The Louisville Historian

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Hometown Nuclear: The Story of Rocky Flats & Louisville

by Sophia Imperioli, Museum Staff

March 23, 1966, was an important day—Rocky Flats had just reached its fifteenth year of operation. In the main cafeteria, the plant honored 95 employees who had worked at the facility since its opening in 1951. Photographs taken during the facility's formative years and copies of newspaper clippings about its creation were on display. Centerpieces of native plants and rocks that were common to the area around the site decorated the tables around the room. 2,900 employees in the plant had coffee and cake to celebrate. Colorado's then-governor John Love signed an official proclamation recognizing the plant and all of its many accomplishments over the years, calling March 23 "Rocky Flats Day."

Former Louisville resident Wilbur Johns at his workstation at the Rocky Flats nuclear plant, c. 1960s-1970s.

But this wasn't your typical office celebration. Workers hadn't gathered to celebrate 15 years of manufacturing car parts or household goods. Rocky Flats Plant produced plutonium triggers for nuclear warheads.

Fifteen years earlier in 1951, the Dow Chemical Company and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) combined their efforts to construct the Rocky Flats Plant. The plant cost $45 million to build and officially opened in 1952, much to the delight and relief of people in Louisville, a mere six and a half miles north of the site.

World War II marked the beginning of the nuclear arms race. Americans had deployed the world's first atomic bomb in combat in Japan in 1945 after a breakneck race to create the technology before any other nation. By the late 1940s, the Cold War was in full effect.

The U.S. government passed the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, which created the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), a governmental organization aimed at continuing research on atomic technology. In the late 1940s, Congress expanded the complex of facilities used to produce nuclear weapons. In Colorado, there was much deliberation over where the site of such a facility could go considering it would make for a

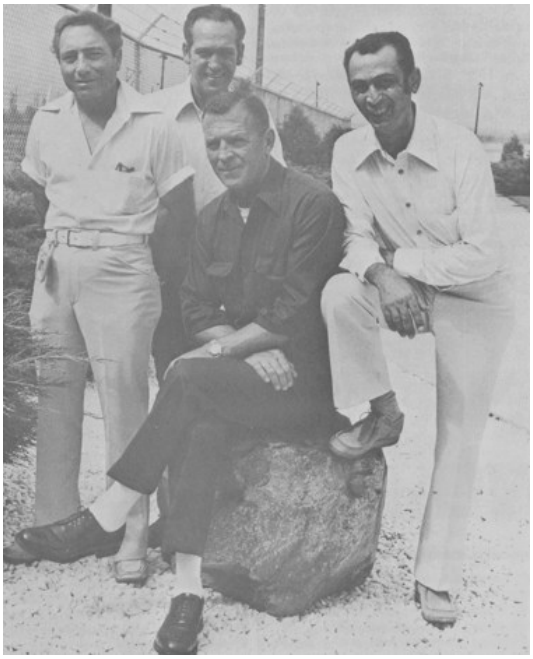
prime target for Soviet attack. Ultimately, the federal government selected Rocky Flats, located just south of Superior. Local residents only found out about the plant about a month before construction began.

The Death of Coal Mining

By 1955, the last coal mine closed in Louisville, but the coal industry had been waning for years. The advent of natural gas and cheaper electricity spelled the death of coal mining, leaving a dearth of employment opportunities for men in town. Rocky Flats opened just in the nick of time. The Louisville Times announced the plant's groundbreaking on March 29, 1951, calling its construction a "breathtaking surprise."

A portion of the property purchased for the site originally belonged to the Eberharter family of Louisville, c. early 1900s. The name Rocky Flats was used to describe the area long before the plant was ever built.

The prospect of new jobs brought with it a renewed hope for sustaining and modernizing Louisville. Some people called it an outright blessing. Diane and Ernie Marino grew up in Lafayette, and both worked at the Flats for a time. Diane expressed her view of the plant, "If it hadn't been there, these two towns would've died." Her brother, Ernie, agreed: "[Rocky Flats] was the heart and soul of Lafayette and Louisville for employment." With the opportunity for growth, townspeople considered this as good an excuse as any to modernize, especially given that workers of the plant would not only be living in town but new residents would also be moving in. Sewers and natural gas became important issues for the Louisville Town Council to decide on, with many residents pushing for their installation.



