

THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

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Editor - Ron Buffo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Virginia Caranci

Summer is over and I'm sure our activities and work will slow down a bit; but I thought you may be interested in a rundown of what we did:

In May we took 100 grade school kids through the museum. We started soliciting the businesses for items to be auctioned on the 4th of July. We had some members go to a conference in Cheyenne and we worked very hard trying to get the store museum finished.

In June we still were working on the items for the auction; picking them up and getting them ready to be auctioned. We did summer house cleaning at the house museum. Many, many hours were spent by our members and volunteers working at the store museum trying to get it ready for Labor Day opening.

In July we had a very successful auction. Everyone worked long and hard on the 4th. The Chamber of Commerce honored the Commission at the Spaghetti Open Golf Tournament and Commission and Society members served hot dogs at the golf course. At the banquet that night a plaque was presented to our organization by the Chamber. We took a group of senior citizens from Aurora through the museum. The members and volunteers again worked many hours at the store museum.

In August we sold pop at the "Taste of Louisville" as a money maker. The Commission had a picnic at the museum for all the volunteers who have helped. The Commission and Society had a wonderful display of Italian artifacts at the "Italian Festa" and we made and sold pizzelles. This month, as in previous months, hours and hours of hard work went into work at the museum.

September - The store museum is FINISHED! Ron Buffo together with a wonderful reception and tribute to our Civil Defense veterans of Louisville. We held an open house at both museums and we again showed our appreciation to the Civil Defense tape.

Does this sound like a busy summer? It really was and now you know why we are crying out for help. The two museums have to be maintained and opened by volunteers, so please let us know how you would like to volunteer.

MUSEUM HOURS AND PHONE

The museum will now be opened on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Also, special arrangements can be made for tours at other times. Additionally, we have a phone installed in the store museum and the number is 665-9048. We will have an answering machine hooked up soon.

ONCE A COAL MINER: THE STORY OF COLORADO'S NORTHERN COAL FIELD

On Saturday, September 23, 1989 Trails West Books in Louisville will be sponsoring an autograph party featuring the first book-length history of the northern coal field authored by Phyllis Smith. Content of the book covers Marshall, Superior, Louisville, Lafayette, Erie, Dacono, Frederick and Firestone. The book is based on oral tapes, research and personal interviews, with many historic photos plus maps. Ten percent of sales of this book will go to the Historical Societies of Louisville and Lafayette. The autograph session will take place on Sept. 23rd from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Trails West Books, 1032 South Boulder Road, Louisville. Ms. Smith is the acknowledged expert on the northern coal fields and this book will be a valuable addition to your personal library.

CURATORS CORNER

by Betty Buffo

Cataloging is continuing at the museum. with the help of many Society and Commission members. Some recent acquisitions include a mine wind gauge and safety lamp donated by **Bill Dhieux**, three American flags donated by **The American Legion** (one has 30 stars on it!), and a document for Charter Membership for Champions of the Forest donated by **Rose Ross**. Thank you all for your generous contributions. We are now able to receive, clean and catalog new acquisitions to the museum in the newly finished museum next door. Any donations to the museum can be brought on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In early September Eilene Schmidt, Pat Seader, Marion Junior, Emajane Enrietto and Betty Buffo attended the Front Range Museum Association meeting held at the Longmont Museum. This association, which the Louisville Museum is a part of, is a professional organization dedicated to assisting fellow museums with a variety of helpful resources. The latest meeting concentrated on the acceptance and cataloging of artifacts.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

All Society members who need to renew memberships to the Louisville Historical Society should have a renewal form in their newsletter. We appreciate the support we have gotten from all Society members and encourage you to continue that support. Please send in your renewal as soon as possible.

STORE GRAND OPENING

The Grand Opening of the Jacoe Store will take place in October. The event will be by invitation only and will recognize Commission and Society members as well as others who have made the museum possible.

THE ROSE GARDEN

The Rose Garden and bench next to the house museum was given to the Historical Commission by the Bahai group in Louisville. They maintain the garden throughout the year and the flowers provide a beautiful setting for the museum. The Commission and Society would like to extend our thanks to the Bahai group for their contribution to the museum grounds.

