

Pioneer Award

**CAROLYN CONARROE
2005**



**BORN JUNE 30, 1927 IN SPRINGFIELD, OHIO
DIED AUGUST 24, 2018 IN LONGMONT, COLORADO**

Carolyn and her husband, Percy, came to Louisville in 1965 when they purchased the town's newspaper, the Louisville Times. Carolyn immediately immersed herself in all things Louisville. Carolyn worked with her husband at the Louisville Times and researched and wrote a regular column about the history of Louisville, which she later published as a book, The Louisville Story. She next published Coal Mining in Colorado's Northern Field, and Louisville Legends: The Record as History. Her newspaper column and books show that she found Louisville history to be fascinating and worthy of study. Her attitude inspired many people who had grown up in the town to take pride in Louisville's coal mining and immigrant history and their families' working-class roots. In 1979, Carolyn was appointed to the Louisville Historical Commission to help organize the preservation of Louisville history, which led to establishing the Louisville Historical Museum in the 1980s. Also in the 1970s and 1980s, Carolyn helped conduct oral history interviews of older Louisville residents to document their stories through her work at the Louisville Public Library. Carolyn was literally a walking encyclopedia of Louisville history with her knowledge of its coal mines and immigrant residents, and never tired of sharing her knowledge about Louisville, whether written or spoken. She was a City of Louisville volunteer at the Louisville Historical Museum up until her 91st birthday, working to transcribe historical documents using her typing skills that she had honed over many of years of working on the Louisville Times newspaper.