



Issue #90

# The Louisville Historian

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## ***Pearl Conley, Louisville Newspaperwoman***

***By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator***

**P**earl B. Conley was a woman who spent about fifteen years living and breathing Louisville. As the publisher and editor of *The Louisville Times* from 1917 to 1932, she did general reporting, wrote editorial opinions, promoted subscriptions, and did what she could to keep the newspaper going. It is a sad fact of our community that not only are there no known photographs of her, but there may be as few as ten surviving issues of the *Times* that she worked on, out of hundreds of different weekly issues that were printed. However, through a combination of historical records and her own writings, it is possible to get a sense of this interesting and opinionated woman who broke gender barriers in a small town in Colorado.

Pearl was not originally from Colorado. Census records show that in 1880, her family was living in Sherman, Texas (located near the border with Oklahoma) and her father was a shoemaker. She and her twin, Earl, were two of many children in the family and they were born in 1877. Both of her parents died when she was about twenty years old.

In 1900, Pearl was living with her brother, Earl, and they were the caretakers for their younger brother, Ira Conley, who was then 11 years old. They lived in Ardmore, Oklahoma, which was then part of Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory.

Federal census records for 1910 show that she was still living with her twin brother, Earl, this time in Seibert, Colorado, which is on the Eastern Plains. Although Earl's age was given accurately as 32, her age was stated to be five years younger, as age 27. They were working as farmers.

Between 1910 and 1915, when Pearl was in her 30s, she made a big change in her life. The 1915 Kansas State Census found her living alone in Goodland, Kansas, where she was working as a publisher.

Pearly Conley took over the management of *The Louisville Times* newspaper in 1917 from William Byvank. She purchased the newspaper office building on Pine Street and became the owner and operator of the paper itself. She lived in a small part of the building adjoining the business office. Although she was 42 at the time, the 1920 census records list her age as 37, in the second instance of her giving her age as five years younger than it really was. Louisville directories show her to have been the proprietor of *The Louisville Times* until 1932.



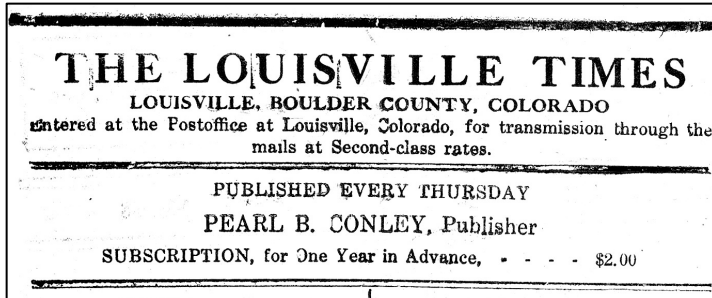
***The building used for the Louisville News in the early 1900s was later used by the Louisville Times and its publisher, Pearl B. Conley.***

We don't know exactly why she sold the paper, but that year, it was taken over by Wesley S. and Harriett Withers, a couple who had retired from their auto business in Boulder. It is known that the Depression was a very difficult time for the newspaper business, and many newspapers in Boulder County experienced changes in the early 1930s.

Subscriber records from the *Louisville Times* offices in the 1930s indicate that when Pearl sold the paper, she also stopped subscribing and refused to respond to billing statements.

Other Conley relatives who also developed connections to Louisville were Pearl's nephew, Austin, who worked as a mechanic in Louisville and lived with her in 1932, and her younger brother, Ira, to whom she willed her property after her death.

Pearl Conley died in 1939 at the age of 61 and was buried in the family plot in Ardmore, Oklahoma.



The ten issues of *The Louisville Times* on which Pearl worked and that have been donated to the Louisville Historical Museum reveal her to have been someone who wrote ardently about the rights of workers, particularly coal miners, and who cared about the things that Louisville residents cared about.

She covered the tragic train collision that took place in Globeville in 1920 as local residents were traveling to Denver on the Interurban for Labor Day. She wrote for the front page,

The news of the Interurban wreck, bringing with it its fatal news of the deaths and serious injuries to so many of the citizens of our town, Monday just at the noon hour, was a stunning blow to the entire population here. Almost every auto in the town was called into service to take people to the scene of the wreck of cars and humanity. . . . Of the twelve deaths of the accident, six were residents of Louisville, and of the 112 injured, more than forty resided here.

. . . Words are inadequate to express the appalling horror felt by the people here or to express the sympathy for the bereaved relatives of the dead. (*Louisville Times*, September 9, 1920)

Pearl used her paper to strongly advocate for the public to donate money in order to make it possible for the town to acquire the local baseball park, Miners Field, from private owners. At the time, the Town owned no parks at all. The public did give enough funds, Miners

Field was donated to Louisville in 1923 with the stipulation that it always be maintained as a baseball park, and to this day it is used for youth athletics and is a treasured part of the City of Louisville's Parks and Recreation Department. She also advocated in 1923 for businesses to donate money to help the Women's Club create a memorial to Louisville soldiers who had been in the World War. Louisville's World War I monument was created with the donated funds, and it currently stands in the Louisville Cemetery.

Following the killings of six striking miners at the Columbine Mine on November 21, 1927, Pearl Conley took issue with the fact that women from the northern Colorado coal fields would not be allowed to solicit coal strike relief funds on the streets of Denver without a permit from the Denver manager of safety. She wrote:

Through the public press, the mind of the world has been prejudiced against the miner. Why? We cannot answer the question. Before coming to this mining district in 1917, we thought they were a rough bunch. Blame for such thoughts by the public, can only be laid to the public press. In ten years of friendly association, in business life, in church work, yes and lodge work, we have not found them different from people in other places. Too often the Press speaks of the miners as ignorant foreigners.

