

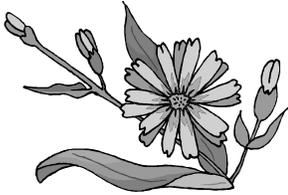


The Bachelor Club of Louisville: Finding a Match in 1908

By Sean Moynihan

“Get thee a wife! Get thee a wife!”

-Benedick, William Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing



Louisville is often cited as the perfect small town for raising kids. Good schools, plentiful open space, a vibrant arts community, modern recreation centers, ball fields, and parks all contribute to the appeal of a quaint small town as seen through the eyes of a young couple seeking to start a family away from the hustle and bustle of the big city.

But what about those Louisville singles out there who have yet to meet Mr. or Ms. Right? How can they put themselves in a position to find that perfect match? In this age of the Internet, Facebook, and app-heavy smartphones, one can now cast a wide net for their intended at any variety of dating or social networking web sites, such as Match.Com or eHarmony.

However, if these single men and women were to take a look back far enough into the city’s history, they might find that a certain group of intrepid young men living and working in Louisville just after the turn of the century faced this same particular dilemma – without the aid of high-speed Internet, of course – and decided to take extraordinary efforts to nab their “catch” and sweep her to the altar.

As described by popular writer Bide Dudley in a February 23, 1908 *Denver Post* article entitled “Homes and Husbands for 50 Wives – Busy Bachelors of Louisville and Severance Boldly Cry Their Wares In Matrimonial Market,” this group of earnest young men, mostly coal miners, grew impatient with their seeming inability to find wives in their home towns. Frustrated with their unsuccessful quest, they banded together to “let the world know that they need better halves.” And thus was born the Bachelor Club of Louisville.

“Aren’t there any eligible girls in Louisville?” the reporter asked one of the lovelorn men.

“Some,” replied Mr. G.W. Burchfield, a pool hall manager described as one of the older members of the club at forty, a “pleasant sort of a fellow,” and “rather good looking.” “[B]ut they seem to have their sights too high. They are looking for professional men or men in higher stations than that of a miner... Almost all our members are miners. They earn all the way from \$60 to \$100 a month. Living isn’t very high here. Therefore, the boys are amply able to take care of wives – that is, if the wives don’t want castles as homes and automobiles to ride in.”



This photo accompanied the 1908 Denver Post article about the Bachelor Club. The Club “mascot,” Mabel Harris, is in the center, but not all of the men pictured have been individually identified.

According to Mr. Burchfield, who, because he had been a bachelor for so long was called the “King of the Club,” miners and other men who did “‘honest work with their hands’” were once regarded as “‘a good catch, no matter if he did work as a miner or as a common laborer.’” In recent years, however, it appeared as if women in town regarded blue collar work “‘as a disgrace.’”

And so, in order to expand beyond the confines of their small town of approximately 2,200 citizens, the men formed their club to boldly pronounce their desire to attract other interested and available women from other, shall we say, less selective communities. And from the tone and tenor of Mr. Dudley’s *Denver Post* article, it would appear that the bachelors certainly knew a good public relations vehicle when they saw one.

Twenty-eight-year-old Robert Kerr, born just up the road in Georgetown, knows three trades and “is nearly six feet tall.” However, he is rumored to have “already found a calico love,” so the Club members have looked to him to possibly be a test case in their search for marital fulfillment.

Described as the “baby of the club” at 22 years old, William Jenkins, also born and raised in Louisville, reports that his “heart is whole,” but it is noted that some of his fellow bachelors doubt that on the basis of “some suspicious-looking letters in his mail.” Regardless, though, of his present status, Mr. Jenkins states that he does want to get married, and it appears that his chances might be favorable, as he is “good looking and is what the Ladies’ Home Journal calls a fine catch.”



Perhaps the young women in this second photo of the Bachelor Club are some of Louisville’s “Bachelor Maids.” The boy is Harold Harris, brother of the Club’s mascot, Mabel.

