

# Erie 1876



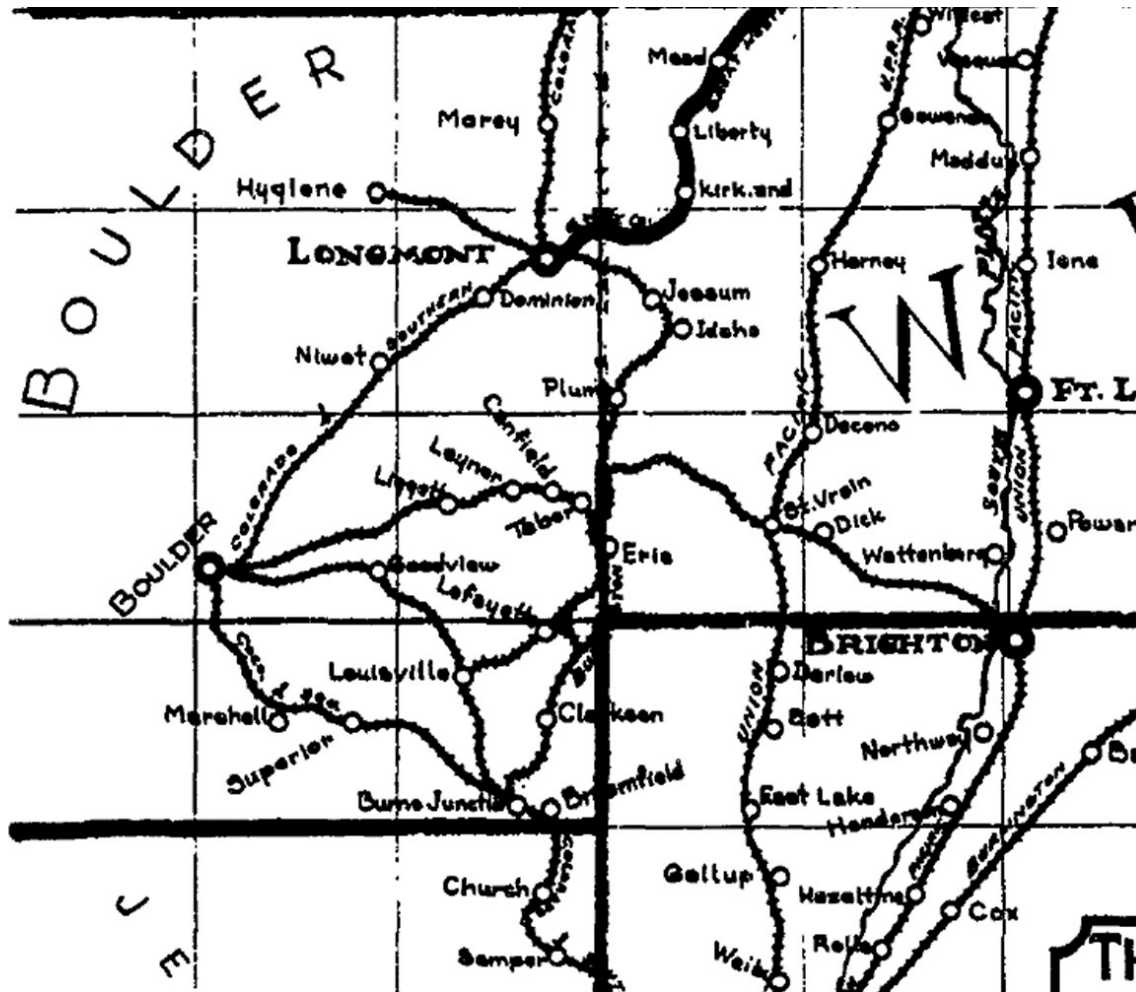
*Erie 1876 - Courtesy of the Western History Department at the Denver Public Library*

On November 16, 1874, Erie was officially incorporated with a population close to 600. The town was named after Erie, Pennsylvania, the hometown of prominent citizen Rev. Richard Van Valkenburg, pastor of the Methodist church. Erie was now the third largest town in Weld County.

Unlike many other northeastern Colorado towns, the need for miners and not farmers drove the migration of people to Erie. A large percentage of the people who originally settled Erie had their roots in northern Europe. They were experienced miners and many had worked in mines in the eastern United States before moving West. Coal mining was quickly becoming a major force in the economy of the region. Erie was a mining town and that would be a dominant factor in its personality for many years.

