

Historically Jeffco Magazine 2018: A Historical Perspective on Building “Community”

Ronda Frazier, Editor, 2018 Historically Jeffco Magazine

When I took over the job as editor of Historically Jeffco magazine from Margaret Chapman, I knew I had some very big shoes to fill but it was truly an honor and a pleasure to have the opportunity to do so. Doyle Harrison, the magazine’s graphic designer, and I put it all together and created what we feel is a pretty darn good product! But for all the time and work that we both put in to it, there wouldn’t be a magazine at all if it weren’t for the many amazing authors who write the stories, that fill its pages, year after year.

I believe that what makes this magazine special is that in addition to those who serve on the Historical Commission, many stories are written by members of the Jefferson County community. This allows for a wide variety of voices to be heard. In this issue you will find articles written by Lakewood and Golden historians; county employees from Justice Services and Hiwan Museum; a president of a local historical society; curatorial staff from the Lakewood Heritage Center and Golden History Museum; a West Jefferson Middle School teacher and his students; a 10 year-old winner of our writer’s award; two published authors; and some very passionate, local historic preservationists.

This year the theme for the magazine was a historical perspective on the building of “Community.” The term “Community” can refer to a group of people who either live in the same area or have some characteristic in common. It can also refer to a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing a common interest, attitude or goal. The lead articles in the 2018 issue of Historically Jeffco explain the transformation of Jefferson County from what was once several small, agricultural communities, surrounded by farms and orchards, into the heavily populated suburban region it is today. You’ll learn about the early subdivisions platted along West Colfax Avenue and the problems this caused a

community of farmers and dairymen who needed to move their products to market. You'll also learn how, later, World War II transformed the social, economic and demographic landscape of our County again, with local companies contributing to the war effort and workers who chose to stay here and raise their families after the war in newly-created suburban communities. Another article illustrates how the Glen Creighton subdivision was one of the very first in the area to forego the urban grid alignment for its streets – a design so convenient for automobile traffic to move *through* - choosing instead to feature narrow winding roadways, irregularly-shaped lots and a park at its center to make it more inclusive for pedestrians and members of its own community.

You'll read about the heavy price inflicted on the community of Golden by both World War I and the Great Flu Epidemic of 1918; how the families homesteading the Elk Creek Valley had to know and depend on each other, creating a vital sense of community; and why the Westernaires' precision horseback riding group is a community of both young and old, built by volunteers on a foundation of traditional values.

The section of the magazine dedicated to historic preservation features the "big" history behind the "little" Hayward House in Golden – which has a much bigger history than most people know; celebrates the 100th anniversary of Conifer's iconic Yellow Barn which was actually built from a mail-order, prefabricated kit similar to the Sears & Roebuck kit homes available then; divulges the secrets long-hidden behind the walls of the Buffalo Rose Saloon that have been exposed during recent renovations; follows the odyssey of four wooden chairs originally used in the first State capitol building in Golden; and you'll also get the chance to hear eleven, unique, 8th grade voices explain what *they* think should be done with what is left of the South Platte Hotel.

There's plenty more waiting for you to discover! Pick up your complimentary copy today at Planning & Zoning or at the Archives office in the Laramie Building.

