



**LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN**  
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Eileen Schmidt Editor

**THE MUSEUM CORNER**

In observance of May as national history month, the annual meeting of the Louisville Historical Society, will be held on May 4, 1997, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Louisville Historical Museum, 1001 Main Street. A slide show and lecture on the life of Mary Rippon, the first woman professor at the University of Colorado, will be presented by Silvia Pettem. Members of the Historical Society and anyone who is interested in history are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served following the presentation. We hope to have several different artifacts on exhibit at this time.

Many artifacts have been donated to the museum by the Ferguson and Ross families. Two of the more interesting items are a console radio dating back to the 1930's and a fox stole donated by the Campana family. These items will be cataloged and added to our collection as soon as possible. Plans are being made for the museum to be open on June 14, 1997, from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. during the "Taste of Louisville". This activity, during which samples of the downtown restaurants' food, may be purchased for a small cost is always well attended. Several craft booths will also be set up along Main Street. The Taste of Louisville is sponsored by the Louisville Chamber of Commerce.

Several groups have toured the museums and a walking tour of the downtown historical area was conducted for the Downtown Business Association by members of the Historical Commission. The museum continues to be open on Thursday afternoons 1:00 p.m. through 3:00 p.m. and tours can be arranged by appointment. The historical tape of Louisville can also be purchased for \$18.00 at the museum.

**LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS**

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**A FAMILY HISTORY**

The following family history was written and submitted to the Historical Commission by Ada (Pellillo) Bottinelli, who now resides with her husband, Charles, in Longmont. Mr. and Mrs. Bottinelli are both members of early Louisville families. We would like to encourage all of you who have not sent us family histories to do so. Those we have received are in our files at the historical museum.

**JOHN PELLILLO FAMILY BIOGRAPHY**

John Pellillo (1884-1971) came to America in 1912 from Bagnoli Del Trigno, Province of Campobasso, Region of Abbruzzi, Italy. He left his wife Ersilia, and two children, Mansueto Joseph (M.J.) one year old, and Adalgisa Olga (Ada), one month old, in Bagnoli. His plans were to come to the new world to earn money, and then return to Italy within three years.

John first settled in West Virginia and worked for a short time in the coal mines. Subsequently he moved to Youngstown, Ohio, where he worked for some time in a glass factory and later in a shoe factory. In 1914 he was enticed to come to Louisville by his cousin Domenic Gabriele, and his friends Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Perrella, who thought that work was more plentiful in Colorado. Since he was a skilled shoe maker (taught by his stepfather), he decided to open a shoe repair shop at 1000 Main Street. This site was occupied later by Jacoe's grocery store and is currently being used by the Historical Society as a museum. He and two friends, Archi (Carbone) Gabriele, and Alfonso Filacchione shared a room rented from Michelina Tomeo who lived next door and who also furnished their board. Mrs. Tomeo

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Mary LaSalle**

**John E. Ross**

**Minnie DeRose**

was widowed, and, as was customary in those days, took in boarders to support her large family.

During the next few years John's dream to return to Italy was shattered by the Declaration of World War I. (Little did he realize that this event would keep his family separated for ten long years.) This led to his decision that it would be best to have his family join him in America. In anticipation of this event, in 1920, he bought the property at 828 Main Street from Jerry Sandy. The front part, where Mr. Sandy had operated a restaurant, was converted into the shoe shop and the house in the rear became the family home.

In the meantime in Bagnoli, M.J. and Ada attended grade school while Ersilia operated a dry goods store, which incidentally she rented from Joseph Perrella's brother. She also engaged in sewing baby clothes and men's shirts, and in the evenings she taught some of the town's people to read and write.

The preparation to come to America took two years, and finally in 1922 everything was in order. However, the unexpected happened! Due to an illness, Ada could not come at that time. Rather than postponing the trip and going through another two years of paper work, it was decided to leave Ada in Rome with the maternal grandmother, and have her come the next year with an uncle who was also planning to come to America. Ersilia and M.J. (11 years old at the time) made the boat trip to New York, and then arrived by rail in Louisville, without being able to communicate with John the fact of their arrival in New York. Ersilia wore a written note on her coat giving her destination address as Box 693, Louisville, Colorado.

