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# LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

AN EDITION OF THE DENVER POST

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Sunday, February 23, 2025 \$2.00 FACEBOOK.COM/REPORTERHERALD X.COM/REPORTERHERALD Issue 54 reporterherald.com

## COLORADO HISTORIC SITE

# Preserving history with a new vision



PHOTOS BY JENNY SPARKS — LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

Brandon Weiss and his wife Ann Tonia Weiss pose for a photo Thursday, outside their historic building west of Loveland.

## Couple talks about old Bohemian Cottage plans

By Austin Fleskes  
afleskes@prairiemountainmedia.com

In the 1950s, Loveland residents and travelers along west U.S. 34 knew the double-barrel Quonset Hut on the north side of the highway as the Fawn Hollow Store, offering gear for those enjoying the outdoors or a few items for the night's home dinner.

From the 1970s to the early 2010s, residents knew it as the Bohemian Cottage Restaurant, a place to pop in for some European grub. But since 2012, it has stood empty, remembered only for what it was.

Now, a Loveland couple is looking to what it one day will become without erasing what

came before it. "When you walk the property and you see how much work and money they put into landscaping ... and then you learn the history of the people who were in here and have lived their lives, you don't want to take a building like that — that has so much life in it — and just forget about it," said Ann Tonia Weiss. "This building is iconic to Loveland," Brandon Weiss said. The couple, who bought the property and the home above it several years ago, are working to turn it into a self-pour beer garden and cocktail lounge as a place for families to spend time together all while taking in the historical weight of the 75-year-old building.

COTTAGE » PAGE 6



Brandon Weiss and his wife Ann Tonia Weiss, show off the inside of their building Thursday. The Quonset hut was recently recognized as a historic site by the Colorado Historical Society.

## WORLD WAR II VETERAN

# Jack Thurman dies at 99

Marine served at the Battle of Iwo Jima

By Will Costello  
wcostello@prairiemountainmedia.com

Jack Thurman, Marine veteran and Loveland resident who was on the beaches of Iwo Jima during World War II, was a fighter, his daughter, caretaker and best friend Karen Thurman said.

When he lost his wife Carol in 2009, his doctors said that he likely had only a few months to live as well. Despite multiple health scares, including one code in 2018, he lived over 15 more years.

"He was a fighter, God bless him," his daughter remembered. "He wanted to live."

After nearly a century on Earth, Thurman died at his home with his daughter by his side on Feb. 1.

A prolific speaker who told his story to veteran's groups and elementary schoolers alike, Thurman appeared in the famous "Gung Ho photo," featuring Marines on Iwo Jima soon after the battle had been won.

Thurman was born on Sept. 27, 1925, in Mitchell, South Dakota, on a dairy farm. Raised in the midst of the Great Depression, he would wake shortly after 4 a.m. to milk the cows and tend to the chickens, pigs and other livestock on the farm, before making deliveries to the nearby households so that children going to school could have milk with their breakfast. Soon after, he would leave for school himself, on the back of his horse, Brownie, where he would often doze off, his daughter remembers him telling her.

After school he would return to the farm to continue the work, often until 2 in the morning, before catching a few hours of sleep and waking up early to do it all again.

THURMAN » PAGE 7

## LOVELAND CITY COUNCIL WARD 1 SPECIAL ELECTION

# Jen Swanty wants to be 'part of the solution'

By Jocelyn Rowley  
jrowley@prairiemountainmedia.com

Longtime Loveland resident Jennifer Swanty is running for the vacant Ward 1 seat in the March 4 special City Council election.

**Loveland City Council is not always the most collegial group. How would you work to restore professionalism and productive discussion among members?**

Decision making requires collaboration, and calm conversation always makes for better collaboration. I will



Swanty

work to restore professionalism and productive discussion by listening actively, engaging in discussions with respect and keeping debates centered on issues rather than personal differences.

I will look at each issue that comes before council on an individual basis and without a predetermined agenda. While there are many differences of opinions in council right now, I believe that they all ultimately want what is in Loveland's best interest.

SWANTY » PAGE 2

# Geoff Frahm wants to be 'calm' voice on the council

By Jocelyn Rowley  
jrowley@prairiemountainmedia.com

Current Planning Commission member Geoff Frahm will face Jen Swanty in the race to replace Troy Krenning as City Council representative from Ward 1. The special election is slated for March 4.

**Loveland City Council is not always the most collegial group. How would you work to restore professionalism and productive discussion among members?**

I will enter council with a calm professional decorum. I am not running for



Frahm

council with an agenda to accomplish. I simply want to see Loveland be the place my teenage daughters want to raise a family someday. I want families living here, and businesses considering bringing their operation to Loveland to look at that sentence the exact same way. In that light, the other seven councilors and the mayor are doing what they can to ensure the same for Loveland in their objective opinion. It is incumbent on me to be a calm voice, with a logical scrutiny to all issues that come before City Council.

