

EDWARD BLAIR

Edward Blair, teacher, author, lecturer, and curator of Healy House - Dexter Cabin, Colorado Historical Society Museum in Leadville, has spent a number of years gathering information on Leadville's fabulous Ice Palace.

OTHER BOOKS FROM TIMBERLINE

EVERYBODY CAME TO LEADVILLE by Edward Blair and E. Richard Churchill. An exciting history of Colorado's greatest silver camp told through a number of its most colorful characters. The stories of Mart Dugan, Horace Tabor, Broken Nose Scotty, Chicken Bill and the Unsinkable Molly Brown make the Carbonate Camp live again.

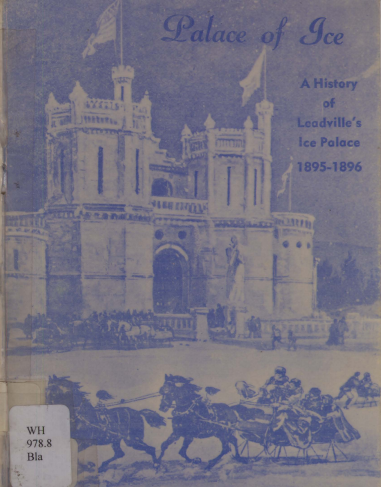
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\$1.00 each. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index.

# Palace of Ice

A History  
of  
Leadville's  
Ice Palace  
1895-1896

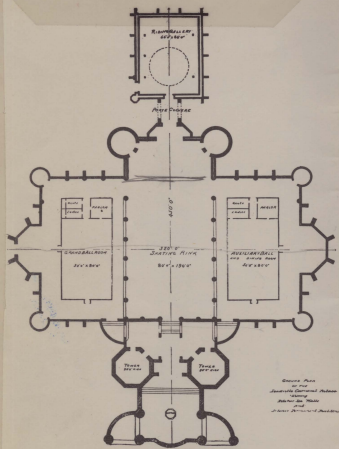


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EDWARD BLAIR

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General Floor Plan of the Crystal Ice Palace.

General Plan  
of the  
Crystal Ice Palace  
Designed by  
Edward Blair  
and  
John J. ...

# Palace of Ice

A History of the Leadville Ice

Palace of 1896

EDWARD BLAIR

TIMBERLINE BOOKS

912 Harrison Avenue

LEADVILLE, COLORADO 80461

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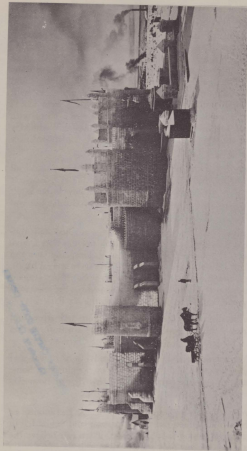
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Printer: B & B PRINTERS and LITHOGRAPHERS, Gunnison, Colorado

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1. Colorado City - Leadville



State Historical Society of Colorado

Leadville Ice Palace

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It was January First and the year was 1896. Pocket watches, continually glanced at, showed a few minutes after one. The day was cold and grey, but weather never kept Leadville folks home when something was doing. And something was doing. The streets were lined with hundreds of eager-faced children and adults. Shops and stores and offices were gaily decorated with brightly colored bunting and streamers. But they were closed and miners, who should have been working, were there with their families, for New Year's Day was just another Wednesday in 1896. But this was no ordinary Wednesday, nor an ordinary New Year's Day.

Suddenly the sound of a massive drum was heard and all heads on Harrison Avenue turned south towards the spot where Fifth Street joins the Avenue. A couple of small boys broke ranks and ran into the middle of Harrison to see if the parade was coming yet.

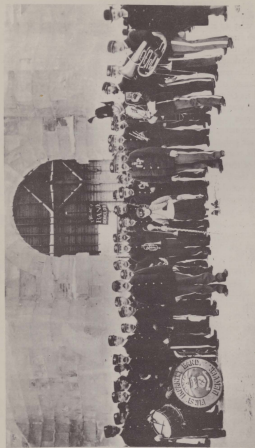
Then, almost as if by magic, the street was filled with uniformed police followed by the exciting sounds of the Fort Dodge Cowboy Band. The boys scurried back to scolding mothers and the Leadville Ice Palace parade filed by. There were several bands, firemen, military societies, dignitaries, and clubs in extravagant ice palace costumes. As the last group marched by, the spectators joined the parade and everyone marched on the Ice Palace.

"Leadville, for once, abandoned its strain and stress and struggle; tried to be gay and succeeded. It was a transformation scene."

The Palace was besieged by eager Leadvillites. It was said that over 2,500 people visited the Ice Palace on opening day. Some were reluctant to go home when it closed that first glorious evening.