In the meantime there was a change in the immigration laws. Each country was allowed a quota of immigrants. The only way for Ada to come outside of the quota was to have the parents become American citizens. John applied for citizenship and began to study the United States Constitution and its form of government.

In 1923 the family was blessed by the birth of another daughter, Evelyn Marie. John was well established in business. In addition to shoe repairing, he sold new merchandise such as minimum supplies, hard-toe work shoes, men's dress shoes, and shoes for children. He renamed his business as "The Pellillo Shoe Shop".

He became an American citizen in 1926, and on January 27, 1927, Ada joined the family in Louisville. She started school on February 15th. Because of the language barrier, Mr. Alps, the school superintendent, placed her in Mrs. Wellingtons' fifth grade class. She remembers some humorous incidents during those first days. The teacher assigned Marie DiLemma, who knew some Italian, to be her interpreter. When she asked Ada to read she did not know the Italian word for "read", and so she used the word "read" which sounds like the Italian word "ride" which means laugh. Ada found it strange that in the American schools the teacher would ask the students to laugh and without any reason! Another remembered incident was when she first heard the bell for recess, and everyone was going out, and Ada, thinking that school was over, went home. She found the American schools more lenient, and without the discipline she was accustomed to in the Italian schools. She also found kind and helpful classmates who never ridiculed her when she mispronounced a new word.

In the fall of 1926 as a result of a fire which destroyed the

telephone building and a garage just south of the Pellillo Shoe Shop. John rented the two upstairs rooms of his house to the telephone company for the following two years.

The depression years (1929 - 1936) were a challenge, but through sheer economy (no car, no automatic appliances, and no entertainment) John managed to save his business.

In 1934 Ersilia also became an American citizen. She learned the American language and adjusted to the new life, but still missed her family in Rome. She became adept at baking beautiful angel food cakes (from scratch) and was often asked to bake them for friends. She became an active member of the Pythian Sisters, the Foresters, and the St. Rita Auxiliary of the St. Louis Catholic church.

When M.J. started school in Louisville, he was placed in Miss Johnston's third grade class. He skipped a grade when he learned the language. He had wonderful teachers both in elementary and high school. He still corresponds with one of his English teachers. He graduated from high school in 1931, and attended a year of business school at Barnes Business College in Denver, much to his father's delight who hoped that someday he would carry on the family business. However, M.J. had other goals. He enrolled and worked his way through the University of Colorado. His parents helped as much as possible during this period of the "the depression". He graduated in 1936 with a major in physics. With his degree and \$50.00, he hitch-hiked to find a job in geophysics, and wound up on a torsion balance crew in Mission, Texas. A year later he joined a seismic oil exploration company in Dallas Texas, and after a few years of field work was transferred to its instrument laboratory. He later became a partner in another exploration company, and when it was sold in 1967, he retired and returned to live in Boulder.

On September 7, 1939, M.J. married Zelma Zimmer whom he met at the University as a music major. They have three children: June Pellillo Warwick (James) is presently employed at Boulder Community Hospital (registered nurse), Corrine Pellillo Brase (Charles) teaches mathematics at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, and John Pellillo, owner-manager of a computer store (Computer Linkage) in Boulder. They also have two grandchildren, Walter and Julia Warwick who are students at the University of Colorado.

Ada graduated from high school in 1934. Even though she was the recipient of a four year scholarship to any Colorado college, she chose to stay home and help in the shoe shop. She married Charles (Chelote) Bottinelli on September 3, 1939, and moved to Longmont on January 1, 1941. They have two sons: Charles A. (Ph.D.) who is an energy consultant for Public Service Co. and living in Littleton, Colorado, and Robert L. (Ph.D.), a clinical psychologist in Flint, Michigan. Ada and Charles have four grandchildren: Nick, Jed, Lia, and Gina.

