



## Miners to Majors

By Kathleen Jones



**M**ost spring and summer days you can find ballplayers throwing strikes, fielding pop flies and sliding into home plate at the various ballparks around Louisville. The rousing cry “Play Ball!” resonates from the city’s past when the game of baseball helped fill hot summer days when work at the coal mines slowed nearly to a standstill due to reduced demand for fuel for heating homes and businesses. Louisville’s passion for the sport of baseball dates from early on in the mining town’s history and the town boasts a number of ball players who’ve gone on to pursue a career in professional baseball, following in the footsteps of Louisville native Bert Niehoff.



*Bert Niehoff played for the Philadelphia Phillies from 1915 to 1918.*

Like many young ballplayers in Louisville, who are inspired by their dreams of someday being called up to play in the big league, Bert Niehoff perfected his baseball skills as a boy playing in sandlot games and on the city’s historic Miners Field. With a combination of natural talent and gritty determination, Niehoff pursued his dream all the way to a six-season career in the majors, including starting second baseman for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1915, when the Phillies won the National League Pennant before going on to lose the World Series to the heavily favored Boston Red Sox. Several years later, after an injury brought his major league playing career to an end, Niehoff found a way to continue his association with professional baseball for another nearly 50

years, serving as a manager, a coach and a talent scout for various major and minor league teams over that period.

Born on May 13, 1884, in the family home at what is now known as 717 Main St., in Louisville, John Albert “Bert” Niehoff was the youngest of six children of German immigrant Charles Niehoff and his wife Amelia. According to the city’s property history for 717 Main St., Charles and Amelia Niehoff came to Colorado from Missouri in 1876, with the couple’s eldest four children: Ben, Jessie, Kate and Annie. The family first settled in Denver where Charles initially worked driving a horse-drawn streetcar and then as an engineer for the Zang Brewery, which was owned by a fellow German immigrant, Philip Zang.

In 1877, when the discovery of coal on David Kerr’s land near Coal Creek led Charles C. Welch to open the Welch Mine near the future site of Louisville, Welch hired Charles Niehoff as a fireman for the mine. A few months later, Charles Niehoff was made a mining engineer for the Welch mine, later known as the Louisville Mine. The Niehoffs were among the first property owners in the newly established town of Louisville, according to Boulder County records, which show that a deed transferring Lot 17 from Louis Nawatny to Amelia Niehoff was recorded in 1878, the year Nawatny platted the town and named it after himself. A second deed, transferring part of Lot 18 to Charles Niehoff, was recorded in 1885. The family’s residence started as a dugout, about 15 by 20 feet, later subdivided into several tiny rooms, where the Niehoff family lived prior to Charles building a two-room house above the dugout. The house, today believed to be the oldest existing structure in Louisville, remained the home of descendants of the Niehoff family for more than 100 years and today it has been locally landmarked as the Austin-Niehoff House. The city purchased the property in 1993, and it today serves as the offices for Louisville’s Parks and Recreation Department.

Several years after settling in Louisville, Charles and Amelia added two more sons to their family – Eddie, born around 1880, and John Albert (Bert), born in 1884. As a youth growing up in Louisville, Bert enjoyed playing baseball with the town’s many teams and reportedly excelled in the sport from an early age. He attended local schools through his freshman year at Louisville High School, when he left school to take a job as a clerk in a grocery store owned by his brother-in-law William Austin, the husband of his sister, Jessie.



***Niehoff was born at 717 Main St. (now the building for the Parks & Recreation Dept.). This photo is undated, but was likely taken in the 1890s or early 1900s.***

In September 1905, Bert married Mabel Rule, the daughter of mining engineer William and Alice Rule. City directories show the newlyweds had relocated to Denver by 1907, where Bert worked as an electrician and their only son, Lloyd, was born. According to his 1974 obituary printed in a local unidentified newspaper, Bert “was successful at his new job, but a strike in Denver put him out of work. A friend of the family got Bert a job in Trinidad, Colo., and Bert quickly found a spot on the town’s baseball team.”

Midway through 1907, the Pueblo Indians of the Class A Western League gave the 23-year-old Bert Niehoff a brief tryout as a right-handed pitcher, but he was cut from the team and went back to working as an electrician. Undeterred by this initial setback, he made repeated attempts in the following years, eventually reaching the major leagues as a 29-year-old rookie in 1913. Some confusion in the league records over his actual birthdate may have benefitted Niehoff with teams that thought he was five years younger. A right-handed in-fielder, who batted right, he stood 5’10” and weighed 170 pounds.

