



Holiday Home Tour  
Louisville, Colorado  
December 2, 2006

## 912 Garfield Avenue

The House at 912 Garfield Avenue was built in 1910, according to information given to the current homeowners, or 1912, according to County records. The home's residents from 1921 to 1958 were members of the Checkas family. Other longtime owners were Lloyd and Katherine George, who owned the house from 1973 to 1992.

### The Checkas Family

William Checkas was born in 1875 and emigrated from Lithuania in 1895-1900, according to census records. It is likely that his name was Americanized. It's believed that he met his wife, Jane Ann Robinson, in her home state of Michigan and that they then came to Louisville. He was a coal miner here and was known to have worked for the Rocky Mountain Fuel Co., which operated several coal mines in the area.

In 1921, William and Jane Ann moved into the house at 912 Garfield. At that time, they had two children, George and Wilbur, and Hazel was born in 1921. Daughter Hazel graduated from Louisville High School in 1938.

Son Wilbur Checkas served in World War II and appears on the film, "Our Boys and Girls in the Armed Forces, 1943-44" which shows over 200 servicemen and women while they were home on leave in Louisville. (This interesting film is available for purchase on DVD at the Louisville Historical Museum.)

Following the death of Jane Ann Checkas in the 1950s, the house was sold in 1958.

### Renovations and Current Homeowners

Like many historic homes in Louisville, the house at 912 Garfield has been enlarged and remodeled over the years. According to County records, the house was just 808 square feet in size in 1948. Today, the house consists of about 2400 square feet.

Until relatively recently, the house consisted of two small bedrooms in the front; the kitchen; the living room; the bathroom; and a small dirt cellar. Previous homeowners added the master bedroom suite in the back, expanded and finished the basement, and made other alterations to the rooms.

Current homeowners Helly and Matthew Duncan acquired the house in 2001. Over about five months recently, they changed the back of the house to close off the back door, make the former master closet into a breakfast nook, create a new master closet, and generally made the master suite area more private. They have also remodeled the kitchen.

For more information, contact Bridget Bacon, Louisville Historical Museum, 303.665.9048.