Evelyn graduated from high school in 1941. She attended Colorado University graduating in 1945 with a degree in medical technology. She is currently working as a staff assistant in the biology department of the University of Colorado. She married Edmund Krohn on April 23, 1950. They have three daughters: Jeanne Krohn Wade (Robert) a graphic artist living in Washington, D. C., Lauren Krohn, a lawyer employed by McGraw Hill Publishing Co, in Colorado Springs, and Ann Krohn, an English teacher at Colorado University. Evelyn and Ed have on granddaughter, Kellyn Wade.

In 1955 John Pellillo sold his Louisville property to Toney LaSalle for \$10,000.00, and he and Ersilia moved to Longmont to be near their daughter, Ada. They adjusted to the move and to the advantages of a bigger city, but they left their hearts in Louisville where they had lifelong friends.

Toney LaSalle connected the Pellillo property to 800 Main, thus enlarging his furniture store. The house in the rear was left intact and was rented for many years. Then LaSalle sold the store to Jimmy Kelley who in turn sold it to Robert Sparks. In 1983 Warren Jackson and C. Raymond Sears purchased 820 and 828 Main and built the Main Street Market Place. Part of the Pellillo Shoe Shop is now the solar mall. The house was opened into the mall and transformed into many small shops.

In the mall, there is a picture of a young man working at his shoe bench. John Pellillo is back home!

by Ada Bottinelli

### \* THE SHOOTING OF MARSHALL HELBURG

On October 28, 1915, at about 1:30 p.m. during a quiet afternoon in Louisville, Victor Helburg, Justice of the Peace, Town Clerk, and Assistant Town Marshall was killed instantly when he was shot with a 30/30 Winchester rifle by Frank Balestere, an Italian immigrant who sold fruit from a wagon. Earlier in the day Mr. Helburg threatened to arrest Balestere if he continued to refuse to purchase a license for peddling--the fee for which was \$2.50. The two men were again seen talking just shortly before the shooting. A few minutes later, Balestere made a trip to his home located near the railroad tracks and returned to the center of town with his wagon. Helburg saw the peddler drive across Main Street going west and he started after the wagon. Balestere picked up his rifle and warned Marshall Helburg to leave him alone. He then fired one shot, missing his mark. Mr. Helburg did not return the fire, but instead turned back toward Main Street. Balestere took aim at the back of Helburg's head and fired from a distance of 150 feet--killing him instantly. Immediately following the incident, Balestere whipped up the horses and disappeared from town, heading west. Undersheriff Robert Euler left Boulder to make his way to Louisville as soon as he was notified of the killing. A posse was organized. Since the shooting took place near the post office there were several witnesses, none of whom made any effort to stop Balestere since they were not armed and he still carried his rifle.

Victor Helburg was born in Alsace-Lorraine, the region located between France and Germany, and while living under the rule of both countries learned to speak the languages fluently which was a great help to him when he arrived in Louisville. In 1895, he married Mary Doerfler, the daughter of Joseph and Theresa Doerfler. Joseph had come to Louisville in the 1870's and established the family home at Walnut and Second (Main) Streets. They were a very well known and respected family. Victor Helburg had originally planned to open a meat market here, but after his arrival in town, he discovered that there were already several markets. The owners were friends of his and he decided he did not want to compete with them. He was named Town Clerk, as well as, Town Marshall and remained in these positions until his death. He was survived by his wife and five children--two sons, William and Victor, and three daughters, Frances, Marie, and Dorothy. His oldest son, William, was later

killed in the Denver and Boulder Interurban collision at Globeville near Denver on Labor Day, 1920. His son, Victor, and the three daughters also survived their mother who passed away in 1955. Victor Helburg had been a resident of Louisville for 25 years and was highly respected by his fellow townspeople. A five hundred dollar reward was offered for the apprehension of Frank Balestere, dead or alive. The town council authorized a \$250 reward and the Boulder County commissioners offered a like amount. Posses desiring not only the money, but to avenge the murder began searching the hills between Louisville Junction, the foothills to the west, and the area to the south including Leyden and Golden. All the police officers in the state were notified to be on the alert for Balestere and ranchers living between Boulder and Golden were informed of the reward. Mrs. Balestere and their three children left Louisville later on the day of the shooting, traveling on the Interurban to Denver in order to escape threats being made against them and the peddler himself.