According to an article by Bill Lamb, published as part of the Society for American Baseball Research’s Bioproject, the following season in the spring of 1908, Bert became an infielder playing third base for another Class A Western League team, the Des Moines Boosters. The Boosters came in last place that year with a 54-94 season record and Niehoff’s batting average for the season was .215, but the following season, in 1909, the Boosters surged to the top of the Western League Standings and won the pennant over rival Sioux City. Niehoff’s own performance improved as well, batting .269 and performing respectably in the field.

The Chicago White Sox purchased his contract at the season’s end, but Bert was optioned back to Des Moines in March 1910, where he batted .293 with 51 extra-base hits as the club fell to seventh place in the Western League. This was the first of several career false starts for Niehoff, due largely to his early season struggles with hitting that resulted in a disappointing spring training performance. According to

Lamb, Niehoff also demonstrated a penchant for tough contract negotiations, beginning in 1911 when Niehoff signed a contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates.



***In this photo from circa 1890, Bert is the little boy shown with his siblings Jessie, Ben, and Kate. Annie and Eddie had died as children.***

“Although he had not yet played a major-league game, Bert unilaterally revised the terms of the pact sent to him by his new club before returning it to the Pittsburgh front office,” Lamb wrote. “Fortunately for Niehoff, Pirates president Barney Dreyfuss admired the gall of this unproven newcomer and ratified the contract as revised by Niehoff.”

Unfortunately, Niehoff’s characteristic slow start led to him again being cut after spring training and his contract was sold to the Indianapolis Indians of the Double-A American Association in April 1911. He was further demoted to the Class A Omaha Rourkes of the Western League, where he enjoyed some success, batting .269 for the remainder of the season and .291 with 57 extra base hits in 1912.



***As a teen, Niehoff worked at his brother-in-law’s store that was located on the northeast corner of Spruce and Jefferson.***

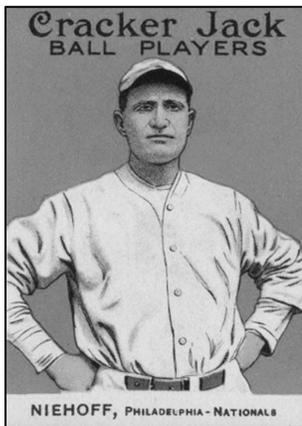
In 1913, Niehoff’s contract was purchased by the Louisville Colonels of the American Association and his batting average for the season was .296, which afforded him a look by the Cincinnati Reds. Bert’s major league debut was Oct. 4, 1913, playing for the Cincinnati Reds, who called him up from the minors for the last two games of the season.

In 1914, Niehoff became the starting third baseman for Cincinnati and finished the season with a solid performance

(.242 batting average in 142 games) while achieving career highs and leading the team in triples (9) and home runs (4). In the off-season, however, he was traded to Philadelphia, where he was converted to a second baseman for the 1915 season.

“Bert struggled with the transition, leading National League second basemen in errors committed (41),” Lamb said, “but he also exhibited good infield range, placing second in assists by a second baseman (411) during the season.” The Philadelphia Phillies won the National League Pennant with a 90-62 record and went on to lose to the heavily favored Boston Red Sox in the 1915 World Series.

The following season, Niehoff produced the best performance of his major-league career, leading the entire Major Leagues in doubles (42) and placing second in the National League in extra-base hits (50). Niehoff, while batting second in the lineup, also compiled personal bests in hits (133), runs (65), and RBIs (61), while batting .243. While turning a league-high 65 double plays and finishing second in assists (437), Bert again led all National League second basemen in errors with 49 for the season. While the number of errors may seem high by today’s major league standards, it is noteworthy that Bert finished second to teammate shortstop Dave Bancroft, who committed 60 errors. Bancroft, a quick-handed and graceful shortstop, was later elected to the Hall of Fame and is still considered one of the top fielders in baseball history. Although finishing the 1916 season with nearly the same record as the previous year. The Phillies (91-62) were second place behind the pennant-winning Brooklyn Robins.



**1915 Cracker Jack baseball card for Bert Niehoff.**



**1917 baseball card.**

Niehoff signed again with the Phillies in 1917, for a salary of \$4,000 per year, which translates to \$75,000 in today’s rate of inflation, but was replaced mid-season at second base by another future Hall of Famer, Johnny Evers, acquired from the Boston Braves, and Bert became the backup at third and first base. In 1918, the Phillies traded Niehoff to the St. Louis Cardinals, but the then 34-year-old Niehoff was waived after batting .179 in 22 early-season games.

