

THE MONTCLARION

Our Neighborhood

Annexed by the City of Denver in 1902, Montclair incorporated in 1888 as a Denver suburb. One of Denver's 78 statistical neighborhoods, its borders include Colfax Ave. to the north, 6th Ave. to the south, Quebec St. to the east and Holly St. to the west.

Formed in 1907 as a not-for profit corporation, the Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc. (HMCAI), is the oldest neighborhood association in Denver. Officers and at-large board members serve without pay. HMCAI is a Registered Neighborhood Organization and is a member of Denver's Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation. West of Monaco, we overlap with Mayfair Neighbors, Inc.

Dedicated to innovative educational, civic and social activities, we offer all Montclair residents quarterly newsletters, flyers and public announcements. We inform members of important zoning issues, historic preservation, construction and planning activities, elections and other activities impacting the neighborhood. HMCAI frequently collaborates with schools, churches and other local organizations for the common good. Interested in being a part of the community? Join today.

2026
3rd/4th Quarter

HistoricMontclair.org
HistoricMontclair@gmail.com

HISTORIC
MONTCLAIR
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION



**HISTORIC
MONTCLAIR
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**
INC.

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President's Note

By Judy Baxter

ATTENTION MONTCLARIANS: This newsletter will be the 3rd and LAST one of 2026. Did you know that we are one of the few neighborhood organizations that send out this kind of printed newsletter to EVERY HOUSEHOLD in our boundaries (about 3000)? The unrelenting rise in the costs of production, especially printing and mailing, combined with a decline in ad sales, resulting from businesses tightening their belts, has forced us to make the decision to go from 4 to 3 newsletters this year. We could elect to go to an online-electronic newsletter, as many neighborhood organizations have done in the last few years. This would only reach those who have given us their email (and who reads their email these days) or who regularly check out our website. Your HMCAI board has resisted this move for two reasons: first, mailing the newsletter to every household means we reach EVERYONE, creating access, welcoming newcomers and creating belonging. Second, though updated 10 years ago, the look and production value of the MONTCLARION remains a true, some would say, old-fashioned community newsletter, written by, for and about our neighborhood. Please consider making a new end-of year donation. This will ensure that you will get the usual 4 annual newsletters and all the great programming next year. See QR code on the membership page.



Speaking of great programming. The Annual HMCAI 4th of July picnic was incredible. The volunteers on and behind the scenes so appreciated the fantastic turnout and enthusiastic words of praise and thanks from you all. See Photos in this newsletter. When this issue reaches your mailbox, our fall adult evening soiree will have happened—featuring the Red Sax Jazz Trio, wine and beer from Mayfair Liquors and a spread of nibbles supplied by the HMCAI board and volunteers. Hope you were there.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Get a non-partisan update and insight to the extraordinarily crowded State Ballot from the Bell Policy Institute on Sat. Oct. 17th. And, the HMCAI general annual meeting will be Oct. 21st where our theme will be “Community Empowerment-Making a Difference for Our Neighborhood.”

I write this on the 25th anniversary of 9/11 while flying to Maine for a family gathering. This week, filled with the remembrances of this day and its aftermath; the old, new, and evolving insights about the historical significance the attacks had on our national psyche; and the stories of bravery, service, compassion, perseverance of that day, which continue to the present has touched me deeply. Maybe the shock has finally worn off enough to open my heart to what happened to our collective heart.

Be well. Be safe. Be in Touch with us: historicmontclair@gmail.com.

HMCAI 2026 Board

President: Judy Baxter
1st Vice President: Carrie O’Shea
Secretary: Bob Jusell
Treasurer: Gail Barry

At Large Board Members:
Jennifer Bolda Brian Narber
Meg Goos Merritt Pullam
Wendy Ho-Schnell Anne Canon
Toni Ann Kuper Ryan Stevens
Jim LeDuc Marika Rietsema
Caryle Faust

