

Pioneer Award

ANTHONY JOSEPH "JOE" MADONNA

2017



BORN OCTOBER 8, 1917 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO
DIED NOVEMBER 11, 1984 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

Joe Madonna was born and raised in Louisville to Italian immigrants who came to Louisville in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He attended Louisville schools and graduated from Louisville High School in 1936, and after graduating began working in the mines. He entered the Army in August of 1941 and served in the 397th Army Engineers during World War II. It was during that time he met and married his future wife, Barbara, in England, and they both returned to Louisville after the war ended.

Joe was very instrumental in the development of Louisville to bring it into the modern era in the 1950s. Before that decade, Louisville was still a coal mining town that lacked a sewage system and had unpaved streets. In 1958, he helped create the Louisville Planning Commission, of which he was Chairman for many years. During this time, he helped establish the division of the town into three wards, set zoning and building requirements, land use plans, annexation codes and water taps and utilities. Joe also helped establish the first Louisville Chamber of Commerce in 1954 and was Secretary of the Chamber for many years.

Joe went into a partnership with several other Louisville businessmen and helped develop the Bella Vista Subdivision in 1957. The streets in the subdivision were named after the wives of the developers, with Barbara Street being named for Joe's wife. He remodeled several old buildings on Main Street in the 1950's, one of them being Colacci's Restaurant at 816 Main, which opened in 1955.

Joe was a man of vision, integrity, and dedication who helped establish a structure of processes and policies to bring Louisville into the modern era.