Mr. Herman “Dutch” Bussman, originally from Germany, is described as a “good looking and industrious” 24-year-old who would “make a good husband.” Another German-born club member, 26-year-old Benedict Fiechtl, reportedly “owns a gold mine” and, if married, “would make some girl one of those ‘look at my man’ husbands.”

Twenty-six-year-old John Bowes, native to Louisville, is “always happy and loves to tell stories.” Moreover, writes Mr. Dudley, “[w]ith the women he is quite gallant,” and he is eager to find matrimonial bliss. As Mr. Bowes himself tells it to the reporter: “‘I want to get married. I’ll surrender to the right girl.’”

The article also describes 23-year-old John “Jack” Carter, hailing from England, as “good looking and absolutely heart free.”

“‘Are you in the market for a bright-eyed beauty?’” the reporter asks him. “‘I should say so,’” he replies, with the reporter adding as an aside that Jack is “‘a ‘grand opportunity,’ girls, so go after him.’”

Thirty-one-year-old miner and horseman, Jack Morgan, was thought to have been possibly spoken for, but the reporter reassures female readers that “detectives, who have been put on the case, report there is absolutely nothing in it.” That is clearly good news to available young women, as Morgan “earns a good living and would see that some girl had all the cakes and syrup she wanted all her life.”

Louisville has always been associated with a rich Italian heritage, and the Bachelor Club of 1908 could certainly not be without a handsome young Italian in its ranks. Twenty-five-year-old Tony Fenolia, originally from Illinois, is reputed to be a hardworking miner but somewhat shy among the ladies. “He could be won, though,” Mr. Dudley writes. “[A]nd once captured, would undoubtedly ‘stay put.’” One can only hope, however, that the time it takes for Mr. Fenolia to realize that he has an affection for a girl would not be as long as the time it takes for him to come to love his surroundings. For, as Mr. Dudley notes: “For twenty-one years he has been a resident of Louisville and says he is beginning to like it.”

It seems as if even the hardest of cases in the Bachelor Club could be given a winning outlook by Mr. Dudley of the *Post*. Thirty-five-year-old Dave Baumann of Austria, a coal miner by trade, is unfortunately known by his

contemporaries as “a woman hater.” But that should not sway any potential fiancé from giving him a chance, according to Mr. Dudley. “[Y]ou know, girls, that’s the kind that tumbles before Cupid’s attacks first. Any woman who wins Dave will be proud of him forever after.”

A few other members of the Club bear mentioning. Twenty-seven-year-old John Sponsky, a machine supervisor originally from Pennsylvania and president of the Club, is touted as an expert in his occupation, but more importantly, a very good baseball player, too. As the reporter states: “Good baseball players usually make good husbands, so get your bid in early, girls.”

Charles Smith, a 25-year-old clerk from England, is described as “one of the most enthusiastic of the bachelors.” When asked how he feels about matrimony, he replies simply that he is “waiting, fondly waiting.” And as far as being available, the reporter makes it clear: “He is entirely free from heart entanglements—in fact, seems to be unable to get any.”

Finally, there is 37-year-old John Palmer, secretary of the Club. Mr. Palmer is a veteran coal miner, the reporter states, who also dabbles in, of all things, acting, “and is a ‘headliner’ all the time he is at it.” When asked if he wanted to get married, Mr. Palmer could only answer, “My, my.”

In reading about these young, hard-working men of Louisville who placed their hearts on the line in early twentieth century Colorado, one cannot help but be struck by their seeming great innocence and enthusiasm in a hard luck world in the midst of the Industrial Revolution that was surely not sympathetic to their plight. Indeed, in group photos of the Club taken contemporaneously with the *Denver Post* article, the men—dressed uniformly in dark suits with ties and high collars, and in some photos, sporting bowler hats tipped jauntily back on their heads – appear almost angelic with a calm, earnest look about their countenances. The photos speak volumes for the almost plaintive, unprepossessing way in which they present themselves to Mr. Dudley of the *Denver Post*. These are men who do work a long, hard day to earn an honest living, and who do not expect ever to win over the hearts of their girls with lavish spending or gaudy displays of great personal wealth. Their mode of endearment is honesty and stability; their creed, “I will support you and take care of you.”

