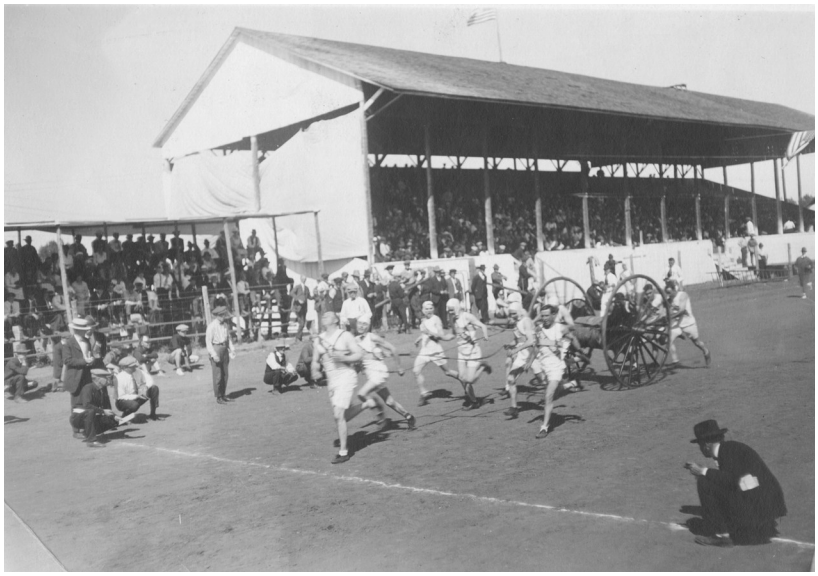
The Louisville Historian

A Publication of the Louisville Historical Museum

Issue #147 Fall 2025

Hit the Plug!
Hose Teams and Louisville's Firefighting History
by Sophia Imperioli, Museum Staff

On a warm summer evening in June 1922, a group of Louisville men sprinted down Pearl Street in Boulder, hauling a firefighting hose cart behind them. Though they had the proper equipment, the men were not actually on their way to fight any flames. These were members of Louisville's hose team, and they were practicing for the upcoming Fourth of July hose race.



Louisville Hose Team at the Longmont Competition in 1925.

The Louisville Fire Department had big shoes to fill. In 1920, they completed the 700-foot race to get water through a fire hose in a little over 29 seconds, winning them the Governor's Cup. They achieved a similar victory in 1921, and now in 1922, they were competing in a statewide competition as the only fire department entry from Boulder County.

On the evening of June 15, spectators lined the streets to watch the Louisville team perform a wet test. The town shut down Pearl Street between 12th and 14th Streets, and the men began their practice run in earnest.

According to an account in the *Boulder Daily Camera*, they ran so fast that "all doubt was dispelled in the minds of the spectators" as to who would win the upcoming event. The team's plug man ("plug" is a slang term for the hydrant), Fire Chief Dan Schaefer, grabbed the hose, secured the nozzle to the hydrant, and released 140 pounds of water pressure so that the hose looked like "a snake sneaking up on a jackrabbit." The article called the feat "some stunt" and predicted the Louisville team was "just about fast enough to wallop any other...team in the state."

They were. Louisville made the same trek to Boulder on July 4 and won the Governor's Cup yet again, making them the fastest hose team in Colorado three years running. The legacy of hose racing in Louisville is long and storied with generations of Louisville firefighters taking up the call for not only recreation but also to practice critical skills of the trade.

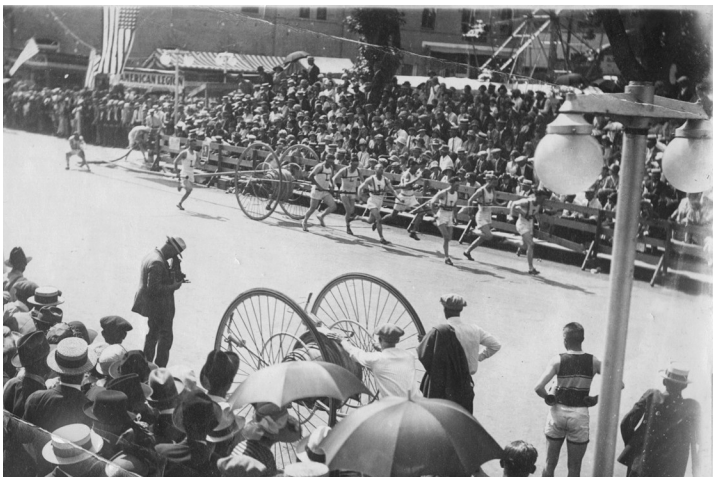
Bucket Brigades

Early Louisville, like many other small towns, was mostly made up of wooden structures and residents relied on coal fires for cooking food and heating homes. Mine fires were a frequent occurrence in the coal mines beneath the town's feet, and grass fires could be caused by burning sparks emitted from passing trains on the town's rail line.

