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*Historical Commission*

**LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN**  
 A publication of the Louisville Historical Commission & Society  
 Issue No. 40, February, 1998  
 Eileen Schmidt -Editor

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**THE MUSEUM CORNER**

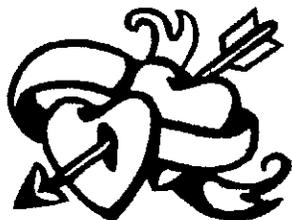
On January 1, 1998, the terms of five Commission members Dick Franchini, Emajane Enrietto, Pat Seader, Cassandra Volpe, and Eileen Schmidt expired. Emajane Enrietto did not seek reappointment, but her husband applied for the opening on the board. Mayor Tom Davidson has appointed all the former members and Bob Enrietto to serve four more years on the Historical Commission. We are very sorry that Emajane Enrietto chose not to apply for reappointment, but are happy to have Bob as a new member. Emajane has been a very productive member of the group and was always willing to share the work and responsibilities. She contributed many hours assisting in the cataloging of artifacts, worked on making the Christmas ornaments, and served as secretary of our group. Her knowledge of early Louisville and its settlers has been helpful to many seeking information about their families. We will miss her very much and hope she will be able to join us again at a later date.

We have plans to proceed with preservation of our museum by having new siding installed on the outside. Because the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, we have to be sure that the work done will be in compliance with their specifications.

As always, we are busy collecting and cataloging artifacts which is an endless, on-going project.

A valentine display in the windows at this time has brought many complimentary comments from those passing by. Marion Junior is responsible for all the window exhibits.

Many classes from the schools and other groups toured our buildings this fall and winter. The museum continues to be open on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and by appointment. We also have calendars with historical photos and video tapes of the History of Louisville for purchase in the museum.



*In Memory of*  
  
*Arthur Warembourg*

**LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- Frank Domenico..... 666-6233
- Robert Enrietto..... 666-4145
- Dave Ferguson..... 666-6000
- Richard Franchini..... 666-6272
- Marion Junior..... 666-8283
- Donald Ross..... 666-6836
- Eileen Schmidt..... 666-6853
- Patricia Seader..... 666-8385
- Cassandra Volpe..... 665-8542

**LOOKING BACK AT 1997**

The year 1997 was a busy one for the Louisville Historical Commission, filled with many activities and projects. Some projects were completed while others will hopefully be completed this year.

Plexiglass was used to replace the heavy glass in our two display cases enabling us to open them easier when changing exhibits.

Bun Graves was selected to receive the "Pioneer of the Year" award. His son, Jim and Jim's wife, Alice were on hand to accept the plaque in Bun's name. Bun was very active in the community and was SantaClaus at the town Christmas tree on Main Street for many years. He was a member of the Louisville Lions Club, the Masonic Lodge, and participated in many community activities. During World War II, he was head of the Civil Defense and took

pictures of the men serving in the armed forces when they visited their families while on leave. The pictures are on file in the historical museum.

The yearly meeting of our Historical Society was held the second Sunday of May at the museum. Sylvia Pettem, a well-known author and historian of Boulder County presented a program and a slide show on the life of Mary Rippon who was the first woman to become a professor at the University of Colorado. It was a very interesting program. We hope to continue having the society meetings and look forward to this year's program.

For sometime, we have been looking for an old ashpit for the yard of our museum house. Don Ross finally located one in the yard of the home of Frank DelPizzo. Frank has agreed to donate the ashpit to us and it will be moved to our location soon.

We provided pictures and much of the information for a brochure for the Downtown Business Association. The brochure can be used as a guide in taking a walking tour of historic locations in old town Louisville. Brochures are available in several locations downtown, at the museum, and the motels.

We have received many artifacts in 1997 from several of the old Louisville families, including the Cables, Rosses, and Fergusons.

A beaded cape more than a hundred years old and worn by the ladies of the Hilton family was contributed by Norma (Cable) Pecolar.

The great grandson of Louis Nawatny, the man who platted the town, contacted the Louisville Public Library for information regarding his great-grandfather. We are hoping to learn more about Louis Nawatny, who was a surveyor with the railroad and his family through this great grandson.

The Taste of Louisville was held in June and the weather cooperated beautifully. Many people visited our buildings. This is always a very well attended event and many former Louisville residents are here for the day.

For the first time since the opening of our buildings they were professionally cleaned. We were very pleased with the work and will schedule regular cleaning times.

Two Louisville restaurants contacted the Commission about using some of our historic pictures on their menus. Karen's Country Kitchen in downtown Louisville and The Mason Jar in the Village Square shopping center have both used the photos and the menus are very attractive.