Nestled deep in the middle of the photos is another indication of the Club’s charm and appeal: little 3-year-

old Mabel Harris, who was enlisted to be “the organization’s mascot.” Mabel sits or stands with the men in the photos, possibly a red-head or a strawberry blond, and stares intently at the cameraman, as if to say, “I wholeheartedly believe in these gentlemen and you should, too.” And the men, in return, seem protective of her, proudly posing with the pretty little girl who has deigned to sit with them as they record their image in the hopes of finding a love in a far-off coal mining town.

What ultimately happened to the members of the Club in their public and private quest for that love? Because of the long space of years that has elapsed since the men traipsed merrily down the streets of the town to their meetings, it is hard to say. But for some, at least a little is known. G. W. Burchfield did get married that year, 1908, to a young woman named Laura, and she was apparently of the same age as “The King.” “Dutch” Bussman also married in the next year to a “Minnie,” and they would have children.



This is the third known photo of the Bachelor Club.

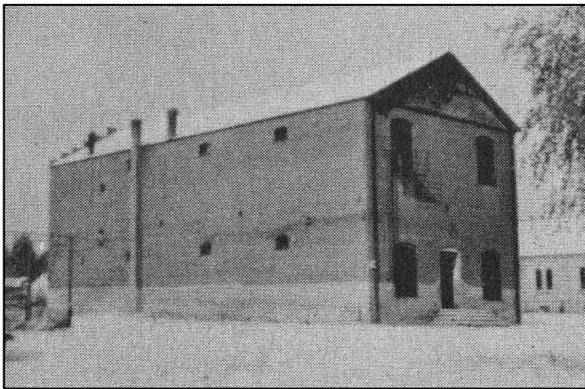
John Bowes did surrender to the right girl—Bertha Ramsey—and they had Sadie, Viola, and Iona. In his 1936 obituary in *The Louisville Times*, John is described as “one of the best known farmers in this locality.” Bertha lived on until age 101, survived by her daughters, five grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and 18 great-great grandchildren. Many of these descendants still live in the area.

Robert Kerr married Anna Stecker, a member in her own right of the Bachelor Maid Club of Louisville – a group of “Louisville’s most charming young ladies” – and they had two daughters, Bertha and Alma. Robert and Anna have descendants who still live in the area, as well.

The “baby,” William Jenkins, found a wife in Millie Parbois; John Sponsky (or “Sponske”), met and married a young woman named May; and Charles Smith did eventually find his heart entangled with a woman – Avis – and they had children, too. Others, like Tony Fenolia, Benedict Fiechtl, and Jack Morgan, apparently never did marry.

How should Louisville’s present citizens look upon these would-be Romeos of old, whose romantic yearnings are now more than 100 years in the past? Perhaps instead of attempting to label them, or classify them in some way, it is best to simply hear a contemporaneous recounting of a meeting between the Bachelors and Bachelor Maids one evening on a Saturday night at Red Men’s Hall. The Maids and Bachelors met at that venue for a night of dancing to an orchestra, and a reporter later described “one of the most enjoyable events of the season”:

The hall was most beautifully and tastily decorated... Across the hall ropes of ferns were festooned, interlaced with baskets of blooming plants and ferns, and on the walls were fastened baskets of foliage and cut flowers. The stage was exquisitely beautiful in its garb of palms and Boston ferns, the same, with cut flowers interwoven, covering the footlights, all forming a picturesque setting for Mr. Robert L. Park and his most excellent orchestra. Colored electric lights were twined amidst the foliage, reaching from one end of the hall to the other, and when the dancers assembled beneath this beauty and brilliancy, the scene reminded one of a “Mid-Summer Night’s Dream...”



