



THE SOUTHERN CHEYENNE SOJOURN IN COLORADO

William E. Unrau, Historical Commission

In the history of Louisville and the Colorado Great Plains to the east, the year 1864 is worth remembering for at least two important events: David Kerr arrived by wagon in the Coal Creek area and was so impressed with the farming potential of the area that he took a preemption claim, at \$1.25 per acre, to a quarter section (160 acres) of land south of present South Boulder Road and east of HWY 42. It was a good choice, for the land was ideally suited for grain, hay, and livestock production. But with the discovery of the Welch coal mine on his land less than a decade later, Kerr's fledgling enterprise--like so many other farms along the Front Range--was relegated to a status secondary to what most nineteenth century Coloradans believed (or wanted to believe): that the Northern Coal Field, with the fabulous gold and silver deposits in the high Rockies and the Southern Coal Field centering around Trinidad, was proof that the Centennial State would one day be the premier mining and industrial center of the nation.

Views of this sort, of course, were not unique to

Colorado, as evidenced by the widespread belief that California gold and Texas oil were more important economically than the enormous agricultural resources and productivity of those same states. What is important here is that east Boulder County farming and mining complemented one another in that miners laid off during the summer months, due to less demand for heating coal and the danger of spontaneous combustion of the sub-bituminous coal found in the Northern Colorado Field, provided much of the seasonable labor required to till and harvest the crops on the growing number of Boulder and Coal Creek valley farms.

In the year 1864 also, on the banks of Big Sandy Creek some one-hundred miles southeast of Louisville, more than a hundred Southern Cheyennes whose tribe at one time held legal title to all land drained by Boulder, St. Vrain, Coal and Clear Creeks, and as far east as present North Platte, Nebraska and Garden City, Kansas, were massacred by a Colorado militia commanded

Continued on page 2

HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY TO THE LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

It is hard for many of us to believe, but the Louisville Historical Museum officially began twenty years ago with the opening of the Tomeo House on September 1, 1986.

Since it was first established through the forethought, planning, and hard work of the Historical Commission, other volunteers, and City leaders, the Museum has become the place to come and learn about local history. Schoolchildren, particularly all of the second grades from the four elementary schools in Louisville, visit on field trips every fall, and older students come in seeking information for school projects. The Museum is also a destination of many visitors to the area from other states and other countries. Balancing out their visits are those of our current Louisville residents who come in for the first time. Of course, they are always welcome!

Following the 1986 opening of the Tomeo House, which was set up as a "period" historic home, the Jacoe

Store building opened in 1990 and became the main Museum center. The Jordinelli House and Summer Kitchen, when they are opened, will be utilized to teach and inform about additional aspects of Louisville and Colorado history. We in Louisville are very fortunate that twenty years of donations of local artifacts and photos have resulted in a collection with a great deal of depth to share with tourists and researchers alike.

Trips by visitors to the Museum also help support downtown businesses, and the presence of the Museum on Main Street promotes the view of Louisville as a community with a rich history. Louisville's historic downtown and its heritage as a coal mining community are central to its very identity.

Join the Historical Commission for its Silent Auction during the Labor Day festivities at Community Park and help support the Historical Museum during its 20th birthday!

by Colonel John M. Chivington. Kerr's Coal Creek homestead and the opening of the Welch mine led to the selection of the Louisville townsite by Louis Nawatny in 1878 and its formal incorporation three years later, thereby serving as a harbinger of more white settlement to come. By contrast, the tragic deaths at Big Sandy Creek prompted the surviving Cheyennes to flee to south-central Kansas, where by the Treaty of the Little Arkansas negotiated in 1865 by federal agents in present Wichita, the Southern Cheyenne were dispossessed of all their Colorado land.

For historical and prehistorical background, there is evidence of Native American occupation of the South Platte valley and therefore the present Louisville area for thousands of years, perhaps as early as 10,000 B.C.E. From present Wyoming south to the upper waters of Fountain Creek and the Arkansas, prehistoric Clovis, Folsom, Plano and Archaic camp sites have been excavated and evaluated by archeologists.