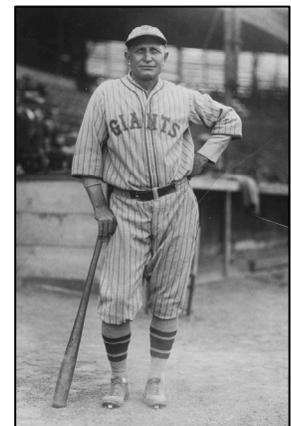
An article from the July 14, 1917, edition of the *San Diego Evening Tribune* offered qualified praise for Niehoff. Headlined: “Bert Niehoff is one star player with a style that’s

all his own,” the article went on to say, “Bert Niehoff of the Phillies is one of the best second sackers in the game though he does none of the things that a second-baseman is supposed to do. Niehoff is neither graceful nor agile, yet he covers unusual ground and gets the results.”

His final opportunity in the major leagues came in 1918 when the New York Giants signed him to fill in at second base while regular Larry Doyle was recovering from surgery. During his seventh game with the Giants, Niehoff’s right leg was broken just below the knee in a collision with outfielder Ross Young while in pursuit of a fly ball, ending his career as a major league player.

An article from the June 1, 1918, edition of the *Denver Post*, datelined Philadelphia, provided details of the injury: “Bert Niehoff of Louisville, Colo., second baseman of the Giants, suffered a broken leg in the game with the Phillies here yesterday afternoon. The accident happened when Outfielder Ross Young and Niehoff collided while chasing after a fly ball from Cy Williams’ bat. The loss of Niehoff will be a hard blow to the Giants. He was bought from the St. Louis club only about two weeks ago to fill the place of the veteran, Larry Doyle, who will still be unable to be in the game for several weeks.”

Despite his error totals, Niehoff finished his six-year big league career having played in 581 games with an above average .940 fielding percentage. He was a classic line-drive hitter with a respectable career .240 batting average, particularly considering that he played at the height of baseball’s “dead ball era,” when spitballs were legal, balls remained in play for 100 plus pitches, and none of the ballparks had lighted fields.



**Niehoff played for the Giants in 1918.**

After his leg healed, Niehoff was unable to sign on again with the Giants and spent the 1919 season in the Double-A Pacific Coast League, playing first for the Seattle Rainiers, then the Salt Lake City Bees, and finally the Los Angeles Angels, where he remained as the regular third baseman through the 1921 season when the Angels won the Pacific Coast League pennant.

His next move, in 1922, served as a transition to the next phase of his lengthy career in baseball when he signed on as player-manager of the Mobile Bears of the Class A Southern Association.

Lamb said, “That season proved a singular success. As the club’s regular second baseman he fielded well and at the plate he hit .295 with 10 home runs. More important, the Niehoff-led Bears posted a sparkling 97-55 record and captured the pennant. The season’s triumph was then made complete by Mobile’s defeat of the Fort Worth Panthers of the Texas

League in the 1922 Dixie Series, the annual postseason clash between the championship nines of the two Class A circuits.”

Niehoff continued with the Mobile Bears in 1923 and, although the team failed to replicate its success of the previous season, he achieved a .303 batting average, the only time he managed to exceed .300 in his 21 seasons of playing organized ball. The following season, he moved to the Atlanta Crackers, which he led for the next five years. After initial success, in which Atlanta won the pennant in 1925, the Crackers’ performance declined and player-manager Bert Niehoff was released in late 1928, which put a final close to his playing career at the age of 44.

For the 1929 and 1930 seasons, Bert served as a coach for New York Giants manager, John McGraw, and from 1931 through 1933 he was manager of the Chattanooga Lookouts, the first of a series of seasons as a team manager.

“His tenure as field leader got off on a storied note,” Lamb wrote in his Bioproject article. “Two batters into the first inning of an April 2, 1931, exhibition game against the fearsome New York Yankees, Niehoff pulled his starter and brought in a replacement to face Babe Ruth: Virne Beatrice “Jackie” Mitchell, a 17-year-old lefty and Organized Baseball’s first female pitcher. The consummate ham, Ruth swung mightily but missed Mitchell’s first two offerings and then loudly demanded that umpire Brick Owens inspect the baseball. The Bambino then took a called third strike and trudged glumly back to the bench, much to the delight of the hometown crowd. Sans the theatrics, next batter Lou Gehrig then went down swinging.” Lamb noted that several days later Mitchell’s contract was voided by the baseball commissioner, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, on the grounds that professional baseball was “too strenuous” for women.