John Mayhoffer has been restoring the veranda on the Mayhoffer house located near Coal Creek. In the process of tearing off the original veranda and replacing it, the original cornerstone of the house was uncovered with the date of 1870 appearing on it. This is a very important historical find because John's father was the grandson of David Kerr, the first settler in Louisville. We will continue to pursue this subject and try to learn more about the Kerr family.

Nancy Markham, an instructor at the University of Colorado, brought her class to tour our museums as she has

done for several years. The students are studying museumology and Mrs. Markham feels that our museums are a very good example of the type of museums where most of the students will find employment. Mrs. Markham is always very complimentary about how our museum is operated.

Don Ross and Dave Ferguson volunteered to be part of a group that visited the old Harney-Lastoka farm to determine which buildings and artifacts could be preserved and exhibited on the open space. This is the site of the old Rex Mine and is one of the few locations where some of the mine tailings can be found. This land now belongs to Lafayette, Louisville, and Boulder County, jointly, and will be maintained as open space.

The Commission has also been in contact with the Westcor Company of Phoenix, Arizona, who plan to construct a shopping center on the site of the old Monarch Mine. We have been concerned that the marker which was placed at the site where they believe the body of Joe Jarmillo is entombed would be destroyed or damaged during the construction. Mr. David Scholl of the Westcor Company has assured us that their group will be very willing to work with us in preserving this memorial and he will be seeking our input when work begins in the area. Frank Varra, owner of the property, has been very instrumental in preserving this marker and a great deal of gratitude goes to him for his stand on the subject. Frank also feels that it is important for our group to be involved in the project.

The Historical Commission had calendars with historic photos made up for sale. These calendars have been sold at the museum, as well as, several other downtown locations. We also crafted and sold our porcelain Christmas ornaments again this year. Because of the demand we decided to make 150 instead of 100 as we had done in the past, needless to say, all were sold before the Parade of Lights got underway. Next year, we will try to increase the number we make. The group Pangea (formerly known as the Broken Sixpence) played traditional music on antique instruments during the Parade of Lights as they have done for several years. This is a very enjoyable event and a great many tour the museum and partake of the wassail and cookies served. This event is also a great way to end the year and we look forward to 1998.

We would like to thank those who have helped us throughout the year. Dorothy Ferguson, Sandy Anderson, and Mary Patete worked with us in making the Christmas ornaments. Their help enabled us to complete the work much sooner this year and lessened the work for members of the commission. Bob Enrietto was on hand to open the museum several times on Thursdays this year and helped in other ways also. Ellie Cabbage helped with the silent auction which was held on the Sunday before Labor Day. Time donated by the volunteers is appreciated so much and enables us all to do a better job. Members of the Commission deserve a great deal of credit for the work they accomplish each year. Thanks go to Sara Gotshalk, our Executive Director, who has taken over

Some of the duties that are difficult for Commission members to accomplish. The Historical Commission is definitely not a group that meets once a month and does not contribute at any other time. Our group is always called upon several hours each month to provide different services.



### PIONEER OF THE YEAR

The Pioneer of the Year Award was presented to Vera Dixon Taylor at the annual

Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet held at the Tri-City Elks Lodge on January 22, 1998.

Vera Dixon was born on July 7, 1907, in Superior and after spending two years living near Lafayette the family moved to Louisville where she resides at this time. Her father, Charles Newton (known as Newt to his friends and acquaintances) Dixon and her mother, Addie Autrey Dixon were both members of prominent pioneer families who settled in this area. Charles Hake, the grandfather of Addie Dixon, traveled from Wisconsin in a covered wagon in 1860 to the town of Superior where the Hake family settled. Mrs. Dixon's father, William C. Autrey, also settled near Superior—in the area where the Rock Creek housing development now stands. He married Zelda, a daughter of Charles Hake. Charles Dixon, father of Charles Newton Dixon came to Louisville from England in 1879, leaving his wife and three children behind until he could earn enough money to pay their passage to the United States. He had been a coal miner in England and came to Louisville seeking work in the coal mines. He and Robert Thirlaway, another early settler, were married to sisters, Ann and Isabelle Barker. Robert Thirlaway and Charles Dixon lived in a small house across the street from where the Blue Parrot now stands. One evening Robert looked down the street toward the train depot and saw a young woman with three children walking toward them. He remarked that if he hadn't know better he would think that he was seeing Ann, Charles Dixon's wife, approaching. Sure enough that was exactly who it was—she had grown tired of waiting and decided to make her own way to this country from England.