HMCAI Events Calendar 2026

Mar. 6	Wine & History Night	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Molkery
Apr. 4	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am	Montclair Park
Jul. 4	July 4 Picnic	10:30 am -2:00 pm	Montclair Park
Sept. 25	Beer & Wine Reception	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Molkery
Oct. 21	Annual General Meeting	7:00 pm	Molkery
Oct. 25	Halloween Party	3:30-5:00 pm	Molkery
Dec. 5	Treats with Santa	10:00 am - Noon	Molkery

The Molkery, aka Montclair Civic Building is located at 6820 E. 12th Ave. in Montclair Park

HMCAI Membership Form

Three ways to become a supporting member: 1- Please print legibly on form and mail with check to: **HMCAI Treasurer, PO Box 200125, Denver, CO 80220** 2. Or, pay securely online with Square:

Annual dues per household: \$45 (\$30 seniors, ages 65 and older)
Voluntary donation:\$ _____ Total amount of check:\$ _____

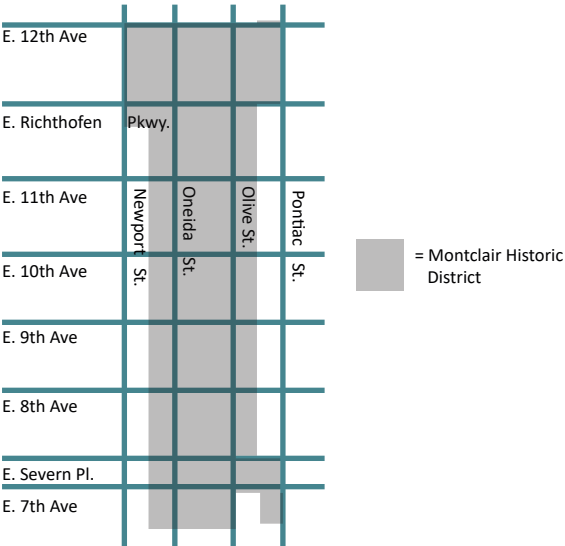
Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone(s) _____
Email _____
What would you like to help with? _____



Possibilities include: Treats with Santa, July 4th, Easter Egg Hunt, Cocktail Party, Halloween Party, Board Member, Other (please specify)
3. Or, join at www.historicmontclair.org

Important Information

If you live in the designated Historic District (see map to the right) within the Montclair neighborhood and you’d like to build an addition, second story, porch, garage, retaining walls, add solar panels, replace windows, roof, sidewalks, or demolish the house and build new, you must first contact Denver’s Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) and receive approval. Your proposal must meet the design guidelines for historic districts. This is mandatory for residents of all historic districts in the City of Denver. To schedule an appointment for a pre-application meeting, discuss your building project, or ask questions contact the LPC at 720-865-2709 or landmark@denvergov.org



Questions? Suggestions? Article ideas? Contact your HMCAI Board at HistoricMontclair@gmail.com



There's a lot happening across District 5, with projects and initiatives underway that reflect the needs of our community. Alongside this work, neighbors continue to come together to care for the places we call home, and I want to thank everyone who joined Community Clean-Up Day to refresh our parks, trails, and bus stops. Here's a look at some updates on investments in our community.

Share Your Priorities in the Annual District 5 Survey

Each year, the District 5 office surveys residents about the issues that matter most. In 2025, the top concerns were crime and safety, traffic and mobility, and the cost of living. Now it's time to share your priorities for 2026 and 2027! Complete the survey by December 31 at bit.ly/D5Survey2026.

Schlessman Family Branch Library Renovation Continues

The Schlessman Family Branch Library is on track to reopen in early 2027 as renovations continue. While the branch

remains closed, the Denver Public Library bookmobile is available in the Schlessman Library parking lot every Monday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Residents can also follow library construction projects through DPL's Infrastructure Dashboard at bit.ly/DPLDashboard2026.

Montclair Parks Updates

Construction is underway on the Montclair Park playground and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The new design, shaped by community input, will feature swings, a spinner, slides, and playful mounds. Renovations to the Denison Park basketball courts are also complete, with new playing surfaces, striping, hoops, poles, sod, and upgraded irrigation.

