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OCT 29 1994

Louisville Historical
Commission - V.F.

THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

Issue No. 10

A Publication of the Louisville Historical Commission and Society

March 1990

Editor - Ronald A. Buffo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Virginia Caranci

LOUISVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
749 MAIN STREET
LOUISVILLE, CO 80027

JACOE STORE MUSEUM FIRST OPENING ON MARCH 31ST

The months do come around quickly. It seems as though Christmas was just here and already we are into March.

Have you noticed all the displays that are in the windows at the store museum? Marion Junior, the chairperson of our "Ways and Means" committee is always coming up with unique and interesting ideas. Be sure to check out the windows each month because she will co-ordinate a new display the first of each month.

Bill Buffo and Don Ross have been working hard getting display boxes and shelves made for the store museum. They have done a beautiful job on all the items that are finished. We appreciate all the time and effort they both have devoted in completing this job. Additionally, Bob Enrietto installed a timer controlling the lights for our window displays and we thank him very much.

The women are also working very hard getting the cataloging done and are just about caught up. This will be an on going job because we hope to continue receiving artifacts from everyone. You may not think you have a treasure, but if it pertains to Louisville history it is. Please call us to come and take a look at anything you may have.

Now that we're into March, the 4th of July doesn't seem far away. The committee for the auction will be visiting all the businesses again this year to obtain donated items for the big money making project on the 4th. We will again have a regular auction and a silent auction.

I would like to invite you all to come and see both of our museums. If you haven't seen both of our museums then you have missed something special. These two museums truly are the history of Louisville.

After hundreds of hours of hard work the Commission and Society are proud to announce the opening of our new museum. The museum will be open from 1 until 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 31.

We are presently deciding on display themes and the location of display cases. The display cases have been repaired, refinished and moved from the Tomeo house to the store. Additional platforms and displays have been constructed by Don Ross and Bill Buffo with sanding and staining completed by Bob and Emajane Enrietto, Isabelle Hudson, Marion Junior and Betty Buffo. A special thanks goes to Kevin Kaiser of Kaiser Lock and Key for servicing and repairing the latch on the front door of the museum.

The Tomeo house will be set-up to depict family living in old Louisville and the Jacoe Store Museum will use a variety of display themes to relate Louisville history. The front window displays in the store will feature different displays each month. Plans now call for the following displays: March - Social life in Louisville, April - Umbrellas, May - May flowers, June - Brides, July - Patriotic, August - Colorado or Back to school. If you have any items that would add to these themes please contact Marion Junior at 666-8283.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society now has 175 members and they have become an integral part of preserving Louisville history. Subscriptions to the newsletter, extra monetary donations and artifact contributions from our Society members have all helped immeasurably. Join the Louisville Historical Society by contacting Betty Buffo at 666-6857.

CURATOR'S CORNER

By Betty Buffo

Again it is good to report that many individuals have donated artifacts to the museum. We are constantly searching for any items that will add to our collection and you may have exactly what we are looking for.

Recently the Commission and Society were pleased to have Rebecca A. Hunt, curator of the High Plains Museum Services, give us valuable advice in setting up our museum. General set-up as well as display ideas were discussed.

The following is a list of recently donated items:

Rose Martella - Collection of photos.
Jennie Mertz - Blow torch and booklet.
John Franchini - Valentines, photos, advertisement and baby shoe.
Robert Enrietto - Roll of fuse.
Lawrence Rickman - Electrical insulators.
Isabelle Hudson - Photo.
Ronald Fenolia - Photos.
Joseph Petrelli - Mine tools.
Richard Franchini - Valentine.
Stella Giorzelli - Photos.

Thank you all very much!

MEMORIALS

For the past two years the Historical Commission has received many generous donations in the names of deceased persons having ties with Louisville. These memorials provide a lasting remembrance of those so instrumental in the history of our community. The following are names of those on our memorial list.

