

# Pioneer Award

**FRANK RIZZI**  
**1996**



**BORN JANUARY 19, 1897 IN HANNA, WYOMING**  
**DIED AUGUST 11, 1991 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO**

Frank Rizzi came to Louisville as an infant and became a life-long resident. He served in the Army during World War I, and later worked in the local mines. After retiring as a miner, he went to work for Fischer Brothers Construction and was employed there for 20 years. He built his own home at 1401 Cannon, including the basement, and recounted how he used a horse to haul the dirt.

Frank served as mayor of Louisville for 12 years and was a member of the City Council for 18 years. While he was mayor, the citizens saw many improvements in the town, including paved streets, installation of the sewer system, and construction of a new City Hall building. He was a member of St. Louis Catholic Church and was always willing to lend a helping hand in all church activities, often serving mass, making repairs to the buildings, and working in the annual bazaar. Frank belonged to many organizations, including the Holy Name Society, Knights of St. John's, and the American Legion. He was the Grand Marshal of the Louisville Labor Day Parade in 1985. In 1989, an article in the Louisville Times noted that he was the last living World War I veteran of the original 95 whose names are on the Veterans' Memorial Stone in the Louisville Cemetery.

Frank was a familiar figure around Louisville as he walked through the streets of town almost every day. He hadn't driven a car for many years, and his son, Tom, recalled that the last car his dad drove was a 1929 Ford Model T.