The nomadic people who followed these hardy prehistoric pioneers were, beginning in the sixteenth century, bands of Utes, Kiowas, Plains Apaches, and, perhaps, other tribes who over a period of at least two centuries struggled for control of the South Platte valley prior to the arrival of the Southern Cheyennes from present Wyoming and South Dakota during the second and third decades of the nineteenth century.

A variety of factors prompted this migration: the sparklingly clear creeks draining the Front Range, teeming with life-sustaining fish and marketable fur-bearing animals; pine, cottonwood, and willow groves for lodge poles and other domestic needs; hardy grasses providing sustenance for the bison and antelope herds on the great plains to the east; wild mustangs drifting north from the upper Arkansas and Rio Grande river valleys; military pressure from alien tribes to the north and east; and most important of all, the establishment of Bent's Fort on the Santa Fe Trail near the conflu-

ence of the Arkansas and Purgatory, and Fort St. Vrain on the South Platte near present Platteville, both in the mid-1830s. Here the Southern Cheyennes became proficient in trading skins, robes and government annuities for iron tools and utensils, blankets, guns, powder, "fancy" white man's food such as canned oysters and peppers, and especially the white man's distilled alcohol.

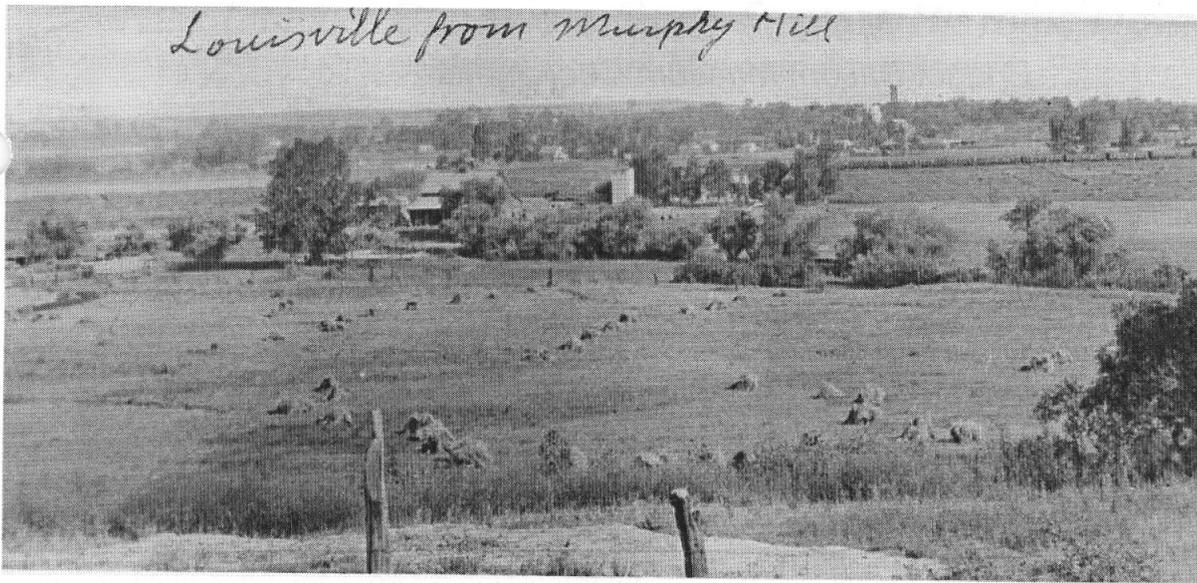
The alcohol trade became an increasingly important aspect of the Southern Cheyenne economy by the mid-1840s, even though it had been illegal since 1832 when Congress declared it a felony punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment for anyone convicted of introducing or trading distilled alcohol into the "Indian country" which then included all of the United States west of the Mississippi river and the states of Arkansas and Missouri. On the upper Arkansas William Bent admitted selling so-called "ardent spirits" to the Southern Cheyennes but insisted he did so only in order to compete with Mexican whiskey merchants at Taos and Santa Fe who were trying to divert the Indian trade away from his own posts on the Arkansas and South Platte.