In the early 1880s, it was the mining companies that provided fire protection for the mines as well as the town. After a string of fires during the late 1880s, Louisville erected cisterns around town from which bucket brigades would draw water in case of a fire. Water could also be drawn from ponds, creeks and elevated water tanks. The city installed a water works system in 1892, but Louisville residents still saw the need for their own firefighting team and pushed to get one established by the Town Council.

Why a Hose Team?

Louisville purchased its first hose cart in 1895 along with 500 feet of fire hose. A hose cart consisted of a large reel of cotton hose wound onto a two-wheeled cart. The wheels were typically five feet in diameter, and the cart had a long wooden tongue in front where firefighters would harness themselves to pull the cart.



This photo is believed to show the Louisville Hose Team competing in Boulder in 1928. There are seven men pulling the hose cart and three more in various positions behind the cart working with the water connection and preparing to man the nozzle.

Other attachments to the cart might include tools and nozzles. A fully loaded hose cart could weigh over 1,000 pounds. Louisville would eventually have three dedicated hose carts with which to serve the city. One stayed in the fire hall on Main Street, another was located in Little Italy on the north end of town, and the third one on Capitol Hill to the east of today's McKinley Park.

Quirino "Queenie" Madonna stands in his hose team uniform with a trophy at his feet, c. 1920s.

One common thread that united these early firefighting efforts around Louisville and Boulder County was the lack of horses used in transporting fire hoses. Teams of ten men would run full tilt to put out a fire using the water source closest to the fire's location. Seven men pulled the cart, one man unspooled the hose, one man connected the hose to a water source, and one man operated the nozzle.

According to the Denver Firefighters Museum, the choice not to use horses was because no program yet existed for training the animals to pull hose carts to a fire. And what's more, it's unlikely that horses would willingly stand stationary at the scene of a fire while firefighters worked to extinguish the flames. Once Denver developed a horse training program, it still took two years for the animals to become fully trained to serve the fire department. Needless to say, Louisville chose to continue using the quick footedness of its men on the fire department.

The ten-man hose team was viable because Louisville remained an extremely small town of less than 2,000 residents up through the 1960s . It was so small, in fact, that 1001 Main—the current location

of the Louisville Historical Museum—was considered the northern edge of town.

Manning hose carts was not without its downfalls, however, as sometimes the men were so tired from pulling the heavy equipment when they arrived at a fire that they needed to take a break while bystanders put out the fire themselves! John Ross, a former firefighter who retired in 1957 remembered, "Boy that was something, trying to lug it down the street." Furthermore, as a consequence of living in a coal mining town, most men were usually working underground during the day. If any fires were to break out, the town had to rely on young men to fill in gaps and run the hose cart around town.

Creation of Hose Races

Louisville historian Carolyn Conarroe explains that hose races started out "as serious firefighting practice" but soon became a "recreation activity." The city formed its own hose race team and began competing in the late 1890s. Events in the races mimicked real-world situations with tests for hose replacement, hub-to-hub, a wet test, a coupling contest, and a ladder climb.

In the replacement race, a team worked as quickly as possible to produce water from the fire hose. Once they had done so, they would clamp down on it to stop water flow, remove one section of hose, add it onto the opposite end of the hose, and then allow water to flow freely again. Finishing in 45 seconds was considered a good time, according to L.C. Graves, Louisville's fire chief in the late 1930s.

The hub-to-hub race was simply a footrace between two teams to see which one could bring the hose cart over the finish line the quickest. The wet test was a race to see which team could get water through the line fastest. The coupling contest assessed the speed at which a team could connect a hose to a nozzle.

The ladder climb race used five men and a ladder. When the starting gun went off, four team members lifted the ladder off the ground while the fifth, standing 25 feet away, ran forward and climbed it. The team whose climber reached the top first won.

A hose team competes in the ladder climb race at Cheyenne, Wyoming's Frontier Days, ca. 1910s-1920s.

Victories

Louisville invited teams from neighboring towns to yearly hose races on the Fourth of July during the early 1900s. Louisville had the fastest run time in the wet test in 1909 but was beaten by Erie when the Louisville team's hose failed to produce water, indicating a poor connection.

Louisville experienced its hose racing heyday during the early 1920s. One boisterous account in the *Boulder Daily Camera* in June 1922 regaled the public with the story of "eleven hairy-chested men" of the Louisville volunteer fire department, claiming "when the hose cart whizzed past Fire Chief Shafer at Thirteenth and Pearl streets it was going thirty miles per kilowatt hour."

It wasn't until 1932 that Louisville acquired its first fire truck—a rebuilt Chevrolet from Denver, essentially replacing the manned hose carts. But by then, hose cart races had become a community tradition. The fire department continued to compete in races around the state, and Louisville won first place in the last regular hose race in Longmont in 1939. For this competition, Louisville men were Les Davis as plug man, Bud Smith as nozzleman, George Thompson and Benny LaSalle as runners, and Benny Phillips

was "spike." The person who was spike ran at the tongue of the cart, harnessed in, and set the pace for the team. Davis reminisced of Phillips in a Louisville Times article in 1960, "He could really run."