THE JACOE STORE

THE STORE IS FINISHED! Yes, through the hard work and diligence of Commission and Society members the Jacoe Store Museum is completed. From the beautiful, new floor to the wainscoting the store is in a condition never believed possible. Heartfelt thanks goes out to the many people who made the completion of the museum possible. Most recently we would like to thank **Bob Junior** for the stained glass address of the museum above the front door handcrafted by him. Also, **Dave Ferguson** helped to finish the window boxes in the front of the store and **Don Ross** contributed many hours to finish work. The bathroom area is very nice thanks to **Pete LaBella** from Pete LaBella and Sons Plumbing and Heating in Lafayette. Pete donated and installed plumbing fixtures in the bathroom and cleaning areas. **Al Mudrock** did a first rate job in making the cabinet in the back room and **Buddy Ferrera** donated floor and wall tile and installed it in the side room and behind the sink. **Dick Markham**, **Leonard Green** and **Bill Buffo** installed the new floor in the store in what proved to be a difficult task. The results are outstanding. **Ray Woodbury** donated 8 large light fixtures and rewired and installed them. Ray also rewired the living room in the old house to accomodate a chandalier and the installed it. Also, Commission and Society members generously gave of their time to a variety of jobs to help speed completion of the store.

Commission members will soon be planning the layout of displays to go into the new museum but display cases, pedestals, shelves etc. must be made or purchased first. We are still counting upon Society members for whatever support you can give us. Just because the remodeling phase of the building is done doesn't mean that your support isn't needed. We need your help now more than ever

1ST NATIONAL BANK OF LOUISVILLE

In January of 1990 the First National Bank of Louisville will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary. The Historical Commission will be researching and writing the history of 1st National, the oldest bank in town. Congratulations to a long lasting city institution.

LOUISVILLE VIETNAM VETERAN TRIBUTE

On Labor Day, September 4, 1989 the Louisville Historical Commission and Society paid tribute to Louisville Vietnam Veterans. The store, newly completed, was the backdrop for a variety of displays reflecting the role of Louisville military men during the Vietnam conflict. Individual biographies were prepared for the men and personal items were on display as well. Additionally, a map of Vietnam was in view and names were attached to locations where each man served. A large number of books was also on display regarding the historical nature of the war. A highlight of the display featured an original poem entitled, "To Our Men," composed by Mr. Howard P. Spangenberg who was a history teacher at Louisville High School and had most of the honored men as his students. The poem is reproduced in this newsletter. Immediately following the parade a reception was held for the veterans and the Historical Commission presented them with Louisville tack pins. A short presentation was then given by Ron Buffo and an especially touching moment occurred when people in attendance gave a long and sincere ovation.

A total of nearly 40 veterans were identified as being from Louisville and as serving in the Vietnam conflict. Questionnaires were sent to as many men as could be found and approximately 25 responded. The information was then used to make up the biographies for each man. The vets were also asked to provide pictures and memorabilia if possible and a good number did so.

Louisville Vietnam Veterans gave much to this country and to our community. It was truly amazing to read accounts and hear from some of the vets about the harrowing events they were a part of. At least three local men received Bronze Stars and Commendation Awards for valor and another four received Purple Hearts. Fortunately no one from our community died in the war.

The Commission and Society would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the men who participated in the event and for their unselfish generosity in providing us with information, pictures, and memorabilia. Also, a heartfelt thanks goes to Mr. Howard Spangenberg for his beautiful poem. It will be remembered by all who attended.

Next year it is the intent of the Commission and Society to honor Korean War Veterans of Louisville.

If you are reading this newsletter knows someone who served in the Korean War or if the reader is a veteran, please contact Ron Buffo at 666-9508.

TO OUR MEN

We're proud of you, our Vets of Nam,
To you belongs the hero's palm,
For when our country's call went forth,
You answered, and you proved your
worth.

And in that bloody mortal strife,
'Twas you who firm'd our way of life,
Who kept the "ism" from our shore,
And you did more, oh yes, much more.

You bought us time to understand,
So we could think, and rightly plan,
And not to rush, with blundering haste,
Into another swamp of waste.

For you took up that ghastly fight,
In shadows and the frightening night,
A war in which nobody wins,
A jungle rife with Mankind's sins.

And now -

As years move on, and temples gray,
We look upon another day,
A day that's good, and great, and grand,
All this, because, you made your stand.
God bless you.