For the next 23 years, from 1931 through 1954 with the exception of one season in 1934 when he briefly left baseball to focus full-time on his off-season insurance business in Denver, Bert Niehoff managed a series of teams, starting with the Chattanooga Lookouts (1931 through 1933), the Oklahoma City Indians of the Texas League (1935-36), the Louisville Colonels of the Double-A American Association (1937-38), the New York Giants Jersey City Double-A affiliate Little Giants (1939-1940), the Little Rock Travelers (1941), and the Knoxville Smokies (1942).

In 1943 and 1944, Niehoff was one of several former big-leaguers, including Jimmie Foxx, Johnny Rawlings, Josh Billings, Leo Murphy, Bill Wambsganss and Dave Bancroft, hired to manage teams in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Niehoff served as manager of the South Bend Blue Sox, with famed players Doris Barr, Margaret “Sonny” Berger, Mary “Bonnie” Baker, and Dottie Schroeder. Featured in the 1992 movie “A League of Their Own,” the women’s league was the brainchild of Chicago Cubs owner Philip K. Wrigley as a way to fill ballparks during the manpower shortages caused by WWII.



***This photo obtained from the website for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League shows the 1944 South Bend Blue Sox with Bert Niehoff at the back left.***

Niehoff returned to manage the Chattanooga Lookouts in 1945, 1946 and 1947. He then took a break from managing teams to scout players for the New York Yankees (1948-1950), then managed the Selma Cloverleafs (1951), the Saginaw Jacks of the Class A Central League (1952), and the Oak Ridge Pioneers of the Mountain States League (1953-1954), before retiring to live with Mabel in Inglewood, Calif.

In his article, Lamb summed up Niehoff’s record as a manager: “In 24 different seasons between 1922 and 1954, Niehoff-led teams had gone a combined 1,824-1,713 (.516) while winning four pennants and three Dixie Series. Bert’s two seasons managing in the AAGPBL added another 115 wins (and 95 losses) to his overall professional log.”

Niehoff made one final return from retirement at age 77 in February 1961, when the American League expansion team the Los Angeles Angels retained him as a talent scout for the greater San Fernando Valley area, which role he continued until 1967.

In retirement, Niehoff stayed active, especially on the golf course, where he hit a hole-in-one just after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in May 1974. He died Dec. 9, 1974, at his home in Inglewood and was laid to rest at Inglewood Park Cemetery alongside Mabel, who preceded him in death in 1971.

Along with Bert Niehoff, a number of talented players who got their start with Louisville teams have pursued their dream of playing professional baseball, among them Phil Mudrock, who signed his professional contract behind the backstop at Miners Field, according to a 1996 article in the *Louisville Times*. According to the article “Miners Field – A Louisville Gem” written by Sean Moynihan for the Fall 2009 *Louisville Historian*, another Louisville youth, Toney (T.W.) LaSalle, experienced success in the minors and had been offered a tryout for major league scouts when his leg was broken in a car accident.

While Louisville owes a great deal for today’s quality of life to the many long-time families who have remained and contributed to the town’s development in myriad ways, the close-knit community has also launched sons and daughters who went on to success in a larger arena, including Bert Niehoff, a baseball player who pursued his dream all the way to the Big Show.

***Niehoff’s autograph.***

## **Bert Niehoff, Louisville, and Labor**

**By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator**

That Bert Niehoff was a native of Louisville, Colorado was a fact pointed out in innumerable newspaper articles that covered his active years in baseball all over the country. However, he was much more than just a one-time Louisville resident. He was also a member of a family whose members were leaders in Louisville's political, civic, financial, and economic life as well as its fraternal organizations. And it is believed this family was very pro-union, which may have shaped Niehoff's views towards collective bargaining in his baseball career.

Evidence supplied by newspaper articles strongly suggests that Bert Niehoff's family was very pro-labor. His brother-in-law, William Austin (for whom Niehoff worked as a youth), ran on the Union Labor ticket for mayor. As mayor during the beginning of the 1910-1914 mining strike in the northern coal fields of Colorado, Austin took a pro-union stand. Mayor Austin and other area elected officials protested to the Colorado governor and asked him to revoke the license of the Baldwin-Felts detective agency, which supplied gunmen to the mine owners during the strike, according to a *Denver Post* article from December 1910. Also, Bert Niehoff's brother, Ben, was a coal miner who went on strike with so many other Louisville miners. According to a 1976 newspaper interview with a family member, from his front porch in downtown Louisville, Ben Niehoff expressed his views by repeatedly shooting out the light at the Hecla Mine about a mile away where strikebreakers continued to mine coal.