As the mines expanded and the demand for miners grew, many miners were brought in from eastern Europe and other areas of the United States and Mexico. Mine owners frequent attempts to cut wages would lead to strikes. Throughout the rest of the century, and into the next, there would be many labor disputes, some of them deadly. It seemed until the close of the 1920's the mines were always on the verge of a strike and the miners' jobs were precarious at best.

# 1878 Erie Train Wreck



National Park Service Map of Railroads 1858-1950

- Two cars derailed, 3 miles west of Erie
- Train was traveling 25 mph
- Six passengers—"Country people living between Erie and Boulder"
- Conductor and 2 passengers all sustained head injuries and gashes
- Medical assistance was sought in Erie
- The engineer and remaining passengers put the 2 undamaged cars back on the tracks and proceeded to Boulder

# Catholic Protestant Tensions 1879

- Methodist Bishop rants about a war between Catholics and Protestants

Rocky Mountain News, The Weekly News Section, Wed. May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1879

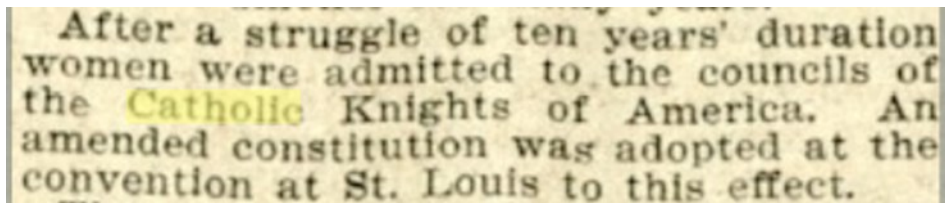
## Bishop Haven's Religious War.

The northern Methodist, Bishop Gil Haven, predicts another war—a religious conflict in which protestantism will undertake to root out catholicism, and in which persecution, hate, and all uncharitableness, will take the place of that apocrophal era of brotherly love and good will of which we have heard, but never seen a great deal. It will be noted that the bishop is a peculiar personage. He is a friend of Grant—is half puritan and half politician, who thinks himself and his church the salt of the earth, and that people who are unable to believe as he does, are unworthy to live. Such, in brief, is the outline of the remarkable character of Bishop Haven, the modern Peter of the new religious crusade—a sort of religious mountebank, who oscillates like the pendulum of a clock between the pulpit and the rostrum. It is a great fault in American society that these kind of people are possible. Bathed to their lips in black republicanism, they make negro worship an instinct, and intolerance a principle. Naturally enough they hate the Catholic church, not on account of its religion, but for its democracy. To them it is a scarlet woman, incarnadined with the politics they hate. If sifted down through the shallow stream of garrulity with which the Bishop babbled of the new religious war, the thread of fact on which he based his propositions, would show this sentiment, and probably nothing else. It is the out cropping of that old primitive lesson of unrighteousness, which would fetter the conscience as it would shackle the intellect, and render both subservient to the chatter of a

canting priest. Eaten up with the ambition of notoriety, insensible to the grandeur of the calling they defile—they drag the mantle of religion through the mire of politics—and barter the love of Christ (even in the pulpit) for hate of men. Such are the fanatic hypocrites who sow the seeds of political animosity and religious antagonism from the leaves of an open bible and under the shelter of a temple dedicated to the gospel of love and kindness. It would be better for the people of this country, if such pseudo-religionists as Bishop Gil. Haven had rocks tied round their necks and cast into the sea, together with their Pandora's box of religious wars and sectional politics. They have done more to feed into flame hatred and dislike between the north and south—have made wider the chasm of animosity—than all other classes of people. There is so much of the poison of selfishness, of intolerance, of hate, of boundless fanaticism in Bishop Haven's blood that in the fury of his enthusiasm, he announces himself ready to convulse his country with war and sacrifice men's lives upon the altar his soulless bigotry. The day for such passionate fanaticism has gone by. It may find an applause in an occasional eccentricity of humanity, but the great body of the people—the thinking, intelligent and good of all sects and conditions of religious belief—will repudiate it with scorn and contempt.