Dangers of Hose Racing

Despite its appeal as a form of entertainment and competition amongst fire departments, running with hose carts could be incredibly dangerous and taxing on the body, especially during emergency situations. John Negri was born in 1920 and grew up in Louisville. Before joining the military in April 1940 at age 19, he served as a volunteer with the Louisville Fire Department and raced with the hose team in the late 1930s. Looking back, Negri said of the races, "This was entertaining stuff." Negri served on the displacement team, meaning he and his teammates would run as fast as they could while pulling the hose off of the cart. Once the last of the hose came careening off, the nozzle had to be attached to a water source as the team gave the signal to send water flying out. With that much running around, he admitted, "Needless to say your knees were chewed up."

The Louisville Hose Team poses next to their trophies on Main Street, 1926.

Several accidents occurred during the years hose carts were in use. Carl Woodhead of Lafayette broke his leg when the hose cart ran over it while putting out a fire on Christmas Eve in 1911. In 1913 after a practice run with the hose cart for the Fourth of July competition, a gang of 30 Louisville boys grabbed the stationary cart and ran it back to the station about 100 yards away and at a slight downhill grade. Two young boys, Rocco Picconi and James Barrett, were on the tongue and fell under the wheels of the cart. Rocco was hospitalized in critical condition with a fractured skull, and James was confined to his home with a severe scalp wound and injured knee. One Boulder man, H.L. Sternberg, lost his life in 1914 when he tripped while running on a hose team and struck his head on a curb.

Evolution of Hose Racing

Renewed interest in hose racing came about in 1951 when the Northern Colorado Fire Fighters Association (NCFFA) formed and began to host competitions each year. The organization was formed with the intent of promoting the general welfare of its member departments and to encourage fellowship and mutual aid between them. By the late 1950s, the Association had 28 member departments in northern Colorado.

Louisville quickly joined the competitions, which by that time had begun to use fire trucks for some of the hose racing events. In 1955, Louisville took the first-place trophy in the annual race, with *The Louisville Times* reporting that participants were judged on both time and efficiency, with the team that had the best time not always being the winner.

In 1956, the organization elected Louisville's own Gene Barday as president. He brought the association's annual field day to Louisville on August 28, 1960, when the city would host hundreds of firefighters from across northern Colorado for a grand picnic and hose races. The annual field day wasn't just meant to build camaraderie between departments but, according to Barday, it was also meant to ensure firemen from other departments knew how to operate

The Louisville Hose Team celebrates their NCFFA win, 1960.

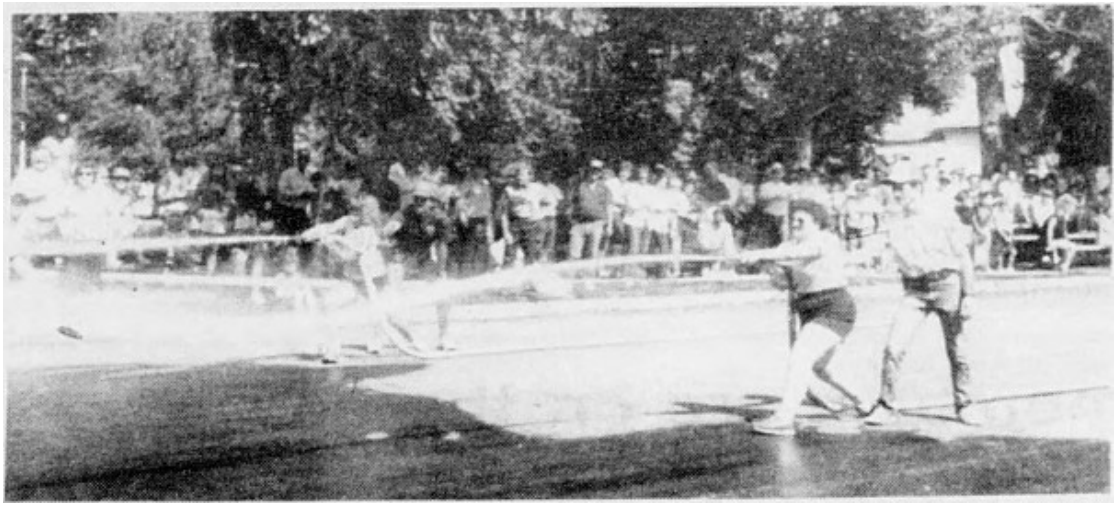
local equipment in case of a major disaster that required widespread response.

By that time, Louisville had begun using the parking lot in front of the old high school building (now the Louisville Middle School) at 1341 Main as hose racing grounds. When the annual field day came to town, the newspaper issued a warning on August 26, 1960, that all bystanders should stay out of the driveway during the races where the teams would be moving "with speed." The event was a big deal with popular Louisville spaghetti restaurant Colacci's taking an advertisement out in the paper to welcome NCFFA members, their families, and guests to Louisville. The races started shortly after noon once the town picnic had concluded.

