

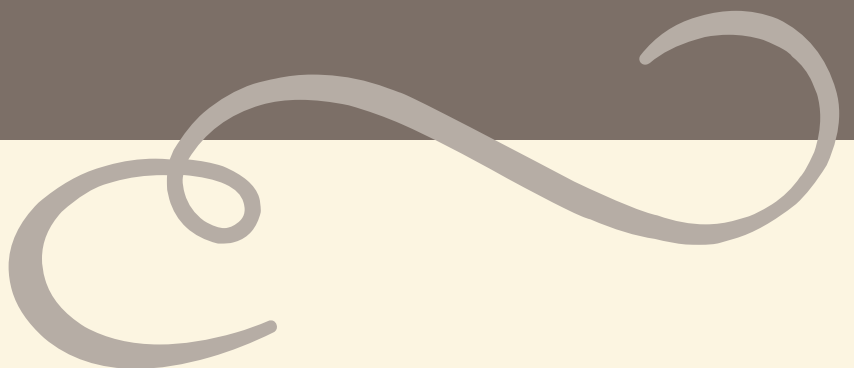


Epic

EVENTS

TIMELINE

G O L D E N
  
HISTORY MUSEUMS



Epic EVENTS

Our lives are filled with events—big and small, happy and sad, some memorable and some best forgotten. Over the course of days and years, the events of a lifetime tell a story—and the same is true for a community.

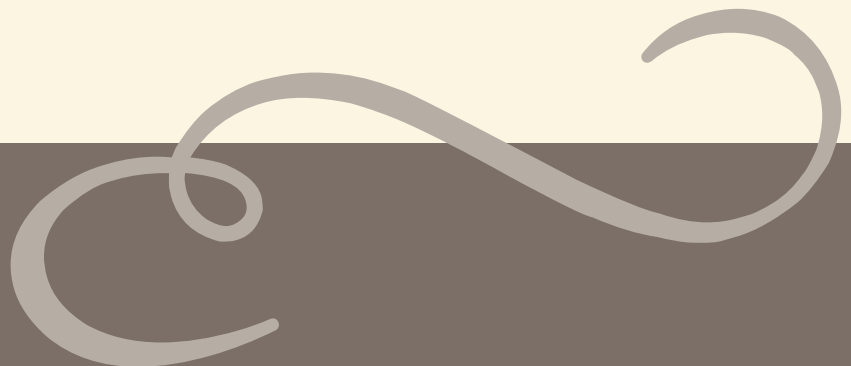
No one can know which events are “epic” as they’re happening—that knowledge comes with time and perspective. Open a newspaper from the past 150 years, or the web today, and you’ll find endless events: birth and death notices, election results, disasters, advertisements to buy and sell everything.

While the *Epic Events* exhibit showcases over three dozen events, it only scratches the surface. Use this timeline to peruse hundreds more from the past century and a half.

I started compiling and researching notable dates for the timeline in September 2015 with help from a team of respected local historians, an epic accomplishment on its own! Contributors included: Dan Abbott, Jo Barber, Lisa Dunn, Ronda Frazier, Richard Gardner, Dan Mayo, Dennis Potter, and Mary Ramstetter. Thank you all.

From the beginning, we envisioned this timeline as a living document. A research document we intend to keep building upon and revising as new information comes to light. Because, no matter what the future holds, it’s sure to bring more epic events.

Mark Dodge, Curator



Epic Events Timeline

1820

July 5 – Major Stephen Long and party pass through the area and shoot a pronghorn for dinner. John R. Bell, a member of the party, writes in his journal: “The creek is rapid and clear, flowing over a bed paved with rounded masses of granite-gneiss. It is from a supposed resemblance to these masses to cannon balls that the creek has received its name from the French hunters.” The “French hunters” are Joseph Bijeau and Abraam LeDoux of Long’s own expedition, who named the river Cannonball Creek that day.

1832

Louis Vasquez, French-Canadian trader, passes through Clear Creek Valley, renamed Cannonball Creek or the Vasquez Fork or River.

1834

Estes party arrives at gold placer sandbar, later known as Arapahoe Bar. The party marks a claim and mines gold using a rocker box before rising spring waters force them to move on.

1840s

Legend tells of a battle between long-standing enemies the Utes and Arapahos, at the base of the Table Mountains. The fighting is supposedly so bloody that neither tribe returns to the valley.

1843-44

Trapper-trader Rufus B. Sage camps along Clear Creek on a voyage of discovery. He writes that the valley “is well timbered, has good soil, abundant clay stone, excellent gravels, and sufficient deer, elk, and mountain sheep.” Sage pans for gold, finding some but not enough to promote it further.

1850-64

Chief Niwot and his Greasy Face band of the Southern Arapaho settle on high ground east of the Table Mountains on Clear Creek. The Greasy Face were one of four bands who had been forced out of the Red River and Manitoba country by the Assiniboine and Cree and later out of the Black Hills by the Sioux.

1858

The Colorado Gold Rush begins and the city of Denver is founded. The discovery of Colorado gold sparks a massive migration as word of William Green Russell’s find spreads and thousands of gold-seekers flood the West. Many turn back somewhere along the arduous, 2,000-mile trek. Others make it all the way to Colorado, only to be defeated in their efforts to find the riches they were told would come so easily.

Nov. 28 – Arapahoe Bar placer mining district is organized along Clear Creek, two miles east of today’s Golden. Its discoverers find the mysterious Estes claim markers and set their own beside them.

Nov. 29 – Arapahoe City, Jefferson County’s first town, is founded with Irish miner Thomas L. Golden as treasurer. It’s the fourth gold rush town in Colorado, after Montana City, Auraria and Denver. Arapahoe City exists only a few years, until 1863.

1859

Jan 7. – George W. Jackson discovers the first lode gold at Idaho Springs. Within about a year, the streams of Colorado Territory play out.

March 6 – John Gregory discovers lode gold at Black Hawk.

April 1 – The “Law and Order Republicans” organize to fight Nebraska’s admittance to the Union as a free state and Kansas—including today’s Jefferson County—as a slave state. The group commits to boosting Euro-American immigration, argues for federal financial aid to build roads and social infrastructure and develops laws to protect the 100,000 miles of unsettled lands in the former Arapahoe County, Kansas Territory. They join the Northern Democrats in support of the 1820 Missouri Compromise, disallowing slavery north of the 36th Parallel and west into frontier America.

April 1 – The German village of Baden, later known as Apex, is founded by 32-year-old George C. Schleier.

April 29 – David K. Wall, John Casto, Charles Welch and others arrive in nearby Arapahoe City.

1859

Prior to June 1 – John M. Ferrell, his wife Jeannette and sons Frank and Charles arrive in Golden. They build a hotel—the Miners’ Inn—and a toll bridge over Clear Creek at Washington Avenue.

Prior to June 1 – David K. Wall relocates to Golden, becoming the town’s first permanent resident. He digs the first irrigation ditch from Tucker Gulch to irrigate his farm with Clear Creek water. Two more ditches are dug that year: the Wanamaker and the McBroom.

June 1 – John C. Guy is the first settler to homestead on Gregory’s Road up Golden Gate Canyon.

June 8 – Horace Greeley, Albert D. Richardson, Beverly Williams and Henry Villard reach Gregory’s Plain by stage.

June 12 – The Boston Company, one of Golden’s first businesses, arrives in the Golden valley. Members include George West, Joseph H. Bird, Mark Blunt, James McDonald, James McIntyre, Thomas Panton and Walter Pollard. The company camps at the site of today’s Golden Hotel parking lot.

June 16 & 20 – Boston Company members, along with others camped in the valley, organize Golden City. F. W. Beebe begins surveying town sites. It’s likely that Golden City got its name at this time—*perhaps* after miner and businessman Thomas L. Golden.

June 19 – Rev. Lewis Hamilton holds Golden’s first religious service, preaching to a crowd at the Ford Brothers’ tent at today’s northwest corner of 12th and Ford Streets. The first hymn is “A Charge to Keep I Have.”

June 21 – Col. Parker B. Cheney opens the Chicago Saloon, likely in a tent. Located at the corner of today’s 11th and Washington, this popular watering hole is also home to Golden’s first flagpole. Cheney eventually flew the flag of the *USS Cumberland*, the first ship sunk by the Confederate warship *Virginia* during the Civil War.

June 22 – William Austin Hamilton Loveland arrives in Golden. Today, a town, mountain pass, street and park are named for this prominent citizen of both Golden and Colorado.

July 4 – The cornerstone is laid for the Boston Company building. Located in today’s Parfet Park—the two-story log house is Golden’s first building.

July 5 – The town of Golden Gate City is founded a couple miles to the west.

July 17 – Golden City Methodist Episcopal Church (today’s First United Methodist) becomes the county’s first congregation. Founded by Rev. Jacob Adriance and holding services in the Ford brothers’ tent, it’s the third church and second Protestant church in Colorado.

Aug. 1 – In Denver’s Apollo Hall Theater, 37 delegates from across the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains gather for a second Constitutional Convention.

Aug. 26 – Day-old Mary Jane McGlothlen dies and is buried – Golden’s first recorded burial. The exact location is unknown.

Sept. 5 – Denver hosts Third Territorial Constitutional Convention; 246 vote for territorial status, 42 for statehood.

Sept. 5 – Edgar Vanover “precautionary lynching”: after Vanover drunkenly shoots up the town, a group of vigilantes hang him from a beef gallows in today’s Vanover Park.

Sept. 11 – Golden experiences its first natural disaster when 28 buildings are destroyed in a windstorm. No one is spared damage.

Sept. 24 – Fourth Constitutional Convention is held at the Denver House hotel.

Oct. 6 – A Provisional Government of Jefferson Territory is created. To gain territorial status, the existing government of Arapahoe County, Kansas Territory, had to be dissolved (as specified in the Fort Laramie Treaty and Kansas Organic Act). The delegates created a new government with Congressional approval and the legal intervention of President Buchanan and the U.S. Congress to dissolve the Fort Laramie Treaty.

Oct. 27 – The town of Mt. Vernon is founded at the entrance to Mt. Vernon Canyon.

Nov. 7 – The Jefferson Territorial Convention was held to create Jefferson County, with Judge James T. McWhirt as the first county official and representatives for the new Provisional Government of Jefferson Territory elected: David Wall for the 3rd District at Golden City, Astor Smith for the 15th District at Arapahoe City, and Corydon Phelps Hall for the 18th District at Bear Creek. Eli Carter of Golden City was elected first president of the Jefferson Territorial Senate, and Tom Golden was reelected to represent the 7th District at Golden Gate City.