Following the Mexican-American War (1846-48) the federal government sought to clarify tribal land occupation and ownership in the trans-Missouri West, with the result that by Article 5 of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, the Cheyennes and Arapahoes were granted as their "respective territories" all of present Colorado north of the Arkansas river and east of the continental divide, including, of course, the areas where gold was discovered in 1858 and the Northern Coal Field was opened up near present Boulder two years earlier. The same treaty granted the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, as well



This illustration shows Southern Cheyennes trading whiskey for buffalo robes with the Kiowas in western Kansas following their flight from Colorado territory in 1865. From Harper's New Monthly Magazine 39 (1869): 25.

Louisville from Murphy Hill



This historic photo from the collection of the Louisville Historical Museum shows a view of a farm with the town of Louisville just beyond. Both farming and coal mining attracted white settlers to this part of Colorado.

as the Sioux, Gros Ventre, Assinaboin, Mandan, Blackfoot and Crow nations, annual shares in a \$50,000 government fund for ten years--a dependable source of income which provided them with buying power for the white man's goods, including alcohol.

With the fifty-niner gold rush across Southern Cheyenne land and the declining supply of bison and other game animals occasioned by this massive human intrusion, relationships between the Indians and whites deteriorated. Fearing the worst, federal officials in Washington and in Colorado Territory negotiated the controversial Fort Wise Treaty of 1861, which gave the Southern Cheyennes a much smaller reservation north of the Arkansas and west of Big Sandy Creek, in a remote

and mostly arid area of southeastern Colorado. Here, for the promise of protection from intrusion as well as stock animals, implements, schools for the children, and additional annuities, the Indians reluctantly agreed to give up the chase and take up individual land ownership on the model of the invading whites. And near here also was the site of the Chivington Massacre, now memorialized as a National Historic Site. No longer would the Southern Cheyennes occupy campsites on the banks of Boulder or Coal Creeks, in the shadow of the great Continental Divide. Nor would they hunt bison or antelope on the sweeping plains to the east. In the fall of 1865, the Treaty of the Little Arkansas provided still another reservation, this time between the Cimarron and

Arkansas rivers west of Wichita. This too turned out to be a temporary agreement, and by a federal executive order four years later, the remnant Southern Cheyennes and Arapahoes journeyed south to their final reservation in southwestern Oklahoma, where, following allotment in the late nineteenth century, some of their descendants reside today.

William Unrau is Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus in Wichita State University, where he taught prior to retiring and moving to Louisville in 1999. His next book, his tenth, is titled Like a Strong Fence: The Rise and Fall of Indian Country, 1825-1855 and will be published by the University Press of Kansas in the fall of 2007.

DONATE TO THE FLOWER FUND

Thank you to all who have donated to the Flower Fund! The Historical Commission is still seeking donations, which will be used to help beautify the Museum campus around the Jordinelli House.

For additional information, please contact Elle Cabbage at 303.666.8747.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations have been made to the Museum in memory of:

Donald L. Delforge (1936-2006)

Ruth Grass Vinson (1918-2006)

Dolinda "Lindy" Bottinelli DiFrancia (1910-2006)

Palmena Ferrera DiCarlo (1933-2006)

Robert D. Sneddon (1934-2006)

Mary Ann Kranker Williams (1924-2006)

Joel Blair (1925-2006)

Henrietta Lafferty Davis (1924-2005)

MUSEUM CORNER

Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

There has been a wonderful response to the lead article in the last issue of the *Louisville Historian*, "Researching Your Building's History in Louisville," by Historic Preservation Commission member Melanie Muckle! Residents of Old Town who are researching their houses have welcomed Melanie's research tips. For those of you readers who are researching your historic homes, please don't forget to supply the Museum with your findings so that we can improve and expand our information on Louisville's historic downtown. And a special thank you to Historical Society member Harry Mayor of Massachusetts, who upon reading the article mailed us a historic photo of what is believed to be Melanie's Lincoln Avenue home when it was owned by his relatives, the McHugh / Jenkins family of Louisville.

I'm very pleased that people continue to come forward with historic photos of Louisville people and places to donate to the Museum. The new scanner that the Historical Commission purchased for the Museum now enables me to scan old photos so that the originals don't necessarily have to be given up by families. So far, this process is working out very well since new photo donors seem to be coming forward all the time. It is very important that images of Louisville long ago be saved and preserved now before they are lost forever.

