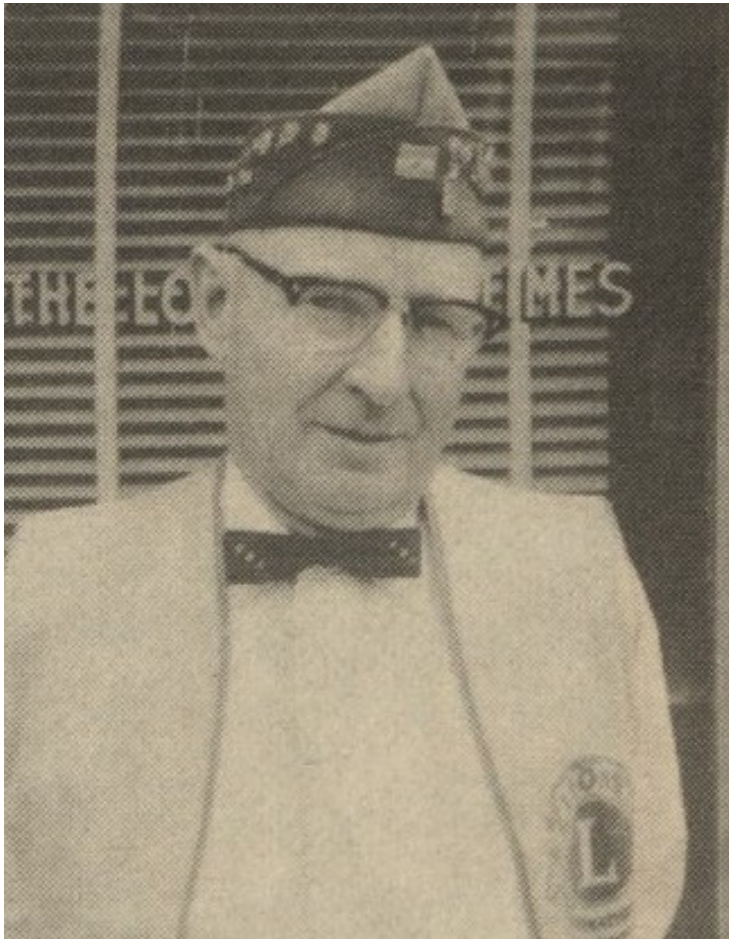


Pioneer Award

LESLIE C. "BUN" GRAVES
1997



BORN NOVEMBER 5, 1905 IN HUDSON, COLORADO
DIED SEPTEMBER 16, 1979 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

Leslie C. Graves was known as “Bun” because of a nickname his father gave him when he was a baby with colic. His father would hold him in the nape of his neck and called him his bunny rabbit, and as a result the name “Bun” stayed with him all of his life.

He married Alice Winkler in 1929 and came to Louisville in the 1930s. Bun worked for the Public Service Company for 35 years, and worked in Louisville installing electric meters, reading those meters on a monthly basis, and repairing any electrical outages. During World War II, he was a certified first aid instructor and was the Civil Defense Director. He also contributed in a significant way to the documentation and preservation of Louisville history by using his 8mm camera to film over 200 World War II servicemen and servicewomen when they were home on leave in the Louisville area in 1943-1945. He filmed many of the men and women in front of their own homes, and he captured many of them posed next to their mothers and fathers. After his death, his son generously donated the film to the Louisville Historical Museum.

Bun was active with the Louisville Volunteer Fire Department and served as Fire Chief. He helped formulate and establish the Rural Fire District that enabled Louisville to procure the first pumper fire truck carrying water to fight fires outside the city limits. He served on the Louisville School Board for many years, was an active member of the Masonic Lodge, and served the City of Louisville as Treasurer. He also was an active member of the Louisville Lions Club, with perfect attendance for more than 35 years.

It was said that Bun Graves gave of himself, and was truly a pioneer of the City of Louisville.