- Howard P. Spangenberg

LOUISVILLE VIETNAM VETERANS

DENNIS BARDAY
GENE BARDAY
DAN BROWN
GREG CAMPS
TIM CAMPS
WAYNE DAVIS
TERRY CHANNEL
CURTIS CARR
TOM CISNEROS
DON CUMMINGS
DAVID DELIER
TOM DIGIALLONARDO
NORMAN FAUSON
ALAN FERRERA
BUDDY FERRERA
GARY HUDSON
DAN KING
LEWIS LOMBARDI

MICKEY LUXNER
DAN MADONNA
VICTOR MADONNA
ROBERT MARTINEZ
STEVE MARTINEZ
CHARLIE MESTAS
RON MILLETTE
WILLIAM MRZLIKAR
TOM MUDROCK
DARREL NIDAY
STEVE PARKER
FRANK PATETE
ALFRED POL
TOM POYDOCK
JERRY RATLIFF
LARRY SCHREITER
BOB SOFTICH
ED SYMANSKI

LOUISVILLE AND THE LEGACY OF VIETNAM

by Ron Buffo

Saigon, Chu Lai, Mekong Delta, Bien Hoa, Danang, the DMZ, South China Sea, Cu Chi, Khe Sanh, Pleiku, Hue. What do these names have in common? They are all places in Vietnam where Louisville Veterans were stationed during the 1960's and early 1970's.

Like most small towns in the U.S., Louisville was quite unfamiliar with not only the names of those locales but with the reality of what was happening to Louisville men there. Putting political analyzation of the war aside, it is historically important to know that men from our community served in that conflict and experienced conditions that most of us will never understand.

The plain horror of war seems an obvious observation, but everything that goes along with it intensifies and dramatizes everyday life. The environmental shock of stepping off of the plane when first coming into the country to be met with a hot and wet blanket of air was merely a prelude to the endless "humping it" through the jungles on search and destroy missions. Staying out in the "boonies" for days and sometimes weeks always made the men appreciate the simplicity of a hot meal and shower.

There was almost always a conscious effort not to make close friends with anyone because that person might not be there the next day or maybe even the next minute. Long periods of a lull in the fighting were punctuated by intense "fire fights" when a soldier's life was in the balance and survival was a serious question that could only be answered by fate or luck.

Finally, when a man's tour was nearly over and he became a short timer, a feeling of relief was evident. But the spectre of death, even on your last day in country, was ever present.

Fortunately, no one from our community was killed in the war. Eighteen year olds went to war and came back to town with a much different, and sometimes confused, perception about their life. The reality of their experience could not be easily conveyed to us and, in turn, our uneasiness to probe lent an awkward air to conversations. It was easier to talk about things that were familiar to us: home, high school, girlfriends, cars.

More than twenty years later a healing and understanding is beginning to penetrate Louisville regarding her Vietnam Veterans. On Labor Day 1989 when Louisville Vietnam Veterans were introduced the crowd, applause broke out and continued for a very, very long time.

LY BIOGRAPHY OF ANDREA AND MARY BUFFO

Submitted by their children

Andrea and Mary Buffo were Italian immigrants who came to America in 1908 with dreams of a better life in this land of opportunity. They settled in Louisville and lived there for fifty-six years.

Andrea Buffo, who was known to friends in Louisville as "Andy" or "Henry", was born in the small village of Prascorsano in northern Italy on June 22, 1875. Because economic conditions in Italy offered no opportunity, Andy, who was not yet married, came to America in 1903 shortly after he completed his compulsory military training. He went directly to Colorado Springs where he joined two of his brothers, Charles and Baptist, who had a contract to dig the shaft of the now famous Pike View Coal Mine. Andy went to work with his brothers, and thus began his career as a miner.

Mining jobs were short-term in those days, and for the next several years, Andy and his brothers led a nomadic existence, travelling from mine to mine on foot, by horse and buggy, or by bumming rides on freight trains. They travelled to, and worked in,ripple Creek, Carbondale, Redstone, Telluride, Crested Butte, Silver Plume and finally Louisville.

It was in Louisville that Andy found what he was seeking. He liked the room and board accommodations with the Fenolia family at the house at 1005 LaFarge Avenue, the people were friendly and helpful, and work was available in the many coal mines surrounding the town.

Andy made a plan. He would become a citizen, save his money for a trip to Italy to marry, and return to the U.S.A. He became a citizen in Boulder, Colorado on May 23, 1907. He then returned to Italy and married Maria Francesca Perona on October 5, 1908. Immediately following the wedding celebration, the young couple left for the United States. His two brothers, however, who had also returned to Italy, chose to stay in the old country.

Andy and his wife went to Oklahoma first but because of the malaria problem decided to return to Louisville. At that time Maria was pregnant and they moved into the house at 1016 LaFarge. Their first son John was born there in 1909.