Louisville's team donned their customary red shorts and white t-shirts, but outfits ran the gamut from full racing uniforms to blue jeans. Louisville distinguished itself in several events with impressive times like 27.8 seconds for the motor replacement race and 28 seconds flat for the wye (split valve) replacement race but ran into trouble in the stationary wye race. This led to a tie for first place overall with firefighters from Loveland. The Lafayette Volunteer Fire Department also placed that day, making it the first time their hose team had taken a trophy home in 26 years.

These competitions carried on through the 1960s, 70s, 80s, and 90s as the Louisville Fire Department continued to race in regional and state association meets. Women also joined in on the fun by participating in auxiliary hose race teams.

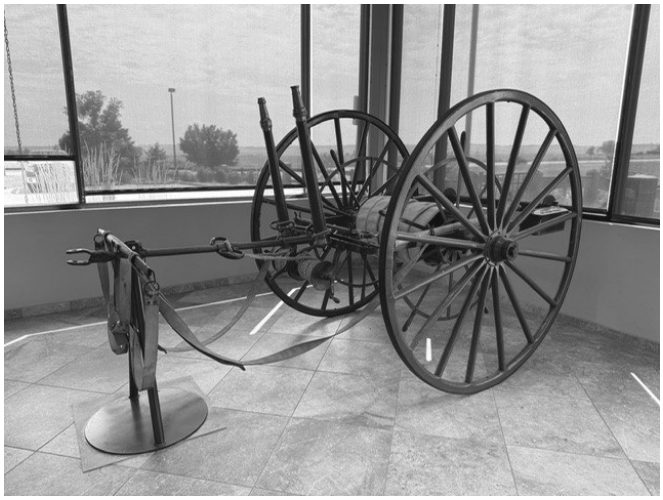
Larry Boven, a volunteer firefighter in the 1990s, recounted that maintaining NCFFA membership was a bit of a feat considering that all hose team members had to attend one meeting per month to be in good standing to participate in competitions. These meetings were held all over the area in places like Fort Collins, Fort Lupton, Estes Park, Greeley, Windsor, Lafayette, Loveland, Platteville, Longmont, and more. It could be quite an investment of time to travel to meetings on a Tuesday evening after a long day's work, but the hose team members continued to participate in the association through the 1990s. Interest in hose racing faded once more after the Louisville Fire Department gave the fire truck used during hose racing competitions to a mountain town in the Rockies.



Penny Happs and Colleen Berry of the Lafayette women's hose team knock down targets with sprays from their hoses as crowds at Memory Square Park in Louisville enjoy the show, 1987.

Community Legacy

What emerged as an important way to provide fire protection quickly grew into a fun pastime that has enraptured generations of Louisvillians. The sport gave no small amount of pride to the town's fire-fighters, and in honor of that memory, the Louisville Fire Department still has an original hose cart from 1912 at Fire Station No.3, and an old fire truck from the 1930s is a regular feature with the Past Fire Chiefs during the Labor Day Parade. Though hose team races might seem like an obscure practice today, it was once a thrilling and beloved part of Louisville's history.



Special thanks to the Denver Firefighters Museum and Museum of the West for supplying information on the history of hose racing. Further thanks to Larry Boven and Patricia Murphy for sharing information on hose racing in the 1980s and 1990s. If you'd like to learn more about the history of Louisville's Fire Department, you can read the Louisville Historian Issue 82 (Spring 2009) on "Louisville Volunteer Firefighters: A History of Service and Dedication."

Upcoming Programs and Events

Join us for these upcoming programs exploring historical topics, large and small. For more details, visit the Museum website and calendar at www.LouisvilleCO.Gov/Museum. All Museum programs are FREE!

September is Louisville History Month!

Celebrate history all month long by visiting the Historical Museum campus or attending one of our programs!

Exhibit: Dog Days!
Sept 3-30| Library Coal Creek Gallery
Who says history is for the dogs? We do! Stop by the library gallery to view historic photos of Louisvillians with their furry best friends and discover what a dog's life was like back in Louisville's early days.

First Friday: Dog Days of Louisville
Fri., Sept 5 | 6–8 p.m. | Historical Museum
Bring your pups to the Museum to celebrate the dog days of summer! Snap a portrait with your furry friend, make a homemade dog toy, and see adorable pictures of dogs from Louisville's past. No registration is necessary.

Program: Legendary Ladies
Fri., Sept 12 | 6–7 p.m. | Louisville Center for the Arts
Enjoy historical performances of famous women with Colorado connections: Alice Ramsey, Ellis Meredith, Helen Hunt Jackson, and Anne Ellis. Spend the evening immersed in their stories about motoring in the early 1900s, the suffragist movement in Colorado, Native American activism, and writing all about Colorful Colorado. Co-sponsored with the Louisville Public Library. Registration required.