"Newt" Dixon was a very quiet, gentle, honest man and Addie was a strong, devoted woman. Mr. Dixon was a very prominent member of the community and served as president of the Louisville School Board, District 29, for several years. Three daughters, Vera, Thelma, and Lola, were born into the Dixon family. Vera attended the first two years of school in a building located at Rickert's corner (corner of Highways 42 and 287). Beginning in the third grade, she attended school in Louisville and graduated from Louisville High School in 1925. The high school was located on the corner of Walnut and Garfield streets at that time. She was a member of the first eighth grade to attend classes in that school building. Even though her parents had only attended school through eighth grade, they were very strong advocates of higher education and dedicated to seeing their daughters attend college.

Vera attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and graduated in 1929 at a time when few women were able to secure positions in areas other than teaching, nursing, or secretarial work. Since there were no dormitories on campus at that time, she lived in private residences and visited her family on week-ends commuting on the Interurban. At that time, there were few organized activities and little social life for many students. Mrs. Taylor's major was English literature with minors of history and Latin. Her sister, Thelma attended the State Agricultural College at Fort Collins (C.S.U.) and her sister, Lola, attended the University of Colorado.

After graduation from college, Mrs. Taylor taught a combination class made up of sixth and seventh graders in Hill City, South Dakota. At the end of one year she returned to Colorado and secured a teaching position at Willard which is located west of Sterling, but there is no longer a school there. She remained there for four years during the depression. Her starting salary was \$1,000 a year, but during bad times it was cut to \$800 yearly. Teachers were paid by warrants (checks) which could be sold to a bank at a discount. Some warrants could be registered with the county. The accounts drew interest and the teacher could withdraw whatever was needed from the account. Mrs. Taylor recalls that she didn't spend much money since she was so far from Sterling and her room and board cost \$30 a month. After leaving Willard, she taught at Yuma for five years and Eaton for two years. She married in 1941 and resided in Fort Collins where her two daughters were born—Lois in 1942 and Lola in 1950. In December 1950, she left Fort Collins and returned to Louisville where she began work as a substitute teacher in 1951. Although she had never had any experience teaching first grade, one of her first assignments was teaching that age group. She recalls keeping the door closed and trying to keep the children in the room most of the day.

Mrs. Taylor also recalls substituting for a young woman who was pregnant because at that time pregnant women in the classroom were frowned upon. After being employed by Esquire-Coronet (known as Neodata today) for a year, in 1952, she began teaching English and Latin at Louisville High School where she remained until 1972 when Louisville High School was closed and Centaurus High School opened. After her retirement from teaching, she immediately began her volunteer work in the library at Centaurus where she could be found five days a week for ten years. At that time, she decided to cut back on the number of days at Centaurus and only spend three days there, but at the same time she was also devoting two days weekly to the Louisville Public Library. In 1996, after having volunteered at Centaurus for twenty-five years, she was only spending one day a week there. This year she has not returned to Centaurus, but continues to spend time at the Public Library on a more limited basis.

During the time she was teaching at Louisville High School, she was doing volunteer work at the Public Library

during the summer. She spent the entire summer one year recording information about the cemetery. Mrs. Taylor credits Laura and George Ellis for providing her with information about the old graves, many of them unmarked. During another summer she spent at the Public Library, she catalogued all the negatives for photos which are on file at the Louisville Historical Museum. This task took many hours and continues to be used as a good source of information for those in our community who are seeking historical facts about the town and its early settlers.

Mrs. Taylor also served as a member of the Louisville Housing Authority Board for ten years. As a long time member of the Saturday Study Club, she continues to play a very active part in their activities and just recently presented a book review to the group. She is also an active member of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary teachers' sorority which meets monthly.

In 1983, the library at Centaurus High School was dedicated to Mrs. Taylor and is now known as Taylor Library. This is a very fitting memorial for one who has contributed forty-five years of her skills to the Boulder Valley School District. On October 21, 1988, she was presented an award as Colorado School Volunteer of the year acknowledging the many hours she had devoted to the Centaurus school library. A banquet was held at the Embassy Suites in Denver and Governor Roy Romer made the presentation of the award which is given by the Pepsi Cola Company in appreciation to those who do such an outstanding job of volunteering in Colorado schools. Mrs. Taylor has also received many certificates in appreciation for the many hours she has volunteered her time.

Mrs. Taylor, as a descendant of two prominent pioneer families of the area, continues to be a valuable, productive member of our community and we are very pleased to recognize her as the "Pioneer of the Year."



### THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LOUISVILLE

The information appearing in this article was taken from a pamphlet written by Ron Buffo in 1990 when the bank had been in existence for 75 years.

