



Golden Landmarks Association

Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future



Living Landmark Award 2016

Golden Transcript

Few businesses ever reach such an honored age as 150 years. Yet somehow, a scrappy paper founded by a man who had already seen one Golden publication fail, has continued to serve the community for all these years.

Newspaperman George West relocated from Boston and settled in Golden after hearing gold had been discovered. After a failed attempt at a different newspaper, he started the Golden Transcript, at that time called the Colorado Transcript, on December 19, 1866. It was named after the Boston Transcript -- one of the publications where West learned the trade.

West, one of the signers of the town charter, was an early promoter of the Golden community. In the words of local historian, Barb Warden, "his newspaper helped Golden become Golden." The Transcript has been documenting the interesting chapters of Golden's history for 150 years: the founding of the School of Mines, statehood, the rise of coal mining, the blizzard of 1913, electrical power, state prohibition, the brief rise of the Ku Klux Klan locally, veterans and heroes of world wars, television antennas on Lookout Mountain...

Throughout these important moments in history, the Transcript has been there, providing a window into how each event played out on the local level. For instance, the day Prohibition ended, the Transcript reported that Coors Brewery jumped into operation 24 hours a day to meet the sudden demand, putting 5,000 locals back to work, and helping to reverse some of the damage done by the Great Depression.

This is how the Transcript aspires to the title of "landmark." The paper offers a record of just how the Golden community came to be, one edition at a time, with never an edition missed. Like a landmark, it has been a constant guide, showing where the city has been, and where it might go next.

With a little luck, and perhaps a bit of inspiration from George West and the long line of skilled and determined journalists that followed in his footsteps, the Transcript would be honored to continue to be a mainstay in the community for the next 150 years.