

Pioneer Award

CHARLES, IONA, & QUENTIN THOMAS 1986



Business Pioneers of the Year

RECIPIENTS OF THE Chamber's annual pioneer award were the Thomases, long time owners of Ci-

ty Market in Louisville. At left: Quentin Thomas, Chamber past president Steve Anderson, Charlie Thomas and his wife Iona. (See page 17.)

CHARLES K. THOMAS:
BORN DECEMBER 18, 1912 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO
DIED FEBRUARY 13, 2002 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

IONA THOMAS:
BORN ON OCTOBER 30, 1918 IN LARIMER COUNTY,
COLORADO
DIED ON JULY 22, 2000 IN BOULDER, COLORADO

QUENTIN C. THOMAS:
BORN ON NOVEMBER 8, 1908 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO
DIED ON NOVEMBER 12, 1986 IN WESTMINSTER, COLORADO

Brothers Charles "Charlie" Thomas and Quentin Thomas, along with Charlie's wife, Iona Bowes Thomas, owners of City Grocery & Market, received the 1986 Pioneer Award. Longtime business owners, the Thomas family bought the City Grocery & Market on Main Street in 1948. In 1966, they moved to their new building at 637 Front Street and ran the store there until they closed their business in 1982. They also had ownership interests in coal mines in the area, including the Fireside Mine in Louisville, as well as businesses in Louisville such as the Grain Elevator on County Road and the Thomas Feed Store at Pine and Front.

Charlie's and Quentin's father and grandparents on the Thomas side came to Louisville from Great Britain in 1883, five years after Louisville was established. The family was drawn to the area by the availability of work in the coal mines. Iona's Bowes relatives farmed on the south side of Louisville. Charles and Iona married in 1935.

Quentin started the feed store on Pine after WWII, then became partners with Charlie and Iona and opened City Grocery & Market. Charlie Thomas was the butcher in the store and he said he learned his trade by "trial and error – by reading and doing." He always listened to his customers and would grind his meat and sausage for the store, so the store was known for its exceptional meat department. Other family members worked in the store, including Charlie's and Iona's twin daughters, a son-in-law, and six grandchildren. It was a true family affair until the brothers and Iona retired in 1982.