Governor Steele appointed Tom Golden to the elections and militia committee (earning him the ceremonial title of "Colonel"), and appointed Wall to finances and Hall and Smith to corporations.

Nov. 28 – Provisional territorial legislature meets and organizes 12 counties, including Jefferson. Arapahoe City is chosen as the first county seat.

Nov. 29 – The offices of county recorder and treasurer are created.

Dec. 5 – James McWhirt appoints the county's first officeholders: Eli Carter as associate judge of Jefferson County, James MacDonald as Golden's justice of the peace, Walter Pollard as sheriff and Daniel McCleery as recorder.

Dec. 4 – Golden's first newspaper, *The Western Mountaineer*, is launched with George West as editor. It was Colorado's fourth newspaper. West wanted to call it the *Transcript* but his partners overruled him in favor of a name that better reflects the region.

Dec. 11 – The first wedding is held when Rev. Jacob Adriance marries Michael Pott to Mary Jane Tittle.

1860

Jan. 2 – The first scheduled election for all local offices except coroner and commissioner is held. Golden City is elected county seat. Also elected are Henry Gunnell as clerk of the county court, John Kirby as county treasurer, Daniel McCleery as county assessor and Walter Pollard as sheriff.

Jan. 9 – Jefferson County opens its first school (and Colorado's second). The Golden City School meets in a rented cabin at today's 1304 Washington Avenue, with 18 students taught by Thomas Dougherty. The school moves to a partially completed brick building at the northeast corner of today's 14th and Arapahoe in 1864. Later, the building functions as the Territorial Executive building under Territorial Gov. Alexander Cummings in 1867.

Jan. 16 – Golden City Masonic Lodge, one of Colorado's first, is established.

April 6 – A post office is established at Golden City with Dr. Isaac E. Hardy as postmaster.

April 10 – The first mayor—John W. Stanton—and common council are elected.

April 18 – Edward Louis Berthoud and wife Helen arrived in Golden by stagecoach.

Aug. 26 – The all-time time hottest temperature in Jefferson County history is recorded in Golden City: 104 degrees F.

Oct. 6 – Charles L. Palmer is reputedly the first child of gold rush settlers to be born in Jefferson County. He's born in a cabin on the bank of Clear Creek, where the Coors Brewery now stands.

Oct. 15 – Jefferson County experiences its first major forest fire. It burns for two months, charring Bear Creek, Turkey Creek and Mount Vernon Canyons and the whole of Green Mountain.

Dec. 8 – Governor Steele appoints Alexander J. Allison the first district court judge of the First Judicial District in Jefferson Territory. He also appoints John Rhodes as district attorney.

1861

February – The town of Apex is created when provisional Gov. Robert W. Steele and other Jefferson Territorial loyalists secede from Mt. Vernon after that town secedes from Jefferson County in protest of the provisional government. Steele and others settle on the Baden town site, reconstituting it as Apex. They build the Apex Road up the gulch to compete with Mt. Vernon Road.

Feb. 6 – The first session of the District Court for Jefferson County convenes in Golden City to rule on an addition Eli Carter is building onto his home on "Washington Avenue and Water Street, first door south of the Boston Company."

Feb. 18 – Jefferson Rifles, a citizen militia group led by newspaper editor George West, forms in Golden.

Feb. 28 – President Abraham Lincoln signs the bill creating the Territory of Colorado, which follows the state's present boundaries. William Gilpin is appointed governor.

March – Edward Berthoud and Silas Burt publish *The Rocky Mountain Gold Regions*, one of many guides for gold seekers traveling west from St. Joseph, Missouri, or Omaha, Nebraska. They write that Golden City "... is twelve miles west of Denver and on Vasquez Fork or Clear Creek, was laid out in June 1859, and is now the second city in the gold region. Occupying the most advantageous position to the Quartz Mines, with excellent water power and surrounded by a fine agricultural county, it must become a populous and important town." A prominent ad calls out the Miner's Hotel, John M. Ferrell, proprietor.

April 22 – Golden's town crier announces news of the attack on Fort Sumter and the beginning of the Civil War.

1861

September – Dozens of Confederate sympathizers are rounded up and jailed without bail after President Lincoln orders the suspension of habeas corpus in Colorado Territory. Union troops stationed in the territory, the U. S. marshal and county sheriffs carry out the arrests. Golden residents George Jackson, Frank Delamar and others operating out of the nearby Guy Hill Hotel in Golden Gate Canyon are included in the roundup, only to escape en masse in February 1862. Martial law follows.

Oct. 6 – Camp Gilpin is established, housing Sexton's Rangers and later Company D of the Second Colorado Infantry. Golden is essentially a military town with at least seven locations administering to their needs. Camp Gilpin exists until Feb. 23, 1862.

Oct. 11 – The Apex & Gregory Wagon Road Company is established.

Nov. 1 – Governor Gilpin appoints John M. Ferrell, Spafford C. Field and George H. Richardson as the first Board of Jefferson County Commissioners.

Nov. 6 – Colorado & Pacific Wagon, Telegraph & Railroad Company gets a charter to build a wagon road and railroad and erect a telegraph line. The company will transport passengers, freight and mail, plus telegraph messages from the east line of Colorado Territory to Denver, up Clear Creek to Golden City before ending at the territory's western boundary.

Nov. 19 – A major windstorm damages 25 buildings. Sexton's Rangers help prevent major damage.

Dec. 2 – The reorganized Jefferson County holds its first general election. Theodore Boyd, David K. Wall and Thomas C. Bergen are elected commissioners. Voters also elect a coroner, district attorney, assessor, probate judge, treasurer, school superintendent, sheriff and several constables.

1862

March 28 – The Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico: Golden's James A. Dawson, an officer, helps lead this pivotal charge at Johnson's Ranch, which breaks a Confederate invasion. Dawson later becomes Golden's first war casualty when he is killed by friendly fire the same year.

May 13 – George West is commissioned as captain of Company H, Second Colorado Infantry. The unit recruits heavily in Golden to fight in Missouri and Oklahoma during the Civil War. On Wednesday, June 4, Parker Cheney and

partner Walter Pollard host a large party in their saloon in honor of the company now known as the "Howling H."

June 21 – Walter Pollard opens the county's first jail, but it closes on October 10 due to security issues. For the second jail, the county commissioners house prisoners in rented rooms in Johnson's Rocky Mountain Hotel at 2nd and Ford Streets.

Aug. 14 – Golden City becomes the capital of the Territory of Colorado after winning legislative battles against Denver, Central City, Cañon City and Fairplay. The honor is short lived: The territorial legislature ultimately votes to move the capital to Denver permanently in 1867. Altogether, the legislature meets in Golden five times.

Aug. 18 – Golden City holds the Capital Ball to celebrate its new status as territorial capital. Legislators and dignitaries gather from around the region for dancing, feasting, speeches and merriment.

Nov. 10 – The Clear Creek and Guy Gulch Wagon Road Company is established when it leases the wagon road rights (but not the railroad rights) of the Colorado & Pacific Wagon, Telegraph & Railroad Company.

1863

William A. H. Loveland and the Golden Masonic Lodge build the Loveland Building at 1122 Washington Avenue. Loveland owns the first floor and the Masons the second. A rear addition, built in 1866, enables the entire legislature to meet in one location.

Feb. 16 – Capt. George West establishes Camp Leavenworth to train troops recruited for the Colorado Volunteers of the Union Army. West was detailed by Col. Jesse H. Leavenworth to establish a camp of instruction at Golden City. West likely also trained troops of his own Company H of the 2nd Colorado Infantry, among others, recruiting at Golden City, Central City, Cañon City and Denver.

Feb. 18 – *The Colorado Democrat*, Golden's second newspaper, makes its debut. Established by William Train Muir, it only appears until April of the same year.

June 1 – The first grasshopper plague hits the area, devastating everything in its wake. Plagues continue through 1876. Crop damage is so heavy along the Front Range, the mountains and the "barren summit of the table mountain overlooking the town of Golden" that in 1876 the Secretary of War distributes food and clothing to farmers.

Aug. 1 – Rev. William Whitehead founds the First Baptist Church, holding services in the Loveland Building at today's 1107 Washington Avenue. It was Colorado's second Baptist church and remains the state's oldest.

September – The area's first Cornish hard-rock miners, or "Cousin Jacks," arrive from Michigan and Wisconsin to help build William A. H. Loveland's railroad. Their mining expertise is instrumental in building roads and railroad beds into nearby canyons.

1864

February – The Third Colorado Territorial Legislature assembles in Golden. No one knows where they met for the four days before they adjourned to Denver.

May 14 – Jefferson County suffers its first devastating flood. Originating in Deer, Bear, Coal and Mount Vernon Creeks, floodwaters drown 19 people and thousands of sheep in the South Platte River.

June – Mrs. Miffitt, wife of a Golden soldier later killed in action at the Battle of Newtonia, risks her life to act as a spy to successfully misdirect Confederate forces in order to rescue ambulances of sick and wounded men at Pleasant Hill, Missouri, when Union troops are unavailable to help. Capt. George West later writes in the *Transcript* that her heroism is "a brave night's work bravely executed, and worthy of a place in the annals of the war."

July 13 – At the Battle of Camden Point, Missouri, Jefferson County soldiers led by George West have their day with outlaw "bushwhackers." West is awarded the Confederate battle flag, which is returned to the Rebels many years later.

Sept. 1 – At Bergen's Ranch the sheriff captures the Reynolds Gang, a group of outlaws terrorizing the area.

Oct. 23 – At the Battle of Westport, Missouri, Golden's Capt. George West faces in combat George Jackson—famed discoverer of gold at Idaho Springs.

Oct. 28 – The second Battle of Newtonia, Missouri, proves Capt. George West's finest hour. Golden's Daniel Miffitt is killed in action, becoming Golden's first Union loss in combat.

1865

Jan. 2 – The Fourth Colorado Territorial Legislature meets in the second story of the Overland Hotel, remaining in Golden for the entire session.

Feb. 9 – The Colorado & Clear Creek Railroad Company is established. The proposed route begins "at or near the western boundary of Golden City . . . running in a westerly direction up Clear Creek . . . up the north fork to the cities of Black Hawk and Central City" as well as "up the south fork of said stream to Idaho Springs and Empire City . . ." On Jan. 20, 1866, the company newly forms as the Colorado Central & Pacific. On Jan. 1, 1868, it finally begins construction on a rail line—Colorado's first—with a groundbreaking ceremony in Golden. On Jan. 14, the railroad shortens its name to the "Colorado Central."