*Headline from San Diego Union article dated February 10, 1917.*

Kathleen Jones's article notes Bert Niehoff's penchant for tough contract negotiations. It's hard to not consider the possibility that his youth spent in the pro-union town of Louisville led to his familiarity with contracts that favored one side and may have made him more willing to challenge the contracts presented to him to sign. In fact, a newspaper article from the *San Diego Union* dated February 10, 1917 reported that Niehoff, in solidarity with other professional ball players, was refusing to sign with the Phillies for the 1917 season unless the demands of Dave Fultz and the Baseball Players' Fraternity were met. (Some concessions were apparently obtained, but this baseball union dissolved not long after.) It is very possible that that Louisville's shaping of Bert Niehoff's awareness and views of labor issues made him into an advocate of collective labor bargaining for baseball players.

## **Thank You for Blue Parrot Responses!**

The Winter 2013 issue of the *Historian* included a list of 140 known Blue Parrot employees to the 1970s along with a 1960s photo of Mike Colacci and many members of the Blue Parrot staff.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for more information, including Katherine Stangier Ryan, Duane and Shirley Elrod, Don Buffo, Debbie Vogelsberg, and Allan Ferrera.

Based on the responses, most people believe that the person identified in the photo as Margie Lazuk was in fact her sister, Nadine Channel. Others newly identified in the photo were Charles LeGros (second from left in the back row) and Linda Cox (fourth from left in the back row). A name on the list was misspelled and should have been stated as Vickie Villegas. We welcome additional names to add to the list as well as any corrections.

Additional names of people who are believed to have been part of the Blue Parrot family are listed here:

Linda Cox	Charles LeGros
Raymond Domenico	Mary Ann Lucero
Allan Ferrera	Duane Mellecker
Michael "Buddy" Ferrera	Ron Millette
Naomi Fievet	William Mrzlikar
Dean Frause	Angie Rizzi
Tim George	Larry Schreiter
Dick Henander	Gene Varra
Alan Kobobel	Ronald Varra
Chuck Kranker	Ed Villegas
James Kupfner	Roger Waschak
Robert Larson	



Thank you to Katherine Stangier Ryan for donating the accompanying photo, which was taken at the Blue Parrot in 1958 and shows, left to right, Mena Tesone, Louise Deborski, and Katherine Stangier in the back row and Susie DiGiacomo and Nellie Inama in the front row.

## Upcoming Historical Programs

The public is invited to join us for these 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.

Thank you so much to Martin Ogle, who spoke in April on the topic of “We Are Here: Louisville’s Past, Present, and Future.”

### **“My Life in the WWII Dutch Resistance or What It Feels Like to be Occupied: The Personal Story of Josmarie Vanderspek” - Thursday, May 23, 7 PM**

This World War II program with its personal story about the occupation of the Netherlands is presented by the Louisville Cultural Council. Program location: Louisville Center for the Arts, 801 Grant Street.

### **“Louisville’s Jefferson Place Neighborhood: Its History and Architecture” Thursday, May 30, 7 PM**

With a grant from the State Historical Fund, the firm of Avenue L Architects has completed a historical and architectural survey of Jefferson Place, which is Louisville’s oldest residential neighborhood, assisted by the Louisville Historical Museum.



*The Jefferson Place Addition includes the Eberharter house at 801 La Farge and the Eberharter store at 805 La Farge, as shown in this photo from the early 1900s. Ed and Katie Smith were later owners.*

At this program, they will present the survey results and possible historic district eligibility, as well as discuss architectural styles and how to identify them yourself. You'll also learn about some of the colorful characters who called Jefferson Place home: bootleggers, woodcarvers, a band leader, a female blacksmith from England, and many prominent citizens, as well as miners, miners, and more miners!

This program is sponsored by the Louisville Historical Museum and the Louisville Public Library in recognition of Preservation Month. Program location: Louisville Public Library.

### **Summer Historical Walking Tour: “Main Street Stories,” Saturday, June 22, 9:30 AM**

Meet on the front steps of the Library. Suggested donation: \$5. This tour will be led by Anne Robinson and will look at Louisville’s development as a coal mining town.