Walking Tour: Memory Square
Sat., Sept 13 | 9 p.m. | 801 Grant Ave.
Join Museum volunteer Diane Marino for a walking tour of Old Town's historic schools and churches. This tour will give you an inside look at Louisville's early places of learning and faith. Meet in front of the Louisville Center for the Arts (801 Grant Ave.). Registration required.

Vintage Base Ball Game!
Sat., Sept 20 | 11 a.m. –1 p.m. | Miners Field
Take me out to the ball game! This showdown between the Louisville Miners and the Colorado

Territory All-Stars will feature historic uniforms, equipment, and game rules. Bring the whole family to enjoy America's pastime with cracker jacks, crafts, free t-shirts (while supplies last), photo opportunities, and music by the Brassaholics Band. All Ages! No registration necessary!

Walking Tour: Historic Trees of Louisville
Sat., Sept 27 | 9–10 a.m. | Historical Museum
Join City Forester Chris Lichty, as he leads a downtown tour about historic and significant trees in Louisville. Registration required.

First Friday: Haunted History
Fri., Oct 3 | 6–8 p.m. | Historical Museum
Learn about Halloween traditions in Louisville and experience some haunted house traditions of our own. Straight from the imagination of Louisville's children circa 1952, close your eyes and stick your hands in jars filled with creepy things... or not so creepy… Let your imagination guide you and leave with a traditional Halloween treat! Stop by to tour the buildings and start your spooky season off right!

Walking Tour: Louisville Cemetery
Sat., Oct 4 | 5 p.m. | Louisville Cemetery
Experience Louisville's history in a unique setting through the lives and legacies of some of the illustrious residents laid to rest here—offering rich stories of life in Louisville during years gone by. Be sure to wear appropriate walking shoes and bring a flashlight if you would like. Meet at the cemetery entrance facing Empire Road. Registration required.

Program: Arapaho Language and Culture
Thu., Oct 9 | 6:30 p.m. | 775 Baseline Rd. Lafayette Public Library
Join Fred Mosqueda, the Arapaho Language and Culture Program Coordinator, as he shares the history of the Southern Arapaho tribe in Boulder County and the work he is doing to preserve the traditions and language of his tribe for future generations. Co-sponsored by the Louisville Historical Museum and the Lafayette History Museum. No registration necessary.

Program: Stories in the Dark
Thu., Oct 16 | 7 p.m. | Historical Museum
Join the Boulder Valley Spellbinders for rarely-heard, local mystery and suspense stories told under the stars. This program will take place outside in the Museum Courtyard. Bring a blanket or chairs if desired. Ages 6+. Rain date: October 17 at 7 p.m. Registration requested.

Film Screening: The Art of Home
Fri., Oct 24 | 6 p.m. | Louisville Center for the Arts
Meet Emmy-award winning producer/director Jordan Dresser at this screening followed by a Q&A session. This enlightening documentary shares the story of two indigenous artists creating new works reflecting on their tribal homelands, the Wind River Indian Reservation. Co-sponsored with Louisville Arts & Events. Registration requested.

Program: Quilting Bee and Tea
Sat., Nov 1 | 1–3 p.m. | Library Meeting Room
Join us for an old-fashioned quilting bee! Come do some slow hand-stitching with a community of folks! Learn about hand-quilting stitches and styles and enjoy tea and sweets while working together around a big quilt frame. Take home a small sample square to practice what you learned. Registration requested.

Walking Tour: Louisville During the Great War
Sun., Nov 9 | 10 a.m. –12:30 p.m. | Kerr Gardens
The Great War of 1914-1918 changed the world. Learn how this conflict affected people, coal, agriculture, and mining in Boulder County and the Louisville area. Join the City's Ranger Naturalist and Museum staff for a walking tour of Open Space areas that show traces from Louisville's contributions to the war effort. The tour leaves from Kerr Gardens at 100 S. 96th St. Please leave pets at home. Leashed service pets permitted. Registration required.

Film Screening: Half-Life of Memory
Tue., Nov 18 | 6 p.m. | Louisville Center for the Arts
The Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant employed thousands of people in the Denver metro area, including Louisville. This documentary explores the legacy

of the Cold War and the enduring impact of radioactive toxins on people and the environment. Meet director Jeff Gipe and featured panelists with different connections to Rocky Flats for a Q& A session afterwards. Co-sponsored with the Louisville Public Library. Registration requested.

