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LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN
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THE MUSEUM CORNER

The Parade of Lights took place on December 4th and was a success. The weather cooperated which made the evening enjoyable for all. Panga entertained visitors with their music and cookies and wassail were served.

Because of the high demand for the ceramic ornaments sold during the holidays, next year pre-ordered ornaments that have not been picked up before December 1st will be sold at the Parade of Lights. We will be making a limited amount of 200 ornaments next year.

The siding for the museum will be completed in March or April when the weather warms up.

We will be purchasing an inaugural yearbook from Monarch High School.

The owners of the DeRose house have offered to donate the shanty that sits on the property to the museum. Don Ross is checking to see if this is feasible.

We have had no response from the Coca-Cola company regarding the painting of the sign on the outside of the museum.

Many thanks to Ted Manzanares and Andy Deborski for their donations. Ted donated a stove which was placed in the Tomeo House and Andy donated several mining articles to be placed in the museum.

Marion Junior has completed the plaque for Eileen and will be mounting it for display.

Paula Enrietto, daughter of Bob and Emajane Enrietto, presented a proposal to the Commission for a photo essay of longtime residents that she and several other people would like to undertake. All members agreed that Paula proceed.

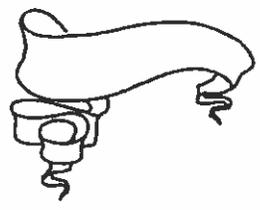
In Memory of

Carmen DeSantis

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

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PIONEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



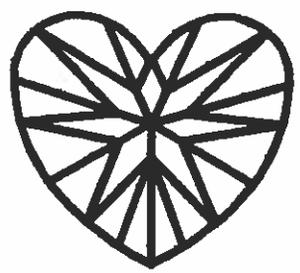
This years Pioneer of the Year Award went to Eileen Schmidt, posthumously, at the Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet on January 21. Accepting the award on her behalf was her husband, Albert, her children, Chris, Laurie, Chuck, and Theresa, and two of her

grandchildren, Laura and David.

Eileen (Harris) Schmidt was born July 23, 1927, in Louisville, to Hazel Zarini Harris and William John Harris. She was later joined by sisters, Nadine and Joan. Joan preceded her in death, in March, 1984. Nadine currently resides with her husband Ray in Louisville. Her mother, Hazel, resides in Berthoud.

John Brierley, Eileen's great grandfather, was born in Jamestown, Colorado, in 1860. He was the first male child on the Boulder register and is written up in the Carnegie Library in Boulder. This truly makes her a pioneer.

When she was seven she became ill with rheumatic



fever. Seven children in Louisville had this disease. Two of them died. Although she wasn't able to attend school during second grade she was promoted to third grade. This was due, largely, because her second grade teacher, Verona Brooks, came to the house each day after school and gave her lessons orally. The disease had left her hands temporarily crippled and unable to write. It also left her with a heart murmur.

She was small in stature. Her mother often said she could walk under the kitchen table when she started school. When she graduated from high school she was 4'11" and weighed 80 pounds.

Eileen wasn't expected to live through her teen years. When she did and married, doctors told her she would never be able to have children.

Of course, she fooled everyone. In 1945 she graduated valedictorian of her senior class and was presented a full four year scholarship to Denver University. She chose to turn this down and went to work to help support her family.

On May 8, 1949, she married Albert Schmidt in Boulder, Colorado. They resided in Colorado Springs for several years where their first child, Chris, was born. In 1955, they returned to Louisville where their remaining children were born, Laurie, Chuck, and Theresa. Albert still resides in their home on Jefferson Avenue.

As a child, Eileen's health left her unable to play like other children. She spent much of her time confined to bed reading and listening to adult conversation. Because of this she developed a true love of Louisville History. Her memory was infallible. She was able to remember complete facts, dates, and anecdotes about the development of the city and its many long time residents.

She was a homemaker and stayed at home with her children, but continued to make contributions to the community. She belonged to the Louisville Discere (Study) Club and was president of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association). She also served on the first Parks and Recreation Board formed in Louisville.

As her children got older she took on part time work at the Louisville Library. She continued to expand her knowledge of the city and its residents through the library, always lending an ear to the many stories told by patrons. She volunteered extra hours to have a "Story Hour" for pre-school age children. She remembered each and every one of those children and followed those that she could through their lives.

