

THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

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FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT

The deadline for family histories was extended to December 1st and many interesting stories were turned in. This is certainly not all that we would have liked submitted and the Commission will still accept histories.

Additionally, we would like to ask all Louisville families, regardless of how long you have lived here, to submit the story of your family as it relates to Louisville. Please call Ron Buffo at 666-9508 for more information.

THANK YOU MEN AND LADY ELKS!

The Men and Lady Elks of Louisville have graciously donated \$500 each (\$1,000 total) to the Louisville Historical Commission. Generous donations of this magnitude are a tribute to this fine organization and the gift is accepted with great appreciation by the Commission. The Men and Lady Elks have, with this unselfish act, contributed to the preservation of Louisville history. May they be the standard by which other groups can be guided. Again, Thank You!

TERRY HUNDLEY REMEMBRANCE

Former city administrator Terry Hundley will be honored by the Historical Commission by having a park bench, near the store, dedicated to his name. Also, a tree will be planted on museum property in his memory. Terry is remembered as a strong advocate of the Historical Commission and it is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of him and his daughter Marisol.

JACOE STORE

Renovating an old building can be full of surprises and the old Jacoe Store, soon to be the main museum, is not an exception. The crumbling dirt walls of the basement have deteriorated so badly that major shoring work was necessary. John Garcia and Bill Buffo have devoted numerous back-breaking hours to this project and it is finally complete. Posts were sunk into the floor of the basement and then anchored to the floor joists of the main store. Wood sheathing was then attached to the posts and the fallen dirt was thrown into the enclosure. The basement now provides much needed room for storage, and additional lighting has been installed. The old coal bin will provide an ideal area for keeping artifacts because of the cement construction.

Apex Heating of Louisville has just recently completed the installation of a new furnace system for the store. This major project will enable some work to be completed during the winter months. A hot water heater will soon be placed in the store.

Bill Buffo, John Garcia, and Bob Enrietto have also completed insulating the walls of the store.

Upcoming projects for the store include ceiling insulation, floor replacement (or refinishing), sheet rock installation, and renovation of the ceiling.

PARADE OF LIGHTS / OPEN HOUSE

The Historical Commission will be offering an open house at the Museum that will coincide with the Parade of Lights on Friday, December 9, 1988. The Museum and the Jacoe Store will both be open from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tapes of World War II veterans will be shown in the store and hot wassail will be served in the Museum.

Marion Junior has been very busy organizing Commission members into a well-honed ornament-making crew. Ornaments will be hung on the Museum's Christmas tree and will also be offered for sale.

CURATOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Betty Buffo has been named as curator of the Louisville Museum. Betty is responsible for all incoming artifacts (cataloging and restoring) and reporting to the Commission about donors and their donations. The restoration of artifacts is incredibly time consuming, especially when large numbers of items are given at one time. Often times the items are in good condition, but just as often they need intensive restoration. Donors should be reassured that their valued gifts will be treated with the greatest care using knowledgeable techniques commonly used in other museums. Remember, your museum relies upon the unselfish giving of community members. Without your donations there would be no museum.

CATALOGING

Countless hours have been spent numbering and identifying items in the museum and the job is almost complete. We have received approximately 178 artifacts for the museum in 1988 alone and, with generous support, expect many more items to be donated. Many thanks go to our most recent donors; Randy Carnival, Virginia Mossoni, Don Ross, Vickie Villegas, Beth Smith, Mary & George Stead, Lillian Buffo, 1st Federal Savings, Rudy Slavec, and Vaughn McNally.

There is an urgent need to finish the Jacoe Store because of the space constraints of the present museum. We are quickly filling up the three rooms of the old house.

Cataloging is done on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

MUSEUM GROUNDS TAKING SHAPE

The Museum grounds area is beginning to take on a different appearance thanks to the City. The entire area surrounding the Tomeo House and the Jacoe Store has been landscaped with the inclusion of a sprinkling system. The only grounds work remaining will be the addition of shrubbery in the spring of 1989.