Since mining provided seasonal employment, and mining was in Andy's heritage, he began to look for a farm. Located one-fourth mile southeast of Johnsville, was a 10 acre tract of land, with excellent prospects, owned by a gentleman named Tom Bell. Tom was an enthusiastic horticulturist who had

planted an estimated 200 fruit trees and shrubs on the land. But tragedy struck Tom Bell when a renegade horse kicked and killed his daughter. A very depressed Tom Bell put his farm up for sale and Andy bought it in 1910. Included with the farm, Tom gave Andy the horse with the warning to "be careful of the beast." Soon after taking possession of the land and horse, Andy narrowly escaped serious harm when the horse went into a kicking frenzy inside the barn. To prevent another tragedy, Andy put the horse to sleep.

The small farm was home to the Buffo's for approximately 42 years.

The farm was not only home and income for the Buffo's, but their land, and some of the adjoining land, were a playground for their children, as well as for the children of Louisville. There was Coal Creek and the surrounding woods where children swam, fished, hunted, caught minnows, frogs, and crawdads, picnicked, picked choke cherries and plums; romped through the woods; played cowboys and indians on the sandstone formation, sledded and skied on the big hill and skated on the frozen creek.

The Buffo's also saw some anxious times. The hill on the farm was the highest point in the area, and was a favorite place for Ku Klux Klan to hold their burning of the cross demonstrations. The Buffo's were never approached by the Klan, but the demonstrations were cause for concern.

A second son, Joe, was born in 1911.

Around 1913, there was a major strike by miners in Colorado. The situation became so serious that Andy feared there would be bloodshed, so he moved his wife and children to an apartment in Denver while he stayed on the farm alone. One day the militia moved in by train which stopped at the cut in the hill south of town. The militia then set up machine guns on Andy's hill above the sand rocks. Anticipating a battle, Andy took his rifle and ran up the road toward town. The militia saw him and fired a few rounds over his head, but apparently not with serious intent. On arriving at the site of the train depot with rifle in hand, Andy found the other miners peacefully milling around with no intent to do battle, so Andy hid his rifle inside a road culvert, and joined the miners in their peaceful gathering.

During the deadly flu epidemic of World War I, the town of Louisville built a "Pest House" south of town near the railroad trestle over Coal Creek. A "Pest House" is a barracks-like building where patients who

caught the flu were quarantined to avoid contaminating others. This house was about two blocks upwind from Andy's home, and caused him much concern. However, none of the family caught the deadly virus.

In 1920 Andy bought his first car, a new 1919 Model T Touring Ford, from a Louisville merchant named Frank Carveth. He had to learn to drive it without any prior training, and his wife described the venture as somewhat hectic.

In 1918 a daughter, Louise, was born and in 1920 a son, Martin, was born.

During the Roaring 20's, the oldest son, John, became an accomplished saxophone and clarinet player. He played those instruments in the Boulder concert band, directed by Louisville's Professor Jacoe, which presented many concerts throughout the country, including Chataqua Park in Boulder. He also played in local dance bands and in the marching band at the University of Colorado.

The Buffo's managed to survive the depression years from 1929 to 1938 without many hardships. The farm provided an abundance of fruit, vegetables, eggs, and dairy products, and the sale of these products to the town folk provided an income during periods of unemployment in the mines. Frequently, during the depression, hoboes, who frequented the "hobo hangout" on the banks of Coal Creek on the east side of the train trestle, stopped at the farm house begging for food.

Near tragedy struck one night in June, 1938. A cloudburst fell in the foothills of Coal Creek Canyon, causing a flood down Coal Creek towards Louisville. Coal Creek flowed near the house through Buffo's land. The Buffo's had no phone, so they could not be warned of the danger. At about 9:30 p.m., Billy Dhieux and Flora Caranci, teenage friends from Louisville, ran down the land in the dark to warn the Buffo's who were in bed asleep. Everyone jumped into a car and started up the lane where they were met and stopped by a 2 foot wall of water. The flood waters had backed up at the railroad track, which formed a dike, and had overflowed directly in line with the lane leading to the house. When the car stalled, everyone jumped out and proceeded on foot. All crossed the current successfully, except Mary Buffo, who fell in the rushing water. Billy Dhieux, looking back and seeing Mary fall, ran back into the water and rescued her from being swept away and drowned. The Buffo family will be forever grateful to Billy and Flora for their heroic action that night.