Louisville History Book Club
The Louisville History Book Club is an informal book discussion group that meets every 4th Tuesday from 6:00–7:30 PM at the Louisville Public Library. Members read any book on the topic, rather than everyone reading the same book. Contact Anne Robinson at AnneRLouisville@gmail.com for more details.
Upcoming Book Discussion Topics:
Sept 23 Civil War in Colorado & New Mexico
Oct 28 Ute Reservations in Southwest Colorado
Nov 25 Mexican American War

Museum Corner
by Gigi Yang

It's Louisville History Month in September! As always, Museum staff look forward to the annual Vintage Base Ball Game where the Louisville Miners take on the Colorado Territory All-Stars. And since we are thinking about sports, please stop by the Museum to view the new front window exhibit on Louisville's Hose Teams and featured high school sports. The exhibit, "Team Spirit" will be on display through mid-November. Many thanks to the network of Louisville residents—former cheerleaders and hose team members who shared their wonderful stories and artifacts with the Museum as we researched the lead article, "Team Spirit" window exhibit, and August First Friday event. We send our appreciation to: Dixie Lee Elrod, Shirley Elrod, Ady Kupfner, Judy DiGiacomo, Judy DeNovellis, Lois Tesone, G. Brown, Larry Boven, and Patricia Murphy.

We have been working on commemoration plans for the sesquisemiquincentennial—America's 250th and Colorado's 150th anniversary in 2026. That really big word is unique to Colorado. As the Centennial State, we are the only one that can celebrate both the semiquincentennial (250th) and the sesquicentennial (150th) in the same year. Look for the Colorado logo and the Louisville lantern emblem to mark upcoming 250th/150th events.

Museum Joins Bloomberg Connects
by Gigi Yang

In time for Louisville History Month, the Museum is excited to launch our virtual, interactive guide on Bloomberg Connects! Bloomberg Connects provides free digital guides to museums, gardens, historic sites, and cultural organizations around the world. The Louisville Historical Museum joins a network of over 1,000 cultural organizations from Chicago's Field Museum and the Guggenheim in New York to local museums such as the Denver Art Museum and the Black American West Museum.

After applying to join, Museum staff completed a 12-week training to build out virtual tours of all three historic buildings on the Museum campus. Visitors—both in-person and remote, can download the Bloomberg Connects app on their phones to access a self-guided tour with photos, videos, and detailed descriptions of each exhibit space and featured artifacts.

Bloomberg Connects also greatly enhances accessibility to the Museum by translating the guide to the primary language on your phone. We will soon be adding audio descriptions and narration for visitors who prefer audio tours or have low vision. Now, whether you live nearby or across the globe, anyone

with a curiosity about Louisville can visit the Museum and explore our local history.

Scan the QR Code to view the Louisville Historical Museum site!

Bloomberg Connects

Summer Preschool Program
by Hadley Kluber Seifert

Isabelle Schmidt (L) and Teagan Lee (R)

This summer the Museum started a new series of programs aimed at a younger audience – preschoolers! During the six sessions, preschoolers (and their chaperones!) learned about growing things, animals, trees, flowers, insects, and outdoor work in the Museum courtyard and around the Museum campus. The preschoolers listened to stories, made crafts, learned about Louisville's history, and engaged in 'risky play'—a method of play designed to build independence and self-confidence. Spearheaded by Summer King, the program was supported and then led in the last session by two Museum volunteers: Teagan Lee and Isabelle Schmidt. This summer, Teagan and Isabelle assisted with registration, crafts, walks around the Museum, and developed and ran the final session about trees. The Museum is grateful for their support and looks forward to having them and all of our preschooler friends back next summer.

Collections Update
by Kira Boatright

While interning at the museum over the past two summers, I have had the privilege of coming into contact with thousands of objects in the Museum's collection. As a labor historian who wrote a master's thesis on the Long Strike (1910-1914), one object that I came across stood out to me as especially remarkable. The Museum possesses an 1896 Winchester Rifle that once belonged to Tony Romeo, a prominent community member of Louisville and a dedicated labor organizer for the United Mine Workers. Romeo used this rifle during the notorious Hecla Heights shooting in 1914 in which striking miners and Baldwin-Felts Detectives engaged in a 10-hour long shootout. The rifle stands as a reminder of the tumultuous and often violent nature of labor relations in the early 20th century. Objects throughout the collection tell the story of how labor rights that we take for granted today were once the cause of fearsome industrial conflict in Louisville and throughout the country.

Tony Romeo (second from left) with a strike sign in 1913.

Volunteer Update
by Hadley Kluber Seifert

The Museum is grateful to have such wonderful volunteers. This summer they have helped with Museum events, created oral histories, assisted with identification, as well as general cleaning and organizational tasks. We are sad to lose some of our teen volunteers to school but hope their experiences will

encourage future volunteerism. If you are interested in volunteering for the Museum, we offer varied opportunities and look forward to hearing from you. Contact KBoatright@LouisvilleCO.Gov to learn more!

