



Victor Improvement Association d.b.a. Victor Lowell Thomas Museum
3rd & Victor Ave. POB 238, Victor, CO 80860 719-689-5509
info@victormuseum.com VictorColorado.com

Victor Museum Helps City Celebrate Zeke's Place in History

For decades, Zeke's Place Bar and Grill was *the* place to be in Victor, and Ohrt Yeager was *the* character everyone knew. As the owner and operator during the final years of active underground gold mining, Yeager presided over a town filled with hardworking, hard-playing miners. They gathered at Zeke's each day for a cold beer, a "clinker," and a steaming bowl of Yeager's famous chili. Friends gathered around the bar, stories were told, and new legends were made daily at Zeke's.

Yeager sold the bar in the late 1990s and passed in 2001. The former Zeke's building has been unoccupied since the early 2000s and in serious disrepair for more than a decade. Over time, it deteriorated to the point of posing significant health and safety risks. Working with the private property owner, the City acquired the building and agreed to remove asbestos and demolish the building to resolve the public safety issue.

To honor the long-time local favorite watering hole, the City of Victor will hold the Last Call at Zeke's Place at 108 S. 3rd Street, Saturday, March 21, starting at 11 a.m. Yeager's famed chili will be served along with beer; the public is invited to attend and tell stories, listen to live music, and party in memory of Yeager and his bar.

As part of that event, the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum will show a 1999 video of Yeager talking about his life and times at the bar – stories about moving to Victor, visiting local houses of ill repute, and managing a bar in a rowdy mining town. The interview was conducted by former district resident and historian Jan MacKell Collins, filmed by videographer Steve Antonuccio, and is loaned to the museum for this fundraiser by the Cripple Creek District Museum.

As well, the museum will sell limited engraved pint beer glasses with the Zeke's name and event information. The video will be shown at 12:30 p.m. in the museum and seating is limited to 30. If the 1st showing sells out, a second showing will be given at 2 p.m. The cost is \$20 for the video and a glass; the limited-edition glass alone is \$16 plus sales tax, sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Note that online reservations will take precedent over walk-ins. Reservations are recommended for this museum portion of the event at VictorMuseum.com.

Proceeds from events like these help the museum preserve its cornerstone historic brick building and its large collection of historic artifacts, photographs, and documents. Downtown Victor is filled with historic brick buildings, several of which are in dire need of repair. Maintaining the historic district is a prime goal of City leaders.

"We know this (Zeke's) building matters. Preservation remains a top priority for the City of Victor. We are committed to continuing efforts to protect our historic buildings — and to supporting property owners through connection to resources, funding opportunities, and partnerships that can help prevent situations like this in the future," according to Jessica Thurman, Victor's Community and Economic Development Director.

Part of the City's historic preservation efforts include a façade grant program that will help private owners improve the exterior of their downtown buildings.

For more information, visit <https://victormuseum.com/events>, email info@victormuseum.com or call 719-689-5509.