East Colfax BRT Prepares for Bus-Only Lanes

Progress continues along East Colfax Avenue as bus-only lane operations begin this fall from Broadway to Colorado Boulevard, marking completion of Phase 1 of the BRT construction. The center lanes will become bus-only lanes, while passenger vehicles will travel in the outer lanes. Work continues on the sections of East Colfax from Colorado Blvd. to Yosemite Street and is expected to be completed and opened in 2027.

13th and 14th Avenue Safety Improvements

As part of the 2025 Vibrant Denver Bond, the City is moving forward with safety improvements along 13th and 14th Avenues from Colorado Boulevard to Quebec Street. In early September, the City began selecting a design team that will propose a solution that builds on previous planning and community feedback efforts. Once the design team is contracted, there will be additional opportunities for resident input. An updated traffic study will follow once East Colfax BRT construction is complete and traffic patterns have stabilized. Stay tuned as this work unfolds!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions! You can reach the Council District 5 Team at:

Phone 720-337-5555

Email denvercouncil5@denvergov.org

Website www.denvergov.org/District5

instagram.com/denvercouncil5

Facebook.com/DenverCouncil5

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ADULT WOMEN IN COLORADO | CURRENTLY ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

From the Desk of Matt Ball, State Senator

District 31



Montclarians,
My kids have gone back to school and I'm happy to have some cooler days ahead. I've been focused on running for re-election in November and preparing for the next legislative session, which begins in January.

I'll be facing off against a Republican opponent in November and would be grateful for your support. With your help, I'll continue to focus on the priorities I've worked so hard on in the Senate: bringing down the cost of housing, expanding access to mental health, and protecting the environment. If you'd like to support my campaign by volunteering or donating, please reach out to my team at matt@mattforcolorado.com. Election day is on November 3rd, and ballots will be mailed out on October 5th.

Outside of the campaign, I'm also starting to prepare for the 2027 legislative session. If you have any ideas or policy areas you'd like me to focus on, send them my way. Some of the best legislation comes from the people I represent—last year, my bill to rein in online sports betting came from a conversation with two constituents. I also ran a bill for a constituent whose roof was falling apart, but the only way to repair it was from his neighbor's yard, and the neighbor wouldn't let him in. State law had no answer for that, so we wrote and passed a bill on his behalf. If something in state law isn't working for you, let me know.

Two town halls are coming up that I hope you'll join. The first is on Wednesday, September 30th from 6:00-7:00 pm with Senate Majority Leader Robert Rodriguez and Representative Emily Sirota. The town hall is at the Table Public House, at 2190 S. Platte River Drive. We'll share our reflections on the last legislative session and our plans for the next one, and take any questions you have. I hope to see you there.

On Tuesday, October 6th, I'll be speaking at a town hall focused on data centers hosted by Lowry United Neighbors (LUN). It will be from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn Street. My last newsletter (which I hope you're signed up for!) focused on data center policy in Colorado, and LUN invited me to chat with the community directly about the topic. It should be a good conversation—I hope to see you there as well.

As always, if you have any additional questions about my work in the legislature or need any assistance at the state level, don't hesitate to contact my office at matt.ball.senate@coleg.gov, or (303) 866-4861. If you want more regular updates from me, you can sign up for my monthly newsletter on my website, mattforcolorado.com.

Take care,
Matt

A vertical advertisement for Jersey Street Liquors. On the left is a detailed illustration of a dark glass liquor bottle. The right side has a dark red background with white and gold text. At the top, it says 'GREAT SELECTION OF WINES, LIQUOR, AND BEERS'. Below that, 'Jersey Street Liquors' is written in a large, elegant serif font. Further down, the address '928 JERSEY STREET DENVER, CO 80220' and phone number '303-221-0121' are listed. At the bottom, a promotional offer reads: 'MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE 10% OFF \$20 OR MORE (EXCLUDES LOTTERY AND TOBACCO)'.



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HMCAI Halloween Party

October 25th, 3:30 - 5:00 pm, The Moltery

Goblins, ghosts, witches, fairies, firemen and all manner of costumes for ages 2-14.

Enjoy our witches brew and scary treats, costume contest, parade, crafts, piñata.