Aug. 5 – The First Baptist Church chapel—the first church building in Golden and the first Baptist chapel in Colorado—is dedicated at today's southwest corner of 12th and Jackson Streets.

1866

Brick making at the Golden Brickworks leads to Golden's first clay mining.

Bishop George M. Randall arrives in Colorado Territory from Boston. Seeing the need for higher education in the area, he starts planning a small, three-building campus. Each building will have a discrete purpose, including a school of mines.

Tuberculosis officially hits Jefferson County with the death of T. P. Boyd.

Jan. 1 – The Fifth Colorado Territorial Legislature convenes in Golden, but adjourns to meet again on January 11, 1867.

Jan. 20 – Colorado Central & Pacific Railroad Company is established.

Aug. 2 – Bishop George Maxwell founds Calvary Episcopal Church.

December – Wells Fargo comes to Golden, establishing a relay station to switch horse teams to and from mountain trips. The company builds a stone stable at today's southeast corner of 13th and Washington and operates out of Golden until 1874. Wells Fargo returns in the year 2000 a block to the east.

Dec. 19 – Civil War hero and former *Western Mountaineer* editor George West founds the *Colorado Transcript* in Golden City.

1867

January – *Colorado Transcript* reports that a “large delegation of Ute Indians, both ladies and gentlemen,” arrive in town and drive “...a lively trade with our merchants, bartering their furs and skins for sugar, flour, coffee, etc. Prior to the Utes arrival, Chief Friday and his band of Arapaho break camp in Clear Creek Canyon—possibly the last documented Arapaho encampment in Jefferson County.

Jan. 11 – The Sixth Colorado Territorial Legislature meets at the Loveland Building.

Jan. 17 – Golden City’s Methodist Episcopal Church chapel is dedicated at today’s northwest corner of 14th and Washington.

Feb. 17 – Rev. James M. Holland founds the First Christian Church, the first congregation of the Disciples of Christ (Campbellite) denomination in Colorado. The church holds its services in a schoolhouse at today’s 1420 Washington Avenue.

May 19 – Bishop Joseph Projectus Machebeuf founds St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in a newly constructed chapel at the northeast corner of today’s 14th and Ford Streets.

Aug. 7 – In the Plum Creek Railroad Attack, Cheyenne men derail, capture and burn a train near Lexington, Nebraska. Machinery for the Golden Paper Mill is destroyed, setting back its completion, but the wives and children of the mill’s builder John J. Bush, brother George Bush, brother-in-law David Vandercar and H. Freshaw escape when their oncoming passenger train is warned. Completed later the same year, the Golden Paper Mill is the only such mill west of Missouri, making paper from recycled rags and straw.

Dec. 2 – The Seventh (and final) Colorado Territorial Legislature to convene in Golden meets on the upper floor of the Loveland Building. William W. Webster elected president of the council, with C. H. McLaughlin elected speaker of the house. For a week delegates fight over the relative merits of Golden versus Denver as the seat of government. When Denver wins by one vote, bribery is suspected.

1868

July 23 – General Ulysses S. Grant visits Golden City with fellow generals Sherman and Sheridan. It’s the first of three visits he makes to Golden, including a trip in 1873 as the first sitting president to visit the city.

Sept. 23 – Calvary Episcopal Church chapel is dedicated. Today, it’s the second oldest and the oldest continuously used Episcopal chapel in Colorado.

Nov. 22 – Dave Cook and Rocky Mountain Detectives shoot it out with Sanford Duggan at Jack Hill’s saloon (today’s Buffalo Rose). Duggan and his partner, “Heartless” Edward Franklin, were in Golden plotting the escape of Luther Musgrove, captured leader of the Musgrove Gang of horse thieves. Duggan escapes, but “Heartless” Edward is cornered in his room at the neighboring Overland Hotel and shot to death. Bartender Miles Hill also dies in the shootout.

1869

Arthur Lakes, the “Father of Colorado Geology,” begins teaching at Jarvis Hall, an Episcopal school. He stays with the school when it is turned over to the territorial government for the State School of Mines.

June 7 – Dan Castello’s “Great Combination Show and Egyptian Caravan” comes to Golden. Thousands watch as circus wagons full of exotic animals, clowns and other performers pass up the North Golden Road. The wagons circle in the open ground west of Washington Avenue, where the Jefferson Rifles and Denver Guards once trained for war. It takes Castello a full month to unload, erect tents, advertise tickets and prepare for Golden’s tenth anniversary celebration. Bound for California on the Union Pacific line, Castello’s show is the first of its kind to cross the United States via railroad.

July 28 – The *Colorado Transcript* reports, “A large crowd of Utes who have been camped in our valley for a couple of days left, ‘bag and baggage,’ on Monday morning. We believe that they are en route for their reservation on the White river. They were very peaceable and quiet during their stay here; we hear of only one instance of misbehavior on their part. On Sunday evening one of the ‘bucks’ visited the house of one of our citizens, and seeing only a little girl, demanded food; upon being refused he pointed a pistol at her, but withdrew quietly upon the approach of the lady of the house. We presume everybody in Colorado will rejoice when they are finally settled upon their reservations.”

Aug. 4 – William Jackson Palmer, director of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, visits Golden.

Nov. 17 – The nearly completed Jarvis Hall Collegiate School is wrecked by a windstorm; two people inside escape injury.

1870

March 7 – Circuit-riding minister Rev. Sheldon Jackson founds First Presbyterian Church, holding services out of First Baptist Church.

May 5 – Groundbreaking is held for the Territorial School of Mines.

Sept. 23 – The first Colorado Central standard gauge engine, named “Golden,” pulls into town from Denver.

Sept. 26 – The first passenger train over the Colorado Central Railroad arrives.

Oct. 18 – Jarvis Hall college is dedicated. Bishop George M. Randall opens the school in a building just south of downtown on the current site of the Lookout Mountain School for Boys.

Dec. 4 – An earthquake hits Golden around 5 a.m., shaking the town for two or three seconds.

1871

Welch Ditch begins diverting 26 cubic feet per second of water in a reinforced flume high above Clear Creek.

Jan. 2 – The Town of Golden City is formally incorporated. In 1874, the town is divided into four wards with two overlying districts to provide a more equitable allocation of street fund money.

August – Rev. Olof Olsson, the first Lutheran missionary in Colorado, travels to Denver and Golden on behalf of the Augustana Synod.

1871-90

First Street Jail is in operation.

1872

World travel writer Verplanck Colvin visits Denver and catches the train to Golden, where he sets off on an adventure up Clear Creek country. He chronicles his trip in the December 1872 issue of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*.

Jan. 19 – Grand Duke Alexis of Russia becomes the first royalty to visit Golden.

Jan. 22 – Golden City officially shortens its name to Golden.

June 16 – The First Presbyterian Church chapel is dedicated at today's southwest corner of 15th Street and Washington Avenue.

Sept. 19 – Matthews Hall divinity school opens next to Jarvis Hall college.

Oct. 2 – Golden forms its first organized firefighting team, with the formation of the Golden Hook and Ladder Co.

Dec. 23 – The narrow gauge section of the Colorado Central Railroad, linking Denver and Golden with Central City through Clear Creek Canyon, is completed—the first railroad into the Colorado mountains.

1873

A Mining School opens next to Jarvis and Mathews Hall, completing the group of schools. Acquired by the Colorado territorial government in 1874, the Mining School becomes the Territorial School of Mines—Colorado's first public institution of higher education and precursor to the Colorado School of Mines. It's been a state institution since 1876, when Colorado attained statehood.

Arthur Lakes establishes Jarvis Hall Museum, today's Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum.

South School is built; Golden High School opens inside.

April 28 – President Ulysses S. Grant is the first sitting president to visit Golden.

May 8 – First Christian Church breaks ground at today's northwest corner of 10th and Jackson Streets. The chapel is dedicated on Sept. 13.

July – In the last documented Ute encampment in Jefferson County, a sizable number of Utes camp within city limits. They gamble and hold wrestling contests with Goldenites, including a side game in which *Golden Globe* editor Edgar Watson Howe bets more than a pound of sugar.

Sept. 3 – Bishop Randall opens the Territorial School of Mines in the final public act of his ministry shortly before his death 25 days later.

Oct. 6 – The city establishes Golden Cemetery as a municipal facility. It's listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2012.

Oct. 12 – Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church—the second Lutheran and first Swedish church in Colorado—is founded by Rev. Carl Peter Rydholm of the Augustana Synod, who becomes the first installed Lutheran pastor in Colorado.

1873

October – South School opens with 195 students and Professor George W. Wilcox from Norwood Park, Chicago, as principal. In 1888, Jefferson County is the first in Colorado to adopt a graded school system when South School separates students by age, with the upper grades on the top floor and the lower grades on the first floor.

Nov. 13 – In her book *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*, Isabella Bird says this about her visit to Golden: "Golden City by daylight showed its meanness and belied its name. It is ungraded, with here and there a piece of wooden sidewalk supported on posts, up to which you ascend by planks. Brick, pine, and log houses are huddled together, every other house is a saloon, and hardly a woman is to be seen. My landlady apologized for the very exquisite little bedroom which she gave me by saying, it was not quite as she would like it, but she had never had a lady in her house before... Golden City rang with oaths and curses, especially at the depot."

Nov. 24 – Jacob Schueler and Adolph Coors found their Golden Brewery, precursor to the Coors Brewing Company. Golden Lager, their first beer, hits the market in 1874 and is an instant success. The largest single-site brewery in the world, Coors is still half-owned by the Coors family.

1874

After Bishop Randall's death and amid controversy over state funding of the religious-owned school, the Territorial School of Mines is granted to the territorial government, making it Colorado's first state-owned college.

May 21 – Golden's Excelsior Fire Company rushes to fight a horrific fire in Central City the state's most destructive fire yet. It's also the first recorded mutual aid call in Colorado.

July – Peter T. Dotson, a Jarvis Hall student, discovers the world's first T-Rex fossil under the auspices of Arthur Lakes. In 1877 they partner with Yale University's Professor O. A. Marsh and go on to uncover fossils from *Apatosaurus*, *Diplodocus* and *Stegosaurus*.