John Waschak—then serving as mayor of Louisville—sits on a rock surrounded by members of Louisville City Council (left to right: Tony Del Pizzo, Frank Domenico, and Gene Di Carlo) on the grounds at Rocky Flats where they all were employed. (August 7, 1977, Rockwell International News.)

John Waschak was one such person who came to Louisville and made a life working down in the coal mines. John secured a position at Rocky Flats in 1951 before the plant was officially opened. His daughter, Shirley Elrod, remembered her father was very happy to have the job. Waschak worked his way up the ranks in the service department and eventually became Manager of Plant Services. Shirley thought he was pretty happy because she could remember him getting up around two or three o'clock in the morning when it snowed: "He had to get the crews and the snowplows and everybody out there so that people could get in to work."

Rocky Flats didn't just employ ex-coal miners--it also provided work for almost anyone who applied for a position. Women found employment as secretaries, librarians, and nurses, making it possible for married couples to be employed at the same place. People found work driving buses to shuttle workers to and from the plant. Others worked as custodians

Rocky Flats needed so many people that entire Louisville families were employed. Three generations of Waschaks from Louisville stand outside a building at Rocky Flats. John Sr. (left) worked at the Flats for seven years. His son, John Jr., (middle), worked as a service foreman. John Jr.'s daughter, Shirley Elrod nee Waschak, worked as a stenographer. (July 5, 1963, Dow Corral – Rocky Flats Division News.)

and cafeteria workers. There were many positions at the plant that did not require entering a "hot zone" (a place where one worked with irradiated materials) or obtaining a specialized college degree. Former Louisville resident Lyle Laughlin had a broken leg when he applied for a job at Rocky Flats and worried he wouldn't be hired but claimed, "I was just off of crutches a short while and they hired me right away." He worked at the plant for 15 years. Diane Marino offered an explanation for why she thought things worked out that way: "Some of our relatives did not have high school diplomas. One of our uncles was missing a hand. He got a job... To me, it seemed they sometimes went out their way to try to work with the community who was in it."

Working at the Flats

Former workers likened the Rocky Flats plant to a self-contained city. The plant site was located on open fields to the immediate east of the foothills of the Rockies. It had a hospital, fire department, canteen, maintenance buildings, water treatment facility, and a credit union. For recreation, they had basketball hoops, horseshoes, a track, and more.

It wasn't always pleasant on the plains, and the complex took heavy beatings from the wind coming eastward off of the mountains. Shirley Elrod recalled the time the wind blew so hard, it broke her car door right off its hinges. Another time, the wind picked up a lady and threw her in a ditch. Plant operators had to erect rope poles between buildings because the wind and dust (or snow at times) could be so bad that you couldn't see where you were going. As Diane put it, "If you had to get from one building to another, you literally had to hang onto a rope."

This was the sight that greeted Rocky Flats employees as they turned into the plant site complex from Highway 93, in 1966. (Rocky Flats Plant Fifteenth Anniversary Issue Information Summary by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.)

Being involved in the development of nuclear weapons during the Cold War meant that people could not discuss their work because operations at the plant were strictly classified. Whenever John Waschak was asked what he was working on at the Plant, he'd quip, "We're making popcorn."

Employees dance at the sixth annual Snowflake Serenade held at the CU Memorial Center, December 22, 1966.

Vetting to get a security clearance to work in a hot zone could take anywhere from a few months to over a year. It took Ernie Marino a year to get his clearance. While he could still work as a maintenance technician in some parts of the premises as a "red badge," he was not permitted to work in any controlled area. According to Ernie, the government ran very extensive background checks, "They went all through the neighborhood, all your references, your neighbors, teachers at school, basically anybody that would've known you, they interviewed."

Just Like Family

Many people likened their coworkers at Rocky Flats to being like family. As Ernie put it, "When you weren't in the area working or you were out in one of the big break rooms and at the cafeteria, everybody had a good time. Everybody liked everybody." Bob Del Pizzo echoed his sentiments, "I made a lot of good friends there."

There were plenty of opportunities for workers and their families to build connections. The Dow Chemical Company and its successor in running the plant, Rockwell International, both published employee bulletins that included the latest happenings on and off the site. Workers created opportunities for fun with bowling leagues, a ski club, and baseball and softball teams. Rockwell also had a flying club where employees could learn to fly planes. The participant paid for their own licensing fees, but could then use the company's fleet of aircraft for training and license testing. People also simply enjoyed their leisure time together by bringing their families on camping trips with other Rocky Flats families.