In 1983, she was appointed to the newly formed Louisville Historical Commission. She and other commission members successfully opened two buildings to be used as museums and began archiving artifacts and historical sites in and around the City. She took over as president of the commission in 1994 and was instrumental in listing many historic sites on local and national registries. She spent hundreds of hours cataloging artifacts and put out the commission's newsletter each quarter nearly single-handedly.

In February of 1994, Eileen underwent triple heart bypass surgery after experiencing what she described as "a

couple of chest pains." She recovered from this surgery quickly and went about her business, but unfortunately, the surgery was not successful and she again was given no other option but to repeat the surgery.

As so often happens, she left us before her time. On February 4, 1998, she passed away after complications from the second surgery. She left an endless trail of her outstanding contributions to this wonderful community, but also took many of Louisville's historical facts with her.

FEBRUARY'S HOLIDAY'S AND FESTIVALS

MARDI GRAS

Festivals are sometimes devoted to merry-making and partying. One of the most famous in the United States is the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, LA. The custom was brought from France by the early settlers of Louisiana.

It is a time of fun and feasting before Lent begins. Sometimes the celebration starts in January, but the most exciting events take place during the week before Ash Wednesday. They end the night of "fat Tuesday," which is the literal translation of the French words "Mardi Gras." Every year thousands of people crowd New Orleans to see the wonderful parades full of beautiful floats, attend the many dances occurring in the streets, and watch the crowning of the queen by Rex, the Lord of Misrule.

GROUNDHOG DAY

For many years, it has become tradition in this country on February 2 to watch the groundhog or woodchuck as he comes out of his hole after hibernation to look for his shadow. If he sees it, there will be six more weeks of bad weather. If he cannot see his shadow, spring will be arriving shortly.

He goes back into the ground if more bad weather is approaching but stays above ground if spring is on the way.

There is no statistical evidence to prove this theory, however.

SAINT VALENTINES DAY

Many years ago, people believed that birds, particularly lovebirds, began to mate on February 14. In ancient Rome the festival of the Lupercalia was celebrated on February 15; the festival involved fertility rites and honored the Roman gods Juno and Pan. Today it is customary to exchange cards and perhaps send flowers or candy to love ones, family and friends on February 14. The holiday has no connection with the two martyred St. Valentines of 3rd-century Rome except that their feast days are also celebrated on February 14.

Valentines celebration probably came about from a tradition that started in the 14th century. For many years, the young people of France and England would get together on St. Valentine's Eve. Each person became the "valentine" of the one whose name was drawn from a valentine box.

In modern times, school children usually celebrate Valentines Day by making some sort of mail drop perhaps out of a shoe box or lunch bag. These are decorated and each child makes valentines cards for all of their classmates to be dropped into the "mail boxes."



PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY

This country celebrates the birthday's of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on the third Monday of February. Many schools and businesses close to honor this day.

Many of us know that Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin and of his untimely death and how it happened, however, what happened in between these times has long been forgotten.

Abraham Lincoln's family came to America from England. This was Samuel Lincoln, a weaver's apprentice in Hingham, England. He settled in Hingham, Mass., in 1637. The family then spread south to Virginia, where Abraham's father, Thomas Lincoln, was born in 1778.

When Thomas was four years old his family moved to Kentucky. His father, a farmer, was killed by Indians. Thomas grew up in Kentucky. He never went to school, but learned to be a carpenter. He was a heavy-built, strong man who sometimes had a sharp tongue and at other times was entertaining with stories and jokes.

Historians have called him shiftless and this may be true, as he moved many times in his life, but he was hardworking enough to buy farms. Unfortunately, there was never much money to be made because the land he bought was of poor quality and not good for crops.

In 1806 Thomas married Nancy Hanks. She was born in Virginia, but not much else is known about her family. Nancy was only a baby when her mother, Lucy, brought her to Kentucky. When she married Thomas she was 22 years old. She was tall and slender. It is believed that she neither read nor wrote and this was not unusual for pioneer women. However, some say she read the bible daily.

Thomas and Nancy settled in Elizabethtown in Hardin County, KY. Their first child, a girl named Sarah was born there. Thomas bought a farm in Sinking Spring on the Nolin river. With high hopes, he moved his family to this first farm--poor land on a lonely river.

On February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born. He was named after his grandfather. His birthplace was a one-room log cabin, 16 feet long and 18 feet wide. Light came dimly through one window. The floor was dirt, and the bed was made of poles and cornhusks. A fire on the hearth and bearskin blankets kept Nancy and Abraham warm on that cold winter morning.