Red Men’s Hall was the setting for the Bachelor Maids’ dance described in this article. It was located on Walnut just north of today’s Memory Square Pool and was the site of many dances. The name came from the fraternal organization, the Improved Order of Red Men.

Who could not admire, or perhaps even envy, such a setting for a meeting of young hearts and minds on a Saturday night in small town America? In faded

newspaper print and grainy black-and-white images from so long ago, the Bachelors of Louisville remind us of the most important things in life, apart from “castles as homes and automobiles to ride in:” our loved ones, our children, and having someone to care for who cares for us in return.



This is the only known interior photo of Red Men’s Hall, taken during a dance.



Alice Wolfer, one of Louisville’s “Bachelor Maids,” is pictured second from the left with her sisters Winifred, Flora, and Nelle. She married Ray Austin.

The author, Sean Moynihan, was a member of the Louisville Historical Commission for four years from 2008 to 2011. He also wrote “Louisville Volunteer Firefighters: A History of Service and Dedication” and “Miners Field – A Louisville Gem” for the Spring 2009 and Fall 2009 issues of *The Louisville Historian*.

Thank you so much to David Buchanan of Indiana for making this article possible. He donated a copy of *The Denver Post* article about the Louisville Bachelor Club along with three Bachelor Club photos to the Louisville Historical Museum in 2011. His great aunt, Mabel Harris, was the Bachelor Club mascot.



***Louisville Couples from the
Louisville Historical Museum's
Collection***

Only two of these photos have been identified. We welcome you to contact the Museum if you have any information about the unidentified photos.



*This photo shows
Ambrose
and Hattie
Taylor at the
time of their
wedding in
about 1909.*



*This
undated
photo shows
Jane
Carlton Van
Arsdale and
Fred Van
Arsdale.*

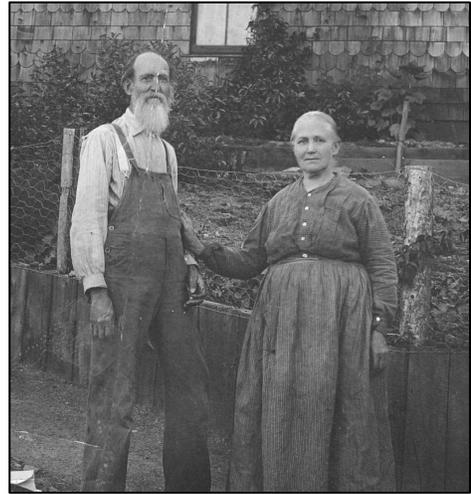


Photo Identified!

The Fall 2011 issue of *The Louisville Historian* included this previously unidentified photograph, along with a request for information about it from our readers. Member Delbert McNally saw the photo and immediately recognized it as being the 1907 wedding photo of his grandparents, Harry and Maybelle McNally.

Harry McNally (1870-1954) was one of Louisville's earliest settlers. He traveled with his family to come to Louisville as a boy in 1878, the same year of the town's founding, and began to work in Louisville's first coal mine, the Welch Mine, when he was about 12. As an adult, he traveled to visit his sister in Iowa and there met Maybelle Phillips (1881-1935). They married there in 1907. According to Harry McNally's obituary, he worked as a miner in mines around Louisville for 63 years. McNally, who also used his stepfather's last name of Williamson, was elected mayor of Louisville and served for two years in the early 1900s. Harry and Maybelle McNally resided at 301 Walnut in Louisville and had three children.

Thank you so much to Delbert McNally for identifying this photo from the Museum's collection.

The other unidentified photo from the Fall 2011 issue, which was also a wedding photo, has not yet been identified.

