

# Pioneer Award

**J.J. STEINBAUGH  
1985**



**BORN JANUARY 22, 1868 IN HONNEF, GERMANY  
DIED JANUARY 5, 1950 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO**

J. J. Steinbaugh was chosen for the first Pioneer Award because of his active participation in community affairs, including a term as mayor of the Town of Louisville. He was a community leader from 1892 until his death in 1950, with a strong business spirit for the good of the town. Mr. Steinbaugh opened J.J. Steinbaugh Blacksmith Shop on June 6, 1892 on Front Street at age 24. He started selling plows, harrows and buggies in 1893, and later expanded his business and added hardware in 1904, and the lumberyard in 1928.

J. J. was a hardworking man, but his industriousness brought some grief as people went to the town board to complain about the noise he made sharpening plow shares and pounding out horse shoes at 4 o'clock in the morning. A sign in his shop read: "No loafing in this shop – except on business." However, he took time out to serve on the town board and as mayor. He also gave back to the community. One example was when he bought all the posts and slabs for the fence for the ball park in about 1904 or 1905. He was also a man of vision because in 1911 he bought the first Model T Ford in Boulder County to sell and deliver equipment. As his business grew, he claimed that it was "the only institution in the entire state of Colorado that does everything and carries everything that is needed to build a home and completely furnish it."

J.J.'s son and grandsons joined him as his business and family grew, and in 1935 J.J. quit blacksmithing but continued to work on his ranch near Boulder Creek until 1943. After his death, the business name was changed to Steinbaugh Lumber Company. Steinbaugh's closed in 1997.