The companies that operated the plant also held large-scale events to further build camaraderie between workers. For years, the plant held a huge dance at Christmastime called "The Snowflake Serenade." During these years, people didn't go out on the town as frequently as people are accustomed to today. According to Shirley Elrod, her parents loved to go because it was "their one big night out." Diane and Ernie Marino's parents thought it was a big deal too, with their mother purchasing a new dress just for the occasion.

The annual Dow Chemical Fun Day was also a big hit for workers and their families. It was a yearly outing to Lakeside Amusement Park or Elitch Gardens. Because Louisville was still a working-class town, families often didn't get a chance to go to either place or ate out only on special occasions. Having a family and friends' day out or a big dance paid for by the company were special treats for everyone.

The Commute

Commuting was highly inconvenient for years after the plant's establishment because there was no direct route from Louisville. Commuters had to take Highway 93 to get to work, making the trip a total of 15 miles in one direction (today, a direct route shortens the trip to 8 miles). Because of this, many people in Louisville and Lafayette chose to carpool. In Lafayette, the Marinos remember their father volunteering

to drive one day out of the week in a rotation with a few other families in town. “They were doing something ecologically sound before. I don’t think it occurred to any of them to just be driving separately,” Diane remarked.

Safety, Hazards & Health Effects

Plant operators consistently preached a message of strict adherence to safety protocol, and the companies regularly celebrated safe working hours. In fact, they awarded prizes to employees and their families when the plant achieved a certain number of safe man hours. Prizes included stadium blankets, thermostats, suitcases, and transistor radios.

In the 1950s, working with radiation was an incredibly new industry and not much was known about the safe handling of dangerous materials like plutonium and beryllium. Bob Del Pizzo, a Louisville native, worked in the laboratories at Rocky Flats from 1959 until his retirement in 1995. Having joined the plant’s workforce in its earlier years, he thought that Dow Chemical might not have known enough about radioactive materials because it was a new experience for the company as well as the government. When asked about concern for his safety, he said, “I was never scared...You can't be afraid of that kind of thing, but you have to respect it.”

Despite all the safety precautions, there were still many concerns about the unknown dangers of radioactive materials. As developers constructed more housing near the plant, Louisville residents heard horror stories about those who moved there. Longtime Louisville resident Ady Kupfner heard rumors that people who lived nearby were going to get cancer and die. Others heard those same people glowed at night from exposure to radiation.

Still, plant operators took special measures to follow the safety protocols that were established. During his 27 years at the plant, Ernie Marino remembered the lengths his team went to in order to ensure their safety when entering a hot zone to perform maintenance work. Sometimes they spent two or three days getting ready in terms of reviewing procedures, preparing equipment, and ensuring documentation was in order. According to him, “Nothing was ever thrown together.” Workers were also mandated to take part in medical testing at the plant as well as submit urine samples to monitor for abnormal results. The area

Rocky Flats personnel gather together to celebrate 1,250,000 man hours without a lost-time injury, April 1956.

one worked in determined the frequency with which one was subjected to testing.

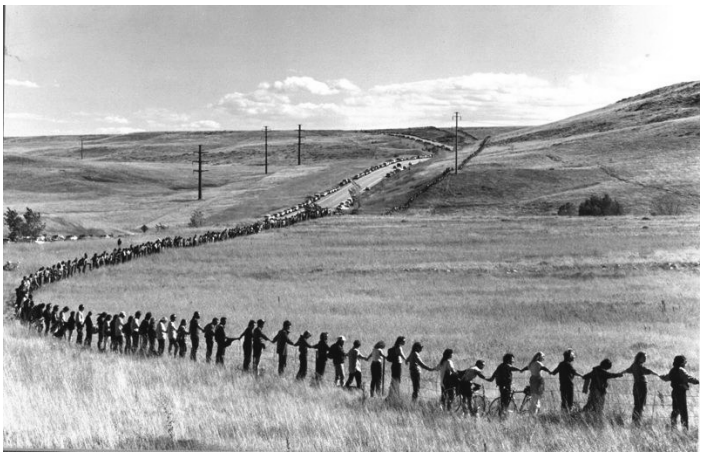
No matter the precautions taken, working with radioactive and dangerous materials was not without risk. Shirley Elrod remarked, “We didn't realize all the things that they had out there and how bad it really was health-wise.” In Ernie’s opinion, anybody that was down there was exposed. Dean DeSantis believed his brother Louis got three different kinds of cancer at the same time from the 26 and a half years he spent out at the Flats working in hot zones.