### **Children’s Program, “Junior Miners,” July 17, 5 – 6 PM**

This program is for children ages 6 – 12. Experience the booms and busts of mining in Colorado, from the Spanish explorers to the present. Handle some real mining artifacts like carbide head lamps, mining tools, tintype photographs, payments in script and try panning for “gold” and minerals yourself. Children must be comfortable working in small groups. Pre-registration is required. Location: Louisville Public Library. Please call 303-335-4821, email [childrensreference@louisvilleco.gov](mailto:childrensreference@louisvilleco.gov) or stop by the Library to sign up.

### **Summer Historical Walking Tour: “La Farge to Memory Square: A Look at Early Louisville Neighborhoods, Schools and Churches,” Saturday, July 20, 9:30 AM**

Meet at the Historical Museum. Suggested donation: \$5. This tour will be led by Diane Marino. It is a combination of tours given in the past two years on Memory Square and on La Farge Avenue.

### **“If These Stones Could Talk: Tales from Columbia Cemetery,” Thursday, July 25, 7 PM**

Mary Reilly-McNellan will speak about the history of Boulder’s Columbia Cemetery, its “residents,” grave markers, symbolism, and preservation efforts. Many past Louisville residents were buried in Columbia Cemetery. Reilly-McNellan is co-author of a recently published book about the cemetery, and will have copies available for purchase and signing after her presentation. Program location: Louisville Public Library.

## **Historical Museum Contact Information and Spring/Summer Hours**

The Museum is now observing its Spring/Summer hours! It is open for the summer from 10:00 to 3:00 on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and from 3:00 to 8:00 on Fridays to coincide with the summer Street Faires and First Friday Art Walks. Special appointments at other times are possible. Museum staff can be reached at [museum@louisvilleco.gov](mailto:museum@louisvilleco.gov) or 303-665-9048. If you are planning a visit, please check ahead in order to make sure of the current hours.

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.

## **LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Paula Elrod  
David Ferguson  
Marilyn Hunt  
Lynn Christopher Koglin  
Gladys Levis-Pilz  
Daniel Mellish  
Anne Robinson  
Patricia Seader  
Andrew Williams

## **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.

Sylia Kilker  
Isabelle Hudson & Verla Magruder  
Barbara Stahr  
Patricia Finleon  
George Pierce (with Jack Gathright and Steve Patterson)  
Sam Duran

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

If you'd like to help with this fun program, we need more volunteer interviewers and camera operators as well as volunteers to transcribe the interviews. Please contact the Historical Museum!

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

Thank you to Kathleen Jones for bringing the story of baseball player Bert Niehoff to light in this issue! And Kathleen and I are both grateful to Bill Lamb for his written profile of Bert Niehoff, which was a wonderful resource. The profile is available online at the website of the biography project of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR).

For readers who enjoy using Ancestry.com and would like to learn more about the Niehoff family of Louisville, I have created a Niehoff Family Tree and made it publicly viewable. Ancestry.com is available to use for free at the Louisville Public Library.

This summer, we'll be passing out a pamphlet that will challenge how well you know Louisville! It includes 26 photos of our town to identify, with the answer list available at the Museum. Thank you also to the Historical Commission for sponsoring the pamphlet, which will be available at the Museum and other locations this summer, and on our website ([www.HistoricLouisvilleCO.org](http://www.HistoricLouisvilleCO.org)).

The Museum will be giving out kits for making papercraft models of the Louisville Grain Elevator again this summer. The kits are free and are a way to promote membership in the Louisville Historical Museum. I hear that they have been a fun activity for families. Thank you again to Louisville resident Richard Wheeler for creating the model!

Thank you to Barbara Leichy St. John for identifying her grandmother, Mattie Affolter, in the cover photo of the Ladies Aid Society in the last issue of the *Louisville Historian*. Mattie is standing on the far right and appears to be holding a gavel. The photo was taken at the home of Mattie and Edward Affolter at 839 McKinley.

Artist Connie Quigg has donated a charming watercolor painting that she made of the Museum's Jacoe Store with the intent that it be used to somehow benefit the Museum. Thank you, Connie! The Historical Commission is considering a raffle as a fundraiser for the Museum and will provide opportunities to our supporters to purchase raffle tickets.