Louisville Historical Museum Volunteers:

Bridget Bacon
Michelle Baker
William Goble
Rebecca Ferguson
Lisa Hughes
Teagan Lee
Diane Marino
Amy Marks
National Charity League
William and Adam Pitts
Kristen Poppe
Isabelle Schmidt
Chris Torrence
Cassandra Volpe
Carol Williams
Rose Garden:
Marty McCloskey

Oral History Update
by Sophia Imperioli

At the start of the summer, the Louisville Historical Museum had the pleasure of partnering with two local organizations, Marshall Together and the Community Foundation Boulder County, to renew story collection with survivors of the Marshall Fire with the "Coming Home" project. In these sessions, participants have recounted their experiences of rebuilding, moving back home, and the hope and resilience that helped them see the process through. For sharing their stories, we are incredibly grateful to the following families:

Jennifer and Geoffrey Hart
Frank and Paula Lee
Suzanne and Mike McKee

A special thank you to the ongoing efforts of the volunteers and community members who have made this effort possible, especially Dr. Kathryn Goldfarb, Associate Professor of Anthropology at CU Boulder and Lucas Rozell, a qualitative researcher at CU Anschutz. Lucie Harrington, Kaylee Nance, and Elyssa Torrence also completed the Museum's Oral History Training Camp in order to assist with "Coming Home" interviews and transcripts.

Finally, the Museum would also like to thank the following people for completing oral history interviews and adding their stories to our ever-growing collection.

Jean Brodahl
G. Brown
Memory Delforge
Shirley Elrod
Jack Hanley & Kathy Zarini
Dick Keeler
Patty Lee Kerr Kreiger
Lewis Lombardi
Diane & Ernie Marino
Wayne & Nancy Varra

If you'd like to join in our efforts with this program to help capture the personal histories of Louisville, please contact Museum Associate Sophia Imperioli at SImperioli@LouisvilleCO.Gov.

Oral History Program Volunteers:

Nadine Grieshaber
Lucie Harrington
Roger Keeler
Ady Kupfner
Diane Marino
Jean Morgan
Kaylee Nance
Bahadeer Purkhet
Elyssa Torrence
Lena Wenzel

Donations to the Museum's Collections and Records

The Louisville Historical Museum recently accepted the following donations for the Museum's permanent, education, and reference collections. Thank you to the donors!

June 2025–July 2025
Anonymous – Two mugs from Senor T's c. 2000s.

Anne Dyni – Powerpoint presentation on Basecamp Collective – Marshall Fire Store.

Paula Elrod – Ethel T. Andrew's wedding book from 1909, belonged to John Harnagle.

Shirley Elrod – Paper and digital scans of ten employee newsletters related to Rocky Flats, c. 1960s

-1980; scan of John & Roger Waschak on Harper Lake, interview tape of John Waschak.

Anthony Galassini – Colacci's menu.

Jim Lastoka – Scans of company scrip and photo of coal mine, related to Louisville.

Wayne Lee – Four photographs taken by Wayne Lee of sites around Louisville related to his book "Louisville: At Home in a Small Town," c. 2010.

Lewis Lombardi – Two black glass beer bottles, c.1880-1910; one pinked glass ink bottle, c.1912; for the Education Collection.

Melanie Millier – Abstract of Title for 1201 LaFarge, The Cargo yearbook 1954, photograph of James Vinson outside City Hall, 1996 map of Louisville, Lafayette, and Longmont.

Jean Morgan – Three bike license plates and two Licensed Beekeeper plates, c. 1970s-1980s; one automobile license plate from the Bicentennial.

Joan Riggins – Blue Parrot business card.

John & Kathy Steinbaugh – Early 1900s Edison phonograph and box of wax recordings.

Christine Wecker – Photo of Louisville Grade School class, c. 1922.

Regrets

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of lifetime members: Elaine Biella and Michael "Mickey" LaSalle and to regular members: Virginia Milano, Ann K. DelPizzo, Rose "Rosie" Gilbert, and Keith Helart.

Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these memorial donations to the Louisville History Foundation. Your donations provide valuable support to the Museum for preserving and sharing local history.

In Memory of Tom Benette
Leo Deborski

In Memory of Elaine Biella (1933–2025)
Betty Buffo, Ady Kupfner, Diane Marino, Ernie Marino, Laurel Simmons

In Memory of Tim Camps (1948–2025)
Rudy DiNofrio, Angelo DiSimone, Paula Elrod & Karen DiCarlo, Ady Kupfner, Erwin Patzer, Ron, Patty, & Nick Varra, Carol Bethke Wright

In Memory of Ann K. DelPizzo (1933–2025)
Robert & Darlieen Del Pizzo

In Memory of Rose "Rosie" DiCarlo Gilbert (1940–2025)
Irene Ray, Paula Elrod & Karen DiCarlo, Ady Kupfner, Sheri Marino-Gargano, Janice Mudrock

In Memory of Hannah Harper (1932–2025)
Paula Elrod & Karen DiCarlo

In Memory of Keith Helart (1936–2025)
Irene Ray

In Memory of Michael "Mickey" LaSalle (1939–2025)
Leo Deborski, Arlene Leggett, Irene Ray

In Memory of Marc Manzanares (1972–2025)
Daniel & Barb DiSalle, Paula Elrod & Karen DiCarlo, Arlene Leggett, Peggy Leggett, Scott Leggett

In Memory of Virginia Milano (1935–2025)
Betty Buffo, Leslie DiCarlo, Robert & Darlieen Del Pizzo, Daniel & Barb DiSalle, Adam & Donna Elnicki, Paula Elrod & Karen DiCarlo, Ady Kupfner, Lily Kurylko, Arlene Leggett, Peggy Leggett, Scott

Leggett, Karen Scarpella, Judy Steinbaugh, Betty Wasson.