Some employees did not take the risks as seriously. Louis De Santis worked in research and development, helping conduct experiments with plutonium to see if it was a suitable grade for use in warheads. He seemed skeptical of the claims that living near the plant alone could give someone cancer: “In the summertime, we used to eat lunch, they had benches and whatnot throughout this one area. And rabbits used to come up and we'd feed them. Deer used to be right up next to the fence. I never seen a deformed deer, I never seen the deformed rabbit, and they were right on the plant side.”

Environmental Contamination & Protests

On several occasions, incidents at the plant resulted in environmental contamination. A plutonium fire broke out in 1957. It burned through the filters that removed the dangerous substance from the building’s air, resulting in the release of plutonium into the atmosphere. 55-gallon drum barrels containing plutonium, beryllium, and uranium accumulated on Pad 903 to the southwest of the property. As early as 1962, site personnel reported barrel corrosion and subsequent leakage into the soil. This was especially dangerous because high winds frequently swept the soil up into the air. There were several more fires throughout the 1960s that released plutonium and beryllium from the plant, including a particularly devastating fire on Mother’s Day, May 11, 1969.

People began to take issue with the plant’s operation, and protests became a frequent occurrence. The Rocky Flats Truth Force formed in the late 1970s,



Protestors join hands in a peace demonstration around the perimeter of Rocky Flats, October 1983. This was one of the largest demonstrations against the plant with 17,000 people in attendance. Image Courtesy of the Carnegie Library for Local History, Boulder.

organized protests and aimed to undo plutonium production, secrecy, and unsafe conditions at the plant. Protests continued throughout the 1980s, often involving blocking access roads or supergluing locks on gates to the plant. Some of these protests drew thousands of participants.

Controversy surrounding the site continued to mount, and the FBI eventually set their sights on snuffing out the corruption it believed existed in the plant. On June 6, 1989, the FBI conducted a plainclothes raid to seize documents and determine if operators intentionally covered up the toxic releases. While this is often categorized as a tremendous event in Rocky Flats history, one former worker remarked, “It wasn't a ripple on the pond. Everybody just went back to work.”

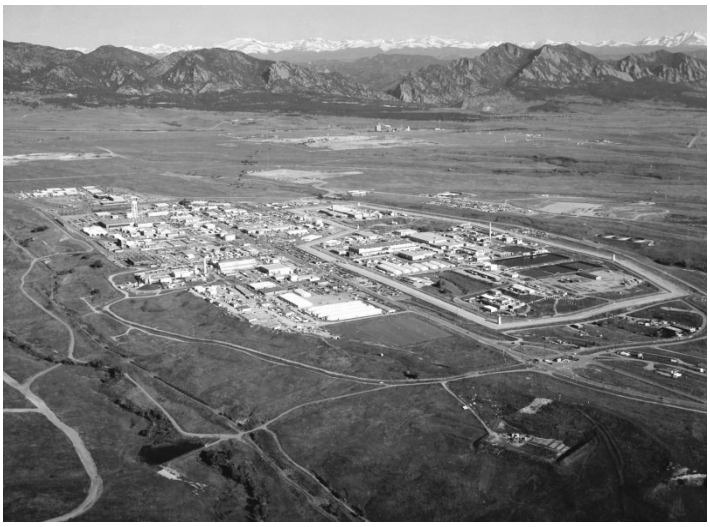
The incident marked the beginning of the end for Rocky Flats. Between 1992 and 2006, operations transitioned to site investigation and environmental clean-up efforts. Plant operators cut jobs until only a few thousand workers remained to aid in clean-up efforts. The government declared site clean-up complete on October 13, 2005, and the plant achieved full regulatory closure the following year.

Legacy

At its peak, Rocky Flats employed thousands of people in the local Louisville, Lafayette, and Superior

area. By the 1960s, at least 300 people from Louisville alone were employed at the plant. Each person became deeply ingrained in the Rocky Flats way of life and formed deep bonds with the people who worked alongside them. The plant provided opportunities for recreation and professional advancement that otherwise might not have been available to people, especially as the end of coal mining came about.