Being a foreigner is one thing no man could change, but there is one very noticeable thing, they have taken [to] learning as fast as their American brothers. Not always has the environment and remuneration been so that he could move out of his sphere and he has remained a miner, but his son and daughter, in many cases working their way through school, are, today, teaching in our grade and high schools across the country and filling many other places of honor.

So Mr. Denver, you may keep your alms, in your own Community chest, for your own unfortunates. But it will not hurt you to pay a fair price for the coal you use. All the miners ask is adequate pay for their work and of course the operators must have a fair profit.

We, the citizens of the state of Colorado, have been lawfully exonerated from the murder of the Columbine mine victims, but is not the stain on our hands? Can we so easily ask with Cain "Am I my brother's keeper?" Fairminded Public, you will pay the increase, if not to the coal digger, then to the National Guards and State Police. (*Louisville Times*, December 1, 1927)

Pearl Conley had to work closely with the men who were the Town leaders and business owners. She did this while she herself was one of Louisville's only women who was in business or holding a prominent position at the time. (When women got the vote in 1920, she wrote, "The papers signed by Secretary Colby giving the women of America a vote will take its place with the historical documents of America.") She also reported on social and cultural events, wrote obituaries, and obviously knew a great many people in the community. The Historical Museum may have only ten issues that she worked on, but it is because of her that we know as much as we do about Louisville during the period of 1917-1932.



***The Louisville Times building, and its attached house in which Pearl Conley lived, were located between the Louisville Bank at 700 Main St. (now the Huckleberry building) and the alley to the east.***

Pearl Conley has left us with so many unanswered questions. Was she liked and accepted by the community? We don't know. Did she like her work and was she proud of it? Again, we have no way of knowing for certain. But does today's Louisville now know more about her and is it grateful for her contributions to the community? We should all hope so.

*Issues of The Louisville Times dating from 1913 to 1942 may have been destroyed in an early fire and others were not saved by the business. Very, very few of them, out of thousands of weekly issues, appear to remain in existence. If you have old issues of The Louisville Times or other local newspapers, please consider donating them to the Louisville Historical Museum so that they can be preserved and their contents made available for research. Also, please contact the Museum if you have information to share about Pearl B. Conley or any other Louisville newspaper publishers.*



## Louisville in the News



The following items have been culled from news stories about Louisville from over the years.

"James Quigley, an old resident of the town [of Louisville] met with an accident last Friday morning, which brought him nearly to death's door. The roof of the room in which he was mining coal gave way and crushed him to the floor, where he was found by his friends almost completely buried by the debris." *Boulder News and Courier*, June 2, 1882

"The dance given by the Louisville brass band last Friday night, was a decided success, notwithstanding the night was a stormy one. The City Hall was crowded, and Louisville added another laurel to her reputation for having good dances." *Boulder News and Courier*, June 2, 1882

On diphtheria coming to Louisville: "Dr. McGraw who returned from Louisville last evening lays bare a horrible condition of affairs. Diphtheria in all its hideousness [sic] is raging over the town of Louisville and entire community. As the doctor passed a house occupied by two families of Italians jointly yesterday morning he saw crepe upon the door." *Boulder Daily Camera*, May 17, 1892

"The Louisville opera house being erected by our fellow townsmen, Hon. P. M. Peltier and Mr. Fruth, is fast nearing completion." *Boulder Daily Camera*, June 16, 1893

Under the headline "Going Under the Earth – The City of Louisville Rapidly Sinking Through the Earth": "Portions of this city are gradually sinking, the wells are going dry and the situation is considered quite alarming. It is learned that the ground began to sink last night; people were startled from sleep by the cracking of the walls of their homes and many of them rushed out to find that the ground in places had sunken two feet or more . . . . The ground occupied by the buildings owned by George Giles is reported to have taken a drop of two feet and the house occupied by Will Atkins, over three feet. Both houses are in the center of the town . . . . The reason for this condition of affairs is that for years past coal has been mined from under the town and it is supposed that the timbers have given way and caused the ground to settle." *Boulder Daily Camera*, October 12, 1893



***The office of the Louisville Times was located at 800/804 Spruce from about 1935 to 1955. It shared space in the building with the publishers' residence. This County Assessor photo shows the building in 1948.***

Under the headline "Buckets of Blood": "Constable William Taylor brought over from Louisville and lodged in the county jail today one Jacobi Fillipi, bound over by Justice Clark for stabbing one Chellola and another fellow Italian in Chellola's house. The first named was stabbed by Fillipi twice . . . Blood ran in bucketfuls down the streets and alleys of Louisville, but both the stabees will recover, by virtue of being used to blood letting." *Boulder Daily Camera*, December 21, 1895

"Seven saloons in [Louisville] don't seem to be enough as the eighth has just started across the street from Peltier's. As work is so scarce at present it would look as though there was no hope for new firms." *Boulder Daily Camera*, March 9, 1896

Under the headline "Northern Coal Miners Are Once More Actively at Work": "The full dinner pail brigade of the Northern coal fields returned to the mines at the blowing of the whistles this morning, and the wheels of industry commenced turning once again. The idleness at the mines that has ensued for the past three weeks was broken. Amid the shouts of the miners at 4:42 this afternoon the first train load of coal that has left Louisville for about three weeks pulled out of the years for Denver. It consisted of twenty cars of lump and slack." *Longmont Ledger*, December 4, 1903