It was learned that Balestere had deserted the team of horses, which he drove during his escape, at the Chaussart ranch, two miles south of Louisville--he then cut across the field to the west. He was seen near Louisville Junction by a section crew who, since they were unaware of the murder, made no attempt to apprehend him. The search for Balestere lasted from the time of the shooting until after midnight and resumed at daybreak the next morning. At dawn a posse, headed by Lyman Elwell (a lawyer practicing law in Louisville at the time) accompanied by a number of men started out in pursuit of the murderer in Elwell's automobile.

Authorities were not aware that Balestere had hid his horses behind the Chaussart barn until more than half an hour after his escape; therefore it was believed that he had sufficient time to reach his friends living in or near Denver and they came to his aid. On November 5, 1915, the Longmont Ledger printed a graphic account of Balestere's escape--the details of which were taken from an article printed in the Boulder Herald a few days before. By this time authorities had come to believe that Balestere had many friends of his nationality and they began to doubt that he would ever be caught. He had made good his escape from Colorado. In a report from the Denver detectives who were working on the case, it was ascertained that the slayer was either in Chicago or en-route to New York after making his way from Denver to Cheyenne in a wild automobile ride a few days after the slaying. Shortly after the shooting on Thursday afternoon, it was learned that he joined his friends at Inspiration Point near Denver (close to where the Lakeside amusement park now stands). It is not certain when he arrived at Inspiration Point, but on Saturday night a Denver garage received a request for a powerful automobile to be delivered to Inspiration Point. The young man who drove the car to the designated location was met by a group of men who told him that they had to make a trip to Cheyenne immediately and would pay him \$60 in advance if he would drive them. After all the details had been worked out another man, believed to be Balestere, joined the group. Balestere had made a complete change of clothes and shaved off his mustache, but the description the chauffeur provided matched the Louisville fruit vendor perfectly. The chauffeur became certain of his identity when the last man to join the group whipped a six shooter out of his pocket and instructed the driver to speed up as they drove through the small towns located

on the road from Brighton to Greeley. He indicated that he would not tolerate any stops along the way. The chauffeur became panic stricken for fear that something would go wrong with the car as they passed through some small town. He was convinced that if there were a mechanical failure, his passenger would kill him also. Upon arriving in Cheyenne about 2:15 a.m. on Sunday morning, they proceeded at once to the railway station where the fugitive purchased a ticket to Chicago. The driver was sternly cautioned to say nothing of the trip to Cheyenne to anyone. The young man was very frightened and decided to maintain his silence. The story of the trip became known, through the investigation of Denver detectives, who determined that the automobile had been gone from the garage for a suspiciously long period of time. Telegraph messages were sent to New York and Chicago carrying a description of the killer in the hopes that the police in one of the cities might be able to identify him and make an arrest. One fact is certain. Balestere made his escape through the assistance of friends living in Denver and in the vicinity of Louisville. Many rumors were heard about his whereabouts from time to time throughout the years. One Louisville resident who had returned to Italy to visit his family many years later told the story that Balestere had left this country disguised as a woman and was living in his native county. The rumors always proved to be of no value in locating him and he was never found.

About a year after Victor Helburg's murder, his widow filed a claim with the Industrial Commission for \$2500. As a result of her claim, the lawyers for the Commission decided to issue a statement to the effect that "under state law no compensation can be paid for an injury intentionally inflicted upon one person by another." Members of the Industrial Commission, interpreted the law to mean that a policeman, in the nature of his duties, subjects himself to the hazard of death and that his relatives should receive compensation. The commissioners promised to hand down a formal opinion in a short time, however, no confirmation of this compensation being awarded to Mr. Helburg's survivors was found.