WE ARE IN NEED OF FEW EVIL ASSISTANTS TO CARRY OUT THIS SCARY AFFAIR

Please contact HMCAI at historicmontclair@gmail.com to volunteer.



Annual HMCAI Treats with Santa

Saturday, December 5th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Moltery, 6820 East 12th Ave. in Montclair Park

This is a chance for children to talk with Santa in a friendly, low stress environment. They can make Christmas crafts and enjoy some breakfast treats. After speaking with Santa each child picks a gift from the gift box. ***An adult must accompany all children.

We provide the craft supplies so the children can create Christmas ornaments, etc. while waiting their turn to speak with Santa. Enjoy muffins, fruits, scones, juices, coffee, and tea.

This is a gift exchange, so every child in attendance must arrive with a wrapped present to be placed in the gift box, value at \$10 maximum, suitable for either a boy or girl. This provides assurance that each child that speaks to Santa will receive a gift.

No standing in line here! Each child should take a number when they arrive to indicate their turn to talk to Santa. Be sure to bring your camera.

There is no charge for this event other than the cost of the wrapped gift. Donations accepted and greatly appreciated! If you'd like to volunteer please contact Carrie O'Shea at historicmontclair@gmail.com



WE NEED YOU! YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CALLS

Historic Montclair Community Association
Membership Drive

For only \$45 annually (\$30 seniors) per member household, HMCAI sponsors and organizes these community-building events:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- 4th of July Picnic
- Adults-Only Fall Reception
- Halloween Party
- Treats with Santa
- Adults-Only History Night

HMCAI publishes the quarterly Montclarion newsletter and serves as a liaison with the City of Denver.

Join in the fun and become a member today!

Please consider joining HMCAI, your neighborhood association.

See page 3 or go to: www.historicmontclair.org



THE MARKET IS MOVING - LET'S NAVIGATE IT TOGETHER

The Denver real estate market is shifting, and Montclair homeowners need to stay informed.

Let's discuss what these market changes mean for your home and your goals. Smart real estate decisions start with the right conversation.

Anne McWilliams

Broker Associate

312.320.8219

AMcWilliams@kentwood.com



Calling all Montclair Neighbors

HMCAL General Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 21 7:00-8:45 at the Molkery in Montclair Park.
This year's theme is "Community Empowerment-Making a Difference for Our Neighborhood"

Agenda

7:00-7:10	Welcome
7:10-7:15	Presentation of and Vote on the slate of nominations for the 2027 Board Officers and At-Large Members
7:15-7:45	District 5 City Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer
7:45-8:15	DPD District 2 Commander Carlos Aragon, Lt. Costigan and Officer Mike Borquez
8:15-8:45	City of Denver, Division of Community Empowerment Director Stephanie Laing

Calling all Montclair Voters

Calling all Montclair Voters: Here is your chance to get a head start on making your decisions about the 14 State Ballot Initiatives that are on the November ballot from a reliable non-partisan source: The Bell Policy Institute. Thanks to Montclair residents, Sue Damour and Ellen Dumm, The Smart Voting Team, who regularly research ballot issues, for suggesting this forum, providing refreshments and securing the Bell.

COME LEARN ABOUT THE 2026 COLORADO BALLOT INITIATIVES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

9:30-11:00 AM

MONTCLAIR CIVIC BUILDING
- THE MOKERY -
6820 EAST 12TH AVE.
MONTCLAIR PARK

Josh Mantell, Director of Government Relations
The Bell Policy Center
will discuss the statewide ballot initiatives and answer your questions

CO-HOSTED BY HISTORIC MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
and
THE SMART VOTING TEAM
Ellen Dumm & Sue Damour

The Bell Policy Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research & advocacy organization focused on economic mobility
<https://bellpolicy.org>



Montclair History Wanted

The Molkery Sanitarium

*A Quiet Home for the Care and Treatment of Nervous
and Mental Diseases, Alcoholic and Drug.*



MRS. A. J. THOMAS, Superintendent

Physicians and
Trained Nurses
in Attendance

Strict Individual
Attention Given to
Recreation and Diet

Patients Attended by
their own Physician
if Desired

Full Particulars upon Application

East Twelfth and Oneida Sts. -:- Montclair, Denver, Col.