# Catholic Knights of America vote to admit women 1899



After a struggle of ten years' duration women were admitted to the councils of the **Catholic** Knights of America. An amended constitution was adopted at the convention at St. Louis to this effect.

The Rocky Mountain News (Weekly), Volume 40, May 18, 1899

# Erie Man Wounded in Spanish American War Same day as Church Dedication

## **ROSTER OF THE WOUNDED.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17.—Here is the list of the First Colorado wounded:

Corporal John T. McCorkle, Co. G, March 31, 1899.

Private William W. Steelling, Co. K, August 13, 1898.

Private Frank Smith, Co. F, August 13, 1898.

Private Edward F. Brady, Co. F, August 13, 1898.

Private Ortin Twever, Co. B, February 7, 1899.

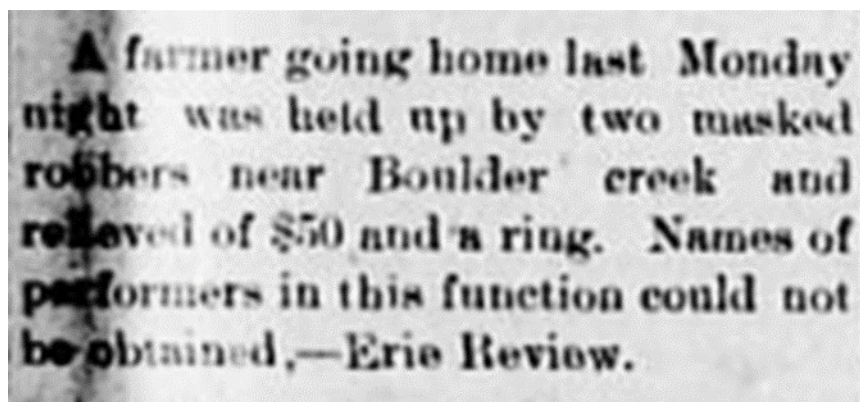
Private Charles S. Morrison, Co. B, February 5-7, 1899.

Private Maurice Parkhurst, Co. B, February 5-7, 1899.

Corporal W. H. Erie, Co. I, February 5-7, 1899. ←

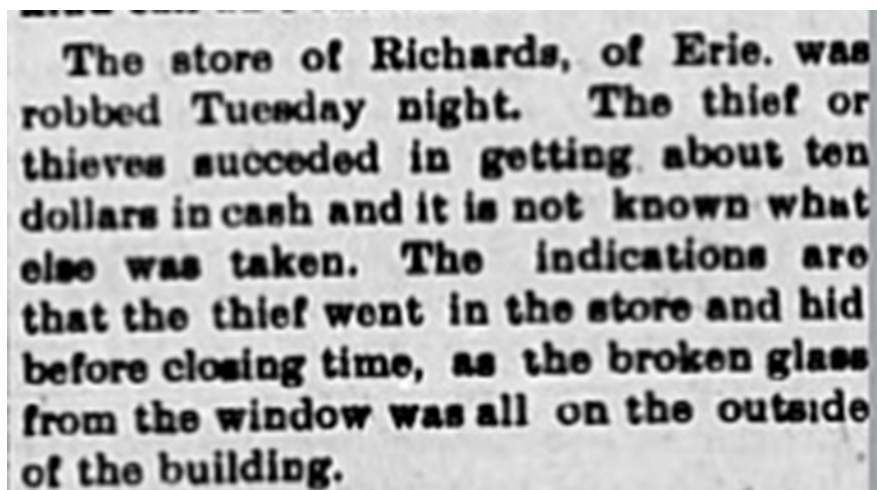
Private Charles B. Loyce, Co. L, February 5-7, 1899.

# Erie Crime 1901



A farmer going home last Monday night was held up by two masked robbers near Boulder creek and relieved of \$50 and a ring. Names of performers in this function could not be obtained,—Erie Review.

The Longmont Call, Volume 3, Number 20, January 26, 1901



The store of Richards, of Erie, was robbed Tuesday night. The thief or thieves succeeded in getting about ten dollars in cash and it is not known what else was taken. The indications are that the thief went in the store and hid before closing time, as the broken glass from the window was all on the outside of the building.

