Amusements & Wholesalers

The Wild West Meets the Victorian Age

Not unlike other western mining towns, Leadville was a place where the miners worked arduously and played equally hard when the day was done. In the 1880s, the options for entertainment and amusements were plentiful. A miner could spend his newfound bounty on liquor, women, or gaming at any one of one hundred and twenty saloons, one hundred and fifty gambling rooms, thirty-five brothels, and two opera houses. Leadville Jews operated concerns in all of these categories. One such of these establishments was Hyman's Club Rooms owned and operated by Mannie Hyman. Notorious for its rowdy atmosphere and barroom brawls, Hyman's lives on in western folklore as the scene of Doc Holliday's last gunfight on August 19, 1884, which was terminated when Holliday was disarmed and collared by Henry Kellerman, a Jewish deputy sheriff. Fortunately no one was killed, but the incident was significantly destructive to Holliday's already soiled reputation and he left town immediately afterwards to nurse his deteriorating health in Glenwood Springs where he died of tuberculosis on November 8, 1887.

Exterior view of Hyman's Club Rooms at 316 Harrison Avenue, likely in 1884. This was a popular hangout for many a rowdy patron during his leisure hours, including the notorious Doc Holliday.

For more information on Manny Hyman click here

For more information on Henry Kellerman click here

For more information on Doc Holliday's gunfight in the Hyman Club Rooms click here

For more information on the colorful conflicts amongst Leadville's Jewish community click here