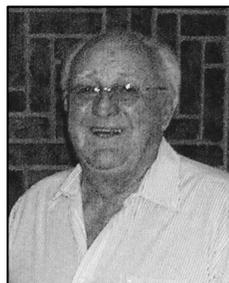


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2012 Pioneer Award Recipient: George Brown

***Presented by David W, Ferguson,
Louisville Historical Commission***



***George Brown,
Pioneer Award
recipient.***

The Louisville Historical Commission is pleased to announce that George Brown is this year's recipient of the Pioneer Award. This award is presented annually to a person who has contributed to the welfare and interests of the Louisville community. David Ferguson presented the award to George on January 26th at the Louisville Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

George Brown was born in Roseland, Kansas in 1934. His parents were Abe Brown Jr. and Mary Vinardi Brown. The family moved from Roseland to Louisville in 1939, when George was five years old. George attended Louisville schools and graduated from Louisville High School in 1951.

George worked for Joe Colacci at Phillips 66 in Louisville from 1950 to 1958 while attending high school and the University of Colorado. He attended CU for two years and then transferred to Metro State College, where he earned a B.S. degree in Business Management in 1969. He held down a full time job with Public Service Co. while he completed his degree.

George started working at Public Service in 1953 and retired over forty years later, in 1994. He began as a Chemistry Lab Technician and ended up as the station manager of the Arapahoe Power Plant.

George Brown married Sandy Langell in 1954 and they had four children: Robbyn, Jordan, Tammy, and Trina.

George Brown is a leader who made a significant impact on the Louisville community through his extensive service in both the private and public sectors. He was active in the Louisville Lions Club and served as its President. He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and was Chief. While serving as Chief, among the projects he worked on were developing the Rescue Squad and establishing a pension fund for the Fire Department.

He is a life member of the Louisville Rod & Gun Club and has been its Vice President. He is also a life member of the Tri-City Elks. He was Committee Chairman of Troop 69 Boy Scouts, with which he was involved for twenty-five years. George also served with the Mile High United Fund.

George served Louisville as a member of the Louisville Planning Commission for three years, including as its Chairman, and was a member of the Louisville City Council in the early 1980s. His public service coincided with the many changes that were occurring in Louisville as it grew in population and transitioned into a city with improved infrastructure and services.

Today, George reflects on his contributions with modesty. While he acknowledges that he is someone who can get things done and was always willing to take on responsibilities, he is also quick to point out that there were others in the many organizations with which he was involved who also worked hard for the betterment of Louisville.

It is clear that George Brown is a natural born leader and that Louisville has benefitted in countless ways from this leadership. It is my pleasure to present him with the Pioneer Award for 2012.

Louisville History Book Club ***By Anne Robinson,*** ***Historical Commission Member***

The History Book Club meets at 6:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month from September to May in the second floor Board Room of the Louisville Public Library. Unlike most book clubs in which members all read the same book, in this book club we select a topic and everyone reads what they wish on the topic. Members read books or articles and we discuss what we learned with the group. Members of the public are welcome to join us, and newcomers should feel free to come and observe.

March Topic: Colorado Artists
Wednesday, March 7, 2012

April Topic: Intentional Communities
Wednesday, April 4, 2012

May Topic: Education History
Wednesday, May 2, 2012



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.

Vernon Zurick
Dean De Santis
Louis De Santis
Helen Caranci, with Adam Elnicki and Carolyn Elnicki Brock

Also, thank you so much to the Museum's Oral History Program team of volunteers: Katie Kingston, Ady Kupfner, Diane Marino, Jean Morgan, Barbara Gigone, Barbara Hesson, Dana Echohawk, and Dustin Sagrillo. Thank you also to the Louisville Historical Commission for its financial support of this worthy project.

A particular need at this time is for more volunteer camera operators for the program. If you are interested, please contact the Historical Museum.

Museum Hours Expanding!

Due to increased museum staffing and an expansion of the hours by the City of Louisville, we are happy to announce that the Museum's new open hours are from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, which more than doubles its previous open hours. Special appointments at other times may be possible. Museum staff can be reached at 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.

Programs from the Louisville Historical Museum

The public is invited to join us for our upcoming historical programs! For more information, please visit www.louisville-library.org; email museum@louisvilleco.gov; or call the Museum at 303-665-9048.