From an article entitled "Power from the Pit's Mouth" by J.W. Preston, which described the new power plant that had been constructed north of South Boulder Road between Louisville and Lafayette; the article noted that the plant supplied power to the Denver & Interurban rail line, the Fort Collins street car line, and such towns as Lafayette, Louisville, Superior, Boulder, Longmont, Loveland, Fort Collins, and Greeley: "More than 75,000

people are now being supplied with light and power through the new plant. . . . Interesting in the extreme is the method of conveying the coal from the bottom of the mines to the fire boxes under the boilers where it is consumed. From the moment the coal leaves the mine until it is burned the hand of man is not brought into service. . . . Not once, from the time that the coal is shoveled into cars underground at the mine until the ashes are deposited along the tracks as ballast, does a human hand have anything to do with the work." *The Technical World Magazine*, December 1908

Under the headline "Bootleggers Taken at Louisville": "Longmont was somewhat stirred late on Monday afternoon when a truck load of whiskey and wine was brought to our city and three people, two men and one woman accused of having it on sale. . . . There were four 50-gallon barrels or casks, three of them full of grape wine. . . . The whiskey was in kegs, gallon bottles and jugs. D.D. Clark was the Justice who tried the cases, a large audience filling even the sidewalk in front of his office, many of the men interviewing the truck and getting a smell of the stuff. Justice Clark says the estimated value of all the liquor secured was \$1,400." *Longmont Ledger*, December 23, 1921

"Some excellent work has been done by the Town on the streets during the past week. Three trucks hauling mine ash from the Acme dump have filled bad chuck holes and spread a new surface." *Louisville Times*, May 3, 1934

Under the headline "Pirates Capture 1948 State Class B Championship Crown": "The Louisville Pirates captured the coveted State Class B championship for defeating Ordway of the Central Arkansas Valley League 31-7 before an estimated crowd of 1,400. . . . Louisville has reached the finals three times. In her first two attempts at the crown [in 1942 and 1947], the Pirates met exceptionally strong teams. . . . Louisville is making preparations to honor the Pirates. Mothers of the players will sponsor the usual football banquet which is set for December 12 at the high school." *Louisville Times*, December 2, 1948

On the issue of whether Louisville voters should approve a bond issue to fund Louisville's first sewage system: Mrs. Jessie Austin of 717 Main Street stated, "It may pinch some of us, but we have been pinched before and got through it." – *Louisville Times*, April 5, 1951 (The vote passed.)

Editorial on the issue of Rocky Flats opening: "Because of water supply, Louisville is the only town in the vicinity of the plant site capable of handling an influx of workers population and it has water to handle twice its

present population after it gets sewers.” – *Louisville Times*, April 5, 1951

Under the headline “Old Coal Mining Town Making Comeback,” article by Leo Zuckerman, Rocky Mountain News Writer: “LOUISVILLE, Feb. 9 – This former rough-and-ready coal mining community, which has been ‘hanging on’ for the past few years despite the near-demise of the mines, is slowly undergoing a resurrection. It isn’t King Coal that’s causing the reawakening. It’s people looking for homes. Louisville is fast becoming a residential suburb of Boulder and Denver. Back of the influx of new residents are the Atomic Energy Commission’s vast Rocky Flats plant, the new Denver-Boulder Turnpike, and the Bureau of Standards’ near-complete facilities in Boulder. . . . ‘It’s really amazing,’ reported Art Hobson, 47, editor of the weekly *Louisville Times*. ‘The town is really waking up. My circulation is way up. When I came here 10 years ago everybody in town was a coal miner. Then the mines started folding. There are only two still working, the Centennial and the Hi-Way, and the former is ready to give up. The youngsters here want no part of mining.’” – *Rocky Mountain News*, February 10, 1952

Under the headline "Louisville Can Hold Its City Election Next April": "Louisville voters will elect a city council next April and then become a city of the second class. . . . The town will now be divided into three wards and each one will have its voting precinct. Each ward will have two councilmen and the mayor and city clerk will be elected at large." – *Louisville Times*, September 22, 1961

Thank you to the website *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection* ([www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org)), which made possible the initial locating of some of the older news items included here. Additional news items are from the collection of the *Louisville Historical Museum*.

## **The Newspaper Business in Louisville**

**By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator**

Records at the Louisville Historical Museum state that Louisville’s first newspaper, *The Louisville Miner*, was published in 1887 and 1888. Other local papers of the late 1800s and early 1900s were the *Louisville-Lafayette Advance*, *Brooks Vindication*, *Colorado Sun*, *Louisville Journal*, *Black Diamond World*, *Louisville News*, and *Louisville Enterprise*. The *Black Diamond World* newspaper was located for a time in the early 1900s in the building at 721 Grant, which had been moved from Main Street. (The building is also known for its history

as a hospital operated by the Union Labor Hospital Association and is now a residence.) Newspapers in the nearby towns of Boulder and Lafayette also carried Louisville news.

The owners and publishers of the *Louisville Times* after Pearl B. Conley were Wesley S. and Harriett N. Withers from 1932 to 1941, followed by Harry Naeter in 1941-42 and Art and Della Hobson from 1942 to 1965. In 1965, Percy and Carolyn Conarroe took over the ownership and operation of *The Louisville Times*. Their tenure would last for over thirty years, until 1997. They were to have an enormous impact on Louisville.