Telephone York 773

1906 medical journal ad for The Molkery Sanitarium showing the original west porch before the 1910 redesign

SEEKING, copies or originals of:

*Old (pre-1980) photos of house exteriors, neighborhood, area, outside family gatherings; East Colfax; vehicles; parks; schools; churches; buildings; businesses; events; sports; school yearbooks; desegregation; bussing, etc.; * Old Property Title Abstracts; * Architectural Plans; * Deeds; * House or neighborhood histories; * Maps; * Business ads; * Family albums; * Humorous or interesting anecdotes or human-interest stories; * identities of "old-timers" who might be interviewed; and/or * Memorabilia or other ephemera.

Whatever might be of interest to future generations.

All submissions must include permission to publish by me or my assigns, including the Denver Public Library- Western History Department.

I am expanding, organizing, and note booking my 30 years of Montclair research for eventual donation to the Denver Public Library- Western History Department.

BILL HANSEN

**Feel free to contact me with any questions or
thoughts.**

(303) 882-9820.

wjhansendenver@gmail.com

Meet Your Neighbor

Mary Ann Casey, Oneida Place

How long have you lived in Montclair?

When I was five, my family moved from Boulder to Montclair. There, I attended local schools before moving on to high school and college. In 1974, I joined the U.S. Diplomatic Corps, and worked for the next twenty-five years in American embassies in Mediterranean North Africa as well as in Washington D.C. My final tour of duty was that of Ambassador-in-Residence at CU-Boulder. I bought my present Montclair home at that time.

Tell us about yourself

My brothers Mike and Frank and I all grew up at 9th & Pontiac in a classic 1950s Montclair bungalow. Mom and Dad taught at CU-Denver: she in the English Department, he in Engineering. Mom hailed from Boston, but Dad was a native Denverite, and so introduced us early on to skiing and skating. Our folks were also dedicated travelers—a legacy which led to my career in American diplomacy, and which continues to fuel my passion for internationalism. That same spirit of adventure led to numerous trips abroad, and also prompted my brother Mike to carve out a career for himself in the Las Vegas gaming industry.

As a diplomat, I visited Americans in jail; replaced lost passports; linked U.S. business up with potential foreign trade partners; and encouraged respect for universal human rights while helping to promote regional peace. I served twice as a U.S. Ambassador in North Africa. President Bush Sr. appointed me to Algeria. Three years later, President Clinton named me to Tunisia. Representing the U.S. Government and the American people at such a senior level was a singular honor. Sharing American traditions, such as how we celebrate July 4th, was a great privilege.



How has the area changed?

In the Montclair of the 1950's, families were larger (sometimes 8 -10 children); pets were fewer; the trees were smaller; and the traffic less insistent. Children went to school unaccompanied, and the Book Mobile beckoned invitingly at Montclair Park on a weekly basis. In the ensuing years, walking and dogs have really come into their own, as have the numerous local restaurants that now dot the Montclair map.

Do you have a notable memory of Montclair?

On a day in 1955, just before the wrecking ball arrived to demolish the elegant Kittredge Castle on 8th & Oneida, the young residents of what was by then called Holland Hall were having a great time throwing unwanted items out of second-story windows, seemingly unaware that they were living a poignant moment in Montclair history.

Any favorite local businesses?

Let's hear it for Emick's Auto, a second-generation automotive repair shop at Colfax & Jasmine. Under the astute leadership of Dave Emick, with stellar support from Ken Cross, this business gets my A+ rating for reliability, expert service and honesty.

What do you like most about the neighborhood?

The contrast between past and present, never more palpable than when admiring our stately Victorians while strolling the neighborhood's leafy streets and its lovely parks. What a blessing!

Do you have a favorite spot in Colorado?

Wonderful Montclair!!