Thursday, March 1, Noon to 1, – Brown Bag Discussion

For 2012, the Brown Bag presentations and discussions about local history will take place on the first Thursday

of March, June, September, and December. On March 1, the topic will relate to the topic of this *Historian* issue! We'll look at how couples used to meet and compare these stories with how couples meet today. Please come and share your family stories about this topic, even if the stories are not from Louisville.

Participants are welcome to bring their lunches.
Location: first floor meeting room of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street.

Monday, May 7 (tentative), 7 PM – Relocated Buildings of Louisville

Thank you to Heather Lewis for her wonderful Brown Bag presentation on December 6, 2011 based on her article in the most recent *Louisville Historian* about Louisville's historic practice of relocating houses. Heather's professional background as an architect came into play as she explained the reasons why a house built long ago was easier to move than a modern house would be. She also focused on the characteristics of Louisville that made it appealing for residents to relocate buildings. Her PowerPoint presentation was so enjoyed that we will offer it again as an evening program during Preservation Month in May, and it will be expanded to include additional information about that has been received. Please check the Library and Museum program listings.

Commercial Historical Preservation Incentives Workshop, May (date and time to be determined)

In early January, the Louisville City Council approved a new program that offers a \$10,000 bonus and \$75,000 in grants to downtown Louisville commercial property owners who landmark their historic buildings. Like the existing residential incentives program, the commercial incentives program is being funded by Louisville's Historic Preservation Fund that voters approved in 2008 in order to assist property owners with the costs of maintaining their historic downtown buildings and to encourage voluntary landmarking. The stated goal is to improve the likelihood that important historic properties that people associate with Louisville will be preserved. As part of Preservation Month in May, the Historic Preservation Commission, Historical Museum, and the Louisville Public Library plan to collaborate to present a workshop that will provide information about this attractive new program aimed at preserving historic commercial buildings downtown.

Rex Theatre Movie Curtain Still On Exhibit at the Historical Museum

Visitors to the Museum can view the original movie curtain from Louisville's Rex Theatre! It is a large, colorfully painted canvas curtain that dates from the

silent movie era of the 1920s and that was designed to display advertisements for twenty-two downtown Louisville businesses.

New Information on Relocated Houses Received

Our members and readers responded favorably and generously to the Fall 2011 issue of *The Louisville Historian*, with its article "Here Today and There Tomorrow: Louisville and Its History of Relocating Buildings" by Heather Lewis. Thank you to Eleanor Brimble, Tom Mudrock, Larry Martella, David Harwood, Jo Louise Michaels, Sherry Bitler, and Dixie Buckalew for informing the Historical Museum of Louisville buildings that have been relocated so that they can be added to the Museum's list. These include 515 Jefferson, 1036 Lincoln, 1430 Front, 1524 Main, 730 West, and 936 Parkview.

In particular, at least two of these buildings are remembered as having been moved from local mine camps. Eleanor Brimble reported that she and her husband, William, had two houses moved from the Monarch Mine camp when that mine closed in the 1940s, and together the two buildings formed the current house located at 515 Jefferson. Dixie Buckalew informed the Museum of the bunk house from the Centennial Mine that her father, Richard Parkin, had moved in 1935 to 936 Parkview, where it still stands. She also donated the related bill of sale and warranty deed. The bill of sale shows that her father purchased the Centennial bunk house in 1935 for \$300, and agreed that he would move it off the Centennial Mine site within six months.

Heather Lewis will present an evening program about relocated houses. It is currently scheduled to take place on Monday, May 7, 2012 at the Louisville Public Library.



In 2009, the house originally located at 1024 La Farge was moved away by Robert and Carol Affleck to their farm north of Louisville.



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* with substantive articles about Louisville history.

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

Please visit the Historical Museum web site at www.louisville-library.org for a membership form or call the Museum at 303-665-9048. You may also write to the Louisville Historical Museum, 749 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado, 80027. Please make checks payable to the Louisville Historical Commission.

