonard and Louella Mellecker - Shoes, flat iron, candle holders, lamp, eyeglasses, rocking chair, spittoon.
Marion DiGiacomo - Camera, World War II ration books, coins.
Mary Poydock - Photos.
Herb Grasser - Adding machine circa 1920.
Albert Mudrock - Cloth miners hat.
Mildred Sirokman, Mable Winkler, Eleanor Drimble, Edna Ambrose - Spanish American uniform (field and dress)
Mildred Sirokman, Betty Friden, William Sirokman - World War I uniform, World War II gas mask, World War II uniform, Navy uniform, photo.
Betty Friden - Books and papers.
Carrie DiFrancia Estate - Collars, pot holders, dishes, hats, corset, shoes, toaster, pans, ricer, glass ware, scarfs, buttons, purse, photos, towels, umbrella, cosmetics, combs, grater, tea kettle, books, rolling pin.

We are trying to collect composite graduation pictures for Louisville High School and in particular for the following years:

1937,1938,1939,1943,1944,1946,1948,1949,1951,1952,1953.
If you have one and would like to donate it or let us make a copy of it please notify a Commission member.

For the House Museum we are looking for a day bed or old couch, smoke stand, a library table, icebox, old tables (circa 1920's or 1930's, and an old set of dishes.

COMMISSION MEMBERS CHANGE

The Historical Commission has lost a member, Carolyn Markham, and gained back a previous member, John Garcia.

Carolyn has been a long time member of the Commission and has been a positive contributor. She has been largely responsible for keeping track of the Commission finances and her artistic skills have added to a great many projects sponsored by the Commission. The Louisville Historical Commission is now composed of the following members.

Virginia Caranci - Chairperson
Pat Seader - Vice-Chairperson
Emajane Enrietto - Secretary
Ron Buffo - Treasurer
Eileen Schmidt
Marion Junior
Bill Buffo
Isabelle Hudson
John Garcia

MUSEUM WINDOWS

Some concern has been expressed regarding the front windows on the store museum and the effects of harmful sunrays on the artifacts being displayed in the windows.

The large windows have been covered with a special film that filters out ultra-violet rays and is specifically designed to protect items in the display case.

Being affiliated with the Association of Northern Front Range Museums assures us that we are continually abreast of all current museum practices and procedures.

MARSHALL MINE TOUR

by Ron Buffo

On Saturday, May 5, 1990 the Boulder County Open Space division presented a historical and geological overview of the Marshall, Colorado area. Brent Wheeler of the Open Space division gave the majority of the presentation with additional information given by Joanna Sampson, a longtime resident of Marshall.

The town of Marshall is named after Joseph Marshall, an early homesteader, who took over coal mining operations from William Kitchen in 1866. Kitchen was the original coal mining operator in the area. Marshall had also been known at various times as Langford and Gorham.

Marshall was soon teeming with coal miners, mostly bachelors, and the town developed a reputation as being tough and hard nosed and catered to the populous with a sufficient number of saloons. As with most mining communities of the time many miners came from the United Kingdom and then later from central and southern European countries.

The coal seams in and around Marshall are, for the most part, close to the surface of the ground with most reaching a maximum depth of 100 feet. The rock formation in the area is known as the Laramie Rock formation and within it lie a number of coal seams.

In a number of the mines in the Marshall area there is a layer of sandstone above the coal seams. These seams start in Marshall as relatively shallow and as they continue eastward plunge deeper into the earth. The mines at Marshall are constructed on the sides of hills on either side of the highway and are thus designed to be slope mines. In contrast the mines in eastern Boulder County are deep shaft mines because of the increased depth of the seams. Remnants of the old mines can still be seen in the area, in particular the concrete foundations of the tibble and company house foundations belonging to the Crackerjack and Gorham mines. When viewing these structures one can see depressions in the ground immediately behind the tibble area indicating the main shaft of the mine. Some interesting photos were shown of the early mines and gave participants a before and after comparison.

The coal mined at Marshall is a soft coal and needed to be consumed in the nearby vicinity since long periods of storage could result in spontaneous combustion. For many years it was possible to see smoke rising from the old mines in Marshall because of fires that had been burning throughout the years. No one really knows how the fires got started in the mines but there are some interesting theories.

One explanation is that perhaps in one of the rooms of the mine a cave-in occurred causing a spark to ignite the fine coal particles and dust left behind while another theory is that it is possible that a disgruntled employee started the fire on purpose. Finally, a fire may have started as the result of the malfunctioning of a homemade still being operated in the mine. Whatever the cause of the fires it is almost impossible to put them out because of their inaccessibility. The mine fires will burn for years until they have been exhausted of their supply of coal.

Jim and Beth Hutchison from the Lafayette Museum brought mining implements and displayed them for the tour members.

It is hard to believe that approximately eighteen mines once operated in the Marshall area. Today only the names are available to remind us of the proud history of the area. Crackerjack, Gorham, Pittsburgh, Premier, Rosser, Eldorado, Fox, Lewis, Red Ash and Marshall #1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7.