Also, some much needed cement work was done that will now enable access directly from the parking area. Many thanks go to Larry Lillo and his crews for doing an outstanding job.

The wrought iron fence is now complete thanks to John Garcia and Bill Buffo. Two posts had to be specially made before the final two sections could be put up. On Saturday, November 19th, a local Girl Scout Troop painted the fence. Many thanks go to Mrs. Rae Strauss and the following girls: Erin Strauss, Peggy Konold, Kris Donnelly, and Carolina Kruschwitz. Also, Society member Betty Buffo worked with the girls.

With the improved grounds area the Commission hopes to be able to conduct many outside historical activities in the near future.

SOCIETY NEWS

The Historical Society is proud to announce that we have 92 paid members in our group. If you know of anyone who would like to be a member of the society, please tell them to contact Betty Buffo at 666-6857. Annual dues are a mere \$5.00 which entitles members to receive our quarterly newsletter. Dues are also used to help with on going restoration projects. We have a number of Society members who are very active with various Commission and Society projects.

At the November meeting of the Historical Commission, it was decided that special recognition would be given to individuals or families who donate \$100 or more to the organization. A life-time membership to the Louisville Historical Society will be given to those people for their outstanding contribution. Additionally, their names will be displayed in the museum.

The Society has become an important arm of the Louisville Historical Commission and numerous Society members have contributed their time to the many ongoing projects.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Virginia Caranci

As chairperson of the Louisville Historical Commission, I would personally like to invite everyone who receives this paper to come forth and volunteer their services.

As members of the Society, we do need your help. Many times we want to be asked before we provide the help that is needed, so the Commission takes this opportunity to formally invite you to lend your skills.

Betty Buffo, Ann Day, Isabelle Hudson and Mary Garcia are Society members working very hard on cataloging and making Christmas ornaments. Ray Woodbury, Bob Enrietto, Don Ross, Bill Shafer, and Jerry Day have all helped enormously with various projects of the Commission and Society. Also, Don and Monica Buffo continue to help wherever needed. These are examples of some of the Society members who volunteered their help and still help when necessary.

We are about to insulate the Store, finish the floors, paint and do other necessary remodeling to complete the project. We will need a great deal of help. When we get to this point, please call one of the Commission members and lend your hand. We need you all.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES IN LOUISVILLE



(The following Christmas poem was found in the personal papers of George J. Chambers of Louisville. Circa 1915)

WHAT SANTA BROUGHT

*Got the neatest Christmas gift a feller ever seen.
Haven't felt as tickled since the day I's seventeen.
When I got my long pants suit and strutted round the town,
Lord! it among the boys that looked on with a frown.
'Wasn't in a stocking, and it wasn't on a tree
But it was a dandy gift that Santa brought to me.*

*Give you twenty guesses, and you couldn't guess it right.
But you couldn't guess if you tried from morn till night.
Come on Christmas morning I was walkin the hall.
Couldn't shut my eyes in sleep since Christmas Eve at all.
Lord I had the fidgets like I use to long ago
When I watched for Santa in the boy days, don't you know.*

*No it wasn't slippers nor an auto nor a tie.
Wish'n' any jimmy crack thing that you can go and buy.
Ain't another like it in the whole endaring earth.
Just the thing I wanted and I simply want to say
It's the finest present ever come on Christmas day.*

*Doctor tip-toed to me, and he says,
'I wish you joy, It's a Christmas baby and you're
the daddy of a boy.'
Now ain't that a present! Can you beat it in your life?
Isn't this a Christmas day for me and boy and wife?
But the angels left him when they came to sing again
In their joyful chorus tellin of good will to men.*

*Fudgy-mudgy baby just a roly poly tike
With a way of looking right straight at you loving like.
Say! He held my finger in his little velvet hand
With a grip 'o gladness; But how can you understand?
If you ain't been through it you can't know just what I mean.
Got the greatest Christmas gift a feller ever seen.*

One of my happiest memories of Christmas as a youngster was our Christmas Eve dinner. Everyone in our family came to Grand Jordanelli's and my mother, Minnie DeRo house at about 5:00 p.m. and we would have our traditional dinner.