The Lafayette News, Volume IV, Number 163, August 17, 1901

# Erie Opera House And Coal Mine Report 1901

## ECHOES OF WESTERN WORLD.

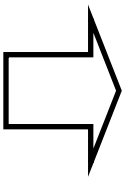
VICTOR, Colo.—Fire gutted the Maywood residence near Sixth street and Spicer avenue. The loss will be about \$300.

CENTRAL CITY, Colo.—The movement to submit to the taxpayers of the county the issuance of bonds for water works, which will prove of benefit to Nevadaville, Russell Gulch and other points, is meeting with favor. A petition has received the signatures of prominent taxpayers.

SANTA FE, N. M.—The congregation of St. John's Methodist Episcopal church has decided to erect a modern church building on its finely situated lots on Don Gaspar avenue.

ERIE, Colo.—Large crowds from neighboring towns attended the dance given by the Catholic Ladies' Aid society at the Erie opera house.

ERIE, Colo.—The Storrs mine, which about two months ago was purchased by the New Colorado Coal Mining company, has been thoroughly renovated and is now a producing property. It employs from fifty to sixty men and is putting out from 100 to 150 tons of coal per day.



The Rocky Mountain News (Daily), Volume 42, Number 295,  
October 22, 1901



# Columbine Mine Massacre

## 11-22-1927

### TROOPS PATROL STRIKE ZONE AFTER BATTLE

5 Killed, 60 Injured at Erie; Governor May Declare Martial Law

Death toll would rise to 6

#### List of Dead And Injured In Mine Clash

HERE is the list of dead and injured in the clash between state police and strike pickets at the Columbine mine near Erie yesterday:

##### DEAD:

**JERRY DAVIS**, 24, of Frederick, single, died of wound in head.

**JOHN EASTENES**, 34, of Morrison mine, Lafayette, married and father of six children; died of wounds in both breasts.

**NICK SPANUDAKHIS**, 38, of Morrison mine, Lafayette, single; died of wounds in both shoulders.

**RENE JACQUES**, 26, of Louisville, shot in stomach, died in Longmont Hospital at 5:30 p. m.

**GEORGE KOVITCH**, 25, Erie, single, died in the Longmont Hospital at 8:15 p. m. of bullet wounds in stomach.

##### STATE POLICE INJURED:

**SAM W. LEE**, 36, of 1629 Adams st., finger slashed.

**HAROLD WOODMAN**, 35, of 1870 Logan st., scalp wound over left eye and lacerations on left forearm.

**K. W. MURRELL**, 28, of 4560 Beach ct., fractured nose and lacerations on left forearm.

All were treated at the Colorado General Hospital and then taken to their homes.

The 19 other state police at the Columbine mine suffered minor injuries during the clash.

##### PICKETERS INJURED

**P. KIROKOTACH**, 37, of Erie, shot in head; critical.

**CARL NELSON**, 20, Canfield, single, shot in left hip; serious.

**GEORGE GUEROFF**, 30, of Erie, shot in shoulder and left leg; serious.

**LOUIS SAKRADIJA**, 32, of Erie, shot in left shoulder; serious.

**AL REYES**, 44, of Lafayette, married, shot in right hip.

**JOHN FVANCINA**, 35, of Erie, single, shot in left thigh.

**CHARLES PAPPAS**, 35, of Frederick, single, shot in back and left shoulder; serious.

**JOHN SPAROUS**, 32, of Marshall, single, shot in right leg.

**PALMERINE FEVERA**, 35, of Louisville, married, shot in right leg.

**TOM MILO**, 35, of Broomfield, single, shot in stomach; serious.

**CLAUDE BRIERLEY**, 28, of Erie, shot in left leg.

**JAMES BRANDON**, 40, of Lafayette, married, shot in right arm and right side.

**GEORGE MAZZINI**, 42, of Erie, married, shot in right arm.

**MIKE VIDOVICH**, 35, of Morrison mine, Lafayette, shot in both thighs; serious.

**R. C. NELSON**, 28, of Longmont, shot in shoulder.

**ORLANDO HERRERA**, 31, married, Independence mine, shot in right arm and right side.

All are in the Longmont Hospital.