**In this photo from circa 1966, Carolyn and Percy Conarroe stand in front of the *Louisville Times* office at 912 Main Street.**

It was due in part to the efforts of Percy Conarroe the StorageTek decided to create its campus in Louisville in the early 1970s. This not only created many jobs in Louisville for years, but also eventually led to ConocoPhillips announcing in 2008 that it plans to build a facility on the same property in coming years. Percy’s strongly worded editorials were a hallmark of the paper. As was written in *The Louisville Times* itself (February 18, 1998, article by Travis Henry): "Agree or disagree with him - you have to admit, Percy speaks his mind. As much an institution as the Blue Parrot restaurant in Louisville or the antique shops in old town Lafayette, Percy Conarroe has represented and reported this area like no one else has for the last three decades. As editor and publisher of the *Lafayette News* and *Louisville Times*, Conarroe has turned out his unique brand of community focused journalism here since 1965."

Carolyn Conarroe was deeply interested in local history and wrote a regular Louisville history column in addition to working on other aspects of the paper. Her knowledge of local history and her work on these columns led her to write three books: *The Louisville Story*, *Coal Mining in Colorado's Northern Field*, and *Louisville Legends: The Record as History*. In 2005, the Louisville Historical Commission presented Carolyn with the Pioneer Award for her many contributions to Louisville and her work to share and preserve its history. Carolyn Conarroe's books are currently available for purchase at the Louisville Historical Museum.



***The Louisville Times office was later located at 916 Main, shown here as it appeared in the 1980s. This was the former location of the Bugdust Pool Hall. On the left, Joe's Market can be seen.***

Sources for information about Louisville newspapers include records located at the Louisville Historical Museum; "Colorado Newspapers, Editors, Owners, 1935-1977" by Walter H. Stewart; and interviews of Carolyn and Percy Conarroe.

## ***In Memoriam***

*In March, Louisville lost two people who made unforgettable contributions to our community. Some special written memories appear below.*

*William "Bill" Buffo worked to start the Louisville Historical Museum. In 2007, the Louisville Historical Commission, of which Bill had been a member for four years, presented Bill and Betty Buffo with the Pioneer Award in recognition of their many accomplishments. Bill was a Museum volunteer, collecting obituaries from local papers for the Museum's obituary collection, up to the month before he passed away.*

*Vera Taylor was a longtime Louisville High School teacher. While a Louisville Public Library volunteer, she helped to catalog many local history items that are now at the Historical Museum and helped create an index for the graves in the Louisville Cemetery. In 1998, the*

*Historical Commission presented Vera with the Pioneer Award.*

## ***My Dad, Bill Buffo By Ron Buffo***

My Dad, Bill Buffo, was a Louisville original. Born and raised in this town, he would proclaim it as, "The best place in the world to live." He made this statement seriously and he would share it passionately with anyone he talked to. His sentiment was deeply rooted in family and solidified by the experiences of growing up in a small town. While many of us marvel at the humble young man who breaks away from the confines of small town America to experience the world, it is easy for us to dismiss another young man for making the decision to stay deeply committed to his community.



***Bill and Betty Buffo helped start the Louisville Historical Museum. This photo shows them by the historic Tomeo House, which the City acquired in the 1980s to be the first museum building.***

Leaving never seemed to be the right option for Dad because his family and community had such a powerful hold on him. How many people can say they were born (in 1931), raised, and spent the entirety of their 79 years on the same block? His grandparents, Mike and Maria Buffo, lived just up the block at the southeast corner of LaFarge and South, he was born at 909 LaFarge, moved across the alley to 709 Walnut, and at the age of 19

married and moved next door to 711 Walnut where he remained for the rest of his life.

Being a child of the Great Depression, he spent his days playing with neighborhood friends and enjoying the open door policy of the Scarpella, Enrietto, Ferrari, Bosone, Madonna, and other extended families outside of the Buffo compound. The dirt streets and alleys provided ample space for kick the can, hide and seek, and pick up games of baseball. When I go to his house it is easy for me to hear him calling, "Olly, olly, oxen free!" or when I leave town on County Road I can picture him and his friends splashing around in Coal Creek under the railroad bridge. The town was his playground, he knew everyone, and, for better or worse, everyone knew you. My Dad taught my brother and me that our actions were a direct reflection on our family and you never did anything that would bring disrespect to the Buffo name.

The Buffo family had experienced loss with the deaths of grandparents Mike and Maria and Dad's sister Marie. The family would again be tested with the permanent disability of Dad's father, Dominic, when, in 1944 he would be severely injured while working on the tippel of the Columbine Mine east of Lafayette. The family was suddenly left without their major source of income and Dad, his mother Lillian, and brothers Jim and Ken would have to work hard to survive. The family had to sell off some accumulated properties and what followed was a team effort that included pitching in to deliver newspapers for the Rocky Mountain News, working at the Colacci and Blue Parrot restaurants, doing yard work, changing tires and pumping gas at the Phillips 66 gas station, and delivering feed and groceries for the Thomas brothers. Dad's newspaper route brought him into contact with the entire town, he knew where everyone lived, and if you wanted to find someone you just had to ask him. This set of circumstances would further galvanize my father into a dedicated family man and insure his tenure in Louisville. Dad knew that his life would be spent near family so it was only logical for him, when he married, to live close to his mother and father so he could help them. His decision to do that enriched the lives of my brother and I because we grew up next door to our grandparents and we saw the love and dedication our father had for his parents and family.