FRAHM » PAGE 2

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# Cottage

**FROM PAGE 1**  
**The double barrel Quonset hut along the highway**

The building itself is a World War II-era Quonset hut built by the Stran-Steel company, according to a historic landmark nomination written by Ron Sladek, president of Tatanka Historical Associates.

Records don't show where the building was acquired, Sladek wrote, speculating that it could have come from a commercial retailer or even the Colorado State University campus, which was starting to sell its own surplus Quonset huts to the public at the time.

The two-story building combined the hut with a more traditional building, with the ground level being wood-framed and the double-barrel Quonset placed on top to form the upper floor and roof, according to the nomination letter.

Sladek wrote that the building is an "exceptionally rare" example of a Quonset hut in the state, writing that most appeared as single-barreled buildings that were on the ground, rather than forming the second floor.

"The architecture is what is so eye-catching about it," Sladek told the Reporter-Herald. "That double barrel ... Quonset roof is really unique for this era."

The business was originally owned by George Lee, a WWII veteran who worked in Loveland as an auto repair mechanic in the 1920s and 1930s before opening his own shop in the 1940s. Lee and his wife Mary bought the property and moved into a house

nearby in 1947. Three years later, they opened the Fawn Hollow Store, selling supplies for those heading up the mountains — including camping, fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreational activity items — as well as groceries and other merchandise.

The Lees sold the property in 1960 and, until 1967, the store was operated by different owners. The building briefly became the Fawn Hollow Cafe from 1974 to 1975 before it was transformed into the Bohemian Cottage Restaurant in 1975, offering fine German and Czech cuisine, according to the nomination letter.

The restaurant was first owned and operated by Jaroslav and Anna Skoupy, who were followed by Imrich and Lubica Lampert, all of whom appear to have been immigrants from Czechoslovakia, the nomination letter adds.

However, in 2012 the Lamperts sold the business and the Bohemian Cottage Restaurant went with it, ending decades of service in the Loveland and rural Larimer County community.

That is, until over a decade later.

### The Weisses and their vision for the property

Ann Tonia and her husband Brandon bought the property along with the home overlooking it two years ago.

The high school sweethearts have lived in Colorado for several decades after bouncing around to several locations throughout their life. They lived in Parker for 21 years where Ann Tonia owned a yoga and aerial yoga studio, something she said was important in coming up with the experiential idea of the



Ann Tonia Weiss shows a postcard she found of her historic building when it was the Fawn Hollow Store west of Loveland.

JENNY SPARKS — LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

business they are building inside the old Bohemian Cottage.

"My motto is 100% you don't just live life, you don't just go dine; when we go (places), my kids' hard rule is no phones, we experience it," she said. "We want to experience it from the staff coming to serve us, interaction with other patrons ... and really enjoying the food in each other's company."

The two moved to Loveland two years ago, buying the home that overlooks the old Bohemian Cottage along U.S. 34 in an attempt to downsize. They initially didn't plan on buying the old building as well as their new home, but when they learned the home's previous tenants owned both, they decided to follow suit, Ann Tonia said.

"We wanted to buy a small house in Colorado and then another house on the coast somewhere," Brandon said. "So we got two houses, it's just our southern property is only 500 feet south."

The Weisses decided to revive the building, following on the dream of the previous owners. Ann Tonia said the couple who owned it before them had dreamed of bringing the old building back to life, but illness and other life difficulties made that impossible.

While the couple was initially unsure if they wanted to buy the old building along with the home, they spoke about it to each other as if they had already decided to buy the property, Ann Tonia said. "I mentioned that to my

husband, like gosh we're talking like we already own it, maybe we need to go take another look," she said. "I walked the garden in its entirety and it just continued to speak to me. I just was inspired by every nook and cranny of this overgrown garden."

Ann Tonia said their first thought was potentially to use the space to rent out through AirBNB, an idea she turned away from after walking through the several acres of gardens behind the building. Then when driving past it one day, Ann Tonia said she thought back to a number of self-pour tap houses the couple had been to and the idea "immediately clicked."

The Weisses' plan is to turn the downstairs area of the property into a self-pour ta-

phouse with a beer garden out back, featuring an indoor seating area as well as an outdoor patio. The outside space will feature a number of gardens the couple has already begun working on, including a military garden to honor local veterans and a solarium up the hill. Upstairs, underneath the steel beams of the double-barrel Quonset, the couple plans to implement a full-service cocktail lounge, overlooking the gardens below.

The building has been added to the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties following Sladek's nomination letter, something he told the Reporter-Herald will assist the Weisses with their plans in the form of grants and tax credits.