**HANNAH BIXLER
ERIC S. BRIMBLE
ROBERT H. BRIMBLE
JAMES BUFFO
MARVIN BUSH
MILDRED BUSH
MARIA COLACCI
RODGER DALY
DANIEL DIFRANCIA
ELIZABETH DIONIGI
ALBERT DILORENZO
BARNEY ENRIETTO
CALLIE FORBIS
HENRY HAWKINS
ARTHUR HELART
JOHN LOMBARDI
ANGELA MILANO
AWRA PARK
BELLE PRATHER
CHARLES SCARPELLA
OTTO SCHREITER
JACK STOUT
ROBERT SZYMANSKI
JOSEPH TESONE
WALTER WAREMBOURG
LOIS ZARINI**

DO YOU HAVE WHAT WE NEED ?

We are always looking for artifacts to add to our growing collection. To this point people have been very generous with a wide variety of items and, indeed, these articles would usually be seen by only a very few people unless donated to the museum. By going through household chests, cellars, garages, attics, scrapbooks, etc., you can add to the visual and written history of your community and, most importantly, share it with others. Some items that we are presently looking for are:

An old (really old) sofa for the Tomeo house.
Yearbooks.
Sports artifacts.
Railroad items.
City government items.

We are certainly not limited to the above items and will consider any and all artifacts for loan or donation.

THE FANCHINI (FRANCHINI) FAMILY OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

by John Franchini

Giovanni Fanchini (John Franchini) was the second of three children born to Pietro and Maria Sibelia Fanchini in Castelette Ticino in the Piedmont region of Northern Italy.

The year was 1863 and the Civil War of Italy had just ended. Pietro was an officer in the army of General Guiseppe Garibaldi (known as the Red Shirts) and for his service Pietro was rewarded with a chalet located near Castelette Ticino on the Swiss border.

John first came to the U.S. in 1885 and lived for awhile in Central City where he operated the Gold Coin Saloon. He also had mining interests in the Georgetown-Silver Plume area and also stayed for a short time with relatives in Marshall.

John returned to Italy in 1888 and married Mary Guenzi. They were to have four children; Albert (Bert), and Baptiste (Bap) born in Italy, Peter (Pero) and Louise (mother of Albert Prewitt) born in Louisville.

John, wife Mary and son Bert came to Louisville in 1896 and Bap remained in Italy with his grandfather Pietro until his death. Bap, ten years old at the time, then came to Louisville. Bap went to school in Louisville for two years and at the age of 12 went to work in the old Centennial Coal Mine as a "Nipper" or miners helper.

Louise was a professional chef for the Schwayder family of the Samsonite Luggage Company for many years and was active in the Legion Auxilliary.

Bert, Bap and Pero were members of the early day Louisville Fire Department and Pero was the catcher on the Louisville baseball team at one time. They were also members of an early day Lodge - The Red Men - the location of which was across the street south of the present day St. Louis Catholic Church.

John operated a saloon on Front Street across from the old J.J. Steinbaugh Store and blacksmith shop, while Bert, Bap and later Pero worked in the coal mines. Bap told of the many hardships suffered by the miners, bad working conditions and a wage index that was dictated by the mine owners. One day the pay might be \$1.00 for every ton of coal hand loaded and the next day it might be 90 cents or 80 cents a ton. This precipitated the Louisville coal strike of 1910. The strike started on the evening of April 19, 1910, the same night that Haley's Comet appeared which attracted all the families in town who stood on street corners to watch it's passing.

Bap told of how the militia was brought in and set up camp at the Hecla mine site located just east of Highway 42 and north of South Boulder Road. A curfew was declared by the militia, machine guns and a powerful search light were placed facing town and every night at eight o'clock the search light beam would go across town followed by machine gun firing. A miner named DiSalvo, who had been a sharpshooter in the Italian army, would position himself on the top of a box car that was on a siding and fire at the search light until knocking it out.

Tiring of the months of harassment by the militia the miners armed themselves and by way of a deep, dry irrigation ditch that ran near the camp moved to take the camp over. As they approached in the dead of night, a farmer living in the area where the Louisville Reservoir is located, and who was sympathetic to the militia, opened the water gates filling the deep ditch with water. The miners were forced to back track and leave the cover of the ditch and lost the element of surprise and had to give up the attempt to take the camp.

The strike was to last for four more years.