This dinner would always consist of macaroni-al'-oil, (macaroni with oil, garlic anchovies), macaroni and garbanzo beans meatless red sauce, baked eel, fried squid, fish smelts, raw oysters, stuffed celery, salads relish dishes. For dessert we would have all Italian cookies but we would also have favorite-dates filled with walnuts and rolled powdered sugar. It was all topped off by a large bowl of fresh fruits. The family always said it was good luck to have at least nine different kinds of food on the Christmas Eve table.

After we ate, we would open our Christmas gifts and later attend midnight mass.

Eugene and I have continued this same tradition, but we dropped the eel and added fish shrimp and shrimp cocktail for our family.

The Caranci family had the same tradition for Christmas Eve because it was a southern Italian custom. (Submitted by Virginia Caranci)

I remember the Christmas pageants of the Baptist Church. There was a small stage with Mount Holy Cross in the background and there was always a manger scene. If you were one of the holy family members you recited readings from the bible. The play required a great deal of practice and there was always much excitement on the opening night when your parents came to watch. (Submitted by Betty Buffo. 1940's)

In the mid 1930's a Christmas party was held at the home of one of our local physicians. Several doctors from Denver attended this party which became a little raucous during the evening. A tall Christmas tree was decorated and placed at the intersection of Spruce and Main where the local Lions Club gave candy to the members of the community. As the evening wore on one of the doctors, who was present at this party, decided to climb the town Christmas tree and the local law enforcement men and other volunteers spent hours getting this prominent doctor down. (Submitted by Eileen Schmidt)

CHRISTMAS IN LOUISVILLE

By Donna Miller

In a town that was built on the Commandment, "Love Thy Neighbor," which grew from a little Coal Camp to a good-sized settlement, Christmas really meant something.

It was not the gift that was important, but the giver who spent hours making the gift. While the kids were all in school, mothers were busy making things for Christmas. Knitting needles flying, making sweaters for each of the family; embroidery hoops ready to hold the gifts for family and friends - doilies and pillow cases or bleached snow-white flour sack dish towels and lunch cloths, all so beautifully done. It was not what could be bought, but what could be made!

Coffee cans were painted and decorated for home-made cookies and candies. Covered, decorated cigar boxes made lovely boxes for hankies. Canned fruits, vegetables, jellies and jams were always welcome gifts. A carbide can, padded and covered, made a great foot stool for mom, or a discarded board, nicely painted and decorated with hooks, made a nice gift for dad to hang his coat and hat.

The kids did their share of making things, too. Match boxes, buttons, nails and toothpicks and flour-water paste could create a dandy doll wagon or furniture for a doll house, which had been cleverly made from an apple box. Mom's button box was raided to make wheels for a doll buggy. We made rag dolls, and sleds or skis by using barrel staves.

The family gifts were never luxuries, but always necessities one could find in the local stores. A week before Christmas, the "Hose Cart Team" (volunteer firemen), would put up the Christmas tree in the very center of town-the middle of the intersection. On the northeast corner was Mangus Hub's store; the southwest corner was Ostrander's Bakery; at the southeast corner stood Salter's Drug Store; and at the northwest corner stood Dalby Carveth's.

Dalby Carveth's had Christmas stock of beautiful hair ribbons and clasps, dress materials, corsets, black sateen bloomers and those much-hated long underwear (ugh!). Don't forget the long, black, lisle stockings that after a few washings, faded into an ugly streaked brown! Those who were lucky had Grandmas to knit their stockings!