The walk, if you were young, the ride if you had money, or a father who would let you use the cutter, was cold. Snow fell in fits and starts, but young lads and lasses, if we can believe the writers of the period, saw only stars.

8411-1878



Denver Public Library Western Collection

First Infantry Band, Denver, Colorado, shortly after the Palace opened

## A GREAT NOTION

But why an ice palace? And where did the idea come from? And who first suggested a Leadville Ice Palace?

Many answers have been given, many have received the credit, and no doubt many deserve it. Ice palaces were neither unique to Leadville nor a new idea. "The Carnival was the outgrowth of the Canadian enthusiasm for winter sports," Edwin Wildman declared in *Outing*, a sports magazine in January, 1899. The first ice palace was built in Montreal for a five-day winter carnival in 1883. It was a mere shadow of the Leadville structure, but set the pattern nevertheless.

An ice palace in Leadville had been talked about some years before the winter of 1895, but conditions were not right. The depression of the nineties hit the silver west especially hard with the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in 1893. Don and Jean Griswold noted in their "City of Contrast" series that R. E. Goodell, following the opening of Pueblo's Mineral Palace in 1890, suggested a palace of ice near Evergreen Lakes. The idea had some backing but never generated the enthusiasm necessary.

Little thought was given to carnivals during the dark months of '93 and '94. But the spring of 1895 looked bright with promise and again the ice palace-winter carnival idea was proposed. The *Leadville Herald Democrat* gave E. W. Senior credit for starting ice palace thinking by pointing out "this hint was thrown out in the Real Estate Bulletin advertising Leadville's resources and attractions, published last spring, by E. W. Senior and Co." It is useless to speculate on who introduced the original idea, more important, who nurtured the idea and built the fires of enthusiasm? E. W. Senior, late of Salt Lake, a Leadville real estate agent, boomed the ice palace from the beginning. He started a tide rolling that eventually washed over him and continued to roll far beyond his or anyone's expectations.

As early as August 18, 1895, the *Herald Democrat* was talking about toboggan slides, admissions, and local benefits accruing from the ice palace. Senior explained to reluctant merchants that a winter carnival on the scale he envisioned, which was diminutive compared to the final plans, would provide jobs for currently unemployed and admission monies would help stimulate the



economy. In addition thousands would come to Leadville to see the ice palace and play in the Cloud City; and all would require food and lodging. The winter carnival would provide Leadville's citizens a respite from long years of labor and a great economic boost as well. It was logic that was hard to resist. The *Herald Democrat* was one of the first to succumb. Almost from the first they, unlike their modern counterpart, were in the forefront leading public opinion and proclaiming in August, "It is now almost a certainty that Leadville will have an Ice Palace and winter carnival this year." Others were not as confident.

Cities who had built ice palaces and had organized winter carnivals similar to the one envisioned for Leadville were contacted. Dimensions, techniques, and amounts began to filter in to fill the voids. A letter from Montreal explained that their last ice palace, 150 feet square with five-foot walls at the base tapering to 20 inches at top, cost \$5,000. The *Herald Democrat* explained, "This was the actual cost of the largest and most expensive ice palace ever erected on the American continent and by a city of over 200,000 inhabitants."

Of course Leadville was not about to construct anything smaller, so Senior suggested at a meeting held with Denver's Chamber of Commerce during the second week of September that the size be not "less than 200 feet square, and the height 20 feet."

Numerous sites were suggested, but it wasn't long before most agreed that some place on Capitol Hill, just west of the center of town, was the most likely spot. It could be seen from all sections of the city, was virtually unoccupied and, as one reporter explained, toboggans could travel either east or west from the summit.

#### PLANS AND PROBLEMS

As in any project of even a limited scale doubts arise and wild schemes are proposed. By the 8th of September, \$2,500 had been raised and only one-third of the merchants had been approached. Some, who hadn't contributed, questioned whether the town was big enough to support a carnival of major proportions. It was agreed that as a one-day affair it was not; but "the palace can easily be kept going for three months."

Another doubt concerned the ice. Some were sure there wasn't ice enough in the area to build an ice palace, but they were reassured. "Already we have three bids from local men," and "the icemen have promised to have all the ice we want by December 1, so that we will open the palace to the public on New Year's Day." When asked about melting Senior explained how "any side liable to be affected by the sun can be protected by canvas."

The most persistent worry throughout the development period was whether or not they could get enough outsiders to come to make it pay. Mr. B. L. Wincheff, general passenger and ticket agent for the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad, announced, "We will . . . spare no effort to make the Leadville carnival a complete success and will spend time and money in doing anything necessary to that end." The Colorado Midland had no intention of being upstaged by narrow gauge competition. Mr. A. F. Baily threw the weight of the nation behind the Midland when he promised thirty to forty thousand visitors from coast to coast traffic. Then as a clincher he added, "In this calculation I do *not* speak of the Colorado [visitors] who will be attracted to Leadville."