Robert Piccone became a lifetime member during the limited time when lifetime memberships were offered several years ago. Recently, he made a very generous donation to the Historical Commission to help make up for the fact that he hasn't been paying yearly dues. The Commission and I are very grateful for his generosity and his desire to be a regular supporter!

Thank you to so many people who have given helpful historical information to the Museum, including John and Jennie Negri, Mike Negri, Carlton Stoiber, Bob DeAndrea, Paula Elrod, and John Madonna. Thank you to Marty Reibold, Dave Hinz, and Jesse DeGraw for tracking down reproductions of Bert Niehoff baseball cards.

Thank you so much to Museum volunteers Mona Lee Doersam (for her beautiful work doing the layout of every issue of *The Louisville Historian*), Deborah Fahey,

Robert Sampson, Gail Khasawneh, Kate Gerard, Kathleen Jones, Rebecca Harney, Duane Elrod, Patricia Lester, Christine Gray, Kristie Chua, Mary Kay Knorr, and Ardeshir Sabeti.

Members of the Historical Commission and I are looking forward to the Taste of Louisville on Saturday, June 1 and the Museum Open House that will take place that day. We'll continue the annual tradition of making Italian pizzelles to give out in front of the Museum. I hope that a lot of people will stop by!

A new front window exhibit at the Museum showcases photos of "Louisville's Front Street Saloons." In 1908, about thirteen saloons lined Front Street. Some were in the vicinity of the Steinbaugh Pavilion where the summer Street Faires now take place, and at least two others were on the site of today's Louisville Public Library. Unfortunately, photos of only a fraction of all of Louisville's saloons from over the years have been donated to the Historical Museum. If your family has any, please consider donating them or letting the Museum copy them.

Last, we have lost one of the biggest supporters of the Museum with the passing of Marion Dionigi Junior. She set an amazing example in the extent to which she volunteered for Louisville and supported the preservation of its history. Each year for nearly twenty-five years, Marion made porcelain holiday ornaments as a fundraiser for the Historical Commission and Museum. She was also one of the founders of the Historical Museum and was a member of the Historical Commission from 1984 to 2000.



***An exhibit of Front Street saloon photos is now up in the front windows of the Historical Museum. This photo shows the area where the Steinbaugh Pavilion is now.***



## ***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.HistoricLouisvilleCO.org](http://www.HistoricLouisvilleCO.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.

## ***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.

Marion Junior  
John R. Muntyan  
Cory Klenk  
Metza "Kim" Whiteley  
Kathy Takemoto  
Donald & Theone Freeman  
Elaine Biella  
Robert Piccone  
Domenico Family  
George Pierce

## ***A Word about Donations***

Would you like to make a monetary donation to the Louisville Historical Commission? The Commission is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible. Donations are used to help share and preserve the special history of Louisville and its families.

Memorial donations are often made in special remembrance of someone who has passed away either recently or many years ago, and they are listed in the *Louisville Historian*.

A donation may also be made in honor of a living person or family. These donations are listed separately from memorial donations in the *Louisville Historian*.

Donations don't necessarily have to be made in memory of or in honor of another person, though. The Commission very much welcomes donations that are made outright as well as bequests.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of our supporters and members to help realize our visions for the Museum campus and tell the stories of where Louisville has come from.



## **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 Anthony Del Pizzo (1920-2012)***

John T. Leary

### ***In Memory of Amelia LaSalle (1913-2012)***

Donna & Adam Elnicki

### ***In Memory of William P. Hesson (1934-2012)***

John T. Leary

### ***In Memory of Richard L. "Dick" DeRose (1929-2013)***

Frank & Mary Patete  
Donna & Adam Elnicki  
David W. Ferguson  
Dino & Judy De Santis

### ***In Memory of William "Billy" Elrod, Jr. (1949-2013)***

William & Katherine Ryan  
Patricia & Tim Lester  
Bridget Bacon  
Donna & Adam Elnicki  
Robert & Darleen Del Pizzo  
Eugene & Virginia Caranci  
Duane & Shirley Elrod  
Mary Carol Ferrera  
Lois DelPizzo  
William & Patricia Seader  
Helen Caranci  
Ann K. Del Pizzo  
Dino & Judy De Santis  
Louisville Rod & Gun Club  
Ronald & Arlene Leggett  
Timothy & Sharon Camps  
Louisville Youth Baseball Assn.  
Daniel Mellish  
Gloria Green