The Mangus Hub store, displaying the men's wear, carried all the things to capture the hearts of the men and boys. John Stiles tempted them with BB guns, rifles, and shot guns. He had dolls and buggies, sleds and ice skates, and those much needed pots, pans and dishes that catch a woman's eye.

Salter's Drug store had the most beautiful greeting cards, toilet water, talcum powder, face powder and all the necessities to treat the croup or common cold.

Owen Thirlaway's Drug store carried much the same, but also had an ice cream bar with the colorful Coca Cola signs and glasses. There were boxes of candy to please any girl's heart, Brownie Box cameras, and a little bit of jewelry.

The grocery stores displayed their special merchandise and Bert Ostrander's, well, the smell alone would bring you in! He outdid himself with fruit cakes, mince pies and a sheet cake with jelly in the center with glaze on top! There were special tarts and an array of Christmas cookies!

The tree's decorations were long strings of popcorn and cranberries, and paper chains made by the school kids. Everybody was on Main Street for the occasion. Churches were busy filling sacks with an orange or an apple, mixed nuts, and hard Christmas candies-one for every kid in town. Come Christmas Eve, Santa was there to personally give them out.

Everyone in Sunday School was given a part for the Christmas program. Angel gowns and wings came alive with gauze and window screen, and the halos of tinsel were a problem to keep upright. Seeing the boys-some with black eyes and skinned noses, awkwardly doing their parts-helped you know they were angels, indeed!

After the Church and school activities were over, and the shopping all done, many people left their boxes and bags on VanArsdale's porch or in the lobby (the house was where the bank is today). Everyone gathered around the tree in the center of town to give a prayer of thanks for the birth of Christ, sing carols and passed out the goody sacks to the children. They visited with those from out of town, hugging and wishing a Merry Christmas to all it was hard to leave. Some joined the young singles at the Redmen Hall to dance until dawn, or attend midnight mass at the Catholic Church. Finally, the smaller children were gathered and everyone headed for home. Snuggled in a feather bed, sleep came quickly with dreams of the coming morning!



LOUISVILLE FOLKS PLAN FOR BIG CHRISTMAS

From the Louisville Times. Thursday, Dec. 25, 1952)

Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Mossoni and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Carnival and Mary will have Christmas dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Carnival in Denver.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Damelia for Christmas dinner will include Mr. and Mrs. Art Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Jewel Frause, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Frause, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Fauson, Mr. and Mrs. John Fauson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Domenico and family and Joe Damelia.

Mr. and Mrs. Derl Forbis of Cheyenne will be with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Forbis, for dinner and Mr. and Mrs. John Stout will be with them later in the day after having dinner with his folks.

Mrs. Earl Pickett Sr. hoped to be home from the Sanitarium at Boulder for Christmas with Mr. Pickett and their daughter Marjorie, who will be home Christmas eve and morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Nick DeGiacomo will have a Christmas Eve dinner for Robert DiGiacomo, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rizzi, Mrs. Louise Brown and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Domenico and children of Denver, Mr. and Mrs. Pasqual DiGiacomo and children, Mr. and Mrs. John Rizzi and children, Mr. and Mrs. Fiori Tesone and children, Mrs. Netta Rappa, Mr. and Mrs. William Ulrich of Denver and Father Raymond. They will exchange gifts and spend the evening together and complete the day by going to midnight Mass.

WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS GRAND FINALE TO MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS

(From the Louisville Times. Thursday, Dec. 18, 1952)

SERVICES AT METHODIST CHURCH

The church and Sunday school will observe "one of the greatest holidays of the Christian faith," the pastor announced with a program beginning at 7:00 o'clock. It will include Christmas caroling, special numbers, a long-remembered story, and Santa Claus.

OBSERVANCE AT BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday evening at 7:30 the Sunday school will present its Christmas program with the primary department having recitations and carols. The junior department will have a few recitations. The junior, intermediate and young people's departments will present a play "Let Us Adore Him." The young people's choir will sing with the play. In addition to these will be special musical numbers.