A special thanks to the customers of the bank also appears in the pamphlet and we would like to thank Ron Buffo for his permission to use the information.

The beginning of the First National Bank took place when the Louisville Bank, located on the northeast corner of Main and Pine streets (where Karen's Country Kitchen now stands) closed its doors in January 1915. Some of the United Mine Workers funds were deposited in the Louisville Bank and these funds were used to keep the Centennial Mine operating during the strike years. The American Fuel Company which gained control of the Centennial Mine

brought suit against the miners because the funds were supposed to be held as security for miners' loans and obligations and were not to be used for any other purpose. This event resulted in the collapse of the Louisville Bank and the depositors lost all their money. Several Louisville citizens took action to organize a new bank before Boulder could "step in" and on Saturday February 6, 1915, a charter was granted to the First State Bank of Louisville. A location for the bank was selected and on February 27, 1915, the bank opened its doors at 804 Main Street (next door to the Hub Store). The bank was a subsidiary of the Mercantile Bank and Trust Company and was organized by a group of Boulder men, in addition to Dr. Charles Wolfer, and J. R. Thirlaway, two long time Louisville residents. The bank began with \$15,000 in capital and \$1,500 in reserves. L. E. Chenault was appointed president, J. R. Thirlaway, Vice President, and Bert Werley, became the acting Cashier.

On the first day of business, deposits of \$2,897.85 were made and by the end of the first year deposits totaled \$27,902.73. Loans of \$12,113.71 were made that first year also. Deposits increased during the winter months when the miners were working and decreased during the summer when mines were idle.

In addition to providing a savings department, safe deposit boxes were available in the vault, and Christmas Club savings were offered.

Total expenses for the year were \$1,266.41 which included a salary of \$66.00 a month for one employee and \$25.00 per month for rent of the building. The survival of the bank was credited to the leadership of an enterprising group of individuals who were instrumental in providing the leadership necessary to assure its success.

Mr. Howard Hoyt who became Cashier in 1921 was a prominent figure in the early history of the bank. He moved to Louisville in 1920 from Nederland where he had been cashier of the bank there. It was Mr. Hoyt who guided the bank through the difficult financial times of 1921 and during the Great Depression of the 1930's. During the depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, declared a bank holiday and all the banks in the country were temporarily closed. The bank holiday permitted time for the banks to be examined and their financial condition to be assessed. This became necessary because many banks could not meet the withdrawal demands of their customers and there were runs on many banks that caused people to believe they would lose their funds. Mr. Hoyt, with the aid of some of the board Directors was able to protect the bank, its depositors, and the community during this very difficult time. Much of the credit for building the bank into a strong financial institution goes to Mr. Hoyt, although many of his decisions were not popular at the time, they proved to be the proper ones for the good of the bank.

Another prominent figure in the bank's history was G. R. Henning, who owned and operated mortuaries in Louisville, Lafayette, and Erie. He served as President and

Director of the bank at various times. He was also chairman of the board of the bank in Lafayette. During the twenty years Mr. Henning was associated with the bank, he was known for his progressive ideas and his commitment to the bank and the community.

Another prominent Louisville businessman, L. W. (Lute) McCorkle, was actively involved in the bank of Louisville as its vice-president and was also a director of the Bank of Lafayette. "Lute" was not only the owner of a successful grocery store in Louisville, but was also involved in the successful operation of the Hi-Way Mine. Mr. McCorkle was a good friend to the miners, extending credit to them when they were not working during the summer. They tried to catch up with their bills in the winter, but he was always understanding and ready to lend a helping hand.

Clemma Wiggett, the daughter of Howard Hoyt, was trained for the banking business by her father. She was very committed to the community and well-known to its residents. In addition to her knowledge of banking procedures, her friendliness and kindness to the customers was always appreciated and helped to stimulate the growth of the bank in those early years.

Another valuable employee who contributed much to the success of the First State was Marie (Helburg) Callahan. As a native of Louisville, Mrs. Callahan was highly respected by members of the community. She served the bank in several capacities such as teller, bookkeeper, Vice-President, and Cashier during her employment there.

Roy Austin, a member of a pioneer family, began his banking career with the First State Bank. As Cashier he was known as a friend who could be trusted.

On Saturday, January 23, 1932, at 1:00 p.m. two men drove into town and made their way to the bank. Since it was the lunch hour, Annie Varley, Assistant Cashier, was the only one in the building. The men, Albert Bates and an accomplice, entered the bank and drew their guns. The accomplice held Mrs. Varley at gunpoint while Bates went into the back and cleared out the cashbox. As Bates was ordering her to open the vault two young men, Jack Curtin and George Thompson, entered the bank. They were taken to the back of the building and told to lie on the floor by the accomplice.