Thank you to Mary Kay Knorr, Gail Wetrogan, Mona Doersam, and Bill Buffo for their regular volunteering for the Museum, and to Dick DelPizzo for his continued work on his replica of historic downtown Louisville and his sharing of his knowledge of Louisville's historic buildings.

Thank you also to Bill Cohen and Amy Hilbert, who have been working on the Monarch Mine Explosion project for nearly a year! I am also grateful to Roger Seiple of Michigan for granting the Museum permission to display a copy of a letter he owns that was written by a young Leland Ward, one of the explosion victims, from

Russia during his World War I service.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all of the people who so generously make cash donations to the Historical Commission and Museum in memory of Louisville residents who have passed away. Just since January 2000, money has been donated in memory of seventy-five different people. This is a touching tradition that not only helps us remember and acknowledge past friends and loved ones, but also financially helps the Museum's mission to preserve Louisville's history. The names of those people in whose names such donations are made are listed in the *Louisville Historian*, and the Museum informs the families of the loved ones that donations have been made in their memories.

Recently, the Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas purchased a copy of the DVD "Our Boys and Girls in the Armed Forces, 1943-44," a film of Louisville area World War II servicemen and women while they were home on leave. The University houses a collection of materials relating to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) of World War II. Louisville's film includes footage of Mary Trebing, a Louisville resident and WASP who was killed in a plane accident in 1943 while ferrying a plane from Oklahoma to Texas. Mary's brother Bill brought the DVD to the attention of the University, and I am very pleased to have helped it acquire the film for its collection.

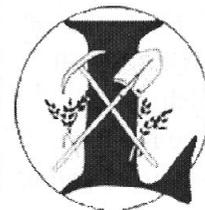
A copy of this DVD showing the servicemen and women in Louisville has also been donated to the Colorado Historical Society, and CHS been added to our mailing list to receive the *Louisville Historian*.

Due to the City's budgeting constraints, we've had to make the difficult decision to reduce the open hours of the Museum. We hope that this is temporary, but until further notice, the new hours are from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and the first Saturday of every month.

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Sally Burlingame
Elle Cabbage
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William Unrau



NEW LIBRARY BUILDING A GOOD FIT WITH HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

The new Louisville Public Library building, despite being newly constructed, has numerous features that help it fit in well with historic downtown Louisville. The site on which it sits is historic to begin with. The building is located within the original core area that was platted by Louis Nawatny in 1878 when he created the town. Historic maps show that at least two saloons stood on the site, which would be expected given that Front Street used to be lined with as many as thirteen saloons. There were also residences and an "ice house" on the site. Later, the location reportedly was used by Steinbaugh's lumber and hardware store, then located on Front Street, for a covered storage area for lumber.

Humphries Poli Architects designed the outside of the new library building so that it is broken up into smaller segments. In this way, it appears more consistent with the scale of the small miners' houses in Old Town Louisville. In fact, the building seems larger on the inside than it appears to be from the outside. The traditional-looking exterior of brick and stone with large windows on the first floor also lends itself to the idea of a store that might have stood in a Western town a hundred years ago.

Library planners also took advantage of the new building's proximity to the railroad, a vital element of Louisville's history. In the old library building across the street, passing trains always drew children to the windows to watch them go by. Planners again placed the Youth Services Department in the new building next to

the railroad tracks with lots of windows for viewing the trains and with a train-themed puppet theater.

Louisville's coal mining heritage is remembered in study rooms named for the Hecla, Rex, and Monarch Mines. The Fireside Reading Room recalls the Fireside Mine (and appropriately has a working fireplace).

The punching machine on exhibit outside on the Front Street side of the new library was rescued from a coal mine by Louisville resident Andy Deborski, who was a local coal miner who became the Chief Coal Mine Inspector for Colorado. According to its plaque, it came from the Washington Mine east of Louisville. Coal miners used punching machines to cut through the veins of coal.