As previously indicated, there were four children. John attended the University of Colorado, graduated as an electrical engineer and was employed by the Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago. Joe attended Barnes Business School, and was employed as Supply Management Officer with the Veterans Administration Hospitals. Louise graduated from Denver University School of Business, and was

employed at Montgomery Ward in Denver. Martin attended the University of Colorado, graduated as an electrical engineer, and worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver. During World War II the children served their country in various capacities.

The Buffo's remained on the farm until approximately 1952. They then moved to a home at 904 Rex Street where they spent their final years. Mary Buffo died in 1962 at the age of 73 and Andrea Buffo died in 1965 at the age of 89. Both are buried at Green Mountain Cemetery in Boulder, Colorado.

DO YOU REMEMBER ?

The siren at the town hall would sound everyday at noon, once for an emergency rescue, twice for a fire in town, and three times for a fire out of town.

The annual collection of wood for the homecoming bonfire at the high school. Outhouses were a valuable find even if they were currently in use. (They were always brought back.)

Mr. Henning dressed up as Santa and, much to your father's surprise, he would promise to give you what you asked for.

Little League Football in Louisville began - The Red Devils, The Blue Panthers.

The primary leisure time activity of Louisville teens was "dragging main."

The annual Labor Day tradition of the tug-of-war between the firemen and the farmers and the womens shoe kicking contest.

When you could buy a brand new pair of Levi jeans at Porta's for five dollars.

The only thing between Louisville and Lafayette were a few scattered farm houses.

The Rex Movie Theatre and double features.

**MR. AND MRS. C. V. EPLEY
COUPLE CELEBRATE 50TH
WEDDING**

ANNIVERSARY IN 1942
From the Louisville Times - Jan. 1942

The Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. C.V. Epley, popular residents of Louisville, will be celebrated with a family reunion and reception Saturday, Jan. 3, 1942.

Assisting in the preparations for the anniversary are their daughter, Mrs. Isaac Walters of Louisville and a grand-daughter, Mrs. Sanderson of Longmont.

Mr. Epley, located in Louisville in 1889, while Miss Elizabeth Taylor, who was to become his wife on Jan. 3, 1892, located there earlier with her parents, Lucendi and Josiah Taylor, who were pioneers of that section of Boulder County.

All of the fifty years of married life of Mr. and Mrs. Epley have been spent in Louisville. They have played a modest but active part in the development of the city, have established a wide acquaintance, and have the respect and friendship of all who have come in contact with them.

Mr. Epley said today he left his Ohio home on Mar. 4, 1887, with his brother, William, for Big Springs, Nebraska. They travelled in an immigrant freight car loaded with their household goods and some stock. They were on the road seven days and eight nights.

"It was a wonderful trip despite the hardships we experienced," said Mr. Epley today. "Rain added to our discomfort first; then snow, and while passing through Iowa we encountered a blizzard and a severe drop in temperature.

"Arriving in Big Springs we unloaded and after a rest over night set out for our location which was a farm fifteen miles south and one mile west of Big Springs. All I could see was buffalo grass, several sod shanties and small bunches of antelope that raced away as we approached.

"Our hopes of getting in a crop were shattered when the spring of 1887 was too dry to permit plowing and putting in a crop. Disappointed, I took a job of skinning mules on the railroad that was being constructed from McCook, Neb., to Cheyenne. I was on the grade near the present location of Venagio. Later I worked on the surfacing gang from Venagio to Sterling. When winter came I returned to Nebraska and hucked corn for \$16 per month.

Jan. 12, 1888 I was caught in the worst blizzard ever struck that section of the state. It came from the west and many persons in the Dakotas and Nebraska perished along with hundreds of head of

When I went to work in York country and

during the holidays of 1889 landed in Louisville which has been my home ever since.

I have worked in and around the mines, doing garden work in the spring and summer. Mrs. Epley and daughters trucked the products to the mines - the Blue Ribbon and Haywood at Lafayette, the Gorham and Mitchell near Marshall, and also to Eldorado Springs. The products included besides vegetables, berries, honey, eggs, young chickens, etc."

Mr. and Mrs. Epley have seen a great many changes in Louisville, where they are among the oldest citizens in point of years residence.

Three children were born to them. They lost a son during an epidemic of spinal meningitis and a daughter during the epidemic of influenza.

Mr. Epley is now 74. His wife is a few years his senior in age. Both are enjoying good health.

REMINDERS

BOOK SIGNING PARTY / 9-23

MUSEUM GRAND OPENING - OCT.

PARADE OF LIGHTS - DEC.

1ST NATIONAL BANK ANNIVERSARY