After collecting everything they could, the robbers locked the three hostages in the vault. There was an inside latch so the three escaped quickly. The robbers left with \$10,000 in large bills, \$1,000 in one dollar bills and the rest in gold and change for a total of \$12,000. Mrs. Varley described them as being 25 to 30 years of age, both about five feet ten inches tall, well dressed and they were not wearing any masks or disguises.

The Denver Police learned that the robbers had acquired an automobile in Pueblo on Thursday that was paid for by check and had had a trade-in with an Oklahoma license plate. They had spent Friday night at the Shirley-Savoy hotel in Denver. Inside the traded car there were copies of crime magazines and a notebook containing the names of several

men. The next day Denver police spotted the car used during the robbery, but were unable to apprehend its occupants. The police believed them to be heavily armed with handguns and a machine gun. Bates was captured a year later and his accomplice turned himself in to police shortly thereafter. Annie Varley was credited with keeping a cool head and being able to aid police in their investigation.

In 1946, a crisis developed at the bank when a Denver bank speculator had gained almost total control of the bank at less than the book value of the stock. If this scheme had been successful, it could have resulted in liquidation of assets for a quick, substantial profit leaving the town without a bank. An error was made when the speculator approached J. O. Baker of Boulder about taking part in the plan. Mr. Baker, a hotel man, a wholesale grocer, and a Lashley-Persons Investment official refused to be part of the plot which was successfully blocked by him. The speculator sold to Mr. Baker and other associates, thus assuring continuance of the bank in Louisville.

In 1953, after thirty-eight years in the same location, it became necessary to move to a larger location due to growth of the volume of business. The building selected was one-half block northwest of the old bank and was owned by G. R. Henning. After many modern improvements were made, the building was ready for occupancy. Parking space was provided in the back of the building and a large room in the basement was ideal for storing all records and supplies. Also a large vault of reinforced concrete and a 3½ inch steel door was built near the back of the building.

Remodeling of the building was accomplished by local businesses. E. G. Wenneberg did the carpentry work, floor covering was provided by T. W. LaSalle, and lighting was installed by Louisville Electric.

On Saturday, December 19, 1953, the First State Bank conducted its last day of business at 804 Main Street and on Monday, December 21, 1953, business was conducted at the new location. On December 19, an open house was held for customers and friends, bank representatives from the Denver metropolitan area were present along with local businessmen, residents, farmers, stockmen, and others. The bank abstract shows that the land was owned by Louis Nawatny, the man who platted the town and for whom it was named. The U. S. Government deeded the land to him in February of 1878.

Banking by mail, extended Friday hours (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and private booths for safe deposit customers were new services which were added. In 1959, Mr. Henning purchased the old two-story building to the south of the bank, which had belonged to Louis Eberharter, and again began the work of remodeling and enlarging the bank. The frame building was torn down and a parking lot was constructed to provide the first off-street parking in town. In the six years since moving to its new location, the banks' resources had grown from \$760,000 to more than \$2,000,000.

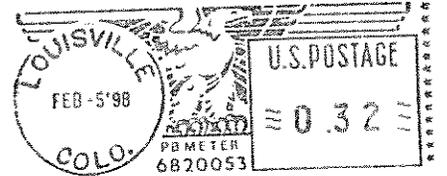
In May of 1961, the Board of Directors of the First

National in Boulder, The First State Bank in Louisville, the Bank of Lafayette, and the Arapahoe National Bank announced a plan to affiliate the four banks. It was believed that this affiliation would improve the services provided. In October of 1962 the First State Bank was issued a national banking charter by the United States Comptroller of Currency and became known as the First National Bank of Louisville.

In the late 1970's it again became obvious that the facilities were dated and within a short time the bank would not be able to meet the needs of its customers. Construction of a new building by the Fischer Brothers Construction Company began in the spring of 1990. The building to the north of the old bank which had housed the Ford garage, owned by Rome Perrella and the McCorckle grocery store (later known as Thomas Brothers Grocery) were purchased by the bank. The bus depot operated at the location also. After the Thomas

Brothers moved to a different location, those buildings were demolished and cars entered this area for the drive-through services. New construction was done in stages so that business wouldn't be completely disrupted. The final phase was the demolition of the old bank and a parking lot was made there to serve customers. The First National Bank managed to survive many crises through the years and continues to serve our community.

Many, many banks have moved to Louisville through the years, but many residents are still customers of the First National Bank which is now part of the Bank One banking system. An additional branch is located on Cherry Street to better serve the customers in that section of the city.



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