Happy 140th Birthday to these Montclair Homes!

by Carrie O'Shea

Olive St. homes oldest structures in the area

In 1885 New Jersey native and developer Matthias Cochrane platted the Montclair Town & Improvement Company. He was joined by Baron Walter Von Richthofen in promoting Montclair as a premier suburban community featuring clean air, panoramic views, and serenity away from the saloons, brothels, and smelters of Denver. Town boundaries were 12th Ave. to Batavia and Monaco to Quebec. Requirements were that homes be built on lots twice the size of the standard Denver lot, be constructed of brick or stone and at least two stories high. The town board of trustees would approve all plans.

Sales of lots were slow though, and in 1886 Montclair was still a barren prairie with the exception of just two newly constructed houses at 1304 Olive and 1443 Olive, each costing \$3500.



The home at **1304 Olive**, known as Cochrane House was built for Matthias Cochrane. He called it "Ardmore Place." Cochrane also constructed Montclair's first schoolhouse in 1887 at 14th & Oneida and in 1890 a two-story business block called Geneva Block at 13th & Oneida which consisted of a post office, a telephone exchange, general store, and a hotel. An original incorporator of Montclair in 1888, he served as the election commissioner and was elected Montclair's first mayor in 1888, serving until 1892. A July 1895 article describes the home as one of Montclair's "notable residences". Today the three story home is a shining example of a well-preserved 19th century estate. Much of its original large lot is intact, along with the original Italianate ornamentation, including the scrolled eave brackets, double brick arched windows, projecting west gable, and ornate porch columns on the wrap-around verandah.



1433 Olive St., also constructed in 1886, is known as Tirsway House, after its builder and resident Dennis J. Tirsway. He was a champion of Montclair's 1888 incorporation, served as the town's first marshal, surveyed and graded Montclair's streets, and installed water lines. He laid flagstone sidewalks throughout Montclair, many which still exist today, including in front of this home. He planted trees in Montclair Park in 1889 and constructed eight of Montclair's signature "TB" (tuberculosis) houses in 1906-07.

The home is a fine illustration of the Queen Anne style, the distinctive sunburst pediment nicely harmonizes with the arched picture window below. Scalloped barge board and patterned brick detailing add to its charm. Located on an oversized lot, the property is unique in that it is one of just a few in Montclair that retains its original 19th century two-story barn and carriage house.

Of note, Richthofen completed his showpiece "castle" and gate house at 12th and Olive in 1887 and the Molkery (milk house) at 12th & Oneida in 1889. In 1890 he platted his own addition south of the original town site from 12th Ave. to 6th Ave. promoting it as "Richthofen's Addition to Montclair."

Source: Historic Denver Guides The Montclair Neighborhood, by Thomas J. Noel and William J. Hansen

Article and photos by Carrie O'Shea, HMCAI Vice President
*this article originally appeared in the 4th Qtr 2016 Montclarion to celebrate the homes' then-130th birthdays.

Denver Police Department District 2 Montclair Crime and Safety Report

Police Department | Denver, CO 80204 www.denvergov.org/police

Type of Offense		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
Crimes Against Persons	Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Aggravated Assault	2	1	2	1	1	6	1	2	16
	Forcible Sex Offenses	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
	Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Simple Assault	2	3	4	1	1	2	2	5	20
	Intimidation	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	6
Subtotal		6	6	7	2	5	8	5	7	46
Crimes Against Property	Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Burglary	0	2	0	1	7	3	4	1	18
	Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Criminal Mischief/Damaged Property	1	6	2	3	7	3	2	4	28
	Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Extortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fraud	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
	Larceny	11	10	7	2	5	12	7	8	62
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	6	7	6	1	2	3	5	2	32
	Motor Vehicle Theft	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	9
	Robbery	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	1	7
	Stolen Property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal		21	27	17	8	25	24	20	17	159
Crimes Against Society	Drug/Narcotics Violations	2	0	0	3	2	1	0	2	10
	Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Child Pornography	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prostitution	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Weapon Law Violations	0	3	0	4	1	1	3	0	12
Subtotal		2	3	1	7	3	2	3	2	23
All Other Offenses	Fraud - NSF-Closed Account	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Curfew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disorderly Conduct/Disturbing the Peace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Family Offenses / Nonviolent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Liquor Law/Drunkenness	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Other Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Violation of a Restraining/Court Order	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	7
	Harassment	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
	Criminal Trespassing	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	4
Subtotal		1	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	6
Grand Total		31	36	26	23	35	38	32	28	249

All files used to generate this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions and/or modifications at any time, resulting in more accurate records in the databases. Due to continuous data entry after reports are compiled, subsequent reports are subject to change.