**MRS. C. C. MORRISON**, 28, of Superior, shot thru pelvis; in Boulder Community Hospital.

**C. C. MORRISON**, 61, shot in right arm and left leg; in Boulder Community Hospital.

**MRS. ELIZABETH BERANEK**, 44, of Erie, mother of 16 children, bruised from beating.

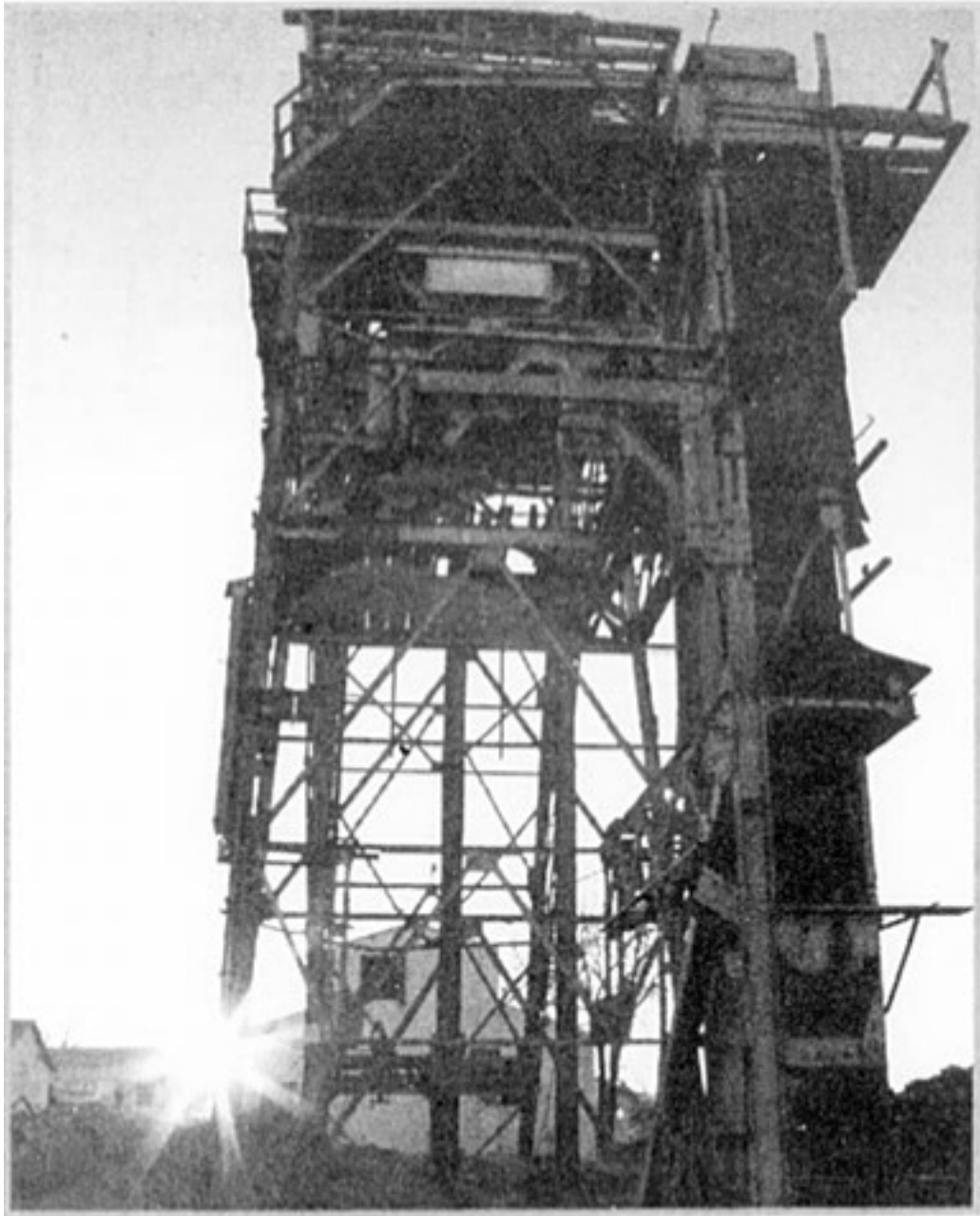
**ADAM BELL**, 50, of Erie, I. W. W. strike leader, badly beaten about the head.

Two unidentified miners treated at Presbyterian Hospital for slight injuries and released.

The Rocky Mountain News (Daily),  
Volume LXVIII, Number 326, Nov 22,  
1927



# Last Erie Mine Closes 1970s



**THE EAGLE MINE** tibble still stands near Interstate 25. *Photo by Tad Rickman*