

Pioneer Award

**LEWTON "LUTE" MCCORKLE
1994**



**BORN MAY 8, 1876 IN RED BLUFF, CALIFORNIA
DIED FEBRUARY 12, 1966 IN BOULDER, COLORADO**

Lute McCorkle grew up in California, but his grandparents were William and Emeline Hake, the founders of the town of Superior, Colorado. He visited them as a young man in about 1900 and ended up staying to operate the Superior Mercantile. He then became involved with the mercantiles in the Louisville area, and in 1906 he started the City Meat and Packing in Louisville and Lafayette with his uncles, George Miller, Charles Hake, and Art Foote. In 1908, he bought them out and began to operate his own store on Main Street in Louisville, and built a new building for the store in 1912.

Lute was known for not only his business acumen, but also for his kindness and care for the people of Louisville. Lute extended credit to many miners during the entire period of the nearly five-year strike in Louisville from 1910 to 1914, and allowed them to pay what they could, when they could. During the Depression, he was one of the business men who reorganized the Louisville-Lafayette Coal Company and opened the Hi-Way Mine. The mine was a boon to Louisville and Lafayette and kept many miners employed during the Great Depression.

Lute was always community-minded and invested in the Louisville and Lafayette banks, and was vice-president and director of the Louisville Bank. He was also a director of the Lafayette bank. He remained in the mercantile business until 1948 when he retired and sold the City Market to Charles and Quentin Thomas after forty years of being in business on Main Street.

Lute was a charter member of the Louisville Lions club, and was a fifty-year-member of the Elks Lodge in Boulder.