

Pioneer Award

**GEORGE RUSSELL HENNING
1991**



**BORN OCTOBER 21, 1891 IN BOX BUTTE COUNTY,
NEBRASKA
DIED JANUARY 6, 1968 IN BOULDER, COLORADO**

G.R. Henning received the 1991 Pioneer Award because of his love for the people of Louisville and the pride he took in being a part of the community. G.R. grew up in Nebraska, served in World War I as a medic, and graduated from the Chicago School of Mortuary Science. He and his wife, Marguerite, moved to Louisville in 1923 to operate the mortuary at 844 Main Street. It was the Henning Mortuary and residence for several decades. The Henning family left a major imprint on Louisville through its leadership and its support of many local enterprises, in addition to the family having a prominent and attractive Main Street home and business that regularly brought together members of the community through funerals and memorial services held there.

G.R. served two terms as mayor of Louisville and took an active part in making improvements to the town. He organized the first town basketball team and was instrumental in getting the new high school built in 1939. For many years, G.R. acted as the town Santa, and enjoyed passing out sacks of candy and fruit to the children on Christmas Eve, which was especially rewarding during the Depression years when the sack of goodies was perhaps the only treat received by some children.

G.R. served on many boards and was a member of the Knights of Pythias, Elks Lodge, and the Methodist Church, and over the course of his career also served the Louisville Fire Department and was the local Commander of the American Legion. He and Marguerite served as "Mother and Dad" of the Lafayette Assembly Order of Rainbow Girls, and most important to him was being called "Dad" by many of the young women he and his wife supported.