1876

Aug. 1 – Colorado becomes the 38th state in the Union with a population of 135,000 citizens.

Aug. 15 – In an effort to save the Golden-based Colorado Central Railroad from bankruptcy, the Jefferson County sheriff organizes a mob of men to forcibly kidnap Circuit Court Judge Amherst W. Stone. With Stone missing, the

bankruptcy court session is delayed. The next morning Judge Stone is released unharmed and ultimately drops charges against his kidnappers, while the delayed court ruling allows the Colorado Central to avoid bankruptcy by issuing bonds that fulfill its outstanding debt.

1877

George William Parfet begins mining clay in Golden with financial support from partners H. M. Rubey and William S. Woods. Parfet's clay contains 10% kaolinite and a wide range of vitrification, making it exceptional for fire brick. One of Parfet's biggest customers for the next hundred years is the Denver Brick and Pipe Company.

June 23 – Masons place the cornerstone for the original Jefferson County Courthouse located on Washington Avenue between 15th and 16th Streets. The courthouse serves the county until April 20, 1953, when a new courthouse opens at 16th and Arapahoe Streets.

1878

April – Jarvis and Mathews Halls burn to the ground. Jarvis Hall college burns on April 4 and Matthews Hall divinity school is destroyed by arson on April 6. Jarvis Hall and the Territorial School of Mines move downtown to the upper story of the Loveland Block at 1122 Washington Avenue. The new Jarvis Hall—still standing—is built at 921 19th Street.

July 28 – Swedish Lutheran Church, built in 1874, is dedicated at today's southeast corner of 5th Street and Washington Avenue. For many years it's Colorado's oldest Lutheran church building. Today, a nearby Lutheran parsonage at 710 6th Street is Colorado's oldest.

1879

North School is built to house upper primary grades.

Four major smelters are operating in Golden: the French Smelting Company, Trenton Dressing and Smelting, Valley Smelting Works and the Golden Smelting Company. At peak production, they can process 15 to 60 tons of ore daily per smelter. By 1900 all are closed.

Three fire companies consolidate to form the Golden Fire Department.

April 8 – With more than 300 residents, Golden is officially a "city of second class." The first city officials are elected and a mayor-council form of government adopted.

Sept. 1 – Golden gets its first telephone service when

Golden Telephone & Dispatch Company starts operating out of the second floor of the Dougherty Building at 1112 Washington Avenue.

Oct. 24 – Golden Opera House opens on Washington Avenue.

Dec. 27 – Behind the Golden jail, a mob lynches two men named Seminole and Woodruff for murdering teamster Reuben Benton Hayward. By moonlight the mob of a hundred masked and armed men converge on horseback, overpower undersheriff Joseph Boyd and guard Edgar Cox, escort the prisoners 300 yards to the Golden & South Platte Railroad trestle and loop nooses around their necks. The vigilantes remove their hats and bow their heads in prayer before pushing the prisoners from the bridge. Coroner Joseph W. Anderson's jury rules that the hangings are felonious but the perpetrators unknown.

1880

Classes begin in the Chemistry Building—the first building to open on the new Colorado School of Mines campus in its present location.

Golden adopts the slogan “Pittsburgh of the West.”

March 6 – North School opens—on the north side of Clear Creek—to alleviate overcrowding at South School. Mainly an elementary school, North serves as an educational institution until 1937, when Jefferson County buys the building for county welfare offices. During World War II it houses the ration board. The building is demolished in 1965 to make way for Highway 58 and eventually a gas station.

May 4 – Adolph Coors buys out partner Jacob Schueler to become sole proprietor of the Golden Brewery.

1881

July 16 – Colorado State Industrial School (today's Lookout Mountain Youth Detention Facility) opens for wayward children ages 6 to 18.

1882

Nov. 7 – An election-day earthquake of magnitude 6.2, still the largest in Jefferson County, shakes Golden, with the effect particularly felt at the Jefferson County Courthouse.

1883

Colorado School of Mines holds its first formal commencement, graduating students William B. Middleton and Walter H. Wylie.

June 10 – A major flood hits Golden.

1884

July 17 – Mayor Francis E. Everett's suicide sends shock waves through the community. Initial reports cite insanity, but it comes to light that the beloved owner of the Everett Bank and tireless town promoter was facing financial ruin, having secretly defrauded creditors. It takes years to sort out the financially devastated estate, ultimately leaving dozens of Golden creditors high and dry.

1886

The community of Fairmount is established.

September – A group of socially prominent women found the Golden Fortnightly Club. Mrs. Charles Welch hosts the first meeting at her home. It's the oldest continuously operated women's club in Colorado.

1887

Dec. 15 – Golden Illuminating Company's power plant goes online, sending Jefferson County its first electricity.

1889

Sept. 9 – Ten coal miners are killed when water floods the White Ash Coal mine's lower levels, entombing the men 730 feet below ground. The mine was near today's Marv Kay Stadium.

1891

Sept. 20 – The Denver, Lakewood, and Golden Railroad Company runs the first tramway to Lakewood and Golden from Denver. The tram line later becomes part of the Denver Tramway Corporation and is affectionately dubbed “the Loop.”

1893

At the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Coors exhibits its beer and the Golden Pressed & Fire Brick Company showcases its products. Both companies win awards.

February – Ground is broken for Athletic Park (today's Marv Kay Stadium). The football stadium is believed to be the oldest in the West.

Oct. 7 – Colorado School of Mines holds first football game. Mines beat University of Denver 6-0.

Oct. 14 – Golden High School holds its first football game, beating Jarvis Hall's team 22-4.

1894

April 4 – Ella Deaver is elected Golden's treasurer, becoming Jefferson County's first female officeholder. Deaver ran against another woman, Julie Mencimer, and is later re-elected for a second term.

1896

July 24 – A great flood, caused by a massive thunderstorm, kills three people in Golden. Another 26 perish throughout Jefferson County.

1898

Spanish American War commences and Golden furnishes her share of volunteers to fight with the First Colorado U. S. Volunteers. Golden sees no casualties.

Florence Caldwell is the first woman to receive a School of Mines diploma, earning her degree in civil engineering.

1900

Jan. 14 – The First Church of Christ, Scientist, is organized, with services held at the Snodgrass residence at 1600 Ford Street.

1902

Coors wins an international brewing award in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Nov. 8 – Geijsbeek Pottery closes, after less than two years in operation. Incorporated July 14, 1900, the Geijsbeek brothers briefly manufactured Golden clay into all kinds of pottery using locally sourced materials. An early catalog listed 141 different products.

1903

Workers lay a water pipeline tapping into Beaver Brook, a watershed at the foot of Squaw Mountain near Mount Evans. Fourteen miles of wooden pipe carry the water from Beaver Brook to the top of Lookout Mountain, and an eight-inch steel pipeline carries the water from Lookout to Golden. The project marks the beginning of Golden's current water system.

The Colorado National Guard establishes its only permanent training facility three miles east of Golden at the site that becomes known as the State Rifle Range. (In 1934 the facility is renamed for George West, who served as adjutant general of the Guard from 1887 to 1889.) As the post develops, it becomes the primary storage and

supply facility for local units and the home of the Guard's summer encampments from 1906 through 1944.

1905

Golden Illuminating Company installs the state's first incandescent streetlights. These unique Nernst lamps couldn't burn out, because they were lit by a ceramic rod heated to incandescence.

Nov. 23 – Oscar Nolin saves South School from exploding after its steam boiler is sabotaged by persons unknown. He saves more than 100 lives, including everyone in the thirteen grades housed in the building.

1906

Colorado School of Mines adds Guggenheim Hall to its campus. Topped by a gold dome and visible from all of downtown, the hall provides a library, classroom space and an auditorium. Simon Guggenheim's donation of \$80,000 pays for the building, its furnishings and even a rebuilding of the south wall 12 years later after damage from groundwater.

Jan. 21 – Ashworth and Son erect a 24' x 24' pavillion at the summit of Castle Rock, overlooking Golden. Jack trains (donkeys) leave from their Avenue hotel on Washington Avenue to the top of the rock beginning July 5.

1907

Golden is a movie town! Gilbert Anderson, with the Selig Polyscope Company, directs three action-packed westerns in Golden: *The Bandit King*, *The Girl from Montana* and *Western Justice*—none of which are known to still exist. Anderson returns in 1909 with his newly formed Essanay Film Company, shooting a new series of westerns in Golden and nearby Morrison.

Sept. 30 – The First Christian Church dedicates its second home at the northwest corner of 11th Street and Washington Avenue.

1908

The "M" on Mount Zion is built, initially designed by Joe O'Byrne in 1905.

Taking advantage of a growing tourist trade, Charles Quaintance opens the Castle Rock Pleasure Resort in May on the summit of Castle Rock overlooking Golden. A pavilion boasts an ice cream shop and refreshment stand, a dance hall with a hardwood floor, a shooting gallery and a telescope offering views of the Golden valley.

With the Denver & Lakewood Electric Railroad now bringing visitors hourly to Golden, Quaintance plans to add a burro-powered train to pull tourists up the mountainside from the Golden depot. And with an auto road under construction from South Golden Road to Castle Rock, Harry Hartzell is contracted to run a stage up the road at a reasonable rate per passenger.

July 30 – George Hering makes the first automobile ascent of Castle Rock in his new 20-horsepower Stanley Steamer. Starting at the bottom of the hill at 13th and Washington Streets, he takes passengers Charles Quaintance (founder of the Castle Rock Pleasure Resort), John Reichert of Denver and a newspaperman as witnesses. Hering reaches the top in 12 minutes, 45 seconds.

Sept. 10 – Audiences marvel at the first silent movie shown in Golden, at the Electric Theatre (later called the Gem) on Jackson Street.

1909

The Colorado National Guard forms a unit in Golden, having seen that Colorado School of Mines students would make good officers. Company A is the only engineering corps west of the Mississippi, with Mines students as about 20 percent of the original force. The unit goes on to serve in World War I with a unit from Boulder and Colorado Springs, together forming the First Battalion, Colorado Engineers. After training in Golden City Park, the battalion is drafted into federal service in August 1917, later expanding into the 115th Regiment, U.S. Engineers. The regiment serves in France, coming under enemy fire during its engineering work.

1910

John J. Herold establishes Coors Porcelain inside the warehouse of the old Golden Glass Works.

Aug. 19 – Maria Laguardia is murdered and robbed on South Table Mountain. She is presumed missing until her remains are found nearly one year later by a local rancher. A jury finds Denver resident Angelina Garramone guilty of first-degree murder and she's sentenced to life in prison.