Further assurance came as a result of Senior's visit to Denver. The *Denver Republican* declared the Capital's Chamber of Commerce "not only gave [the ice palace] the most hearty endorsement, but enthusiastically declared that the Chamber of Commerce would do all in its power to make it a state affair."

The cost was nebulous and no firm figures were printed, but Denver papers were beginning to speculate in September and one paper, the *Denver News*, declared, "Expenditures requiring \$50,000 to \$200,000 are in contemplation." Senior a few days later explained his "rough estimate" of the cost was "under \$15,000 and probably not more than \$12,000."

The old Leadville pluck began to show early. No halfway palace for the West's greatest silver camp; and, while not all ideas were practical, none lacked imagination. The *Herald Democrat* set the tone when it proclaimed on September 12, 1895, "If anyone expects the carnival to be a tame affair they are greatly mistaken, for the word 'carnival' implies over-stepping the bounds of decorum. The straight-laced had better snap their strings and

expand for the occasion."

One eager reporter in keeping with the times suggested a Mardi Gras parade that would feature tobogganers "rigged out with dragon heads" and other "grotesque figures." Seal skin turbans were described as "indispensable." And one suggestion, fortunately not taken up by the mass, was the use of "an abandoned mine" which, when "ornamented with icicles of stalactite and stalagmite character, might be made a greater curiosity than the Mammoth Cave." The proud pusher of the cave notion was sure that a "submarine lake would fit into the environment" and a "white polar" bear would put the finishing touches on an already irresistible feature.

The most far-fetched idea of the early visionary period concerned the ice palace, electricity, and Mount Massive. "A searchlight on top of the ice castle would be a splendid idea." They could rent one cheaply, the reporter claimed, and shine it on Mount Massive and "other objects in a flood of electricity."

On the third Sunday in September papers and ministers announced an ice palace organizational meeting at Weston Opera House, originally Tabor Opera House, for the following night. Aside from discussion of winter fun the program included a number of "vocal solos," a "male quartette," and an "overture" by the "Musicians Union."

Tuesday's report of the meeting indicated there was a large crowd but few businessmen. Over half of the audience was ladies, "the most enthusiastic half." The railroads were present and announced their support with "banners of gold" hung on the stage and from the proscenium arches. Senior was disappointed, especially by the absence of saloon men and bankers. "I'm not a drinking man," he explained to the crowd. "They won't listen to me. But you that patronize the bar explain the meaning of ice palace and they will listen." Tongue in cheek, he suggested the saloon men stayed away because they heard the sheriff was a generous supporter of the project. "If this is the case perhaps the sheriff will resign in order that the saloon men will help us out." Then he addressed the bankers, conspicuous by their absence. "I felt," he said, "while in their presence as though I was already in the ice palace—about twenty degrees below zero."



Healy House, Colorado State Historical Society

Ernestine Kuehl in her Ice Palace costume

Senior's approach to both bankers and saloon men drew neither. Certainly saloon owners were not about to support a man who wouldn't even enter their places of business to talk with them; and he didn't speak the bankers' language. Although it was never mentioned, it seems likely that Senior was Mormon and as such was suspect by many and unacceptable to a few. There is no evidence to support an unequivocal statement, but since the man was from Salt Lake City and was a teetotaler, his Mormonism seems likely. And even without religious motivation a teetotaler in Leadville was a bit suspicious. "How can you trust a man who doesn't drink?" Still the overall effect of the meeting was to move the carnival program forward.

Senior explained his visit with Denver business leaders. "On Friday I visited Denver, and let me here tell you, people of Leadville, that you never made a greater mistake in your life than when you think Denver is not with us." He exhorted local people to "show some enterprise, build her ice palace and she will find Denver will do her part to advertise and patronize us."

He gave credit for "the idea of an ice palace" to the "*Herald Democrat* of this city," which must have been something of a surprise to the staff, though they never denied it and continued to promote it as if it was a birthing of their own.

One "croaker" said that at this altitude an ice palace would attract lightning. Senior suggested lightning rods.

"There's not a man in the town who knows how to put up a lightning rod."

There was no more comment on the matter, no lightning rods were put up, no lightning struck and the ice palace was apparently saved a flaming death by a generous God.

A meeting was scheduled for the following Monday and efforts were made to get more members of the business community to the meeting. Senior sent out post cards and behind the scenes the group who had attended the interest meeting on the sixteenth, especially the "enthusiastic" female half, were busy recruiting a crowd. On September 23, at Weston's Opera House, more positive steps were taken to set the ice palace project in motion.