Today, Rocky Flats and the land it sat on remains a highly controversial subject, and its health impacts on former workers as well as those living around the area are hotly debated. Still, it is likely that without the help of America's nuclear program and the plant at Rocky Flats, Louisville might not have survived to grow into the town it is today.



The Rocky Flats site prior to clean-up, July 31, 1995. Image taken from the U.S. Department of Energy.

More About Rocky Flats

The following resources provide more detailed examinations on the history of Rocky Flats. A comprehensive book on the topic is *Making a Real Killing: Rocky Flats and the Nuclear West* by Len Ackland. The Arvada Historical Society has created a website with an abundance of information on Rocky Flats that can be found at http://www.rockyflatshistory.org/.

Full Body Burden: Growing Up in the Shadow of a Secret Nuclear Facility by Kristen Iversen is a memoir about growing up in the suburbs next to Rocky Flats.

To learn more about the current controversy over the site's use as an open space, the documentary "Half Life of Memory: America's Forgotten Atomic Bomb Factory" by director Jeff Gipe, provides an in-depth explanation of ongoing efforts to publicize the potential dangers of the area.

Stop by to see the Museum's front window exhibit, "Hometown Nuclear", from December 2025 — February 2026 for additional content related to Rocky Flats and Louisville.

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. All Museum programs are free!

Parade of Lights Treat Bag Giveaway
Fri., December 5 | 5:30-7 p.m. | Historical Museum
The Museum will give away free Holiday Treat Bags for children during the Parade of Lights, while supplies last. Rooted in a tradition that spanned from the 1920s to the 1980s, Louisville community organizations funded treat bags that contained an orange, nuts in the shell, and pieces of ribbon candy.

Museum Holiday Mart!
Nov. 29–Dec. 30 | Museum Open Hours | Historical Museum
Find unique holiday gifts for the history buff in your life at the Museum's Holiday Mart! Shop for mugs, puzzles, tote bags, Louisville Miners' merch, museum memberships, and more. Give the gift of history this holiday season! Special hours before the Parade of Lights 5:30-7 p.m.

Museum Closure
Tue. Jan. 20– Thurs. Jan. 22 | Historical Museum
The Museum will be closed for collections re-organization and cleaning.

Exhibit: "Hometown Nuclear"
Dec. 1-Feb. 28 | Historical Museum Windows
The exhibit explores the experiences of Louisville residents employed at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant and the impacts of the Cold War on life in Louisville.

Exhibit: "Ute Knowledge"
Feb. 9–April 25 | Historical Museum
"Ute Knowledge" is a traveling, interactive exhibit from History Colorado that tells the story of how Ute Indians have used science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to survive and thrive in the Rocky Mountains.

Film Screening: "Buck and the Preacher"
Sat., Feb. 7 | 6 p.m.| Louisville Center for the Arts
Saddle up for this thrilling 1970s western film! Buck and the Preacher follows the story of a wagon master and a con-man preacher who help recently emancipated Black Americans dogged by cheap-labor agents in Kansas Territory after the Civil War. The film stars Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, and Ruby Dee. Rated PG.

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:

Dec. 16 Federal Native American boarding schools
Jan. 27 10th Mountain Division—Camp Hale
Feb. 24 Trail of Tears

Museum Corner
by Gigi Yang

One of the most rewarding aspects of museum work is connecting with community members as we explore new topics. We would like to thank Diane and Ernie Marino, Shirley Elrod, and Janet Nesheim for sharing their memories and experiences about working at Rocky Flats. Thank you also to Jeff Gipe, Judy Padilla, Wes McKinley, and John Lipsky for their expertise and insights on Rocky Flats and raising awareness of the wildlife refuge located there.

We send thanks to Fred and Mary Mosqueda (Southern Arapaho and Cheyenne) for sharing their knowledge of Arapaho culture and history, and for meeting with staff to consult on ways we can include Native American history and culture through exhibits and programs in Louisville. Thank you to Jordan Dresser (Northern Arapaho) for the Q&A session after screening his film on Indigenous artists. We appreciate their engagement with the community!

We end 2025 and begin 2026 with deep appreciation to the individual, family, and business Museum members who generously support the Museum in sharing and preserving local history. Thank you!