FILM AT APOSTOLIC CHURCH

The Apostolic church is also having its Christmas program Sunday night. It will begin at 7:45 and includes singing Christmas carols and showing of the film "Holy Night." Members of this church, Sunday school will have a gift exchange following Sunday school in the morning.

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

The St. Louis church observes the season with Masses and confessions. The Christmas Masses will be a High Mass at midnight Wednesday night, Low Mass at 8:00 a.m. and a Mass at 10 Christmas morning.

COMMUNITY TREATS FOR CHILDREN

The day before Christmas will be children's day in Louisville with a free picture show in the morning and treats in the evening.

Carmen and Ann Romano, owners of the Rex Theatre, give a free show at the Rex at 10:00 o'clock that morning for kids. The show will include a Tim Holt western feature film Three Stooges comedy and two cartoons. This is the Theatre's annual treat for the kids of the community.

The grand finale of community affairs for the children will be the community treat and Santa Claus at the town Christmas in the evening. Santa is expected to arrive with the truckload bags of treats about 6:00 o'clock. Children will await the town tree at the intersection of Spruce and Main streets.

This project is sponsored by the Lions club and paid for by donations from clubs and other organizations and individuals in the community. Rainbow Girls of Louisville will sack treats in the afternoon. The sponsors plan to have around 100 bags this year to take care of the increase in the number of children in the community. The treats cost between \$250 and \$275, L.C. Graves of the committee in charge reported.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR XMAS

From "IZZY'S" Sporting Goods and Furniture Store. 744 Main. (1952)

BASKETBALLS	\$1.98
FOOTBALLS	.98
POP GUNS	.69
STEVENS 410	23.50
REMINGTON 22	15.34
SHEEP LINED BOOTS	11.98

T.W. LASALLE
THE HOUSEHOLD STORE
(1933)

The Smart Set MAJESTIC Radio.

It's the new Majestic Century charter member of the "Smart of Radio! Walnut blended with lacewood. Velvety hand-rubbed piano finish. Flashing chromium grill. A superheterodyne naturally. Six tubes that serve as eight...for two are Duo-V Self-Shielded tubes...The "air" is a new world with this super-performing radio. Yes, police calls. See and hear the Cer Six. The price...\$47.50

ORIGINAL ABSTRACT DONATED TO MUSEUM

The Louisville Historical Museum, thanks to the generosity of Vaughn McNally, has received the original Abstract of Title to the property first owned by Louis Nawamy in 1878 and subsequently platted as the Town of Louisville.

There are 19 entries in the abstract noting various transactions between early Louisville inhabitants. The most noteworthy item of mention is, of course, entry number 1 giving land title to Louis Nawamy from the United States. The date of filing is recorded as February 22, 1878 in the amount of \$100. The property is described as being located on the Northeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 8, Township 1 South, Range 69 West. Specifically, this included land bordered on the south by Pine Street (actually about one-half block south of Pine), on the east by Highway 42, on the north by South Street, and on the west by Main Street (actually about one-half block west of Main Street).

It does appear that the land (40 acres bought at \$2.50 per) was sold to Charles C. Welch on the very same day that Nawamy bought it. Welch bought it for \$400!

In October of the same year (1878) Nawamy bought back the property lying on the west side of the railroad tracks. Welch retained mining rights to the property for 74 years according to the transaction of sale to his own mining company.

On October 24, 1878 a transaction is recorded in the Abstract of Title indicating Plat of the Town of Louisville by Louis Nawamy.

Vaughn McNally has been in possession of the document having been passed on to him from his father. Vaughn's father, Harry, was a miner for 63 years and was Mayor of Louisville from 1909 until 1910. Vaughn also worked as a miner for many years. Many thanks go to Mr. McNally for his valuable contribution.

