



Mary Miller
Founder of Lafayette
409 E. Cleveland

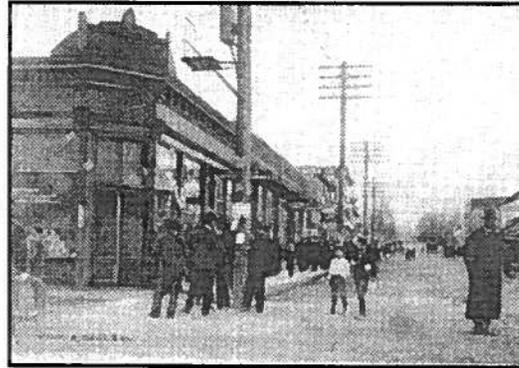
Mary Miller could best be described as a woman of great vision. She and her husband Lafayette moved to the Boulder County ranch that would become the town named for him and in the mid 1870s discovered a vast vein of coal in the area. Mary Miller wisely kept claim to all the mineral rights and received royalties from mines on her property such as the Cannon and the Simpson.

The town was laid out about 1888-1889 and the original town deeds stipulated that no alcoholic beverages could be sold east of what is now Public Road, a rule that remained in effect until the early 1980s. She was devoted to the temperance movement and once ran for state treasurer on the Prohibition party ticket.

She organized the modest, family-run Miller Bank in 1892, which grew and in 1902 became Lafayette Bank. Mary Miller was elected its first president and at the time was likely the only female bank president in the world. In 1914, overburdened by about \$90,000 in bad loans to the United Mine Workers, the bank, then located at 400 E. Simpson, collapsed.

She was known as the Mother of Lafayette, in part for her tireless organizing of local clubs and fraternal organization, and for her calm demeanor in the face of adversity that may have reached its worst on Jan. 24, 1900, when the town burned.

In 1892, she built the Congregational Church at 300 E. Simpson St. that has since been converted to a community theater and was recently rechristened the Mary Miller Theater.



East Simpson Street once was the city's dynamic business center.

The Lafayette Historic Preservation Board meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, located at the intersection of South Public and South Boulder Roads.

The board's mission is to provide a sense of historic continuity and civic pride, and enhance local prosperity. This is accomplished through designating, preserving and enhancing Lafayette's historic, cultural, agricultural and ethnic features. The board also functions as an educational and technical resource for historic preservation.

Visitors to our meetings and volunteers for our projects are always welcome.

Photos courtesy Lafayette Historical Society and the Boulder Carnegie Museum.

Text courtesy Jim Hutchison and *Lafayette Colorado History: Treeless Plain to Thriving City, Lafayette News, Lafayette Leader and Once A Coal Miner...The Story of Colorado's Northern Coal Field.*

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Women with Impact



Mary Miller

**Lafayette Historic
Preservation Board
Walking Tour
1998**



Josephine Roche
Rocky Mountain Fuel Company Store
402 E. Simpson

Though Josephine Roche did not live in Lafayette, her influence as majority shareholder in Rocky Mountain Fuel Co. was widely felt among the coal mining families in the area. She disapproved of working conditions in her mines and in 1929, two years after the violent strike at the Columbine Mine, she agreed to a 2-year contract with the United Mine Workers that raised wages and instituted more humane working conditions and hours.

She continued what her critics called her "highly touted social experiment" through the Depression and in a fierce wage war against Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. until her company declared bankruptcy in 1944. She is remembered by miners as "a good old soul."



Iva's Beauty Shop
208 E. Simpson

The building at 208. E. Simpson has been home to many businesses over the years. First, Sarah Jane Kettle ran a sandwich and chili shop and later a dry goods store there. Then, in 1929, Hazel and Helen Graham rented the building and opened the H&H Beauty Shop. In 1933, Hazel married and sold her share of the shop to Iva Brown Whipple, who worked with Helen for a year until Helen married. Shortly thereafter, the shop was renamed Iva's Beauty Shop. It was the city's oldest continuously operated business



Hello Girls
103 S. Iowa

Telephone service came to Lafayette in July 1903, with M.F. Madison as owner and manager of the private company. Three years later, 112 Lafayette residents had phone service and a corps of operators, or Hello Girls, provided a critical link to the world outside. By 1910, most everyone could call the local operator for the correct time, weather predictions or to find out who was down-town. In 1921, the operators proved their muster when an afternoon cloudburst sent six feet of water rushing through town. Marooned tourists and worried out-of-town relatives kept the Lafayette Telephone Exchange hot for hours after the deluge.



Dolores "Dee" Kellett
510 E. Oak St.

Born and raised in Lafayette, Dolores Kellett, standing, third from left, was a star pitcher in local, regional and national girls' softball leagues.

For 12 years, Miss Kellett's prowess as a hurler made her a regular in the sports pages of the Denver newspapers. With Dolores on the mound, the King Supers five times qualified for the world series of girls' softball. Injury forced her into early retirement, upon which she became a competitive bowler.

Her home was originally just two rooms and was located on East Chester Street. It was moved in 1935 and a porch removed and another two rooms were added. In 1948, an indoor bathroom was added.

No hard or fast rules governed the position of Lafayette's Poet Laureate, to which Allie Flint was elected by acclamation in November 1947. Few town events went unacknowledged in verse and several of Mrs. Flint's poems are collected in *Lafayette History: Treeless Plain to Thriving City*.

She was born in 1877 in New York, came to Colorado in 1898 and after taking nurse's training and marrying, moved in Lafayette in 1908. She was the mother of legendary motorcycle cop Harry Flint and a supporter of religious, civic and social activities in the community.



Allie Flint
Poet Laureate
613 Dounce St.