

Pioneer Award

**ELISEO JACOE
2000**



**BORN DECEMBER 6, 1881 IN GRIMALDI, ITALY
DIED DECEMBER 29, 1958 IN BOULDER, COLORADO**

Eliseo was born in Italy and came to the United States in the early 1900s and settled in Louisville with his siblings Frank, Robert, and Josephine. His contributions to Louisville were through his businesses that he operated in Louisville over a period of 50 years, including his Main Street grocery store that catered to Louisville's Italian residents, and through his work as a professional musician.

Eliseo and Frank Jacoe were skilled musicians who combined their talents and formed the Louisville Band. They reportedly performed weekly concerts at Miners Field, the local baseball park. The two brothers were also members of the Denver Municipal Band and performed for large audiences. Eliseo taught music in Louisville and was called "the Professor" by many. Among his students was Dick La Salle, who would have a successful musical career as a band leader and, in the 1960s, as a composer of music for movies and TV.

The Jacoe brothers operated a saloon in the 800 block of Front Street, then after Prohibition started in Colorado in 1916, operated a pool hall on Main Street. For 35 years starting in 1923, Eliseo operated a grocery store specializing in Italian foods (now the site of the Louisville Historical Museum at 1001 Main St.). As the owner of the grocery store, Eliseo was sympathetic to his customers who had difficulty paying their bills during the summers when the mines were closed, and during the Depression. In fact, before his death, he asked for there to be no efforts made to collect payment of the unpaid bills after his death.

Eliseo was a kind and generous man who shared his talents and means with everyone in Louisville, and his influence was felt long after his death.