Volunteer Update
by Kira Boatright

The Museum is currently expanding our oral history volunteer program, and is seeking individuals interested in being interviewers, transcribers, and video editors. This program is an excellent way to connect with long-time residents and preserve our community's memory of Louisville's past.

The application form is available on the Museum's website under Get Involved. If you'd like to learn more about this program or our other volunteering opportunities contact:

General Volunteers: KBoatright@LouisvilleCO.Gov
Oral History: SImperioli@LouisvilleCO.Gov

The Museum extends its special thanks to our current and continuing volunteers!

Louisville Historical Museum Volunteers:

Bridget Bacon
Michelle Baker
Revecca Ferguson
William Goble
Lisa Hughes
Teagan Lee
Diane Marino
Amy Marks
National Charity League
William and Adam Pitts
Kristen Poppe
Chris Torrence
Cassandra Volpe
Carol Williams

Rose Garden:
Marty McCloskey

Oral History Program Volunteers:

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

Join the History Foundation! by Jen Henderson

If you have a passion for Louisville History and want to make a difference, consider joining the Louisville History Foundation Board of Directors. Board members help shape the future of local history through advocacy, community engagement, and fundraising. We are particularly interested in dedicated community members with experience in these areas:

- Legal expertise
- Financial Planning—membership and fundraising
- Technology and digital initiatives
- Louisville business owners

Interested? Scan the QR code to apply!
Email: info@LouisvilleHistoryFoundation.org
Visit: www.LouisvilleHistoryFoundation.org

The Louisville History Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 dedicated to preserving and celebrating our city's unique heritage by supporting the Louisville Historical Museum..

Louisville History Foundation Board
Jane Coyle
Jennifer Henderson
Val Igler
Gordon Madonna
Celeste Murphy

Scan to Apply

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!

August 2025— November 2025
John Aaron – Embellished print of Steinbaugh Pavilion drawn at Louisville Street Fair in 2023-24.

Ken and Mary Black – Blue Parrot spaghetti tub for the Education Collection; Colacci's 25th Anniversary t-shirt.

Larry Boven – Digital photo of the 1993 hose race.

George Brown – Digitized copy of his high school scrapbook.

Gary Carnival – Eight business tokens used at the Twin Light Tavern at 836 Main St.

Kim Daldos – Four antique oil lamps for the Education Collection.

Leo Deborski – 1948 issue of The Cargo, LHS Class Reunion Booklet: 1948-1954.

Mike Deborski – Two digital scans of war bonds from 1942.

Randal Deborski – Fifteen digital photos of 601 Pine, Andy Deborski, and other members and activities related to the Deborski family.

Memory & D'Ette Delforge – Digital photo of Memory Delforge as a child, watercolor of the Louisville Historical Museum.

Cynthia DelPizzo-Martin – LHS Pep Club mittens, Steinbaugh Hardware apron, 1953 wedding dress from Ann Waschak; nineteen hats and hat box for the Education Collection.

Shirley Elrod – Duane and Shirly Elrod's high school sweaters from 1963 with academic and decorative pins; digital scans of Boulder Daily Camera article from 1970 related to Louisville Hose Team, and scan of Louisville Times from June 15, 1978.

Rebecca Ferguson – Digitized copies of photos and documents from Wilbur L. Johns related to his time working at Rocky Flats.

Jack Hanley and Kathy Zarini – Photos and documents related to Louisville High School, Class of 1933, 1935, and 1937, and members of the Zarini and Fenolia family; Louisville Times Centennial Edition and Louisville Class Reunion booklet from 1982 for the Education Collection; Newspaper clippings and photocopies related to the Blue Parrot, and Zarini family history for the Museum files.

Jennifer Henderson – Three pop-up valentines from the turn of the century for the Education Collection.

Gordon Madonna – Metal lunch box and sandwich tin from Jack Watson; nine telephones from different decades for the Education Collection., scanner for Museum use.

Kathy McDonald – Two small oil lamps for the Education Collection.

Jean Morgan – Two spice tins c. 1930s for the Education Collection; handheld oil lamp and railroad crossing sign from Pine St., c.1930-1970s.

Doreen Shumpert – Items related to Doris Thompson Clark: LHS programs, class schedule, and senior cards from the class of 1936-37, autograph book c. 1928-29, "Down Memory Lane" notebook c. 1936, photo of Marjorie Pickett, program for Golden Gem Theatre, graduation announcement for Harvey Fletcher c. 1942.