### ***In Memory of Robert Lee (1923-2013)***

Sylvia Kilker

### ***In Memory of Marion Junior (1940-2013)***

Paula Elrod  
Eugene DiCarlo  
Paul & Becky Harney  
Ronald & Arlene Leggett  
Keith & Shirley Helart  
Bridget Bacon  
Patricia Finleon  
John & Mary Lou Kranker  
Grace Dionigi  
Richard & Darlene DelPizzo  
William & Katherine Ryan  
Robert & Darleen Del Pizzo  
Memory Delforge  
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Herbert & Rosemarie Steinbaugh  
Barbara Stahr  
Anthony & Judy DeNovellis  
Daniel Mellish  
Dino & Judy De Santis  
Linda & Wayne Hubbard  
Mick & Marilyn LaSalle  
Joyce Ross  
Irene & John Ray

***In Memory of Noboru Takemoto (1928-2013)***

Cheryl Ferrari  
David W. Ferguson  
Vernon Yamaguchi

***In Memory of Welcome Henning Miller (1923-2013)***

Jean Morgan

***In Memory of Clarence "Pete" Gibson (1923-2013)***

David W. Ferguson

***In Memory of Norman Seader (1938-2013)***

David W. Ferguson  
Cheryl Ferrari

***In Memory of Alfred Dhieux (1924-1944)***

Ernest Hartnagel

***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!

**Cassandra Volpe** – 15 holiday ornaments made in past years by Marion Junior.

**Frank "Skip" Domenico** – 1973 newspaper article about his mother, Marjorie Stevens Domenico, who was City Clerk for 20 years. Thank you also to Frank, his sister, Stephanie, and their niece, Samantha, for providing information about the Domenico family.

**April Feniello** – scans of photos of members of the Klee family who owned the original house at 722 Main, including those of Maggie Klee Campbell and Annie Klee Moffitt.

**Bruce Joss** – items associated with Nora Clark of Louisville.

**Grace Dionigi** – *Town & Country Review* from 1970 with section on Louisville; 1974 *Daily Camera* article about Steinbaugh's fire; maps of Louisville from 1995.

**Duane and Shirley Elrod** – 1979 *Louisville Times* issue with article about John Waschak, Mayor of Louisville, and scan of Parks & Rec booklet from 1979.

**Ron and Arlene Leggett** – Louisville Senior Center booklet commemorating the Center's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1999; obituaries and memorial cards for Louisville residents; and card from the County Medical Society showing that Ron Leggett was given the Type I Sabin oral polio vaccine in 1962 (this item was donated in

response to the article about polio epidemics in the Summer 2012 *Louisville Historian*).

**Dale Eberharter** – framed composite picture of the Class of 1962 from Louisville High School (this item has been on the Museum's wish list).

**Kathy Ryan** – scan of photo of Blue Parrot staff in 1958 (this item was donated in response to the item about the Blue Parrot in the Winter 2013 *Louisville Historian*).

**David Ferguson** – documents written in Italian and brought to Louisville from Italy by his grandfather, Joseph Dionigi, and class rings for David and Dorothy LaSalle Ferguson from Louisville High School in 1946.

**Clifford Brock** – placemats from the restaurant "Gandy Dancer" that opened in 1972 in train cars brought to South Boulder Rd.

**Isabelle Hudson** – scans of seven photos showing members of the Thirlaway family, Jane Ferguson standing in front of her house at 705 Jefferson, and the Louisville Grade School.

**Patricia Finleon** – scans of two photos showing the Hecla Mine casino building that became a farmhouse and that was her family's home in the 1940s, information and photos relating to the Jaycees, and Louisville High School items.

***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 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, 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.

- Menus of Louisville restaurants.

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**bouldertech, inc.**

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***Thanks to New and Renewing Members***

***New Members***

Frank "Skip" Domenico	Cory Klenk
Allan Ferrera	Susan Duran Lucero
Carol Ponton & Brian Hill	

***Renewing Members***

Jim Ahlberg	Eileen Manning
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Susan Honstein	Debbie Vogelsberg
John & Mary Lou Kranker	Mimi Wilson Family
Arno Laesecke	Joan Yust

***New Business Sponsor***

Great Western Bank

***Renewing Business Sponsors***

Pine Street Plaza

Tussey & Associates

***Regrets***

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Historical Society members Marion Junior, William "Billy" Elrod, Jr., Noboru Takemoto, and Welcome Henning Miller.



*Louisville Historical Society  
749 Main Street  
Louisville, CO 80027  
Return Service Requested*

*The Louisville Historian, Issue #98, Spring 2013*