COTTAGE » PAGE 7

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# Thurman

FROM PAGE 1

When the United States entered World War II, Thurman had planned on joining up himself, but at the age of 16, he needed parental permission, and his father insisted that he stay on the farm. Instead, Thurman joined the Marine Corps on his 18th birthday, completing basic training in the Great Lakes area before being stationed at Camp Pendleton in California, and finally being shipped out to the Pacific Theater, a tour of service that culminated in the now famous Battle of Iwo Jima.

"When the day broke and the sun rose, they were up on deck, and looked out, and they could just see this smoke filled island," his daughter said. "They couldn't believe they were going into that."

A Marine sniper, Thurman had provided cover while other Marines planted the American flag on Mount Suribachi, a moment captured by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal and which became one of the most iconic images of the entire war.

Thurman survived the battle and made his way home to South Dakota, where he met his wife, Carol Jean Meier. Thurman engineered a date by offering to treat Meier's brother to ice cream, asking coyly that he bring his sister along.

"Every time he came back here he'd tease him, 'You just invited me for ice cream because you wanted to get to know my sister,'"



PHOTOS BY JENNY SPARKS — LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

Jack Thurman, a WWII veteran who was involved in raising the flag at Iwo Jima, is pictured in his Loveland home in 2020. He was talking about proud moment when he watched his fellow soldiers raise the flag as Thurman, a sniper, provided cover for them.



Jack Thurman is pictured at his 99th birthday party in September.

Karen Thurman laughed. The pair maintained a long distance relationship when Thurman was working as an apprentice draftsman in Iowa, a difficult prospect in the late 40s and early 50s, when cross country phone calls were quite expensive. Primarily they kept in touch by writing each other letters, thousands of them that Thurman's daughter later found.

The two were married soon after, and with a wife to care for, Thurman turned his growing success as a draftsman into a career as an architect, eventually moving to San Diego to work at a number of firms before going into business for himself, eventually moving to Boulder, where he raised his family. He lived in Longmont briefly, and moved to Loveland in 2018 to live with his daughter.

One of the great honors of his life, his daughter said, was a visit to Washington, D.C. in 2020 for the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

"I am so grateful that I was able to get him up there for that, it was so important to him," his daughter said. "He got to talk to other Iwo Jima veterans that he had never met."

In his final days, Thurman remained at home, watching television with his daughter and caretaker. He died peacefully, with his daughter holding his hand. She told him that she loved him, and his last words were: "I know you do honey."

He was buried with the thousands of letters he shared with his wife during their courtship filling his coffin up to his knees. His last meal had been a bowl of ice cream.



REPORTER-HERALD FILE PHOTO

This photo from 2012 shows the Bohemian Cottage restaurant after it closed after 37 years in business.

# Cottage

FROM PAGE 6

However it is not just the financial aspect that is important to the couple; they want to keep historical aspects of the building for people to learn about when they visit. This includes leaving the beams in the second floor visible and featuring antique wallpaper found inside, as well as a wall of photos and information right as you walk in.

Ann Tonia said they plan to open up the ceiling above the front door so patrons immediately see the unique double-barrel roof.

"From the moment you walk in I want people to start to experience it," she said.

"You're not going to just grab a drink and sit down, you're going to grab a drink and you're going to learn about the history of the building. You're going to learn about the people who dreamed before we dreamed about this place, the people who built this place, the people who, (for) 37 years, ran a successful... restaurant and then you'll get to go experience our dream."

When it came to the name, the Weisses origi-

nally thought about using the name The Mullet, as a nod to the phrase "business in the front, party in the back," based on the combination of cocktail lounge and beer garden. But recently the idea changed to something they hope will further solidify their passion to share the history of the building.

The new business will one day be The Double Barrel.

## Excitement for the future

The Weisses anticipate it will take around a year to fully realize the dream they have for the property. Brandon said they are working with Larimer County and other local agencies to finish all needed requirements to get the process underway.

They will be working with a historic architect to maintain the integrity of the building's history, something that adds additional time as it entails a more detailed process.

Though they hoped they could open in 2025, Brandon said they are now shooting to welcome customers in the spring of 2026.

Sladek said he thinks what the couple is aiming

to do is a wonderful idea, especially since they are working so hard to keep the history of the building alive and honor the heritage of businesses along the U.S. 34 corridor.

"The fact they are willing to undertake a rehabilitation of a historic building is admirable," he said, later adding, "It's going to really make it a special place in Larimer County and in the Loveland area."

Brandon said he and Ann Tonia are eager that as more people learn about what they aim to do, they will share their stories of not just the Bohemian Cottage, but the Fawn Hollow Store before it.

Ann Tonia said this act of keeping the history alive is something near and dear to her heart, especially as she learned more about the building and its tenants.

"You can't help but want to continue that legacy," she said. "You want to continue this beautiful, rich history and put your mark on this building."

More information on the building can be found at thedoublebarrelloveland.com. The Weisses are also looking for those who have history or memories from the old properties, which can also be shared through the website.

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