In July 1966, a news item in the Boulder Daily Camera confirmed that the murder of Victor Helburg was being cautiously and carefully reviewed by Boulder County Sheriff Arthur Everson. The sheriff's office had received a telephone call from Douglas, Arizona. The caller, who identified himself as Wilkie Holland Ferris, informed the sheriff that he had located Frank Balestere who shot and killed Victor Helburg in 1915 in Louisville. Ferris told a deputy that he had trailed Balestere through the United States and the South Pacific for fifty years. He finally found him in Mexico directly across the border from Douglas. Ferris claimed to be a nephew of Helburg and a former owner of the Boulderado Hotel. He also indicated that Balestere was ninety-seven years old and ready to surrender to police. Sheriff Everson believed that the call was nothing more than a prank, but stated that if Balestere could be found, he could still be prosecuted for the crime. None of Mr. Helburg's three daughters could remember Ferris and doubted the validity of the call. A further investigation in 1966, revealed that Ferris was born in Longmont in 1908 and had been arrested in Douglas where he resided, several times for intoxication. Several years later when more information was being sought, it was learned that records pertaining to the case had been destroyed by a fire at

the courthouse. Remembrance of Helburg as the community's only slain law officer prompted some citizens of the town to wonder why his name was never included on the state memorial honoring slain officers of the law. The memorial is located at the Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy in Golden. In 1979, Marie Brugger, a daughter of Victor Helburg, in an effort to determine whether or not his name was inscribed on the memorial, discovered that, indeed, it was not. She was informed that unless the Law Enforcement memorial committee could be convinced that Helburg was a "bona fida" Town Marshall and not a "deputy or assistant marshall" his name would remain off the list. Various newspaper articles referred to Mr. Helburg as "Deputy Town Marshall" and "Assistant Town Marshall," but when his wife died in 1955, her obituary stated that Helburg was the "Town Marshall" when he died. Mrs. Brugger felt that by checking city records, she would learn of her father's official status at the time of the shooting. She was determined to see her father's name included on the memorial, but unfortunately was never able to accomplish this task. For many years it looked as though Victor Helburg might never be recognized as a law officer who lost his life while performing his duties, but all that changed in 1990 when the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund, Inc. of McLean, Virginia announced that the name of Victor Helburg would appear on a national monument at Judiciary Square in Washington, D. C. A granddaughter of Helburg, Mrs. Ray Imel of Longmont, learned of the national memorial and asked the Louisville Police Chief, at that time, Rod Leesman for his assistance in establishing the details of the Helburg shooting incident which were needed to have his name inscribed on the memorial. Leesman provided the details of the incident and the group in charge of the national memorial agreed to include Marshall Helburg's name. This memorial was officially dedicated in 1991. A photograph of Marshall Helburg and a plaque commemorating his death while acting as a law enforcement officer have been placed in one of the rooms now occupied by the Louisville Police Department in City Hall. Helburg was the only Louisville law enforcement officer to be slain while on duty.

This incident has long been of interest to the people of our community and we would like to thank the Louisville Police Department for their cooperation in providing information about this tragedy. This material will be stored in the historical files at the Louisville Historical museum. Some of the details of the shooting which appear in this article were gathered from news items appearing in The Louisville Times, The Boulder Daily Camera, The Longmont Ledger, The Boulder Herald, and the Longmont Colorado Daily Times Call.

#### **DOWNTOWN HISTORICAL SITES**

As we glance up and down Main Street in Louisville, we recognize many historical sites some of which are included on the National Historical Register, but many exteriors of the structures have been changed from the original by remodeling; therefore those do not qualify for inclusion on the list. Many of the sites are still remembered as being important in the history of the city.

Recently, the Downtown Business Association of Louisville compiled a walking tour of the downtown area which they published as a brochure. Copies of this brochure have been

placed in the motels and inns which are located in the south part of the city and in various places of business along Main Street.

The downtown area seems to be quite unique because it has been maintained as a very vital part of our city in spite of the commercial development in other areas. As people walk along the streets, they can envision Main Street as it once was with horses instead of cars and dirt roads instead of paved ones. The following is a summary of the tour and we encourage all who visit our community to pick up one of the brochures and proceed to explore the historical sites of our downtown.

