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SUPERIOR'S SUPERLATIVE CITIZEN

Ted Asti Has Devoted Years of
Service to Superior



It is difficult to find someone who has had a greater impact on the history of Superior than 60 year resident and long-time civic leader, Ted Asti. After serving 32 non-consecutive years as mayor of Superior, doing duty on the Superior School Board, following an active life of hard work and entrepreneurship, and being a husband and father, Ted now holds court in his comfortable house tucked away in a corner of original Superior, enjoying retirement and family.

Ted's life began in the town of Aguilar, a mining town in the Southern Colorado Coal Fields near Walsenburg on February 18, 1918. Ted's family was so very typical of the quest for the American Dream. His father, Louis, came to America from Italy at the age of 17 and wed to Mary at just 19. Louis worked in the Aguilar mine and ran a boarding house and store. In the mid 1930's, he moved to Superior and took up mining here as well as farming along Coal Creek in the vicinity of the present Coal Creek Golf Course.

As an example of how times have

changed, Ted recalls that his father and the land owner sealed the crop sharing arrangement with a handshake and their word. The men forged a long relationship bound by the honor of this bond. During the ensuing years, Louis Asti and his family would oversee the grazing cattle and rolling alfalfa fields in and around the area that now sprouts tees, greens, flagsticks and golf balls.

The Great Depression made a huge impact on Ted's life. For a while he worked as a firefighter in Yellowstone National Park and as a part of the arrangement, he worked on continuing his education. He battled fires there and successfully fought off a local bear as well. Upon returning to Colorado, Ted tried a brief stint working in the Regal Mine and found it not to be his favorite way to earn a living.



A snowy day at Asti's Texaco station and country store in the late 1940's. This building is now a home located at 121 E. Coal Creek Drive in original Superior.

In addition to enduring the Depression, Ted earned a niche in the "Greatest Generation" when he went off to serve in World War II. Interestingly, Ted and his brother joined a Denver National Guard unit and were sent to England before the United States entered the War. After that stint was



The gravel Dillon Road heads to the left in this picture of the Asti store and gas station. McCaslin Road is northbound in the foreground. After a short jog, it intersects with westbound Marshall Road. The bridge over the Turnpike now covers this site. Photo courtesy of Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder, CO

finished, Ted was drafted into the regular army and took part in the invasion of North Africa, then into Italy and the Battle of Naples. Later he found himself back in England preparing for the liberation of France and invasion of Germany. As a motor pool sergeant, Ted had a foreshadowing of an unforgettable event. In anticipation of the June 6, 1944 amphibious invasion of France, he and his men worked at coating vehicle engines with cosmoline, a thick grease that enabled them to run while under water.

The Normandy Invasion, was the greatest amphibious assault in history, and Ted was part of the second wave of forces to land at Omaha Beach. After the liberation of France, he went on into Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was later stationed on a troop ship for a month-long voyage back to the States, but instead of transporting American personnel, Ted found himself guarding 500 enemy prisoners of war. He was at home in Superior on leave when Germany surrendered and was not required to return to service in the War.

After World War II, Ted and his brothers operated a Texaco gas station and country grocery store at the old intersection of what is known today as Dillon Road and McCaslin Boulevard. The intersection of these country roads is now under the McCaslin bridge over US 36 or the Boulder-Denver Turnpike. Before the construction of the Turnpike, Ted's gas station was on the main route from Denver to Eldorado Springs and was known as the place to get the best price on beer before Eldorado Springs.

Ted remembers selling many brands of beer, but especially Coors and its main competitor for years, Tivoli. The latter brand was brewed in Denver, and the old brewery building there is now known as the Tivoli Center. The beer at the Superior Service Station was not only good and cold, but five cents cheaper than at the resort of Eldorado Springs. As a result, the Astis were outsold on Coors beer only by Tulagi's, the legendary 3.2 bar on Boulder's University Hill.

Ted recalls the steady stream of cars from his station on to the dance hall at Eldorado generating a "steady cloud of dust" from Friday night to Sunday night on the unpaved Marshall Road. While there, the revelers danced away the night in "jitney dances," where they paid a nickel a dance, and kept their beer chilled in the frigid waters of South Boulder Creek.

The construction of the Boulder-Denver Turnpike in the early 1950's meant relocation of the Superior Service Station and an end of supplying provisions to its patrons. This led Ted and his brothers to open Asti's Drive In restaurant at 28th and Arapahoe in Boulder. Ted still believes they put out the best pizza and

CORRECTION

In Volume 3, Issue 1 of the Superior Historian, the name of the Luxner family was inadvertently misspelled. The Historian regrets the error.



Asti's Drive In at 28th and Arapahoe in Boulder. Ted is at left and his brother-in-law and life-long Superior resident, Jack Machin, is at right in this early 1950's photo. The young ladies are unidentified. Note the food prices!



How about these outrageous 1947 green fees at the golf course on the south side of 28th and Arapahoe?

burgers in Boulder. This drive in was in a prime location even back then. Just across the street was the location of the original Boulder Golf Course where the Safeway shopping center and the Millennium Hotel are now found.

The life of Margaret Machin was on a parallel path to that of Ted Asti. She was born in Superior in 1932 and raised by her parents, George and Helen. Tragically, George was killed in an explosion in Superior's Industrial Coal Mine in 1941. As fate would have it, Helen Machin met and eventually married Ted's uncle Phillip, and it was at his home that Ted and Margie first met and fell in love, marrying in 1951.

When Margie unexpectedly passed away in December of 2003, she and Ted had been married over 50 years, and she was the Superior's longest living life-time resident. In a five year span, four children were born to the Astis: Marianne Chavez, Sharon Asti-Caranci, and sons Gary and Mark.

Throughout the ensuing years, Ted worked on various construction projects and devoted a considerable amount of time in public service. He spent years on the school board before the Superior District was absorbed

into the Boulder Valley School District

But Ted will probably be best remembered for the 32 years he devoted as mayor of Superior. Ted was mayor when the town was faced with the critical decision about allowing Richmond Homes to annex the land needed for the Rock Creek Ranch subdivision. In return for authorizing the development, townspeople received a better quality and consistent source of water and paved streets. There are those who feel the decision did not change Superior for the better, but Mayor Ted Asti is quick to point out that the vote by Superior residents approving annexation was 100 in favor and 20 opposed.

Ted and Margie Asti have left an indelible mark on the history of Superior and they won't be forgotten. Ted Asti's common sense approach to life and consistent, easy going attitude have served him, his family, and the people of Superior to the utmost. That will be his legacy.

Sources: Ted Asti, "Life In Superior" interview by Larry Dorsey, April & July, 2005; Oral history interview with Marge Machin and Ted T. Asti, interviewed by Shirley Steele, 2002; Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder. CO.

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