



HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

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Annual Meeting to Celebrate Historic District

The formation of Littleton's new Main Street Historic District will be celebrated at Historic Littleton Inc.'s annual meeting on Wednesday, September 28, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Dick Valore, a long-time Main Street merchant and one of the 3 downtown businessmen who initiated the district, will be honored by Historic Littleton for his commitment to the preservation of Littleton's history. (See related story on page 2.)

Chris Gibbons, Littleton's Director of Business and Industry Affairs, will speak on the changing economic scene on Main Street. Historical Preservation Board chairman Kevin Koernig will detail the ins and outs of the new historic district. Owners of the 20 historic properties will be invited to share information about the plans for their buildings.

The Littleton City Council unanimously approved the Main Street Historic District on June 7, 2005. The district is an opt-in district, which means no property was included without the owner's consent. That accounts for the irregular shape of the district.

The HLI annual meeting will be held in the newly refurbished Main Street Event Centre at 2629 West Main Street. Owner Duane Duffy purchased the former Stewart Building (the CeBuzz Sooper Market for those whose memories go WAY back) last year and has renovated it into professional offices. The former dance studio is now the event center.

Inside the building are enlarged historic photos of downtown Littleton and a refurbished mural by Mary Kay Klein, which was painted in the 1970's for the Littleton Independent offices. The mural depicts Western Welcome Week, Town Hall, the

Little House, and Valore Hardware. The Main Street Center building is one of 20 buildings included in the new historic district.

Appetizers and wine will be served. The election of the board of directors for Historic Littleton will also be held.

The event is free to all current members of Historic Littleton Inc. To make sure we have enough refreshments, please RSVP to Karen Arras at 303-794-1208 by Saturday, September 23. Leave a message with your name and the number of people attending.

Historic Littleton Inc. is dedicated to preserving the historical and architectural heritage of the greater Littleton area through advocacy and education.

Dick Valore “A Fixture” on Main Street

The Valore family has been selling hardware and “fixtures” on Main Street since 1907, when Dick Valore’s grandfather opened a hardware store in the Coors Building. In 1917 Dick’s grandfather bought out the Jull Brothers’ hardware business, on the site of the present day Valore’s. He built the red and tan brick building, divided into three storefronts, known as the “Valore Block,” in 1925.

Dick grew up in his grandfather’s hardware store, which later became his father’s. As a child he especially loved the harness repair shop his grandfather ran in the basement, with the teams of horses that visited.

Dick always wanted to run the store, but first he put his college education to use for 20 years as an aerospace engineer. He took over Valore’s in 1974.

It is this long-time association with Main Street that led to Dick’s efforts to preserve the Main Street buildings. Dick, along with Kal Murib and Rick Acres, gathered enough support from downtown property-owners to petition the city of Littleton to establish a historic district.

“I’m very pleased with the way it came out,” Valore said. “I dearly love this town. I think we’ve got something here to be proud of.”

Valore said he was disappointed that several other of the older Main Street businesses didn’t opt into the district, but he thinks they will join in the future.



Dick was not always on board the preservation band-wagon. When the idea of preserving Main Street buildings (and restoring them to their original appearance) first came up, Valore was not interested in removing the sandstone veneer under the storefront windows that his father had added. He also did not like the idea of a non-consensual district, which didn’t give property-owners a choice.

Valore helped to craft the smaller, opt-in version of the district that was established on June 7, 2005. He felt it was important to preserve his building, the one his grandfather had built, before he retired.

Valore is packing up his business this month. Earlier this year Kal Murib purchased the “Valore block,” and a pizza restaurant will soon occupy the space that

has been a hardware store for so many years.

Leaving his store “is really tearing me up,” Dick said. “It hurts deeply to leave this store.” But he wants time to enjoy retirement with Kathy, his wife for over 50 years.

It will truly be the end of an era when the Valore name comes off the front of 2389 West Main Street.

Historic Littleton Inc. will honor Dick Valore at its annual meeting on Sept. 28 for being part of Littleton’s history and for his commitment to preserving Main Street.

Historic Littleton Inc. Loses Three Friends

Three friends of Historic Littleton Inc. passed away this summer.

Cee Wolf, mother of HLI board member Bruce Wolf, died July 30 at age 97. Mrs. Wolf hosted HLI members at a tour of her Willowcroft Farm (the former Joseph Bowles home) in July, 2001. Remember her miniature horses and pot-bellied pigs?

A memorial service for Cee Wolf will be held Thursday, September 8, 2005 at Chapel Hill Mortuary, 6601 S. Colorado Boulevard, at 10:00 AM. Our deepest

condolences to Bruce on the death of Cee.

Eugene Sternberg, the architect who designed Arapahoe Community College, Bemis Library, and Geneva Village, died June 4 in Evergreen. He was 90.

Mr. Sternberg designed more than 400 buildings. He was honored at Historic Littleton's Renewal Dinner in May, 2004 for his lifetime achievement as an architect in Littleton and Englewood.

And lastly Roi Davis, owner of the Carnegie Building (the Melting Pot restaurant) and the Buckhorn Ex-

change Restaurant building, died in May.

Mr. Davis began his love affair with old buildings as a child. At a talk he gave March 21, 2001 at the Buckhorn to members of Historic Littleton and the Friends of the Library/Museum, Davis said, "The reason we get into historic structures is because we want to save and preserve what is good in our culture."

HLI regrets the passing of these fine individuals.

If you have a red mark on your address label, you need to renew your membership for 2005. Please send your \$25 membership fee to:

Historic Littleton Inc.
P.O. Box 1004
Littleton, CO 80160-1004

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- I'd like to help with:
- Membership Committee
 - Newsletter
 - Special Events
 - Educational Programs



—Photo courtesy of Dick Valore, from the Littleton Historical Museum collection

Above, the “Valore Block” at the corner of Prince and Main Street on June 3, 1927. Dick Valore’s grandfather built the one-story red brick building, which has three identical store-fronts.

To the right, Dick and his father in front of Valore Hardware, located at 2389 W. Main.



HLI Board of Directors to be Elected at Annual Meeting

The following slate for Board of Directors will be voted on at the HLI annual meeting on September 28, 2005:

Karen Arras, Jack Ballard, Charlie Carroll, Lorena Donohue, Barb Eaton, Sonya Ellingboe, Vern Hendrickson, Doris Hulse, Rebecca Kast, Mike Massey, Leti Mudlo, Joe Racine, Ron Richards, Bernard Small, and Bruce Wolf. Nominations can also be made from the floor.