Dec. 14 – Leyden Coal Mine disaster ultimately kills 11 when an underground fire traps miners below the surface.

1912

Colorado School of Mines Experimental Plant opens and for many years plays an important role in mineral and metallurgical research.

The First Christian Church disbands.

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, recognized by the Catholic Church as the first American saint, discovers a live spring on a mountainside at Mount Vernon Canyon. There she opens a summer orphanage at the site of today's Mother Cabrini Shrine.

Guy Hill Telephone Company begins work on a phone line for the Guy Hill mountain district. The line operates well into the 1960s.

July 6 – The Lookout Mountain Park Funicular opens, with two railcars taking 32 sightseers to the top of Lookout Mountain. The railroad is abandoned when the Lariat Trail automobile road is completed in 1913.

1913-14

The four-story, cobblestone Colorado National Guard Armory is built at 1301 Arapahoe. Designed by Albert Bryan, it has a drill hall, dormitory, mess, parlors and library.

1913

The Castle Rock Mountain Railway funicular line opens, taking riders up Table Mountain in railcars.

The Lariat Trail opens—the first of several scenic drives in Denver's mountain park system. Beginning in Golden, where two 35-foot-tall stone pylons mark the entry, the drive connects with Floyd Hill Road at the top of Mount Vernon Canyon. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. completed early plans assisted by Saco R. DeBoer, Denver's noted landscape architect, and Golden's William ("Cement Bill") Williams. Cement Bill oversees construction, even paying some of the costs out of his own pocket.

Dec. 4-5 – The Blizzard of 1913 dumps five feet of snow in Golden—still the largest overall snowfall on record.

1914

Germany had previously been the major supplier of labware prior to WWI. Coors Ceramic Company started their line in 1914 and was used all over the U.S. and world by the 1920s, including scientists like Thomas Edison.

Feb. 7 – Four local women's groups led by Lucretia Cora DeFrance band together to incorporate the Golden Library. The women buy land and a building on 13th Street between Jackson Street and Washington Avenue on February 14.

1916

Jan. 1 – Golden ushers in Colorado’s Prohibition with a grand free-for-all fight as angry saloon goers spill into the streets. Coors Brewery dumps its entire stock of beer (about 17, 000 gallons) into Clear Creek. The brewery decides to adapt by making a “near beer” called Mannah, while also experimenting with malted milk and other dairy products. Prohibition becomes effective nationally in 1920 with the Volstead Act.

1917

Jan. 1 – The Coors malted milk plant is fully operational. The plant needs more than 600 gallons of raw milk a day to make a ton of finished product.

June 3 – Twenty thousand people drive up the recently completed Lariat Trail to witness the burial of William “Buffalo Bill” Cody atop Lookout Mountain with full Masonic rites performed by George W. Parfet, Worthy Master of Golden City Lodge Number 1. Cowgirl Goldie Griffith had recalled that Cody once took her to the top of that mountain and pointed out the amazing view, telling her he wanted to be buried at the spot just above Wildcat Point. Having seen the world, Cody wanted to end up in Golden, much to the dismay of Cody, Wyoming—the town that had been named after him.

1918-19

A worldwide Spanish influenza epidemic strikes Golden, killing city councilman Oscar Nolin and pharmacist Henry Foss, among others. The military and the Red Cross join forces, converting the National Guard Armory into an emergency hospital. All public assemblies are banned to prevent the spread of disease.

1918

January – Golden is chosen as the location for the new state police training center.

Oct. 7 – Jefferson County commissioners pass a resolution prohibiting public meetings until the flu epidemic is over and recommend that all schools close.

Nov. 11 – World War I ends. Golden celebrates with such a marathon bell ringing that the bell cracks. Today, Golden’s “Liberty Bell” hangs in front of City Hall.

1919

The School of Mines organizes a Senior Division Engineer

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) unit, becoming one of the first four collegiate institutions to receive the honor.

Aug. 10 – The first airplane flies over Golden, sputtering over Genesee Mountain and dropping a wreath on Buffalo Bill’s grave. The pilot is A. M. Lendrum of Denver with passenger Dr. O. C. Hickman.

Nov. 20 – Area Republicans found the *Jefferson County Republican* newspaper.

1920

Prohibition is now in effect nationally.

April – Convinced that Golden business will suffer if tourists bypass the city, a small group of local business leaders meet and form the Golden Chamber of Commerce. Herman Coors, manager of Coors Porcelain, is elected the first president.

May 27 – The demolition of Bella Vista Hotel shatters Golden’s dream of becoming a great convention city and railroad hub. Built in 1884, the loss of this mostly vacant, poorly built and ill-smelling downtown hotel comes to represent Golden’s failure to many.

June 23 – The Seventh Day Adventist Church is founded by Rev. W. R. Lauda, with services held in a mission tent at 1017 Ford Street.

1921

Coors gets a federal permit to make pure grain alcohol. The brewery installs a five-story copper still in the tower of its main building. Full-strength beer is brewed, then alcohol is distilled from it. The company sells its 200-proof alcohol to hospitals, drug stores and labs, among others.

The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) enters Colorado with an agenda of economic and political control; by 1924 the KKK has a presence in every Colorado county. Membership is confined to American-born, Protestant whites with a program of militant Americanism, Protestantism, and mysterious rituals, robes, and hoods. KKK popularity in Colorado peaks in 1925.

Rumors, some substantiated, hold that there are 8,000 Klansmen in full membership in the Denver-Golden area. Up to now, the region’s KKK had kept a low profile, so Jefferson County Sheriff Gary Kerr is unconcerned about ongoing Klan meetings south of Golden. Others, however, are troubled. Still, in the social climate of 1922, the hooded knights are on par with the Masons or Kiwanis, with meetings openly publicized and covered by the press.

1922

The Colorado School of Mines organizes a graduate education program. Thomas T. Gow earns the first master's degree.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church builds a chapel at 810 Washington Avenue, with windows the First Christian Church congregation used there at its original home.

April 14 – Ku Klux Klan members gather two miles south of Golden to commemorate the crucifixion of Christ. Their leader, a Denver preacher, stands before the blazing torches and introduces Klan principles to the people of Jefferson County: "Moral, law-abiding people, white or black, male or female, of whatever religious faith, have nothing to fear from our Klan. But we do warn the immoral, the undesirable . . . We are loyal Americans and wish it to be known that the Ku Klux Klan stands as constituted and operated for law enforcement only through the channels provided by our national, state and local governments; breach of which by any Klansman is a violation of his sacred obligation and forfeiture of his membership."

1923

Sept. 27 – Klansmen erect a large wooden cross atop Castle Rock, overlooking Golden. Six white-robed men on horseback roam the foot of Castle Rock, keeping traffic flowing and discouraging curiosity-seekers from going to the summit to see what they're doing. Just after dark the cross is set afire, illuminating the large, hooded assemblage. The Klansmen initiate over 150 new members in two tents erected nearby – believed to be one of the largest gatherings in the state.

Dec. 2 – Rev. T. P. Dunn founds the Golden Church of the Nazarene, holding worship services in a mission tent at 1017 Ford Street.

1924

Golden Tourist Park opens as Golden's first free municipal auto campground, at 22nd and Jackson Street. The park office cottage remains today.

Golden's first Olympian, Leroy Taylor Brown, competes in the Paris summer games, winning the silver medal in men's high jump.

In Golden's first downtown streetscape project, Washington Avenue is paved and downtown gets ornamental streetlights. Today's lights are patterned after these 1924 lights with Golden's second streetscape project in 1992.

The new Golden High School is built at 710 10th Street. North and South Schools house the primary grades.

Nov. 15 – Colorado School of Mines holds its first Homecoming celebration complete with parade, a football game, and a banquet.

Nov. 23 – Golden Church of the Nazarene dedicates its chapel at 1014 Washington Avenue.

1925

Hotel Berrimoor (later Holland House, now Table Mountain Inn) opens on Washington Avenue. It's now Golden's longest operating hostelry.

Golden Kiwanis dedicates Parfet Park.

Adolph Coors, Jr., convinces the Mars Candy Company to choose Coors as its main malted milk supplier—a deal that saves his company.

May 25 – The Ku Klux Klan presents the City of Golden with a 50-foot steel flag pole and large American flag. The pole is installed on Washington Avenue at the intersection of Washington Avenue and 12th Streets.

September – The First Annual Labor Day Rodeo is held at the rodeo grounds on South Table Mountain.

1926

Colorado School of Mines starts offering degrees in mining, metallurgy, petroleum and geology; a Geophysics department is also added—one of the first in the country.

1927

Jan. 29 – Colorado School of Mines holds the first of its celebrated Engineering Days, or "E-days."

Aug. 7 – Castle Rock Dance Pavilion catches fire and burns down under mysterious circumstances.

1928

Nov. 14 – A school naming contest results in the Golden High School "Demons."

1929

Colorado School of Mines launches its graduate school.

The Golden Thespians are founded. For years they are actively involved in the local theater scene.

1929

June - Golden Gem Theater shows the first “talkie” in town, a murder mystery called *The Donovan Affair*.

June 5 – Adolph Coors, Sr., dies after falling from a sixth-floor balcony at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was vacationing with his wife, Louise, his daughter, Mrs. Augusta Coors Collbran and his granddaughter, Miss Louis Collbran. He had been recuperating from influenza and in ill health for two years. Coors is survived by Louise, sons Adolph Jr., Grover and Herman and daughters Augusta, Mrs. Lulu Coors Porter and Mrs. Bertha Coors Munroe.

Augusta and the six children attend private funeral services at the Coors home. Rev. E. J. Pipes of Calvary Church reads the simple ritual of the Episcopal Church. A small bouquet of flowers from the conservatory on the Coors property, in which Coors had taken great interest, is placed on the casket. Golden’s businesses close during the services, and the city flies its flag at half-mast.

1930s

The Depression hits Golden hard, closing the bank for four years.

1930

April 22 – Swedish Lutheran Church renamed Grace Lutheran.

