

PAN FOR GOLD

EXPLORE GOLD RUSH HISTORY



"So long until tomorrow...."

That closing statement was a familiar one for radio listeners & television news viewers until 1981.

The golden voice of radio, Lowell Thomas, died in August of 1981, just two weeks after he had visited his boyhood town of Victor.

At the age of 8, in August of 1900, Thomas moved to Victor with his family where he got his start in journalism - as editor of the *Victor Daily Record* at age 19.

His father was a doctor and his mother active in the church and women's leagues. At the age of 10, dreams of becoming a newsboy began to circulate in his head and late that summer he joined the newsboy's union - one of 35 members.

Hired on to work at the *Victor Daily Record*, Thomas folded and delivered the morning paper to the business and red light districts of Victor and Goldfield. In addition, Thomas took up delivering the *Denver Post* to saloons and gambling houses, and made it to school in time each morning. Like many small town newspapers of the day, editorship meant being the one-man show at the paper. He covered prize fights, brawls, shootings and operas. After leaving for law school, he was hired as a reporter for *The Chicago Evening Journal*.

He climbed Pikes Peak before age 14 and in 1916 he left Victor to attend college in Indiana. At age 24 he was a student and professor at Princeton, by then already well-traveled. In March of 1925 he spoke for the first time on radio and Thomas, in 1940, became the first television news broadcaster. He set many firsts, broadcasting first from underground in a mine, and from places far and wide.

Thomas broadcast for both NBC & CBS, and he spent 46 years on radio doing NBC's *Literary Digest*. In 1976 President Gerald Ford presented Thomas with the Medal of Freedom and on April 30, 1976 Thomas told the world, from Victor, that he would retire from broadcasting on May 14 of that year. He paid his last visit to his boyhood home of Victor in August 1981. Less than two weeks later he died, August 29, at his estate in New York at the age of 89.



At the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum, two floors of artifacts, books, exhibits and photographs depict the life in Victor from its earlier days to the heyday of gold mining. Exhibits highlight the life of Lowell Thomas, Dr. A.C. Denman and other pioneers who made Victor a key part of The World's Greatest Gold Camp. Historic photos and an outdoor mining exhibit offer more gold rush history.

Pan for gems and gold all season and over Victor's Gold Rush Days in July. Take a modern mine tour and see how gold is taken from the earth with 21st century technology.

Take off on a tour of the Trails of Gold right from the museum's front door, or take in a guided walking tour, special event or workshop.

The gift shop offers books, historic maps and postcards, prints, posters and gold ore rocks, as well as cds of Thomas's life.

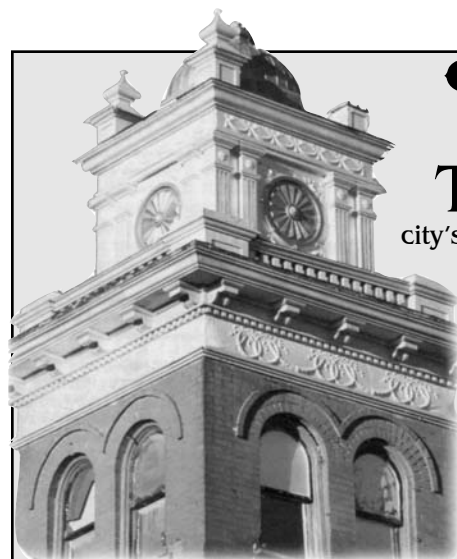
The museum, located at the corner of 3rd St. and Victor Ave., is open Memorial Day through Labor Day Wednesday-Sunday as well as weekends in September and early October. It is housed in an 1899 brick structure that once was a hardware store, hotel and furniture store.

2009 Museum Hours:

9:30-5:00 p.m. May 23- Sept. 7 Wednesday thru Sunday
September & October through Oct. 11 Saturday & Sunday

2009 Admission Prices:

\$4 Adults; \$3 Seniors; \$2 Children 12 & Under; \$3 Groups of 20+
Admission free with Modern Mine Tours; Gold panning \$1 additional.
Call 719-689-5509 or visit victorcolorado.com



CITY HALL VISITOR CENTER

The Victor City Hall, built in 1899 after the big fire destroyed the city's downtown, has been refurbished to its original condition.

City Hall is home to the government offices and a visitor information center is located in the back. Brochures and area information are available through the entrance on the west side.

Also in the visitor center is a jail cell with Jack Dempsey's signature. The famous boxer trained in

Victor and worked in the local mines mucking ore for a living.

There is a museum in the fire station portion. Historically the fire fighting equipment was housed in a bay behind the large wooden double garage doors on the ground floor. The traditional council and court chambers are located upstairs.



ONE TICKET, THREE MUSEUMS, LESS MONEY

All new this year is a the Heritage Passport, a ticket to three museums - the Cripple Creek District Museum, Victor Lowell Thomas Museum and the Outlaws & Lawmen Jail Museum. If you like museums, this a way to see the best of the best at a reduced price. You can purchase this ticket at the Pikes Peak Heritage Center in Cripple Creek or at any of the three museums. With the passport, good for one adult admission to the museums in 2009, you will receive a packet full of discounts, coupons and information from Cripple Creek and Victor area businesses. Be sure to check the museum policies and hours of operation when purchasing the passport.