The poor economy and the lack of employment influenced John to return in the spring of 1915 to his mining interests in the Georgetown-Silver Plume area. It was at this time that Baptist married Mary Ferrari, daughter of Tony and Louise Ferrari. (Other children in this family were Rico, Fred, Josephine and Della. Rico was an early day Louisville town board member and worked to acquire the water rights for Louisville).

Baptist and Mary joined John in Silver Plume so Bap could work in the mine. Frances (McLaughlin) was born to Bap and Mary in the spring of 1916. The harsh winter and hard work in the mine was too much for John. The family moved back to Louisville in the spring of 1916 where John died a few months later. He is buried in the family plot in the Louisville Cemetary.

Bap and Bert again went to work in the Old Centennial mine south of town.

When World War I broke out Bert enlisted in the army and was sent overseas. He died in France in 1918 and is listed on the war memorial now located at the Louisville Cemetary.

In the spring of 1919 Bap, Mary and Frances moved from the old Dierdan house on Jefferson Street to 1033 Front Street. Two sons were born in this house.

Johnnie in 1925 and Dick in 1927. Johnnie was delivered by midwife Maggie Campbell and his great aunt Angela (Gina) Guenzi as the town doctor at the time was a "little under the weather."

In the fall of 1919 Bap went to work at the Monarch Mine south of town and had the job of driving mules that pulled the loaded coal cars from underground tunnels to the cages that brought the coal above ground. As the mules were phased out he then operated the motorized units that replaced the mules. On the morning of January 20, 1936 Bap reported to his shift early along with mine electrician Alec Green and while they were in the wash house changing clothes the mine "blew" and the resulting explosion claimed eight lives. All were neighbors, friends and long time working buddies. The body of one miner, Joe Jaramillo, was never recovered and a monument has been erected on a site south of present day Storage Technology, south of the turnpike at a location calculated to be above where the miner was trapped. A few weeks before this tragic accident Joe Jaramillo had given a pony saddle to Bap's sons Johnnie and Dick. Two miners, Nick DelPizzo and Bill Jenkins, were not injured in the explosion and managed to escape by climbing a 200 foot ladder located in the air shaft.

Bap went to work in 1940 at the New Centennial mine located just east of the Louisville Cemetery and remained there until the mine closed in 1953. he then worked at Rocky Flats until his retirement in 1959.

In the meantime daughter Frances, sons Johnnie and Dick and nephew Albert Prewitt attend schools including Louisville Elementary, St. Louis Catholic School and Louisville High School. Frances graduated in 1933, Albert in 1941, Johnnie in 1943 and Dick in 1945.

Albert, Johnnie and Dick participated in many sports at Louisville High including football, basketball and track. Johnnie and Dick received all-conference awards in football, Johnnie as a running back on offense and defensive back on defense and Dick as an interior lineman. Both played on the 1942 football team that won the Platte Valley Conference and was the first Louisville team to advance to the State finals. The athletic teams from this school year, 1942-1943 also beat it's arch rival Lafayette in football, basketball and track. Johnnie also played center field on the Louisville American Legion State championship team of 1940.

Albert Prewitt joined the army in 1942 and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division that participated in every major battle in northern Italy. He received the Bronze Star for heroic action. His citation reads, "Sgt. Albert Prewitt for heroic action on the 5th Army front in northern Italy. Under heavy

enemy fire Sgt. Prewitt quickly and without hesitation left his position of safety to rush to the aid of a fallen comrade. His act of heroism and courage and his willingness to brave danger to help a wounded comrade is praiseworthy."

Johnnie and Dick joined the navy and were stationed on ships in 1943 and 1945 respectively. After the war they returned to private life. Albert worked as a foreman on steel working crews that built many of the sky scrapers in downtown Denver until his untimely death from a heart attack in August 1982. Johnnie worked at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Beech Aircraft before going to Ball Aerospace where he retired in 1987 after 26 1/2 years of service. Dick worked for the Bureau of Reclamation and Rocky Mountain Arsenal until going to Rocky Flats where he retired in 1988 after 36 years of service.