My Dad learned and gained much from the Louisville community throughout his life. From the disciplined rigor of the St. Louis Catholic School nuns, to the nuanced guidance of town policeman Ring Dionigi, the concern of Joe Colacci, the worry of Father Paulinus, and the encouragement of coaches like O.T. Nuttall, Dad really was raised by a village. I'm sure he learned more at the local pool hall than he cared to admit, but even

that was part of an education for life as much as working on cars or delivering newspapers. He was a pupil of the community and would later become the elder who could remember the atmosphere of Friday night football at Pirates field, Labor Day parades, the plane flight to Burlington for the state championship game, dragging Main Street, playing baseball at Miners Field, hunting rabbits where Rock Creek subdivision now stands, and the rivalry with Lafayette High School. Throughout his life he was a walking encyclopedia regarding Louisville and never saw his community as anything other than the model of what made our country great.

Dad's legacy to Louisville does not lie in what he said in public but, rather, what he did through volunteerism. He was a doer and when you wanted to start on a project he was one of the first you would call on. As a Little League football and baseball coach he touched the lives of many young boys who would later excel in high school and college and the only reward he valued was giving him a simple thank you. He spent countless hours working at Miners Field, at League meetings, coaching practices and games, and fund raising but his greatest pride was his membership in the Louisville Historical Commission and the major role he and his wife Betty played in what became the Louisville Historical Museum. Dad worked tirelessly repairing windows, painting walls, and helping restore the house and store that so many people enjoy today.

At the end of Dad's life, which came much too soon, our family is proud to say that he was Louisville through and through and, most importantly, he made a difference.

***Remarks and Remembrances of  
Mrs. Vera Taylor At Her Memorial,  
March 19, 2011  
By W. James Smith***

*Jimmie Smith graduated with the Class of 1964, Louisville High School, and is formerly of 1101 Front Street.*

I was a student of Mrs. Vera Taylor's from 1960 to 1964. Correction: I am now and have been a student of Mrs. Taylor's since 1960. Once a student of Mrs. Taylor's, always a student of Mrs. Taylor's.

She was a formidable and excellent teacher with all of the attributes of a strong role model – tough, prepared, high standards, terrific work ethic, well organized lectures and a demanding classroom agenda. This clashed with the minds of 16 and 17 year old boys (I can't speak about the girls of those days as I still have not figured them out even though I married one). Now, some

of you out there may remember what it is like to be a 16 or 17 year old boy. I can see by the wistful look in your eyes that some of you can relate to this. Well, what was on our minds was chasing girls, drinking beer and rock n' roll. We thought that this would make a fine career. In fact, Keith Richards' path would have seemed pretty darn good to us. Mrs. Taylor begged to differ. She had a different path in mind for us.

I remember a pen – just a ball point pen – that I had grabbed from the pen cup at home on the way to class. As usual I lost it almost immediately, somewhere in the depths of Louisville High School. The next day in Latin class, Mrs. Taylor, much to my horror, held up my pen and asked, "Whose pen is this? I sheepishly raised my hand. She told the class to write down the saying that was printed on the pen and to take its message to heart. It read: "Want to kill time? Work it to death." My close friend, Jimmy Lastoka, who was sitting next to me, shot me a withering look that seemed to say "What have you gotten us into? Now we have to live up to a pen!"



*Vera Taylor, 1968*

Mrs. Taylor set high standards for herself and for us. She broached no excuse, accepted none. Soon, much to our surprise, but not hers I am sure, we were deep into translating Caesar's Commentaries on the Gallic War and learning about how many parts Gaul was divided into and what it meant to cross the Rubicon. We all felt that we had crossed the Rubicon. There was no turning back. In English class, we were with Huck and Jim on the Mississippi or staring at "The Yellow Wallpaper" with Gilman. We got to the point where it was difficult for us to be without a good book. Some trick she pulled on the ignorant. We were defenseless.

We needed her. I remember that the powers-that-be in Boulder Valley did not seem to think much of us at Louisville High. Our text books were the obsolete ones that Boulder High had gotten rid of as the markings in the inside cover revealed. Never you mind, you doubters to the West. We had a secret advantage—Mrs. Taylor.

This is not to say that Mrs. Taylor did not have a fun side. The Latin Club Banquet each year was a "gas," but not to be confused with the toga party of Animal House fame. Rather, dressed in sheets with wreaths on our heads, we dined on the gym floor, among friends, with all the dishes that would have made the ancient Romans gasp. It was a thank you from a beloved teacher, and a highlight of the year.

Years later, my wife, children and I were moving back to Colorado after my years teaching at universities in the South and West. I had taken the position of Chair of Economics at the University of Colorado Denver to build a program there. We were coming home so our children could know their grandparents. While my children were finishing their semester in another state, I came to stay with my in-laws who happened to live just across the alley from the back of Mrs. Taylor's house. I was taking out the trash early one Saturday morning – unshaven, unwashed, hair uncombed (that's when I still had hair) in a sweatshirt and jogging pants. Much to my horror, Mrs. Taylor was in her backyard. Zip, bang!! Right back to 16 years old. "Nice day, Mrs. Taylor. Good to see you." And back into the house. I never, never went out without shaving, combing and appropriately dressing after that. Mrs. Taylor had that effect on you. You wanted to do your best.

I last saw her 10 years ago in a store. I told my wife, "That's Mrs. Taylor." My wife, Shirley, said "Let's go talk to her." Jeez Louise, Shirley, NO!!! But by that time, Shirley was already engaged in conversation. (Shirley is always getting me in deep and has done so since high school.) I went over. Who, me? Shy? We had a nice chat, caught up as it were, amid the isles filled with a sundry of goods from cat food to baby powder. Mrs. Taylor said I had done well. WHAT PRAISE!!! Now, I think it is fair to say that I have worked very hard as Mrs. Taylor would have expected. I have published in the best journals. I know several Nobel Prize Winners well and have been cited in standard textbooks and journals. None of these things come close to Mrs. Taylor's simple statement, "You have done well." She had that effect on you.

