

Louisville Holiday Home Tour 2008

**637 Lincoln Avenue
Home to the Carveth, Alps, and Fauson Families**

Built in about 1900, this home is almost entirely original. Over the years, it was the residence of two different widowed women and a coal mining family that included a future mayor of Louisville.

Carveth Family, Owners 1905-1936

The developer of the Pleasant Hill Addition, Orrin Welch, kept this property from when it was platted in 1894 until close to the time that it was acquired by Edwin Carveth. Edwin Carveth purchased this property in 1905 and settled in the home with his wife, Carrie, and baby daughter, Edna. Edwin Carveth had come to Louisville from Iowa in 1890 with his family; Carrie Thiel had come to Boulder County from Ohio in the 1870s as a young child. They were married in 1899 and first lived together in Denver, where census records show that Edwin worked as a telegraph operator.

Edwin died in 1909 at the age of 33. Records show that before he died, he had begun to go into the retail business with his two brothers and George Dalby. Following his death, his partners began the business "Carveth Bros. & Dalby," which was a general merchandise store located for years in the State Mercantile Building on Main Street.

It seems likely that had Edwin not died when he did, he would have been part of a successful Main Street business in this growing town. With his death, however, his wife had to find ways to support herself and their young daughter. Carrie worked as a dressmaker out of this home for a time. The 1920 census records show that she had a boarder, George Cable. Old directories for Louisville show that Carrie worked at a grocery store on Main Street throughout the 1920s.

As a young adult, Edna Carveth moved to California and married. Carrie later moved there to be with her daughter. Carrie died in 1960, having outlived her husband by 41 years. Edna Carveth Davis died in 1966.

The photos on display include two photos of a fourteen-year-old Edna in the yard of this home. These two photos are from a photo album of the Romeo family, who lived one block to the west at 701 Garfield. The family moved away in 1920, but descendants living in Denver recently donated these photos to the Louisville Historical Museum. (The Romeo home was on the Holiday Home Tour in 2005.)

Elizabeth Alps, Louisville Teacher, Owner from 1936 to 1945

In 1936, Carrie Carveth sold the home to another widow, Elizabeth Alps, age 45, who was a teacher in the Louisville Public Schools. She taught English at the Junior High, which was part of Louisville High School. Her husband had been the superintendent of Louisville Schools. (Her daughter, Evelyn, had graduated from Louisville High School in 1934 and by 1936 was a student at the University of Colorado.)

“Mrs. Alps” was known to take in other Louisville teachers as boarders during the years that she lived in the house.

Fauson Family, Owners 1945-1987

In 1945, Mrs. Alps sold her home to Julius and Leah Fauson. The Fausons had moved to Louisville from southern Illinois in 1934. Julius was a coal miner and worked at the Hi Way Mine. Their five children were Norman, Liberta, Julius Jr., Rosemary, and Herman.

Herm Fauson, who lived in the house as a teenager while he attended Louisville High School (graduating in 1948), later in life was elected Mayor of Louisville and served from 1986 to 1992. His occupation as a barber on Main Street and conversations with his customers no doubt helped him keep aware of the community’s attitudes and needs. While he was mayor, the Louisville Recreation Center and Coal Creek Golf Course were established; there was a new water plant and improvements were made to the sewer plant; and a bond issue was passed for improvements to South Boulder Road, downtown, and the former library building. Today, he continues to reside in Louisville with his wife, Virginia, and says that he is very proud of the footprints that he has left in Louisville.

The Fausons continued to own and live in this home until Julius’ death in 1973 and Leah’s in 1987.

The House Today and Current Owner

Just previous to the current owner, the owners of this home attached it to the yellow house just to the south after having acquired the two houses in 1994 and 2001. The houses happen to have been built very close together, making this possible. The owners made a passageway the width of the master bedroom and removed the kitchen in the other house, in effect creating one larger home for their family. The two houses were then unattached in 2007, the lots subdivided and sold separately.

Except for the kitchen and bathroom, the house currently remains unchanged, with original walls, fir floors, wood trimmed high windows, and doors.