1931

Jan. 25 – Twenty-five men secretly meet at La Palmarte Road House in Wheat Ridge to form a “gentleman’s agreement” to set a standard price for moonshine liquor and create a “protective fund” (using money deducted from sales) to cover legal fees for anyone running afoul of Sheriff Biggins. The committee proposed a price of \$10 for a gallon of whiskey, or \$2 a pint. Given the fierce competition, the men feared that the reign of mob terror felt in cities like Chicago and New York might reach Denver. Just as the meeting begins, Denver police officers led by Captain A. T. Clark and Jefferson County Deputy Willis Morris, and Undersheriff Vernon Downing and Sheriff Biggins of Jefferson County, rush in. The committee members, all deemed sober and with no alcohol on them, surrender without incident and are charged with vagrancy.

November – The Great Depression begins to take its toll. Thirty-four men in Jefferson County apply for relief because they are out of work, 14 of 15 criminal cases that month are Prohibition violations (a sign of discontent) and by December county employees are told that a salary decrease is pending. County schools send notes home to parents, telling them that hot lunches will soon be served,

after Christmas break, but that the children must bring their own bread. On February 27 vegetable stew is the first hot dish served.

1932

March 19 – Colorado School of Mines’ emblem, the “M” on Mount Zion, is permanently lit.

1933

The Gem Theater begins its “Bank Night” promotions to bring people in the door and keep the business afloat. A nationwide phenomenon throughout the 1930s, the stunt helps get the motion picture industry through the Great Depression at a time when attendance is dropping drastically. The promotion works like a lottery: contestants put their names in a registration book in the theater lobby, and, on the evening of the drawing, paying customers fill the theater in hopes of hearing their names called. In addition to cash giveaways, sacks of groceries are popular prizes in Golden.

April – Prohibition ends, and the Coors brewery resumes operations. To meet demand, the brewery runs 24 hours a day, with a daily production of 350 barrels. The *Transcript* reports on April 13: “It is estimated that the legalization of beer has already put 5,000 men to work in Colorado. This includes not only brewery workers and truckers, but extra help in dispensing establishments and building tradesmen who have been called back to work in remodeling breweries and wholesale and retail establishments . . . Golden has been the city most favored by the beer activity. A hundred twenty-five men have been given work at the Coors brewery and about fifty elsewhere about town and Mayor A. E. Jones says there are no idle men left in the city.”

1934-42

Coors Porcelain produces Rosebud “Cook-N-Serve” dinnerware.

1934

Golden Liquors opens on Washington Avenue.

Colorado School of Mines begins its tradition of granting silver diplomas, which it continues for all graduates until 1969, at which time they are only given for graduate degrees. In 2000, the school begins a new tradition of giving nickel-silver diplomas for baccalaureate graduates.

June 21 – Golden’s first chain store—Safeway—opens.

August – Run by the Colorado State Relief Organization and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, a

transient camp at Camp George West begins housing 200 to 500 homeless men. The men work for “21 meals and \$1 a week.” Colorado is in the first group of seven states to get funding. Colorado’s unemployment had peaked in April 1933 with a quarter of the population needing some kind of financial assistance. With conditions even bleaker in adjoining states, unemployed migrants are drawn to Colorado.

1935-39

Ralston Dam is built as a Depression-era federal works project, giving employment to many Golden-area residents. The reservoir begins filling in 1938 and the town site of Glencoe is buried forever. The reservoir still supplies drinking water to Denver metro residents.

1935

Coors starts selling beer in cans.

Three-day measles, flu and scarlet fever epidemics hit the community.

1936-40

The Civilian Conservation Corps builds Red Rocks Amphitheater near Morrison under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Denver Mountain Parks.

1936

Golden residents and Colorado School of Mines athletes Nils Christiansen and John Wallace “Jack” Liddle compete in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. Christiansen competes in swimming and Liddle in running, but neither win medals.

Central School is completed at 700 12th Street. Jefferson County buys the old North School, and Colorado School of Mines buys South School.

1937

March 27 – Denver Fire Clay mine north of Golden caves in, trapping three miners while one escapes. After 18 hours, all miners are rescued uninjured.

1938

Aug. 15 – Golden History Museums gets its start as the Jefferson County Museum in the former North School building at the southwest corner of 6th and Washington.

Oct. 29 – Golden Lutheran Church (later Grace Evangelical Lutheran, then St. James Lutheran and now St. Paul Lutheran) is founded by Rev. Immanuel P. Frey, with services held at Seventh Day Adventist.

1940s

Highway 6 up Clear Creek Canyon is built.

1940

Berthoud Hall opens on the Colorado School of Mines campus. Designed by Temple Hoyne Buell, it’s one of two New Deal buildings on campus. The building is named after the school’s first geology professor and inaugural board member, Edward L. Berthoud.

1941

Coors introduces the first Coors Light beer—possibly the nation’s first low-calorie beer.

The Colorado & Southern Railroad’s line up Clear Creek Canyon is abandoned and the track removed.

Golden Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is founded, holding services upstairs at Linder Block at 1215 Washington Avenue.

April 4 – Golden Lutheran Church is organized.

October – The federal government opens the first phase of the Denver Ordinance Plant in Lakewood, operated by the Remington Arms Company. Primarily an ammunition factory, the plant proves instrumental in helping win the war. At the time, the arms factory is the largest federal government contract in Colorado, employing many Golden residents. Today, the site is known as the Denver Federal Center.

Dec. 7 – The United States enters World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Fairmount and Golden High School’s Allen Arthur Davis is killed in action at his post when the *USS Helena* at Pearl Harbor is bombed. World War II causes the most Golden casualties of any war.

1942

World War II soldiers are celebrated in the mural painted on the south side of the Golden Mercantile. It gets painted over in 1949.

Jan. 15 – Jefferson County begins wartime rationing of key commodities like rubber tires, gasoline and sugar. Residents are asked to conserve whenever possible. The American Legion of Golden sponsors a sale of war bonds and stamps, while Mrs. J. Harlan Johnson establishes a U.S.O. (United Service Organizations) chapter. Her first endeavor is to host classes for women at City Hall on how to repair motors and engines.

1942

February – Countywide war enlistments reach 2,528 men—with 662 from Golden.

October – Golden Lutheran Church Chapel, built in 1940, is dedicated at 800 Washington Avenue.

1943

Coloradans elect Golden native son John C. Vivian as their 30th governor. He serves until 1947.

The Golden Lions Club is founded, with 27 members on its first roster.

April 10 – The Mattas and Flindt murders shock the community. Donald J. Mattas, age 8, and Milo M. Flindt, age 11, are killed when William Eugene Wymer, age 16, pushes them off the top of Castle Rock on South Table Mountain. Wymer is sentenced to life in prison.

May 1 – Lt. Richard H. Golden, great grandson of Thomas L Golden, dies in World War II.

1944

The passage of the GI Bill and the final days of World War II bring thousands of young men and their families to area schools, including Colorado School of Mines. Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Aurora is a huge regional draw, treating war injuries. Population booms even though housing is virtually nonexistent. To alleviate the housing shortage, old turkey pens near 44th Avenue and McIntyre Street are converted into temporary apartments. By 1949, local developer Orville Dennis is replacing turkey pens with tract homes.

May 24 – Leonard Vogel buys the E. E. Stewart Building at 10th and Washington and donates it to the Golden Chamber of Commerce for use as a recreation center. The center is affectionately dubbed “The Canteen.”

1945

Joe and Ruby Meyer open Meyer Hardware & Sporting Goods on Washington Avenue .

May 9 – Church bells in Golden chime when word arrives of Nazi Germany’s surrender. Schools and businesses close, and an uncanny quiet falls over town. Churches open their doors to hold special services.

1946

Golden Memorial Airfield, in north Golden along Highway 93, is dedicated. The Golden Chamber of Commerce gives away a new Piper Cub plane to celebrate.

Aug. 15 – Buffalo Bill Days begin, to celebrate his 100th birthday. The event is scaled back to the Buffalo Bill Club’s saddle ride in 1947 but is rebuilt into a major event over the years.

1947

The Buffalo Bill Saddle Club is founded. Members ride their horses up to Buffalo Bill’s gravesite and place a wreath on his grave.

Oct. 11 – Residents vote to alter the city charter to provide for the hiring of a city manager. Golden hires Henry Rolfe as its first manager on Feb. 12, 1948. The office of mayor is now elected by city council rather than by popular election.

1949

The Welcome Arch, along with the newly renovated Golden Theatre (formerly Golden Gem), are simultaneously lit in a ceremony broadcast live on Radio KOA with popular broadcaster (and future *Rocky Mountain News* columnist) Gene Amole presiding. Golden’s iconic “Howdy Folks” arch—a longtime photo-op—was conceived by two locals: Luther Holland and its designer, Paul Reeves. The arch is now listed on the State Register of Historic Properties.

June 3 – Bill and Dorothy Harmsen open the first Jolly Rancher Ice Cream store on Washington Avenue in Golden. Later that winter (and out of necessity), they develop a line of chocolates and their world-famous hard candies. The building burns down in the 1980s.

June 5 – St. James Lutheran Church, made from a chapel moved from Camp Hale in 1947, is dedicated at 1950 Ford Street.

1950s

Golden Hill Climb, an auto race up Lookout Mountain, is held. Colorado’s governor ultimately cancels the short-lived event for safety reasons.

1950

All Jefferson County School districts (including Golden) are consolidated into the state’s largest district, Jefferson County R-1.

July 4 – Electric-powered passenger tramway service between Golden and Denver ends; freight tramway service ends in 1953.

1951

Pleasant View Elementary School is established through the efforts of Roger Q. Mitchell.

Colorado School of Mines Foundation incorporates as the official gift-receiving agency for the university. The foundation had formed in 1928.

Coors Brewery now officially offers tours year-round. Teachers from Golden High School work as some of the first tour guides during the summer.

Spudnut Shop opens at 805 13th Street. The beloved donut shop, owned by Leonard and Pat Dunn, closed in 1984.

Bunzel's Addition is under development east of downtown. Golden's first modern, mixed-use subdivision includes the Golden Bowl bowling alley (in operation until February of 2014).

July 10 – Rocky Flats Plant breaks ground for its first building. By 1953 the nuclear weapons facility is producing bomb components by manufacturing plutonium triggers. Rocky Flats will employ thousands of residents of Golden and the surrounding communities.

1952

It's the Dawn of the TV age as KFEL Channel 2 begins broadcasting television signals throughout the Denver metro area from atop Lookout Mountain. The same tower is still used today for radio transmissions.

April 10 – A B-25 bomber crashes on Mount Tom west of Golden after taking off from Golden Memorial Airfield. Ten airmen and one civilian die in the crash, making it Jefferson County's deadliest air crash to date.