In the spring of 1811, Thomas moved his family to a farm he bought on Knob Creek. As Abraham got older this was the first home he remembered and he loved it. He learned

to plant, hoe, husk corn, build fires, carry water, and chop wood.

When he was six years old, he and his sister Sarah would walk about two miles a day to a log schoolhouse where he learned to read, write, and do arithmetic. His favorite subject was writing and he practiced whenever and wherever he could. He wrote with charcoal on the back of a wooden shovel and even in the dust and snow.

When he had the time, Abe liked climbing on the rocky cliffs at Knob Creek, wandering in the valley or cooling off in the creek. He often watched the covered wagons full of people ready to settle on land nearby.

There were no close neighbors and Abe spent quite a lot of time by himself and did not mind this because he loved the quiet serene valley. He learned a lot about nature during his excursions, especially trees. He considered himself to be a "backwoodsman."

In 1816, the Lincoln family was again on the move across the Ohio River to the woods of Indiana. It was a great wilderness and part of the way Abe and his father had to cut through trees and tangled grapevines. Abe and his sister helped his father build a "half-faced camp." It was a small shed made of poles and bark with one side left open towards a large fire. The fire was kept burning 24 hours a day and they used it for warmth, cooking, and drying their clothes and shoes.

During a very harsh winter in Indiana, Abe and his father worked feverishly to complete a log cabin for the family. Abe was only 8, but was large for his age and could swing an ax with great accuracy. Occassionly, he would shoot a turkey for the family as they lived largely on wild game and a little corn., but he really didn't like killing and never enjoyed hunting. The family also lived on berries, nuts, and wild fruits picked by the children and had to walk nearly a mile to the nearest spring for water.

In the fall of 1818, Nancy Hanks Lincoln died of the frontier disease called "milk sickness." Sarah was only 11 years old, but had to take over the household chores while the men cleared the land of timber to farm.

Sarah did her best, but within a years the family was in dire need of a woman's touch. Thomas went to Elizabethtown, KY and married a widow, Sarah Bush Johnson, a childhood friend. She had three children and they all returned with Thomas to the small cabin in Indiana.

Abe and Sarah quickly learned to love their step-mother. She was a large woman with friendly eyes. She organized and straightened up the cabin. She had Thomas make a wood floor and chairs and build a bed for the feather mattress she had brought from home. This was all done without harshness. The family needed her and she knew it.

The most important thing she did, though, was encourage Abe to study. Uneducated, herself, she saw how eager he was to learn. He later said of her, "She was the best friend I ever had....All that I am, I owe to my angel mother."

Sarah made Thomas send Abe to school. There were

no regular teachers. If someone came along willing to teach any certain subject, the boys and girls would learn for a few weeks, usually in the winter when farming was slow. Abe hiked four miles each way, but didn't mind. He loved learning.

During his whole life, he only attended about a year of school. He made up for this by reading.

By the time he was 15 he was so tall and strong that he went to work as a hired hand for other farmers. He always had a book along while he ate lunch or took a break.

Abe had a good sense of humor and was a wonderful storyteller. He would often meet other boys at Gentry's store sharing a humorous story. He was very good at imitating travelers and local characters and had a loud booming laugh.

He always taught himself new things and became interested in law. He walked miles to the nearest courthouse to listen to lawyers trying cases.

When Abe was nineteen he was hired to take a flatboat of cargo down the Mississippi to New Orleans. This was where he first saw an auction of slaves. This sight bothered him greatly and later said, "Slavery is a continual torment to me."

The Indiana farm was not a success and the Lincolns were again on the move. In March, 1830, they began a 200 mile trek finally settling on the Sangamon River, ten miles southwest of Decatur, IL. They were again clearing land to farm.

After a miserable winter of cold and illness, Thomas was preparing to move. Abe did not go. He was 21 and ready to live his own life.

He took a job as a clerk in New Salem, IL. It stood on a bluff above the Sangamon river. He lived there for six years and for \$15 a month and a sleeping room in the back, he tended the store and a gristmill.

People were talking about Abe. His honesty and great strength impressed everyone. They all knew they would get their money's worth from "honest Abe."

In 1832, the Black Hawk war broke out and Abe enlisted. The war was a series of border raids by Sauk and Fox Indians led by chief Black Hawk. They attacked and scalped settlers.

Lincoln served three months and never fought in battle but saw the horror of scalped bodies. His experience as an enlisted man taught empathy and sympathy for soldiers' hardships and later in life, during the civil war when he was commander in chief, he treated soldiers' failings with great understanding.