In the Next Louisville Historian: How Louisville Grew Up By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

The next *Louisville Historian*, for Spring 2012, will look a little different. Pete Lindquist's informative and entertaining article "The Untold History of Louisville's Early Years" appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of the *Louisville Historian*. Since that article appeared, he has researched the years that followed, and his next article, "How Louisville Grew Up: 1880 to 1900" will make up the next entire issue of the *Historian*. For this new article, Pete explored the hardships that the community faced in order to survive and examined Louisville's identity at that time, even noting that it sometimes resembled an at-risk teenager in its behavior. I think that our members and readers will not want to miss the next *Louisville Historian*!

We will catch up on the regular features (such as listings of museum donations, memorial donations, and new members) in the following issue for Summer 2012.

For his next Louisville research project and article, Pete has begun to delve into the fascinating topic of Louisville during Prohibition and would like to speak with anyone who has anecdotal stories that they would like to share. For some, these could be firsthand recollections; for others, it could be stories that they have heard from relatives. Please email Pete Lindquist at plindquist@lifepuzzles.org or call him at 303-604-0201 if you have information to share!

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.

The Commission is grateful for a donation of \$790 from the proceeds of the City of Louisville's Coal Creek Crossing race held during the 2011 Labor Day Fall Festival.

Also, thank you so much for a donation for \$1000 from an anonymous donor.

David & Deborah Fahey
Donald & Hannah Harper
John & Gloria Hoffmire Perlett
Melvin DiLorenzo
Vince & Judy Mangus
Kenneth Buffo
Vern & Smiley Shulze
Richard & Marian Bottinelli
Dixie Lee Martella
Terry Wagner
Anthony & Judy DeNovellis
Anthony C. Romeo Family
Grace Dionigi
Gary Schneider
Susanne Stephens Family
Theresa & Tony Heatherton
Delbert McNally
David & Connie Nosler
Daniel & Heather Mellish
Constance S. Crump
Robert Watts
Beverly Clyncke
J. Kelly McHugh
Stephen & Judy Knapp
Haddock Insurance Agency
Barbara Leichty St. John & James St. John
Charlene Hyslop
Sally Burlingame
W. Wayne Lee
Jim & Shirley Smith
Marcelee Gralapp



Memorial Donations

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

In Memory of Marie (D'Agostino) Blair (1926-2011)

Eugene DiCarlo
Paula & Bill Elrod
Virginia & Eugene Caranci

In Memory of Wilma (Hawkins) Martella (1924-2011)

Virginia & Eugene Caranci

In Memory of John Joseph Ormanoski, Jr. (1969-2011)

Virginia & Eugene Caranci

In Memory of Lawrence "Long Jack" Caranci (1924-2011)

Tony Slavec

In Memory of Leland Ross (1921-2011)

Tony Slavec

In Memory of Agnes "Betty" (Clyncke) Hocheder (1926-2011)

Ben & Betty Gutfelder
Rae Ellen Windsheimer

In Memory of Robert Lee Kupfner, Sr. (1939-2009)

Adrienne Kupfner
(In memory of their 45th wedding anniversary)

In Memory of Robert Ferrari (1928-2010)

Cheryl Ferrari

The Museum Corner Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

It has been fun to learn about the 1908 Bachelor Club of Louisville, and our gratitude goes to Sean Moynihan for his wonderful lead article in this issue! It has been interesting to think about how today, there is a wider range of generally accepted conceptions of romantic relationships and the family. Clearly, it has broadened since Louisville's earlier days.

In my job, I am in the lucky position of being able to hear many stories about how couples used to meet in Louisville. Dances in Eldorado Springs or here in town

were common places where people met. Some people ended up marrying their next door neighbor, or the neighbor who lived across the alley in the back. Not surprisingly, others met in school. One of my favorite stories is that of the young Louisville woman, Mae Weir, who came by a boardinghouse in Louisville to pick up some girlfriends who worked there. The story from the family goes that a young miner who was a new resident of the boardinghouse, Henry Meinecke, heard her laugh and felt that he just had to meet her. They were married in 1918.