During our conversation, Mrs. Taylor also, with some pain in her voice, told me that the high school had ceased teaching Latin. She was saddened by it. So was I. I, however, had some solace for her. I told her about a meeting I had had six months previous. By that time I had become Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences. We were in the middle of large budget cuts. I am an economist (a fact I rarely admit in public let alone in print), a member in good standing of the discipline that Thomas Carlyle named "the dismal science." I was known for tough decisions. The Chair of Modern Languages came to me



with a proposal. The Department wanted to offer Latin. The argument was that we graduated many students going on to medical schools across the world. These students would benefit in a significant way from fulfilling their language requirement with Latin. The real argument, I suspect, was that Latin was a pillar of Liberal Arts and Sciences on which rested literature, languages and the sciences themselves. The Chair expected a definite “NO!!” or perhaps a “HELL NO!” I looked at the thick proposal, skipped to the budget line and said “Yes.” The Chair was stunned. She said “Thank you.” I replied, “You should thank Mrs. Vera Taylor.”

There is much to be proud of for Mrs. Taylor: A life well lived. A race well run. Promises made, promises kept. Obligations fulfilled. A legacy that lives on and will live on in the memories of all of us. Thank you, Mrs. Taylor, for all the gifts you gave us.

### ***Don't Miss an Issue of The Louisville Historian!***

Membership in the Louisville Historical Society is a must for those interested in Louisville's unique history and cultural character! Members receive the quarterly *Louisville Historian*.

A yearly membership is only \$15.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family. A yearly Business Sponsorship is \$100.00.

Visit the Historical Museum web site at [www.louisville-library.org](http://www.louisville-library.org) for a membership form or call the Museum at 303-665-9048. You may also write to us at Louisville Historical Museum, 749 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado, 80027. Please make checks payable to the Louisville Historical Commission.

### ***Upcoming Programs from the Louisville Historical Museum***

The public is invited to join us for several upcoming historical programs! For more information, please visit [www.louisville-library.org](http://www.louisville-library.org); email [museum@louisvilleco.gov](mailto:museum@louisvilleco.gov); or call the Museum at 303-665-9048.

#### **“Energy Upgrades to Historic Buildings”**

This program will explore how to achieve the goal of improving energy performance and comfort without destroying the special character of a historic home or business. In addition, the program will focus on grants and financial incentives that may be available. This program is being cosponsored by the Museum, Library, Louisville Historic Preservation Commission, and

Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board. Monday, May 23, 7:00 PM, Louisville Public Library Meeting Room.

#### **Brown Bag Lunch Discussions:**

The Museum Coordinator, Bridget Bacon, will lead discussions about aspects of local history in this bimonthly, informal setting. The two past programs have examined historic photos of Main Street and looked at the Louisville household in winter. Feel free to bring your lunch! The next two Brown Bags will take place on Tuesday, June 7 and Tuesday, August 2, Noon to 1:00, Louisville Public Library Meeting Room. Topics will be posted in advance.

#### **History Book Club:**

The History Book Club will go on hiatus for the summer, but some historical field trips are being planned by the group. Please contact the Museum at 303-665-9048 for more information.

#### **Summer Walking Tours:**

Plans are underway to offer more Historic Downtown Louisville summer walking tours! This year, Anne Robinson will reprise her tour focusing on the commercial downtown, while Diane Marino will begin to offer an Old Town neighborhood tour. More information will be posted on the website and be available at the Museum.



*This photo of Main Street was among many that were shown for April's Brown Bag presentation and discussion. Laura Smith (Ellis) is shown along Main Street in a Red Cross uniform, likely during the World War I era.*

### ***LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION***

Sally Burlingame	Brian Chamberlin
David Ferguson	Lynn Christopher Koglin
Diane Marino	Daniel Mellish
Sean Moynihan	Anne Robinson
Donald Ross	Dustin Sagrillo
Patricia Seader	Jennifer Strand

## **Memorial Donations**

Thank you so much for these recent memorial donations. Donations received after this issue went to print will be shown in the next issue.

### ***In Memory of John Paul Waschak (1919 - 2011)***

Barbara Stahr

### ***In Memory of Vera Dixon Taylor (1907 - 2011)***

Percy & Carolyn Conarro  
David, Doug, & Cynthia Conarro  
Bridget Bacon  
Sharon Boden  
Helen Warembourg

### ***In Memory of Edith Guenzi (1910 - 2011)***

Helen Warembourg

### ***In Memory of William "Bill" Buffo (1931 - 2011)***

Larry & Kathy Martella  
Ronald & Arlene Leggett  
Laurel & Robert Tofte  
Helen Warembourg Family  
Ken Buffo & Harriett Peer  
Mary Kay Knorr  
Bruno & Pamela Elari  
Bridget Bacon  
Frank & Lois Ann DelPizzo  
Jane B. & Scott L. Steinbaugh  
June Enrietto  
Betty Schulte  
Ann K. Del Pizzo  
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Daniel and Barbara DiSalle  
Claudine Waschak  
William & Patricia Seader  
Jo Louise Michaels  
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Lani Melvin  
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Gloria H. Green  
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Robert & Paula Sinn-Penfold  
Larry & Delores Schreiter  
Eugene DiCarlo  
Eugene & Virginia Caranci  
Sylvia Kilker  
Carol Gleeson