After the war, Lincoln began campaigning for the Illinois legislature. His speeches were always short and to the point, something today's politicians might learn from.

The New Salem store had failed and Lincoln was out of work. He gave some thought to black smithing but another store was put up for sale and with a friend they bought it on credit.

Neither one of the men were much interested in the

business, however. His partner died several months later and left Abe with a \$1,000 debt which was paid back, but it took him several years.

He was then appointed as Post Master of New Salem. It paid only \$50 a year but gave him time to read all of the incoming newspapers free. He was always most interested in the political news. He later took an appointment as deputy county surveyor and by studying day and night, learned this job in six weeks.

In 1834, Lincoln was elected to the Illinois General Assembly and was re-elected for three additional terms.

He was determined to become a lawyer and when he had free time read one law book after another. On Sept 9, 1836, he received his law license.

Lincoln boarded in a log inn kept by James Rutledge. Rutledge's daughter, Anne, captured Abe's heart for a short time, until her death at the age of 19. Legend has it that Lincoln nearly lost his mind with grief.

In April, 1837 Lincoln left New Salem to make his way to Springfield. He was 28 years old and very poor and did not have the \$17 needed to buy the furnishings for a bed. A man by the name of Joshua Speed felt sorry for Abe and offered to share his lodgings.

Within two years, Lincoln had established a reputation for himself as a lawyer and was taking part in the busy social life of the city. It was during this time that he met a young woman named Mary Todd. She was 21 years old, small, plump, pretty and well educated—but was also temperamental and anxious.

Mary and Abe had several things in common and soon found themselves spending more and more time together. They both loved poetry and literature.

They were married on November 4, 1842 and living in one room at a local tavern when their first child, Robert Todd, was born in 1843. Lincoln then bought a frame house on the edge of town. There Edward, William, and Thomas (Tad) were born in 1846, 1850, and 1853.

Unfortunately, the Lincoln house was often tumultuous. Mary was high-strung and afflicted with migraines and gave way to rages of uncontrollable temper. Lincoln, on the other hand, had trying habits. When he was concentrating on a book or problem, nothing else mattered.

One story of this nature was when he was pulling his baby sons in a wagon and reading a book at the same time, he was so engulfed in what he was reading that when one of the boys fell out, Lincoln did not notice the baby's cries until his wife picked the child up and let the surprised father know of his lack of attention to the matter.

Lincoln went to bed and got up at odd hours. He was often two or three hours late for dinner and startled to find his wife upset. He was moody, at times, silent for hours or even days, at a time.

There were times, however, when he could be quite thoughtful and try to please Mary in any way. He let her teach him the social graces, taking her advice on how to dress

On certain occasions, even letting her inspect him before he walked out the door.

She was terrified of thunder and no matter where he was or how busy things were he would rush to her at the first sign of a thunder storm.

Neither of them drank or smoked, but they did enjoy entertaining and liked to have friends for dinner.

They were blindly devoted to their four sons and thought they could do no wrong. Unfortunately, the boys were spoiled terribly and annoyed the entire neighborhood.

In 1854, Lincoln moved back into politics. He helped organize the Illinois branch of the new Republican party. In 1858, he won the Republican nomination for senator and in 1860 decided to run for president. He ran a quiet campaign, staying in Springfield and made virtually no political speeches and was elected as president.

He had many death threats as inauguration approached. On April 12, 1861, civil war broke out. Lincoln was strong and patient during this time, holding an indecisive cabinet together. Lincoln would make a decision and stand by it, never changing his mind.

During the war, Lincoln would often inspect the fields himself, sometimes taking his youngest son, Tad and his wife along.

In September, 1862, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation -- his plan to free the slaves.

In November, 1864, his son, Willie, passed away at the White House. Exhausted from war and grief, he was pessimistic about the upcoming election. However, the people rallied behind him and he was re-elected.

On April 9, 1865, the confederate army surrendered and the war had ended.

On that fateful day, April 14, Lincoln was assassinated. Only after his death did everyone realize his greatness. Kind, brave, and patient, a believer in what he called the "family of man."

MEMORIES OF LOUISVILLE

The following excerpts were taken from a report compiled by Mrs. Elizabeth Farrow's 1968, sixth grade class.

"Louisville as I remember it from a small boy until now:

To begin with, where we live now was a grain field (Bella Vista), in fact, where Harold Williams lives now was right at the city

limits: the house that used to be there was the last house in town. While we are on the south side of town let's not forget Coal Creek. It was the second home to every boy in town during the summer. We used to dam it up right after school was out in the spring and swim all summer.