Nov. 1 – Colorado School of Mines loses to Idaho State in the first locally televised football game.

Nov. 15 – Denver's KFEL TV airs the first nationally televised football game in the Colorado Rockies. Cameras capture the game at Brooks Field in Golden between the Colorado School of Mines and the Colorado College Tigers.

1953

Fred Schwartzwaldner discovers uranium-rich ore northwest of Golden on land belonging to Paul and Anna White. The Schwartzwaldner mine is the most productive uranium mine in the country until the end of its operations in 2000.

Colorado School of Mines finishes building Bradford Hall—the first dormitory on campus.

April 20 – The second Jefferson County Courthouse opens at 16th and Arapahoe in Golden.

Nov. 22 – The Colorado School of Mines Chamber Ensemble—forerunner of the Golden-based Jefferson Symphony Orchestra—plays its first concert, at the Central School gymnasium.

1954

Colorado School of Mines adds the present-day library building, now known as the Arthur Lakes Library.

Sena's Pizzeria opens in Golden's Goosetown neighborhood as the city's first pizza parlor and ethnic restaurant. Largely a drive-in/takeaway joint and known for its lasagna, Sena's is owned and operated by Thomasina (Chiponia) Nichols and Walter Benjamin Nichols and located at 226 9th Street.

February - Registration opens for Golden Little League baseball, for boys age 9 to 17.

1955

Civil Defense and Cold War efforts ramp up. In May, Sheriff Carl Enlow prepares evacuation plans for Jefferson County residents. In the event of an atomic strike, citizens in eastern Jefferson County will receive instructions to head for the mountains west of Golden. School-age children learn how to "duck and cover" if a bomb is dropped while they're in school. Enlow makes a survey of all buildings in the county worthy of becoming air-raid shelters. Until warning sirens can be bought and placed throughout the county, the fire departments work out plans to evacuate schools to places of shelter in an emergency.

Coors Brewery produces over one million barrels of beer.

Margaret and Philip Isely start Natural Grocers in Golden by selling supplements and whole foods door-to-door.

1956

The new Golden High School is completed at 701 24th Street; the old one becomes Golden Junior High. Central School becomes Mitchell Elementary School, named for Golden School District Superintendent and Jefferson County school district unifier Roger Quincy Mitchell.

1956

Oct. 14 – The First Church of Christ Scientist chapel is dedicated at 2201 Ford Street in a building constructed three years earlier.

Nov. 2 – The Golden Lions hold their first annual chili supper to raise money for community projects.

1957

Polio shots are administered in the gymnasium of Mitchell Elementary.

After 40 years, Coors ends all malted-milk operations.

January – Jefferson County Sheriff Carl Enlow is indicted for income tax evasion related to slot machine and gambling payoffs. He is found guilty and sentenced to three years in the state penitentiary. Arthur Wermuth is appointed to complete Enlow's term.

April 24 – Coors Brewery workers walk off the job in a strike that will last 117 days. The company wins the strike and decides to create a corporate security force.

May – Jefferson County public schools launch the *Operation Kids* project by sending parents a questionnaire and asking their input and permission for the mass evacuation of schoolkids in the event of an atomic attack. Evacuation cars are identified, most voluntarily, to transport kids to a place of shelter and back to school again. The Sheriff's Department is called upon to ensure the security of all kids. An entire class of graduating State Highway Patrol officers is assigned to direct traffic at critical points along evacuation routes.

1958

May 18 – The First Presbyterian Church's second building is dedicated at 17707 West 16th Avenue.

July – Rev. Ray Bennett organizes Golden Southern Baptist Church (later Ford Street Baptist).

Oct. 3 – St. Joseph's Catholic Church dedicates its third building, at 1401 East Street.

1959-60

Harvard University conducts the first of several archeological digs at the Magic Mountain site south of Golden. Led by Cynthia Irwin Williams and her brother, Henry J. Irwin, Harvard students unearth items that date the site at 3,500 to 5,000 years old. It's likely the site served

as a seasonal base for semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers. The City of Golden and the Centennial Archaeology organization re-excavate the sites in 1994 and 1996.

1959

C. Leon Hopper, Jr. founds Jefferson Unitarian Church, holding services at the former First Presbyterian Church at 809 15th Street.

Robert J. Richardson establishes the Colorado Railroad Museum.

Like Parkinson founds the Golden Symphony.

Civil Defense Headquarters is established in the Colorado National Guard Armory Building.

January – Coors develops and uses the first two-piece aluminum can. The can is originally 7 ounces.

June 13 – Golden celebrates its Centennial with a full slate of events, including a gun-slinging contest, a parade depicting 100 years of progress, and a street dance on 13th Street.

1960-64

The Denver Broncos hold training camps at Colorado School of Mines and even stay in the dorms.

1960

Foss Drug celebrates 50 years in business.

Earle Johnson Elementary School—named for music teacher Earle A. Johnson—opens at 1200 Johnson Road. Today it's the Connections Learning Center.

Feb. 9 – Adolph Coors III is kidnapped and murdered near Morrison. The FBI begins a manhunt for his killer, resulting in the arrest and conviction of Joseph Corbett, Jr. After deliberating for 16 days the Holland House in Golden, the jury finds Corbett guilty on March 29, 1961. Judge Christina Stoner sentences Corbett to life in prison with hard labor at the state penitentiary.

Feb. 21 – The Golden Church of the Nazarene dedicates its second building at 17455 West 16th Avenue.

May 30 – The East Tincup theme park opens just south of Golden off Colfax Avenue. Spearheaded by KOA radio personality Pete Smythe, East Tincup has the look and feel of a stereotypical western movie set. The popular entertainment and shopping destination lasts about three years.

June 30 – Magic Mountain Amusement Park opens for the season, only to close for good later that summer due to financial problems. Attractions are sold to repay investors, and the remaining buildings sit idle until 1971, when new owners reopen the park as Heritage Square.

Oct. 16 – Rev. Robert L. Vogel of the American Lutheran Church founds Faith Lutheran Church. It's the first assignment for Vogel, who goes on to become president of four Lutheran colleges (installed president at Wartburg and interim president at Grandview, Waldorf and Texas Lutheran).

1961

Golden Municipal Center on 10th Street is dedicated.

Ford Street Baptist Church builds a chapel at 103 North Ford Street.

Feb. 5 – Faith Lutheran Church officially forms as the largest organizing congregation in Golden's history.

Dec. 9 – The Seventh Day Adventist Church dedicates its second home, at 3101 South Golden Road.

1962

Feb. 4 – Faith Lutheran Church breaks ground.

March – Fourteen people from two families are baptized in a service at Faith Lutheran Church, possibly the largest single baptism event in Golden's history.

May – Golden Church of Christ is organized.

July 29 – Faith Lutheran Church dedicated its new chapel at 17701 West 16th Avenue.

1963

The Golden Jaycees open and operate Golden Preschool at First United Methodist Church. Acquired by Faith Lutheran Church in 1994, it's today's South Table Mountain Preschool.

April 14 – Golden Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints leaves Golden for a new home in Applewood.

May 26 – Faith Lutheran Church dedicates its new bell tower, with an old Minnesota schoolhouse bell donated by Calvin Kelley.

July – The first Jefferson County Courthouse, jail and sheriff's residence at 1501 Washington Avenue is

demolished and replaced with a 7-11 convenience store and the Cow Palace, one of Golden's first fast-food joints.

December – Bell Junior High School—named for distinguished teacher and principal Gertrude E. Wheeler Bell—opens at 1001 Ulysses Street.

1964

Colorado School of Mines opens its first dormitory for women by converting a former fraternity house.

The letter "G" on South Table Mountain is painted for the first time by members of Golden High School's Letterman Club.

1965

The Vietnam War starts escalating and soon after the first young men from Golden enlist. By 1968 the community really feels the effect with the deaths of Golden High School graduates. Altogether, nine young men die in the line of service.

A major flood hits Clear Creek and Tucker Gulch.

1966

CoorsTek begins production of ceramic armor components used in tactical vests during the Vietnam War. The company continues to create armor plates for multiple military uses, including combat vehicles in the 2000s.

1967-68

Construction begins on the Golden Freeway, or State Highway 58. Crews demolish major portions of North Golden to make way for the new highway. Golden history destroyed in the process includes old North School and the former "Governor's Mansion" on the southwest corner of Highway 58 and Washington.

1967

Construction of I-70 begins at Sheridan Boulevard.

April 10 – An earthquake measuring over 5 on the Richter Scale rocks Golden—the first in a swarm of 17 "artificial" quakes caused by deep-well chemical injection at Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

Nov. 7 – Citizens of Golden vote to approve a new City Charter providing for a Council-Manager form of government. Carrie Critchfield is the first woman elected to the Golden City Council.

1968

Beverly Heights Estates, a major subdivision, begins construction with 112 lots. Custom homes will sell for \$20,000 to \$40,000.

Foothills Art Center opens in the original First Presbyterian Church building.

Golden adopts Young, New South Wales, Australia, as a sister city.

Jefferson Unitarian Church leaves Golden for Applewood.

1969

St. James Lutheran School opens at 1940 Ford Street, operating into the 1980s.

Sept. 4 – The new Golden Post Office at Jackson and 18th Street collapses while under construction, killing one and injuring four. The site of the tragedy still lies vacant.

1970s

The “Coors mystique” is born with the release of the movie *Smokey and the Bandit* and President Ford’s smuggling of Coors beer into the White House.

1970

April 4 – The Golden Civic Foundation incorporates to raise funds for the betterment of Golden.

1971

The Green Center on the Colorado School of Mines campus is completed. Named for Cecil H. and Ida Green, the 85,000-square-foot facility serves the Mines community as both a Golden community center and a campus events center.

The Heritage Square Victorian shopping village opens on the old Magic Mountain Amusement Park site.

November – The last steel can is filled at the Coors Brewery.

1972

The National Football League’s Baltimore Colts hold training camp at the Colorado School of Mines.

Foss Drug launches “Ski Country” whiskey decanters.

Jefferson County voters approve a one-half percent sales tax for open space, inaugurating the county’s award-winning Open Space Program.

June 13 – A vote of the people saves Astor House from becoming a parking lot. The historic preservation movement takes hold locally, and Golden founds its Landmarks Association.

July 16 – Faith Lutheran Church installs Rev. Bruce Irwin Hermann, beginning his 40 years as one of area’s longest-serving pastors.

1973

Actor George “Pete” Morrison is buried in Golden Cemetery.