717 Main Street--This home built in 1878 belonged to the Neihoff and Austin families (Jessie Neihoff married William Austin). It is one of the oldest houses in Louisville. William (Billy) Austin also owned a small neighborhood grocery store on the corner of Grant and Spruce Streets where the children attending the grade school, located across the street, could purchase a small bag of candy for just a few pennies. This structure is now the home of the Parks and Recreation Department.

640 Main Street--The well-known Italian restaurant, The Blue Parrot, is located on this corner. In the early 1900's it housed Huber's Drug Store and included a bowling alley, but in 1919, Mary and Mike Colacci decided to begin selling Mary's homemade spaghetti at the urging of their friends and families. Mrs. Colacci's sauce contained tomato paste which she made from sun-dried tomatoes. For years before the restaurant officially opened, the Colacci family often shared their spaghetti dinners on Sunday with anyone who would happen by. In the 1980's, most of the original building was destroyed by a fire which started on the roof while it was being repaired.

1006 Pine Street--Originally known as Lockner's Tavern, this building was constructed in 1900 by Joseph Lackner who came to Louisville from Austria. It was one of the first saloons in town and a beer garden was located on the lot west of the tavern.

740 Front Street--The Old Louisville Inn was built and owned by Nick DeFrancia. The beautiful 28 foot bar built of mahogany and cherrywood was constructed by the Brunswick Company in the 1890's and is believed to be the second oldest in Colorado. The Old Louisville Inn is the last remaining of the original thirteen saloons which conducted business along Front Street. During the years when Prohibition was in effect (1920-1933), the saloons were connected by tunnels. Recently, during renovation of the building, the original "spit trough" was found and fifty year old murals of Colorado wildlife painted by "Cheyenne," a local artist whose fee was paid in drinks, were discovered under the wallpaper. The current owners also added an ornate stain glass skylight to the building.

801 Main Street--The building which was built in 1903 by Dr. Wolfer currently houses the Steinbaugh Hardware Company. The State Mercantile, a company store was the first business located here. It also housed the Carveth and Dalby brothers general store where everything from groceries to clothing could be purchased. Later the Dalby grocery store, operated by Joe and Grace Dalby, occupied the building until the 1970's. The balcony running the length of the store seems to be quite unique. There was also an ice-house attached to the west side of the building in the early days before electric refrigerators. Steinbaugh's, Louisville's oldest business was originally located

on Front Street where J. J. Steinbaugh opened a blacksmith shop in 1892. When the buildings on Front Street were destroyed by fire in 1974, the Steinbaugh business was moved to 801 Main. The town is saddened by the announcement that Steinbaugh's will soon be closing after 105 years of doing business in this community. They will definitely be missed.

809 Main Street--Pasquale's, built in 1902, was formerly owned and operated by Celeste Romano, an Italian immigrant. Many of the men, especially those of Italian descent, met to play cards in this saloon and took part in heated discussions with their friends and neighbors. Kids were often sent with the bottom part of their dad's lunch pail to "Celeste's" where the pail was filled with beer for ten cents. Celeste also sold ice cream cones for five cents which were filled with almost half a pint of Watts Hardy ice cream. Pretzels were also kept on the bar for patrons to snack on while they waited.

817 Main Street--This building, where Senor T's is now located was originally a movie theater. From 1926 until 1978 when it became a restaurant it was known as the Rex Theater. The original curtain advertising various businesses in town had been rolled up and stored in the basement, but it can now be viewed in the lobby of the restaurant. The Rex was one of the most popular places in town and many of the townspeople attended the movies several times a week.

909 Main Street--Dr. Wolfer had this building constructed to serve as his medical office. Dr. Wolfer was criticized by the miners for his treatment of strike breakers and mine owners during the long strike from 1910-1915. In the 1930's, the Eberharter family operated a store at this location. At various times, the building was also occupied by a candy store, a small art gallery, and a creative art shop known as Expressions. The J&S Jewelry store now operates out of this building.