There were more stores in town then than now. There were three stores on LaFarge Street plus the ones on Main Street, including a baker's shop. In fact, there were more filling stations then, but not near as many cars. Lots of

farmers came to town with horses and wagons. One old fellow by the name of John Madison would come to town with his horse and buggy and every now and then his horse would run away down Main Street.

There used to be a passenger train from Louisville to Lafayette two or three times a day.

I can faintly remember the mine here in town with its high board fence. In fact, if I am not mistaken, when there was a fire in town the mine whistle would blow to notify the firemen.

As the years went by, the coal mines closed. Some of the stores went out of business; farmers replaced horses with tractors; the train between Louisville and Lafayette was taken off--more cars, new houses, until the next thing we knew, we have Louisville of today."

--Albert Wisek

"Mike Wisek was born in Walsenburg, Colorado in 1893. He came to Louisville at the age of five and has lived here ever since, in fact, he has never been out of the State of Colorado. He went to school here, but quit school in the 7th grade. He went to work in the coal mines as a trapper for \$1.00 per day at the age of 13 years. There was a strike in the coal mines in 1910 that lasted five years, but Mike learned to be a motion picture operator and work as an operator in the Isis Theater for years. That was before the talkies came in. He worked at the Ford garage quite awhile, then at the University of Colorado for nine years. He is now retired.

Prices were certainly different in the old days. Of course salaries were too.

The eggs were 10¢ a dozen. Butter was 15¢ a pound. Milk was 5¢ a quart. Flour was about \$1.25 per 100 pounds. Steak was about 15¢ a pound. Shoes were about 75¢ to \$1.25 a pair. Clothes were about \$3.50 to \$8.00 a suit. Apples were \$1.25 for 100 pounds. Chickens were 25¢ a piece. Haircuts were 15¢ -- shaves 10¢. They didn't have washing machines--the women used scrub boards in those days. The men carried the water into the house. Cars cost \$495 and gasoline was 10¢ a gallon. Oil was 15¢ a quart. They called the car the horseless carriage."

--Albert Wisek

"This is an interview requested by Danny Lombardi. I am his grandfather, and you may consider this as an autobiography or a memoir as it concerns me as I saw Louisville when I was a boy about Danny's age (11).

I came to Colorado with my folks from Wyoming in 1907. I was born there before the turn of the century.

My folks first lived in Superior, a small town west of Louisville. We lived there until 1913, when we came to live in Louisville. My father was a coal miner by trade and like father, like son--I was a coal miner too.

My folks had lived in Colorado three years prior to what was known as the 1910 to 1915 strike, also called the "Big Strike." This strike involved the coal companies and the



miners--eventually it involved the United States Government.

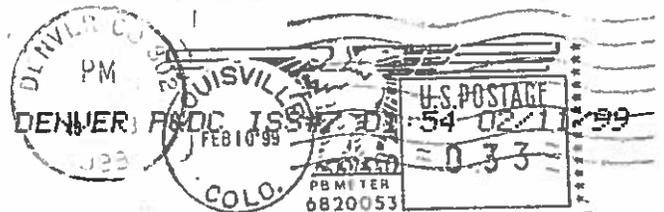
The reason for this involvement was that the coal companies imported men to work in the mines in place of the men who had left the mines to strike. (The reasons the men had decided to strike were for more wages, better working conditions, and the right to belong to a union of their own choosing.) As a result the hiring of imported men brought on enmity which eventually led to violence and even killing. The mining companies, in order to break the strike, called on the State of Colorado for military protection. The state sent in the State Militia. This resulted in beatings, killings, and eventually, to what is known as the infamous "Ludlow Massacre."

The "Ludlow Massacre" happened in southern Colorado. The State Militia men were thugs, gunmen, and hoodlums and were paid by the coal companies to break the strike. There is a monument erected near Picton commemorating the memory of the people who were killed there. They lived in a ten colony and were burned out and killed. These actions were finally brought to the attention of the general public, and eventually the United States Government took over the situation and sent in federal troops. The United States government declared this area in a state of "Martial Law." I believe the troops were here about two years. The strike finally ended in April, 1915.

I went to work in the mines at about the time the strike ended. I received \$1.65 per day. We used to walk to work, as we had no transportation. Sometimes we had to walk several miles. I remember these experiences very vividly! There were hard times for the people involved, but they were hard people. Louisville survived and has come along way since then."

--Lewis Rosser

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