Baseball in Denver

By Erick Stragand, Montclair Resident and Baseball Nerd

It's no secret that being a pitcher in Denver isn't an easy job. The Colorado Rockies all-time roster is stacked with guys who've had their careers and Earned Run Averages eaten up by Denver's thinner air and the spacious outfield of Coors Field. In 33 seasons of Major League Baseball, the Rockies have only had three pitchers who officially received Cy Young Award votes (Jeff Francis in 2009, Ubaldo Jimenez in 2010, and Kyle Freeland in 2018). By comparison, the Los Angeles Dodgers have had twenty-eight pitchers receive Cy Young votes in that same time frame.

Thus, it's rather surprising to find out that one of Denver's first professional baseball stars was a pitcher. In 1911, Thomas Joseph "Buck" O'Brien went 26-7 for the Denver Grizzlies and led them to the Western League championship. While they were called the Grizzlies that year, most knew them as the "Bears" (and...for what it's worth, the name "Denver Grizzlies" was dusted off for a 1994-1995 International Hockey Team, who also won their league's championship in their lone season in Denver. Must be something about that name).

O'Brien's stellar season was right in the middle of what became known as the "Deadball Era". Lasting from roughly 1900 to 1920, games were known for low scores and low batting averages. Unlike modern MLB games, where countless balls are fouled off -- or simply replaced because a pitcher asks-- in the Deadball Era they used ONE baseball per game. You hit a foul ball into the stands? Great. Now go get it. The same ball was put back into play, unless it was completely destroyed or fell apart. This constant re-use caused balls to become loose, dirty or scuffed. Trying to hit a white baseball is hard enough, but trying to hit a brown or gray ball was even tougher.

Furthermore, it was perfectly legal for a pitcher to scuff up the ball, sand down parts of it with an emery board or bottle cap, and also use the infamous "spitball"-- a technique where pitchers would actually spit on the ball (usually laced with tobacco juice), which would cause the ball to behave in peculiar ways. Allegedly, the spitball is what O'Brien became highly adept with. No less than Ty Cobb once said that O'Brien was one of the toughest pitchers he ever faced.

O'Brien even pitched a no-hitter for the Grizzlies on July 4, 1911. Like a lot of older baseball, the Western League didn't have playoffs. Whoever finished with the best overall record won the pennant. Yet the Grizzlies finished an astonishing 111-54 and won their league by 18 games. In 1911, it was basically the Denver Grizzlies...and the rest of the Western League.

The Grizzlies were a minor league team affiliated with the Boston Red Sox. Once the Western League season ended, O'Brien took the long train ride east and pitched 6 games for the Sox, going 5-1. He was invited back in 1912 and became the first-ever Red Sox pitcher to start a game in their shiny new field known as Fenway Park. O'Brien spent the whole season in Boston, winning 20 games and helping them win the World Series. Yet he was roughed up in his two World Series starts, and the hangover continued into 1913. He was eventually shipped off to the rival Chicago White Sox and O'Brien was out of professional baseball within two years. He retired and settled down with his family in the Boston area. Allegedly, he would occasionally pursue a singing career.

While he never returned to Denver, O'Brien was one of the first professional baseball success stories in our beloved cow town. So the next time you're discussing notable pitchers in Denver's history, throw your audience a curveball--- errr, a *spitball*--- and name-drop Buck O'Brien.



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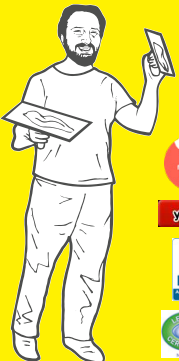
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