1001 Main Street--Built in 1903, this building now houses the Louisville Historical Museum. The Tego Drug Store was the first occupant. On the south side of the building, the sign advertising Coca Cola for 5¢ a glass was painted. Since this was a popular means of advertising products during the days before radio and television, it has been preserved. Several businesses were located in this building, but one of the best remembered is the Jacoe grocery store which was owned by Eliseo Jacoe. This store specialized in Italian foodstuffs and was very popular with the Italians of the community. Members of the Louisville Historical Commission gutted the inside of the building which was in total disrepair and with the help of several volunteers were able to completely restore the interior.

Joe's Italian Market--It is believed that this building was built in the 1900's. In 1947, Joe D'Amato whose family operated a spaghetti factory in Italy, established a grocery store specializing in Italian and imported products.

820 Main Street--The Silver Song Art Gallery is located on the first floor of this building which was the site of the first mortuary in Louisville. G. R. Henning who purchased the building in 1923 from Charlie Powell, the town's first mortician, replaced it in 1926 with a house and mortuary, built by the Fabrizio Brothers. The Henning family lived in the house which was attached to the chapel. The bedrooms were upstairs over the chapel and work rooms. Mr. Henning also operated Louisville's first ambulance service.

740 Main Street--One of Louisville's early schools occupied

this building which now houses the Double Happy, a Chinese restaurant. Before the school opened a young woman was hired to teach the students--also arrangements were made for her to board with a local family. However, after teaching for just one half day, the young woman resigned and left town immediately. The Newrock family also operated a drug store at this location for several years. Later the Mangus family opened a clothing store there.

728 Main Street--The original building was constructed in the 1890's and extended back to the alley. This site is now the home of Business Answers. It was originally operated as a pool hall and it is believed the Austin family, who lived across the street may have owned it. A bowling alley occupied the back part of the building and miners would often stop to bowl a few games after work in the evening. There was a barber shop adjacent to the building. L.J. Mossoni purchased the building in the early 1920's and continued to operate it as a pool hall because the Prohibition Act had gone into effect on January 1, 1920. The sale of liquor was prohibited by this law until its repeal in 1933 when Mr. Mossoni began selling liquor and food. The business became known as the "Twin Light." There was a dance hall in the back part of the building--sometimes a band played, but more often a jukebox provided the music for dancing. Several different people leased the building and maintained the bar and restaurant through the years. Some of the better remembered operators were Paul and Frances Domenico. Their establishment served excellent food and became a very popular hangout for young adults, especially those young men returning home after World War II. Sometime later, when a fire destroyed the dance hall, the back part of the building was cut off and the front part continued as a bar. Many early residents fondly recall the good food, dancing, and the good times at the old Twin Light.

741 Jefferson--The Methodist Church was built in 1892 and was known as the Community Church for many years. Tom Carleton, who was a coal miner, served as the first minister. For many years, students from the Iliff School of Theology served as ministers, but later one minister was hired to serve both the Lafayette and Louisville Methodist churches. The Ladies' Aid, a women's group, began the first fall festival celebration. There was also a very active youth group in the church.

628 LaFarge Avenue--This building constructed in 1898 to serve as the railroad depot located just west of the train tracks, is now home of the Louisville Dance Center and the Louisville Pre-School. After passenger trains no longer made stops in Louisville the building was purchased by the local Lions Club and moved to its present site. Trains were a major form of transportation and one could travel to Denver, Boulder, and Eldorado Springs at several different times during the day. During World War II, Robert Vaughn, the telegraph agent at the Depot, received a telegram informing him of the death of his son while serving with the armed forces overseas. The Louisville Lions Club remodeled the building and held their meetings there for several years.

These are just a few historical sites within our city and we sincerely hope that the buildings will continue to be occupied and well maintained and that our "Main Street" will always be considered as the center of our town.

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**Louisville Historical Commission**  
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**Louisville, CO 80027**

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