Christine Wecker – Aerial photograph of Louisville from 1996, belonged to Klubert "Dink" Warembourg.

Barbara Wollan – Picture book "Willie & the Wildfire" by Barbara Wollan, illustrated by Laurie Hickman.

Kathy Zarini – Digital copies of nine photos depicting members of the Zarini and Snair families.

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 to pay online or to print out a form to send in.

Remember to send your 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.

Thank You for Your Monetary Donations

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

Jeff Bradley
Cynthia Hafner Clark
Beverly Clyncke
James De Francia Family
Connie Digiallonardo
G. Patrick Galvin Family
Meredith Gibbs
Jeff & Amy Harr
Dietrich Hoefner
Alan Iannacito Family
Audrey Kay
Kim LaBella
Katie Lacz
Ashley Masin
Ray & Patricia Melvin
Sandra Neville
Carol Oakes
Origin CPA
Paul's Coffee & Tea
Dennis Reed
Sara Reid
Joan Riggins
Gary Schneider Family
Mike Shibao
Connie Stewart
Liz Watson
Erika Winter

A special thanks to Sharon Martin for her generous donation of $1,000 in honor of her mother Marie Plumhoff.

A special thank you also to Betty Tomeo for her $900 donation and continual support in memory of David S. Tomeo.

Regrets

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of regular members Memory Delforge, Adam Elnicki, Keith Helart, Juanita Marino, and Sally McElroy.

Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these memorial donations.

In honor of Robert & Darlieen DelPizzo
Jennifer Bennett

In memory of Memory Delforge (1941-2025)
Bridget Bacon
Becky & Paul Harney
Irene Ray

In memory of Susan Dionigi – Mike Dionigi

In memory of Adam Elnicki (1939-2025)
Leo Deborski

In memory of Keith Helart (1936-2025)
Adam & Donna Elnicki

In memory of David S. Tomeo (1943-2016)
Betty Tomeo

In memory of Marvin Watts – Robert Watts

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 p.m. —3 p.m.
Wednesday: 1—5 p.m.

Donations
If you are interested in donating objects or photographs to the Museum, please contact the Museum at Museum@LouisvilleCO.Gov or 303-335-4850. The best days to bring in items for consideration are Wednesdays and the third Saturday of each month.

About
The City of Louisville owns the Louisville Historical Museum as part of the Department of Cultural Services, with Brandi Cummings as 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
Kira Boatright – Outreach & Communications
Sophia Imperioli – Public History & Interpretation

Thank You to New and Renewing Members!

For the period August 21—November 19, 2025. If you renewed or joined after November 19, your membership will be listed in the next issue of the Louisville Historian.

Leslie & Phil Aaholm
Dr. Kris Ahlberg
Maree Albright Family
Pat Alger
Lawrence & Annette Anderson
Bill & Cheryl Andrews
Brad and Deborah Andrews Family
Karen Avery
Don Bachman
Bridget Bacon & Andrew Calabrese
Baggett Family
William Bangs
Barney/deLassus Family
Mary Barry
James & Carolyn Beagle
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Trina Brown Family
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Ron, Justine, & Kendall Cutadean
Cynthia Hafner Clark
Julia Cline Family
George Brandon & Mary Clough
Beverly Clyncke
Judy Cole
Alice Connor-Hall
Carol Corsell-Stewart
Taylor Couillard-Rodak
Teri Cox
Coyle Family
Robert & Patricia Cozart
Julia Stone
Ron, Justine, & Kendall Cutadean
Shirleen D'Amato
Gary Damiana
Charles and Amy Danforth
Carol Day
James De Francia Family
Leo Deborski
Darlieen Del Pizzo
Barney/deLassus Family
Cliff DelForge
Jean DeLille
The DeLorey Family
Judy DeNovellis
Joan Desmet
Sherry Dickerson
Christina Dickinson
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Cynthia Dionigi-Huffman
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Laura Ferrera
Mona Ferrera
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Kristine Foy
Ronda Frandsen
Timothy & Marilyn Gallagher
G. Patrick Galvin Family
Bob & Marie Garcia
Gail Garvert
Barbara & Jim Gigone
James & Rose Gilbert
Alice Gold
Kristi Hada Family
Theresa Haley
Rebecca & Paul Harney
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