Lions Park breaks ground.

Sept. 3 – Colorado School of Mines celebrates its centennial.

August – The Scottish Highland Games hold court at Campbell Field on the Colorado School of Mines campus. The games are held in Golden for nearly 20 years before moving to Highlands Ranch.

1974

The National Earthquake Information Center moves to the Colorado School of Mines campus.

Jefferson County forms the Jefferson County Historical Commission, which designates 25 Centennial Sites throughout the county in 1976. The list includes eight properties in Golden: the Astor House, the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, Coors Brewery, Foothills Art Center, the Golden Pioneer Museum, Heritage Square, the Jefferson County Courthouse and the Territorial Capitol. Nearby Boettcher Mansion, Buffalo Bill’s Grave and the Colorado Railroad Museum also win recognition.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory is established as Solar Energy Research Institute. President Carter visits to dedicate the facility in 1977.

1975

June 25 – Guy Hill School moves from Golden Gate Canyon to downtown Golden. Today, the one-room schoolhouse is at Clear Creek History Park.

September – April Ulring Larson becomes a student pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, beginning a pastoral ministry that will ultimately make her the first female Lutheran bishop in America and the second in the world.

1976

The United States Marine Corps Memorial opens at US Highway 6 and Colfax—the only such memorial outside of Washington, D.C.

July 3-4 – The Jefferson County Historical Commission holds its Festival of the West at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds as a Centennial/Bicentennial project. Held in honor of Colorado’s hundredth anniversary and the U.S. Bicentennial, the celebration garners a ranking among the top 20 national Bicentennial events and is so popular that it continues annually until 2001.

1977

The AFL-CIO calls for its member unions to boycott Coors in support of striking workers at the Golden brewery.

Public hearings are held to discuss annexation of Pleasant View to Golden.

April 5 – At Coors Brewery, 1,400 members of Brewery Workers Local 366 strike over stagnant wages in the face of inflation, demanding also that the company end polygraph tests. Coors responds by hiring non-union replacement workers and forcing an election to decertify the union. Ultimately the company wins, forcing Local 366 to dissolve.

1978

Sept. 10 – Faith Lutheran Church installs Rev. Patrice Helland Von Stroh as the first female Lutheran pastor in Colorado and the first in the Central District of the American Lutheran Church, a multistate region.

Sept. 22 – Golden holds its first Oktoberfest celebration in Lions Park.

1979

Patrick Smith founds Mountainsmith, an internationally renowned outdoor equipment company, in Golden.

Golden changes the motto on its 1949 Welcome Arch from “Where the West Remains” to “Where the West Lives.”

April 8 – Faith Lutheran Church establishes its Coal Creek Canyon mission congregation.

Aug. 2 – Heritage Square opens the Alpine Slide. The slide operates for 37 years before closing for good in 2015.

1980

Montessori School of Golden opens.

Coors takes over sponsorship of the Red Zinger Bicycle Classic, renaming it the Coors International Bike Classic. It becomes one of the most popular bicycle races in the country until ending its run in 1988.

1981

Sal and Gail Glesser open Spyderco, making high-quality knives and sharpeners that are renowned throughout the world.

1982

The Mesa Meadows housing development begins along North Ford Street on the old Foss Ranch.

1984

March 22 – The Twelfth Street Historic District is established—Golden’s first National Historic District.

1986

The Detention and Sheriff’s Complex is completed in the Jefferson County Government Center at 200 Jefferson County Parkway.

Oct. 19 – St. Joseph’s Catholic Church dedicates its fourth home, at 969 Ulysses Street.

1987

The AFL-CIO and Coors reach an agreement, ending the official union boycott.

1988

Golden Junior High School closes. Ninth-grade classes move to Golden High School, and Bell Junior High becomes Bell Middle School. The Golden Junior High buildings become the American Mountaineering Center, opening in 1993.

1989-2000

A building boom dramatically changes the face of Golden. Major projects include the Table Mountain Inn development and Stewart Block remodel on Washington Avenue, in addition to the Quaintance Block and Piggly Wiggly remodel on 13th Street. Now, new downtown businesses cater primarily to tourists rather than offering resident services.

1989

Canyon Point housing development starts.

Golden establishes its Urban Renewal Authority.

1990

The Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum opens with a collection of 100 quilts donated by Golden founder Eugenia Mitchell.

1992

Table Mountain Inn opens after extensive renovations of what was the old Holland House.

Golden's downtown gets a major facelift as the downtown streetscape is completed.

St. James Lutheran Church merges with St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Lakewood, becoming St. Paul Lutheran Church.

July 28 – The Golden Islamic Center is established. The congregants hold their Friday prayers at the Colorado School of Mines and other rented property until they can buy their own property on 19th Street in 1999.

1993

The American Mountaineering Center opens.

Epilog Laser relocates to Golden, where it continues to manufacture laser engravers shipped all over the world.

Golden City Brewery is founded as the second-largest brewery in Golden.

1994

Clear Creek History Park is established.

Montessori School of Golden moves to the historic Barber Residence at 714 Cheyenne Street.

Shelton Elementary School—named for education advocates Hal and Mary Shelton—opens at 420 Crawford Street. The school replaces Earle Johnson Elementary. The Earle Johnson campus becomes Johnson Program School for at-risk students.

October – Golden's current multipurpose community center opens at Lions Park.

1995

Colorado School of Mines buys the 1953 courthouse, Hall of Justice and assessor and treasurer buildings. The buildings are torn down in 1999 to make way for the school's new Center for Teaching and Learning Media (a specialized classroom and teaching/laboratory facility), central computing facilities and Marquez Hall, the new home of the Petroleum Engineering Department.

Guy Hill Schoolhouse is moved a second time—from the old Mitchell Elementary to Clear Creek History Park, where it becomes a key component of Golden's new living-history museum.

1996

Ford Street Baptist Church disbands.

Foothills Community Church is founded, with worship at the former Ford Street Baptist Church.

1997

St. Paul Lutheran Church leaves Golden for Lakewood.

The new Mitchell Elementary School opens at 201 Rubey Drive—the first time two Jefferson County school buildings are named for the same citizen.

Golden creates its current library out of the city's old community recreation center.

Mitchell Elementary School on 12th and Jackson Streets closes. The school, named for Roger Q. Mitchell, is torn down in 1998.

1998

The Golden Hotel opens in downtown.

Compass Montessori School opens at 4441 Salvia Street.

Golden's last working clay mine, the Rockwell, shuts down, closing the book on 132 years of clay-mining history in Golden city limits.

King Soopers returns to Golden with a new location on South Golden Road. The supermarket had operated at 19th and Jackson from 1966 to 1976.

Clear Creek Whitewater Park is dedicated, offering seven city blocks of whitewater activity.

January – Nike, Inc. eyes Golden for a 300-acre campus on South Table Mountain. Citizen opposition to the development leads to the "Save the Mesas" campaign.

1999

The Golden Family of Churches community health ministry begins.

2000

The Vineyard USA movement founds Foothills Vineyard Church in Golden, worshipping at Faith Lutheran Church.

Oct. 21 – The Golden Family of Churches Healthy Fair—today affiliated with 9News—holds its first event.

Nov. 7 – Golden voters approve the construction of a new outdoor recreation campus, to include the Splash outdoor pool and the Fossil Trace municipal golf course.

2002

Free Horizon Montessori School opens at 581 Conference Place.

Aug. 8 – The 8th and 9th Street Historic District is established.

2003

Miner's Alley Playhouse arrives in Golden from Morrison. The theater's first performance is *The Elephant Man*.

March 18-19 – Jefferson County's second-largest snowstorm on record dumps 50.5 inches of snow on Golden and nearby areas.

2004

Foothills Vineyard Church moves to Littleton.

Triceratops Trail opens to the public at the site of reclaimed clay pits by the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge. The 68 million-year-old tracks are from dinosaurs, mammals, birds, and beetles.

Aug. 26 – The East Street Historic District is established.

2005

January – Red Rocks Church is founded at Heritage Square as the second-largest organizing congregation in Golden's history, worshipping at the former Lazy H Chuckwagon. By 2015 it is the 55th largest church in America and the 17th fastest growing, with campuses in Arvada, Golden, Lakewood and Littleton.

Nov. 3 – A major fire strikes the historic Loveland Block on Washington Avenue, home of the Old Capitol Grill. Firefighters succeed in saving the building, confining the blaze to the second floor.

2006

Cleanup of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant site is declared complete.

2007

Foss General Store—a Golden landmark and destination since 1913—closes its doors.

Colorado School of Mines opens its Student Recreation Center.

2008

The fourth and current incarnation of Golden High School opens, replacing the previous one at the same campus.

2009

The Golden Sesquicentennial celebration marks the city's 150th anniversary.

January – Pastor Seraphim Nmi Gisetti founds the St. John Chrysostom Church, of the Antioch-Orthodox denomination, at 15895 South Golden Road. Soon, the church moves to the Village shopping center at Ulysses and South Golden Road.

2010

A new school building at the Earle Johnson campus replaces the original. The Johnson Program School for at-risk kids is renamed Connections Learning Center.

CoorsTek celebrates 100 years in Golden.

2011

Jefferson County celebrates its 150th birthday with a gala at the fairgrounds.

Aug. 28 – The inaugural USA Pro Cycling Challenge starts its sixth and last stage in Golden. The 73.2-mile circuit takes riders around North Table Mountain, through downtown three times and up Mt. Zion before reaching the finish line in Denver.

2012

Sept. 13 – President Barack Obama visits Golden for a public event—the third sitting president known to visit Golden. The first was President Ulysses S. Grant in 1873. President Carter visited in 1977.

2013

Golden History Museums celebrates 75 years.

April 26 – The west corridor Light Rail line (W Line) opens, linking Golden to downtown Denver. The new line follows the historic Denver, Lakewood & Golden rail line.

2014

St. John Chrysostom Church moves to Lakewood.

2015

Montessori School of Golden closes.

2015

Colorado School of Mines opens the Marv Kay Football Stadium at Campbell Field.

USA Today names Colorado School of Mines the country's top engineering college.

Colorado School of Mines wins its first national title ever in cross-country at the Division II NCAA championship.

Aug. 23 – Golden hosts the finish of the inaugural Women's USA Pro Challenge long-distance cycling race.

Sept. 1 – Golden View Classical Academy opens at 601 Corporate Circle.

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City of
Golden



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EVENTS

TIMELINE

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