

Pioneer Award

MARTHA BAIER EBERHARTER
1990



BORN JANUARY 14, 1876 IN TYROL, AUSTRIA
DIED APRIL 7, 1958 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

Martha Eberharter received the 1990 Pioneer Award because she was one of Louisville's greatest philanthropists, and was known for her sincerity, generosity, and kindness.

Martha came to Louisville from Austria with her parents. They were living in Louisville by the time of the 1880 federal census, just two years after Louisville was established. She married Ludwig Eberharter in 1894 and the couple managed a series of successful investments, including a general merchandise store on La Farge Avenue in Louisville that was in business for close to thirty years. Ludwig also was one of the developers and owners of the Hi-Way Mine. When Ludwig died in 1935, Martha took over his business interests, which resulted in her serving as one of the directors of Hi-Way Mine.

The stories of Martha's giving spirit are numerous. For example, she gave weekly baskets of fresh fruit to a girl suffering with rheumatic fever, and she paid all the medical expenses for her son and his three friends who were involved in a serious automobile accident. Martha also made sure that the families of local miners received credit at her store through the lean summer months when they were out of work because of mining having been seasonal in the Louisville area.

Martha handled the food and clothing drives at the St. Louis Catholic Church, and she was recognized as the first participant in the Adopt-A-Family program, although many residents felt that she adopted all of the families in Louisville.

Martha's take-charge attitude, compelling personality and giving spirit, reminiscent of the famous Molly Brown, was a blessing to many families and residents in Louisville.