Monetary Donations

Thank you to the following people and businesses for their generous monetary donations, other than memorial donations, to the Louisville History Foundation.

8Z Real Estate	Anne Krum
arc Thrift Stores	Louisa Nance
Deep End Solutions	Malte Seidler
Tom & Patricia Kennedy	Kathy Takemoto

Jan Snyder—for Diane Marino
Celebrating your recent birthday with a donation to the Museum. Take care of YOU!

Historical Museum Advisory Board

The Historical Museum Advisory Board (HMAB) is a seven-member board appointed by City Council. Each member serves a four-year term. The primary role of HMAB is to act as an advisory board to the Louisville City Council on matters relating to the Louisville Historical Museum and Louisville history.

HMAB Members

Jeanette Bangs	Barbara Taylor
Rebecca Ferguson	Joe Teasdale
David Hosansky	
Scott McElroy	

Become a Member!

Members receive the quarterly Louisville Historian with substantive articles about Louisville history.

A yearly membership is $20 for an individual and $35 for a family. Annual membership for businesses is $125. Visit the Museum website at www.LouisvilleCO.Gov/Museum to pay online or to print out a form to send in.

Please send new and renewing membership dues to the Louisville Historical Museum. Other monetary or memorial donations can be made to the Louisville History Foundation. Your membership and donations help support the Museum with outreach, collections preservation, and professional development.

History Foundation Update

The Louisville History Foundation (LHF) exists to support the Museum's programs, collections, and staff. We encourage individuals, families, and companies to learn the fascinating history of our town and its people.

The Louisville History Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 and accepts monetary donations in support of the Museum. To learn more, please visit www.LouisvilleHistoryFoundation.org.

Louisville History Foundation

Jeff Bradley	Gordon Madonna
Jane Coyle	Celeste Murphy
Jennifer Henderson	Cory Nickerson
Val Igler	

Museum Hours & Services

Museum Tours
The Museum welcomes walk-in visitors! Groups of six or more people, schools, or anyone requiring special accomodations may request tours by appointment using the online group tour form.

Open Hours
Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Wednesday: 1–5 p.m.

About

The City of Louisville owns and operates the Louisville Historical Museum as part of the Department of Cultural Services under the supervision of Brandi Cummings, Director of Cultural Services.

The Museum is located at 1001 Main Street. Its mailing address is 749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027.

Staff

Museum Services Supervisor

Gigi Yang

Museum Associates

Sophia Imperioli – Public History & Interpretation
Kira Boatright – Outreach & Communications
Hadley Kluber Seifert – Collections Management

Thank You to New and Renewing Members!

For the period April 28 –August 20, 2025. If you renewed or joined after August 20, your membership will be listed in the next issue of the Louisville Historian.

Leslie & Phil Aaholm
Cathy Akins
Josh Anderson
Jeanie Balch
Marty Beauchamp
Christine Burg Family
Heidi Day Family
Gary Dunlap
Gail Garvert
Lynda Haley
Donald Hobbs
Keith Keller
Tom & Patricia Kennedy
Ted & Jess Kowalski
Geir Kvaran Family
Gerra Lewis
Louisa Bogar Nance Family
Carol Poynter
Bernard & Nancy Raibley
Sarah Reed Family
Allison Reeds & Brad Seago
Reis Family
Laurie Rittersbacher
Anne Robinson
James Shipley
Anne Spacone Family
Jessica & Joe Spanarella Family
Tom & Shirley Stelmach
Rose Marie Terada
Marilyn & David Warshawsky
Sloane Whidden
Talbot Wilt
Wil & Jane Zurliene

Thank You to the Museum's Business Members!

740 Front
Alternating Current Press
arc Thrift Stores
Ariel IT Services
Atomic Forge
Berkelhammer Tree Experts, Inc.
Bolder Insurance
Coal Creek Collision Center
Cory Nickerson - 8z Real Estate
Creative Framing & Art Gallery
DAJ Design, Inc.
Deep End Solutions
E & L Team at RE/MAX Elevate
Fingerplay Studio
Gstalder Louisville Law Group
Hofgard & Associates, P.C.
Louisville Cyclery
Louisville Tire & Auto Care
Moxie Bread Co.
Origin CPA Group
Paul's Coffee & Tea
Pine Street Plaza
Premier Members Credit Union
Seward Mechanical Systems
Society of Italian Americans
Stewart Architecture
Ters Family Dentistry
The Singing Cook

Thank you to Boulder County residents for generously funding cultural facilities through SCFD for over 30 years! The Louisville Historical Museum joins the many facilities funded through your generosity!

Louisville Historical Museum
749 Main Street
Louisville, CO 80027

Return Service Requested