Frances' family live in the Denver Metro area, Arizona and Indiana. Johnnie's family lives in Boulder, Denver and Jefferson City, Missouri. Dick's family live in Louisville and his son lives in Garden City, Kansas. Albert's wife Helen and children live in Arvada and Olathe, Kansas.

RULES FOR KEEPING HUSBANDS HOME From Louisville scrapbook. Circa 1944.

The following was found in a scrapbook and was written by a man who was head of a missing persons bureau and had developed some basic guidelines for women to follow so their husbands would not leave.

1. At no time discuss money or financial matters unless the head of the family brings up the matter first.
2. Variety is the spice of life. Make it a point to add some new knick-knick to the house once a week.
3. Don't try to get your husband to correspond to your mood, whether gay or otherwise. In fact, the wife's mood should always correspond to the husband's.
4. Banish all routine. Keep you husband guessing.
5. Don't conform to the so-called dictum to spend some time each year-particularly during vacations-away from your husband. That's merely masculine propaganda.
6. If you have nothing complimentary to say when your male mate boasts of his masculine charm, don't answer at all. Above all, don't be sarcastic.
7. Whatever you do, don't try to make conversation when there is nothing to say.
8. Don't ask him to visit people he dislikes or finds dull.
9. Don't inflict your hobbies, favorite games, pastimes on your husband-if he wants to join in, he will.

MY HOMETOWN

by Ron Buffo

Louisville is my hometown. I say that with great pride coupled with a tremendous sense of belonging and loyalty.

It seems to me that the roots of this town, anchored over a century ago, continue to nourish a strong and healthy tree. While not everything is always as perfect as we would like, and never will be, we continue to grow and reflect positively on our past, present and future.

The foundations of Louisville were firmly set in place through the examples of an incredible mixture of individuals. Adventurous pioneer families that blazed this unknown land in the 1800's followed by multi-ethnic miners molded our community into one with an identity of its own. That identity was, and still is, defined by the precepts of self-reliance, hard work and caring.

Fighting for respect was always a way of life for Louisville in its early history. Blatant racism from different sectors of Boulder County only encouraged the community to dig deeper and eventually command the inevitable respect due to it. Even today it is interesting to see elitist attitudes surface that attempt to equate parts of eastern Boulder County with inferiority.

As I walk through the neighborhoods of Louisville I see what is but more importantly, to me, I reflect on what was. I see my great-grandparents tending their

gardens, hanging their clothes on the line, walking to the grocery store, going to church, listening to the radio and interacting with their family. I can visualize baseball games taking place at old Miner's field and high school football games being played at the old LHS field with the play by play being announced from the long since gone "crows nest." I can see the grade school (where Memory Square Park is today) and recall every piece of playground equipment and ponder the hundreds of children who went through that school. I can see the miners coming home from a long day's work and see their wives laboring at home and anticipating their husband's return. Walking along Main Street brings a flood of Labor Day parades to mind along with associated activities like the firemen versus farmers tug-of-war and the women's shoe kicking contest.

No, my entire life is not spent reminiscing and I am not even close to being melancholy yet I have a strong sense of community and that can be attributed to how I view the history of Louisville.

This is not simply a city of dirt, stone, concrete and wood. There are stories behind those facades and they make our community alive and vibrant and allow us to attach meaningful importance to where we live and to what we call our hometown.

WANT ADS

LOUISVILLE TIMES NOV. 23, 1933

For Sale - House and four lots. Inquire of Thos. Bosko.

For Sale - A roll of new woven wire for chicken fence. Inquire at Times office.

Honey by the pound or 60 lb. can. Ph. 0-R2. C.V. Epley.

For Sale - Bargain lot of envelopes. 5 cents a package while they last.

For Sale - Grindstone. Inquire at Times office.

REMEMBER !

MARCH - HISTORICAL MONTH

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

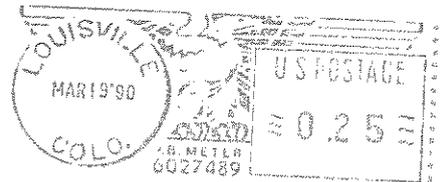
4TH OF JULY AUCTION

MUSEUM OPENING

SAT. MARCH 31ST

1 - 3 P.M.

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