Last, the area of the new building that is devoted to teens, named The Teen Loft, brings to mind the historic roots of the library itself because it was originally founded by teenage girls. As Camp Fire Girls in 1924 and with the help of Louisville High School teacher Georgine McAleer and their advisor, Emily Pickett, the girls collected books from residents to start a library. It was first located on the second floor of the old Town Hall and Fire Station on Main Street and came to have numerous temporary locations over the years while later managed by the Saturday Study Club. According to Museum records, these girls were Betty Lou Snair, Lenore Ostrander, Kathleen Crannell, Aseneth Hamilton, and Virginia Atkins.

Enjoy the historic past of the new Louisville Public Library!

HISTORICAL MUSEUM TO FEATURE NEW EXHIBIT ON MINING DISASTER

Beginning Saturday, September 2, the Louisville Historical Museum will present an exhibit entitled "Remembering the Monarch Mine Explosion of 1936" to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the coal mine explosion that killed eight miners. This disaster, which occurred during the Depression, enormously impacted the residents of Louisville and nearby communities. Today, this tragic event in our local history is remembered primarily through the names of Monarch K-8 School and Monarch High School in Louisville, which were selected in part to commemorate it.

For the first time, the explosion, its timeline, and its causes have been comprehensively studied. Volunteer

historical researcher Bill Cohen has also interviewed several of the grown children and grandchildren of the miners who died. Plans are underway for his written narrative to be made available to Museum visitors as well as through the Historical Museum webpage, reachable through the City of Louisville website.

Visit the Museum on Saturday, September 2 for the exhibit opening or during any Museum hours thereafter to learn more about this event. For more information, or if you have information, photos, or artifacts to share about the explosion or the Monarch Mining Camp, please call the Museum at 303.665.9048.

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 call us at 303.665.9048. If you would prefer not to part with an original photo, please contact us about whether it can be scanned on our photo scanner. All donations to the museum, a non-profit institution, are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

↳ A copy of "Louisville Tidbits," a cookbook created by Mrs. Dhieux and her 6th grade English class in the 1970s

↳ Louisville High School Yearbook: 1954

↳ Centaurus High School Yearbooks: 1973 to 2000

↳ Photographs of Louisville High School's graduating classes: 1954, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1964 through 1971

↳ Copies of the *Louisville Times*, or pages of it, dated before 1942. (The *Louisville Times* was published beginning in 1913, but the paper has past issues going back only to 1942.)

↳ Coal mine photos and ledgers

↳ Historic 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 so long as the photos were taken in Louisville.

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS

Jeff and Treacy Cole and Family
Gloria Hoffmire Perlett

RENEWING MEMBERS

Pat Lester

REGRETS

We regret the recent deaths of three Historical Society members. We extend our sincere sympathy to their families.

Don Delforge
Palmena DiCarlo
Joel Blair

HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOURS

The current hours of the Louisville Historical Museum are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call ahead for the latest information on hours or to schedule a tour.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW LOUISVILLE?

1. Where is the silo in the photo located? (*Thank you to Bill and Betty Buffo for this photo, which was taken in the early 1990s.*)
2. What family is connected with the farm that was at the location shown in the photo?
3. The Three Coins Restaurant, which was located on South Main Street, featured a Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ. Diners would come to the restaurant to hear music performed on the organ. Where is that organ today?

Answers listed on page 8.



MUSEUM DONATIONS

The Louisville Historical Museum has accessioned the following donations during the months of May through July. We sincerely appreciate these recent donations.

Henrietta Van Dyke – large instruction book used at the Louisville Baptist Church Sunday School, dated 1914

Vic Caranci – CDs of accordion and organ music performed by the donor, similar to what he performed at the Three Coins Restaurant in Louisville

Richard Elwell – 1934 wedding photo of his parents and wedding dress of his mother, Louise Romano Elwell

Monarch High School – 2006 Monarch High School yearbook

Arlene Leggett – two photos of classes from Louisville schools

Louis Carson – print of his “Certificate of Valor” awarded to him for his World War II service

Bill Buffo – prints of fourteen photos taken in and around Louisville in the late 1980s and early 1990s

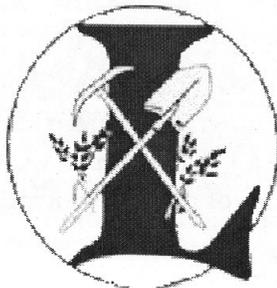
Harry Mayor – print of a photo showing the McHugh/Jenkins family in 1910 or 1911, believed to have been taken in front of their Lincoln Avenue home