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Adrienne Kupfner  
Marie Slavec  
Rita Ferrera  
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Rob & Carol Lathrop  
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Donna & Adam Elnicki  
John & Mary Lou Kranker  
Percy & Carolyn Conarro  
David, Doug, & Cynthia Conarro  
The Damiana Family  
Carol & Wilbur Johnston  
Duane & Shirley Elrod  
Leo Deborski  
Bob & Darleen Del Pizzo  
Jolene Neill  
Martin & Pauline Buffo  
Don & Hannah Harper  
Cody & Marlana Qualls  
Tucker Qualls & Lacie Hoover  
Bob Qualls & Judy Cresswell  
Charlene Chiolino & Darlene Ross  
Sharon Boden  
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Bradford & Gerra Lewis  
Ellen & Stewart Oasheim  
William & Jo Ann Leslie  
Doreen & Bryan VanBuskirk  
Anonymous Donors

## **Historical Museum Contact Information and Hours**

The Museum is open from 10 to 3 on only Wednesdays and the first Saturday of each month. Special appointments at other times are possible. Museum staff can be reached at [museum@louisvilleco.gov](mailto:museum@louisvilleco.gov) or 303-665-9048. The Louisville Historical Museum is owned and operated by the City of Louisville as part of the Department of Library & Museum Services. It is located at 1001 Main Street. Its mailing address is 749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027.

## ***The Museum Corner*** ***By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator***

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Louisville Historical Museum! In 1986, it was organized by dedicated volunteers who renovated the historic Tomeo House and at the same time began to seek donations in order to build a collection. I am particularly impressed when I look back in the Museum's records and see the documentation for all of the photographs, coal mining items, and downtown business items that were donated to the Museum at the very beginning. Thank you so much to those who had a vision for the Museum, which has evolved into a landmark Main Street site and a destination for tourists, researchers, and residents. In the next issue of the *Historian*, I plan to share more information about the Museum's founding and ways in which we hope to observe its anniversary with the public this year.

The installation of the new fire detection system in the Historical Museum buildings is complete! For many years, the dangers of fire at our Museum have been of great concern. Not only does the Museum include a building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and four buildings listed on the Louisville Register of Historic Places, but these historic buildings hold a collection consisting of an estimated 14,000 historic photos and artifacts and numerous research resources relating to local history. It is a comfort to know that the Museum buildings and their contents now have some protection against a potentially devastating fire through a sophisticated detection system that is designed to alert the Fire Department, which has a station located nearby. As the owner of the buildings and the collection itself, the City of Louisville funded the system. Thank you!

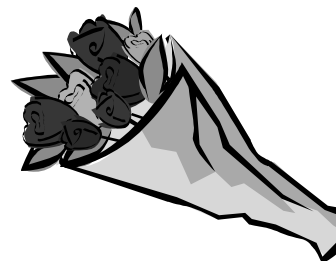
Many of you have seen Wayne Lee and Maggie Snyder around town during the past several months as they have been taking pictures of Louisville and talking with residents. Their book, entitled *Louisville: At Home in a Small Town*, is expected to be released by August 1. Look for the books to be sold at community events and the Museum. The book will feature over forty historic photos from the collection of the Museum.

In addition to the Museum's volunteers for its Oral History Program, who are thanked elsewhere in this issue, thank you so much to regular volunteers Mona Lee Doersam (for her wonderful work doing the layout of every issue of *The Louisville Historian*), Mary Kay Knorr, Debby Fahey, Robert Sampson, Gail Khasawneh, Jessica Fasick, Kate Gerard, and Ardeshir Sabeti. Thank you so much to Pete Lindquist for his ongoing historical

research on the development of Louisville in the 1880s and to Brian Chamberlin for his interesting article about Victor Helburg for the Winter 2011 *Historian*. Last, Bill Buffo will be missed as a regular Museum volunteer.

In February, the Historical Commission reelected the following officers: Dan Mellish as Chair, Anne Robinson as Vice Chair, Dave Ferguson as Treasurer, and Jennifer Strand as Secretary.

Thank you so much to Don Ross for his twenty-two years of service on the Historical Commission, including many years as Chair. Don recently decided to step down from the Commission. His contributions to the Museum have been inspiring, as he coordinated the donation of many historical items, was a resource for questions about Louisville history, gave school tours, and even helped to coordinate the donation of the Jordinelli House and Summer Kitchen to the City. The Louisville City Council soon will be presenting Don with a well-deserved plaque in recognition of his years of service. Thank you, Don.



## ***Oral History Program Update***

Thank you so much to the following people for allowing the Museum to interview them about their memories of Louisville! As a token of our appreciation, a complimentary annual membership is being given to each participant who is not already a lifetime member.

Maxine McHugh	Dorothy Varra
Charles & Lois Waneka	Pat McHugh
C. Albert Harr	Mariann Lastoka
Raymond Smith	

Also, thank you to the Museum's Oral History Program volunteers: Katie Kingston, Chris Wecker, Ady Kupfner, Diane Marino, Dustin Sagrillo, Jean Morgan, Barbara Gigone, Barbara Hesson, Mary George, Fred Berns, and Dana Echohawk. Thank you also to Roger Wecker for his help, and thank you to the Louisville Historical Commission for its financial support of this worthy project.

## ***Donations to the Museum's Collection and Records***

The Louisville Historical Museum accepted the following donations during the months of February through April. The City sincerely appreciates these recent donations!

**Charles Waneka** – historic photos and records relating to his family; his mother's family was from Louisville.

**Barbara McKee** – information about her house on La Farge Ave.

**Kim Daldos** – CD of historic photos of the Affolter family of Louisville.

**Lois Tesone** – scans of historic photos, including some of the Chiolino family.

**Lois DelPizzo** – kerosene can used in Louisville.

**Jeremiah Whitney** – small screwdriver from the early 1970s imprinted with the name Mom & Pop's Laundry, which was located at 927 Main St.