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 work doing the layout of *The Louisville Historian*), Mary Kay Knorr, Deborah Fahey, Robert Sampson, Gail Khasawneh, Kate Gerard, Kathleen Jones, Patty Lester, Kelly Johannes, and Ardeshir Sabeti.

Thank you so much to Marion Junior for making the porcelain holiday ornaments that are an important annual fundraiser for the Historical Commission. She is now working on remaking some of her past ornaments from 1990 on, and is taking orders for them. Please contact the Museum if you would like to reach her.

We had a lovely open house at the Museum during the Parade of Lights in early December. Thank you to all of the Historical Commission members and Museum volunteers who helped.

I'm happy to report that 92 people became new paying members in 2011! This was the fourth year in a row with more than 90 new members in one year, with 2010 holding the record with 120 new members that year.

Welcome to two new members of the Historical Commission, Andrew Williams and Gladys Levis-Pilz! In January, 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 Diane Marino and Sean Moynihan for their service on the Historical Commission. Diane, a ten-year member, will continue to give summer walking tours and conduct oral history interviews, while Sean, a four-year member, has written the lead article of this issue and has promised to stay involved with sharing Louisville history.

Last, our sympathy goes out to the family of Patti Resch, a Louisville employee who for several years would work at the Historical Museum during the open hours when I was unable to. Patti passed away in early January.

Donations to the Museum's Collection and Records

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

Virginia Evans – two Louisville dog license tags from 1931 and 1933.

Helen Caranci – scans of her photos of her wedding to Lawrence Caranci and of their 50th wedding anniversary; her wedding dress and related items; wine press used in Louisville; and the gold-painted shovel used at the groundbreaking for Memory Square Pool in 1973.

Danny Kupfner – hubcap from the 1949 Henning Mortuary hearse and funeral casket roller used with the hearse; receipt dispenser from Dravecky's Garage in Louisville.

Wally Prather – abstract of title for a downtown property.

Jeremiah Whitney – a land title survey completed in 2000 that relates to the Jefferson Place subdivision.

Arlene Leggett – theater programs from the Coal Creek Community Theater (previously the Louisville Community Theater) from 1990 to 2011.

Dolores Tomlinson – quilt made in the 1950s by women connected with the Pleasant View Grange north of Louisville; two photos of her mother, Evelyn Hoehne, who was one of the women.

Richard Blackmer – family history of the Hockaday family. The donor's grandfather, Ed Hockaday, operated a gas station on the southwest corner of Pine and Front in the 1930s.

Dixie Buckalew – bill of sale and warranty deed relating to the relocation of the bunk house in 1935 from the Centennial Mine to 936 Parkview; three photos of a Labor Day parade; a class photo from the 1930s; and a photo of a teacher believed to be Lydia Morgan.

Sharon Boden – family history of the Damelio family and three household items from the family.

Delbert McNally – family history information about Harry and Maybelle McNally.

Jo Louise Michaels – ribbons that belonged to Josephine Guenzi; two are from the organization St. Rita Auxiliary, and one is from the Companions of the Forest of America.

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 or call 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, except for 1990

- 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.

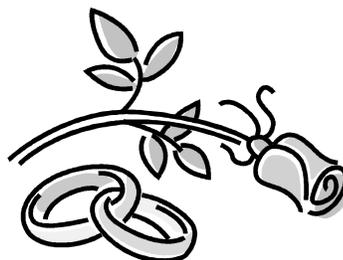
- Photos of the interior or exterior of Red Men's Hall; scenes showing Louisville's Little Italy and Frenchtown; and interiors and exteriors of Louisville's saloons and pool halls.

- 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.

- 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

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Carolyn Bottinelli Jackson	Christine Jerritts
John Negri	Patricia D. Murphy
Ed Carpenter	R. Diane Nelson
Tom Carpenter	Marianne Porter
Carolyn Fahey	Charlene Hyslop
Catherine Fahey	Karen Scarpella
Stephen Fahey	

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Dixie Buckalew	Sean Murphy
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