Becky Harney – vintage staple box

Beverly McCormick – prints of historic photos showing the donor’s family, including her great-grandfather, Hiram Stauffer, who was a participant in the 1914 labor conflict at the Hecla Mine

Isabelle Hudson – photo of students at Louisville High School, believed to be the class of 1921

Louisville Public Library – thirteen framed photos of Louisville residents accompanied by oral histories, created in the 1990s



RESEARCH CONTINUES ON SEARS HOMES IN LOUISVILLE

Heather Lewis, Chair of the Louisville Historic Preservation Commission, spoke at the Historical Society’s annual program on May 24. Her topic, “Homes By Sears: Louisville’s Mail Order Legacy,” is one that she has continued to research since writing about it for the Summer 2005 issue of the *Louisville Historian*.

Heather pointed out in her informative and entertaining presentation that the term “Sears homes” is used generically today to refer to several types of kit houses that were ordered by mail. Another major manufacturer of mail order homes besides Sears was Montgomery Ward, under the brand name of Gordon Van Tine.

Based on anecdotal evidence, Louisville’s Old Town has at least a few houses from Sears as well as many doors, windows, and hardware such as doorknobs from Sears. In Heather’s most recent effort to document Sears houses in Louisville, she found one to be a house from Montgomery Ward that was previously thought to be a Sears house. It was the sequence of numbers and letters on the timbers in the cellar of that particular home that led to this conclusion.

Thank you to Heather as well as to the homeowners who have opened their homes for her. We invite readers who have any additional information on the topic to contact the Historical Museum at 303.665.9048.

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership in the Louisville Historical Society is a great idea for those interested in Louisville’s unique history and cultural character. Members receive the quarterly *Louisville Historian* and an invitation to the annual Historical Society Program.

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

Visit our web site at www.ci.louisville.co.us/museum.htm 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 Society.

JORDINELLI HOUSE UPDATE

In the past quarter, a lot of progress was made on the Jordinelli House renovations. Additional storage shelving was built and installed; display cases were purchased and delivered; additional electrical wiring and lighting were installed; roller shades were purchased and installed; and the Summer Kitchen floor was completed. On the outhouse, siding was put up and painted white. Passers-by will likely notice that around the grounds, new sidewalks have been put in as well as lawn areas. Plans are moving forward with adding flower beds this fall.

Thank you so much to Alta Milla Electric for doing the additional electrical wiring, which it donated. Thank you also to members of the Boulder County



Youth Corps (pictured in the photo in front of the Jordinelli House). The Youth Corps worked with the City's Land Management Department on preparing the grounds and installing the sod.

ANSWERS TO HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW LOUISVILLE?

1. The silo in the photo is located on the north side of Pine Street as one leaves downtown Louisville, traveling west.
2. The farm that included the silo on Pine Street was the Gosselin Farm. According to relatives, the Gosselin family was French and the farm was operated by brothers Raymond and Victor Gosselin. The entrance to the farm was to the south from Spruce Street. In fact, Pine Street used to end where the original town ended and Spruce Street was the through street for traveling west out of Louisville.
3. The Wurlitzer organ that used to be at the Three Coins Restaurant from 1965 until about 1974 is now at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Before it was in Louisville, it had been installed in a theatre in Rochester, New York in about 1927 and was later moved to Utah after leaving Louisville. Today, it is considered to be one of the finest theatre organs in the West and is used for concerts at CSU.

Louisville resident Vic Caranci used to play the organ in the 1960s when it was at the Three Coins. Other performers when it was at the Three Coins Restaurant were Dick Hull, Ray Young, and retired CSU professor Bob Cavarra, who played it as a substitute and later helped bring the organ to CSU. (Thank you to Vic Caranci and Bob Cavarra for their information.) The Museum has in its collection an album of music performed by Dick Hull on the organ at the Three Coins Restaurant.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE BUILDINGS?



Both of these buildings still exist in Louisville today, although each appears quite differently now. Can you identify which buildings they are? The answers will appear in the Fall edition of the *Louisville Historian*.





*Louisville Historical Society
749 Main Street
Louisville CO 80027*