**Patricia Lester** – grade school photo showing her father, Tommy Cable, along with others who would eventually graduate with the Class of 1937; letter and pin sent to Tommy Cable on the occasion of the Centennial/Bicentennial in 1976.

**William Buffo** – copies of Abstract of Title and deeds relating to the family property in the historic Jefferson Place subdivision.

**Marilyn Hunt** – four cookbooks created and sold to benefit the Louisville Public Library in 1992 and 1993.

**Cheryl Andrews** – three historic postcards that were mailed to or from Louisville in 1909, 1910, and 1911.

**Raymond Smith** – copies of historical property documents relating to his family's house and Ed Smith's Grocery Store located at 801 and 805 La Farge in the historic Jefferson Place subdivision; scans of photos of the buildings; and four-foot yardstick from Steinbaugh Furniture & Appliance at 800 Front St.

**Laurel Tofte** – map of the Boulder County area from the late 1940s.

**Betty Buffo** – scan of a photo showing the Michael Buffo family near their home on La Farge Ave. in Jefferson Place; the Jacoe Store building that is now the Museum is visible in the background.

**Tony Slavec** – items from Louisville in the 1940s, including Louisville High School class history and

prophecies for the class of 1942 and a football used in 1941.

**Rebecca Harney** – vintage sewing items from the Harney family.

**Patrick Walsh** – book of essays found in the Pellillo house that is part of the Marketplace Building on Main St. and paper items, including two vintage postcards, that were found in the Mossoni house at 836 Main St.

**C. Albert Harr** – 1941-1991 Louisville High School 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion booklet and information about class members; these belonged to his wife, Evelyn Lepenske Harr, who graduated from LHS in 1941.

**Adrienne Kupfner** – historic postcards showing Louisville and other images; historic photos of the area; and scans of historic photos and records relating to the Anfang family that settled in Louisville.

**Mariann Lastoka** – items from the Harney and Lastoka families of Louisville, including mining documents, vintage clothing, household items, twenty-three *Louisville Times* issues from 1933-35, and items from Louisville's Knights of St. John, St. Rita's Auxiliary, and the Altar and Rose Society.

**Edward Domenico** – WPA shovel used for a work program during the Depression in Louisville.



## ***Museum Wish List***

The Louisville Historical Museum would like to add to its collection the items described below. If you would be willing to donate any of the described items, please email [museum@Louisvilleco.gov](mailto:museum@Louisvilleco.gov) or call us at 303-665-9048. If you would prefer not to part with an original photo or document, please contact us about how it can be scanned on our photo scanner. Donations to the Museum are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

- Centaurus High School Yearbooks: 1974 to 2000.

- Photographs of Louisville High School's graduating classes:

- All classes before 1936 except for 1909, 1915, 1921, 1923, and 1925
- The classes of 1954, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1962, and 1964 through 1971

- Coal mine photos and ledgers, and journals, letters, receipts, and other handwritten documents that relate to the Louisville area.

- Historical photos of homes and businesses in the old town part of Louisville (with or without people in the photos). Specific buildings need not be identified.

- Photos of the interior or exterior of Redman Hall; scenes showing Louisville's Little Italy and Frenchtown; and interiors and exteriors of Louisville's saloons and pool halls.

- Old home movies and negatives of photos relating to the Louisville area.

- Photographs, programs, *The Lookout* school newspaper, and written memories relating to Louisville High School and Louisville Middle School.

- Historical records relating to Louisville businesses.

**New item:**

- Issues of *The Louisville Times*, or pages of it, from 1980 or earlier; particularly, issues from 1913 to 1942 and photos and information relating to Louisville's newspapers and publishers.

**Thanks to New and Renewing Members**

NEW MEMBERS	
Mick Domenico Family	Cindy Fischer
Carol Day	Pasco & Karen Scarpella
Joan Yust	David Hooley
Vicki Mandell-King & David King	Alfred & Mary Ann Saussotte
Dani & Dave Coleman	Linda Cateora
Fran Ryan	Janet Jones
Mike & Sheila Ryan	
RENEWING MEMBERS	
Robert & Yolanda Cole	Carie & Matt Whalen
Pamela Forcey	Mariann Lastoka
Jerry J. Lucas Jr.	Tammy Lastoka
Joann Warembourg-Barnes	John & Mary Lou Kranker
Andrew Rogowski	Doris Maruna
Milt & Judy Steele	Hank & Penny Dalton
Ray & Bev Smith	Elisa Dalton
Sean Redmond	Ronda Frandsen
Mimi Wilson Family	Heather Houghton
John & Becky Augustine	Dan & Heather Mellish
Tom & Diane Sheldon	Dorothy Ruppert
Bob & Jackie DiGiallonardo	J. Peter & Gayla Lindquist
Glen Hansen	Sternberg Family
Sheila Hausbeck	
REGRETS	
We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Vera Dixon Taylor and William Buffo, who were lifetime members. Please see more in this issue about their many contributions.	

**Thank You for Your Monetary Donations!**

Thank you to the following people for their recent generous monetary donations, other than memorial donations, to the Louisville Historical Commission and Museum.

Patricia R. Scholes	Dan & Heather Mellish
Barbara Hesson	Heather Houghton
Jan Jones	Hank & Penny Dalton



**Thank you to all of our Business Sponsors!**

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*Louisville Historical Society  
749 Main Street  
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*The Louisville Historian, Issue #90, Spring 2011*