CLASS REUNIONS

If your Louisville High School class is having a reunion the Historical Commission would like to receive copies of any materials given out at the reunion. We will be happy to add this to our school collections. Additionally, if you have an upcoming reunion and would like to publish information about it in our newsletter please contact a Commission member.

FOOTBALL FILMS

The Historical Commission is presently reviewing films taken of Louisville High School football games. Most of the films are from the late 1960's and early 1970's. We are presently coming up with ideas and suggestions regarding ways to present this media. Look for upcoming information about this project.

IN 15 MINUTES HAIL STORM DOES \$100,000 DAMAGE IN LOUISVILLE

HAIL STONES LARGER THAN GOLF BALLS BATTER ROOFS, CARS, WINDOWS

From The Louisville Times - Thursday, June 28, 1951

The hail storm that roared over this community for about 15 minutes Thursday evening did around \$100,000 damage in Louisville alone according to estimates. The town has been full of insurance adjustors and roofing men this week. The big part of the roofing loss will have to be handled by owners as most of it was not covered by insurance.

A long rumbling thunder announced the storm about 6:15 and in a few seconds the hail started with scattered big ones and soon became a steady roar of big and smaller stones. The stones looked like golf balls lying all over the ground when the storm had passed and the composition roofs over town were punched full of holes an inch and a half to two inches in diameter-cars that took the brunt of the storm looked like someone had beaten them with a ballpean hammer. Many windows were broken.

A heavy rain storm Friday evening added to the damage by leakage through the mutilated roofs.

Local representatives of insurance companies had only estimates to go on the first of this week. Sandy Biella estimated he would have claims for \$5,000 damages on roofs and had no accurate report on cars. Henry Zarini had 57 claims for damage on automobiles alone that will be between \$100 and \$300 each to total between \$7,500 and \$10,000. He had 16 claims on roofs and only about a third of his fire insurance customers carried hail coverage. J.W. Malcolm estimated his company would have 275 roofs and run around \$18,000 damage. He thought about 40 percent of his clients carried hail insurance. He had no estimate yet on the damage to cars. H.H. Hoyt had received no reports from his adjustor.

Less than a third of the damage was covered by insurance, as insurance men estimated about a third of their clients carried hail coverage and many people do not have insurance of any kind.

Most of the roof damage were cases where composition roofing was laid over shingles leaving spaces for hail to break into.

Herbert Steinbaugh said they ran out of composition shingles and has ordered and reordered since the storm.

CHARLES EDWARD AND KATHERINE SMITH

by Mr and Mrs. Edward Smith

Charles Edward and Katherine (Varra) Smith owned and operated their "home owned" grocery store at 805 LaFarge from about 1930 until 1953. The home on the corner of Spruce and LaFarge and the store building next door were purchased from Martha Eberharter. They sold fresh produce, meat and Solitaire foods; made deliveries to your home if you would call in your grocery order (Phone 76); and gave credit for groceries purchased from one month to the next to their faithful customers. About 1950 they put in a locker plant in the garage building behind the store and rented frozen food lockers. They also processed wild game for their customers.

Charles Edward (1901-1973) was the son of George Smith (1863-1934) and Grace Graham (1875-1932) whose families had immigrated from England about 1870 to work in the coal mines around Superior. C. Edward learned his trade at Thirlaway's meat market in Louisville and later managed the Company store at the Monarch Mine south of Louisville. When he closed the grocery store in Louisville he became a full time carpenter. Katherine (1904-1989) was the daughter of Christine (D'Andrea) and Pasquale Varra (1878-1950) who came from Italy at the turn of the century. Pasquale worked in the coal mines of the Superior-Marshall area, homesteaded north of Fort Collins, and later bought a farm south of Louisville for farming and ranching.

Ed and Katie, as they were always known, were active in the Louisville Methodist Church, and Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters. They raised Edward Roy, Donald Richard, Katherine Patricia (Smith) Company, and Raymond Lee Smith.

FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT

The Family History Project sponsored by the Louisville Historical Commission has not been forgotten. We presently have approximately 60 family histories some of which are reproduced in our newsletters. We are now in the process of typing all of the stories and this, of course, is very time consuming.

THE 4TH OF JULY 1909

From "The Black Diamond World"
July 10, 1909

The day in Louisville was appropriately observed, many amusements and attractions being on the program. No arrests, no disorderly conduct by anyone and no accidents—a regular old time Fourth celebration.

The floats parade was not so large but it did credit to the occasion. The judges were undecided as to which was the most attractive and divided the prize between Professor Hessler and Mr. Steinbaugh.

The horseless carriage, a mule harnessed wrong end to in the shaves of a buggy and driven by James Connors, was awarded the prize as being the most comical.

John Tartaglio took second comic prize with his wagon drawn by a William Goat.

The hose race was won by Erie, the Louisville team making the run in the shortest time but failed to get water.

The 100 yard race for men was won by Centerfield Brown, while V. Thirlaway took second place.

Old man's race was won by H.D. Tobey while William McAllister came in for second.

Quoit(?) contest was won by Adam Dixon. There were a number of other contests but we failed to get them.

Upon the whole all seemed to enjoy the sports in general and were well satisfied.

THE LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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LOUISVILLE, COLORADO 80027

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