The Mayor, S. D. Nicholson, called the meeting to order. E. W. Senior moved a slate of ten directors. After some discussion



Denver Public Library Western Collection

#### Small boys checking on the progress

and the substitution of Calvin H. Morse of the Vendome in place of a George P. Brown, the motion passed. The original board of directors consisted of S. D. Nicholson, Charles Dickenson, H. M. Blakley, C. H. S. Whipple, J. E. Miller, Harvey T. Brown, J. M. Maxwell, D. D. Sullivan, J. J. Donovan and Calvin H. Morse.

Mr. Morse moved the board "nominated" a general manager and set up the "details of the scheme," with the plans to be submitted to the stockholders later. Senior felt it best to elect the general manager and secretary "now." He was then nominated for general manager by Charles Whipple. The nomination was seconded by Frank Brown and a token vote was taken. Senior was the new general manager. W. L. Temple, a local insurance agent who had witnessed a Montreal winter carnival, was unanimously elected secretary.

## A SECOND START

The board of directors met the following evening in the parlor of the Vendome. They adopted a set of by-laws, elected Nicholson president of the board, Calvin H. Morse vice president, and set several projects in motion. They requested that the Secretary locate a "suite of rooms and furnish same in the Iron Building," and also made him the eleventh member of the board. Mr. Temple rented rooms three and four and set up housekeeping. The directors advertised for plans for the ice palace with a one hundred dollar award going to the winning set. Bids were invited on ice and for a building site. Stationery was ordered and the number and type of events were discussed. It was decided that the palace itself would have a wooden interior with an ice facade. "In front of the main entrance to the ice palace will be a tower from 100 to 200 feet in height. From its top the slide will extend to the streets and in winter Leadville streets never lack enough snow to continue the ride for nearly a mile with the impetus gained from the tower."

The following Saturday evening, September 28, the directors met in their new quarters in the Iron Building at 8:30 p. m. and drafted an open letter to the people of Leadville, asking their support, explaining the valuable contribution that an ice palace and carnival would make to the people of the Cloud City and asking them in the name of civic pride and potential prosperity for contributions. "What say you, citizens, shall our Ice Palace be built? We have now within \$3,000 of the amount necessary to construct a palace that will eclipse anything of the kind ever attempted."

They then included a list of subscribers, hoping, it is assumed, to honor those who supported them and shame laggards into support. The list was short considering the size of the town and conspicuously short of bankers and big money men. Names like Campion, James J. Brown, A. V. Bohn, Hunter, Trimble, and the good doctor, D. H. Dougan, were absent.

The response from the general public had been good. On September 19, the Lyceum Theatre ran their new play, "Tit for Tat," as an Ice Palace Benefit. "Admission on this occasion 50c." It normally was a quarter. But benefits and socials and bake sales would not build the ice palace. The directors realized that they would have to have a man in charge who had big money's confidence.

The directors continued to push their project forward. They wrote a letter to the county commissioners requesting the use of a parcel of land on Capitol Hill. They asked for a five-year lease on county lots nine to twenty-two, "inclusive in Block 53, Stevens and Leiter Subdivision."

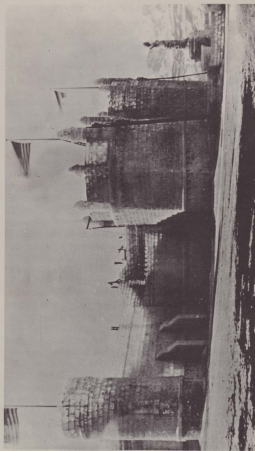
"Our intention," the directors informed the commissioners, "is to make a permanent structure of the roof part of said palace, dancing floor and skating rink; to commence building same forthwith." The exterior would be enclosed with "ice walls as soon as weather permits, and the same to be repeated each succeeding winter."

The commissioners considered the proposal including the following statement concerning size: "The pavilion (wood interior) will be 150 by 200 feet, twenty-five feet high from floor to ceiling; iron roof well and firmly built," and approved the request with the following conditions. They would lease said lots for three years, from October 7, 1895, until October 7, 1898, at \$1.00 per year with the understanding that "said premises be used entirely and exclusively for the purposes of said association, and the lease not be assigned nor sub-leased to other parties."

And so the ice palace had a home at one dollar per year. Unfortunately the financial problems of the association continued to dog the directors' heels and finally the end came. Senior, aware that his project was doomed to failure as long as he remained at the helm, stepped down. He presented his resignation as general manager to the board and it was accepted October 24, 1895.

He seems to have retired completely from the scene. His backers were enthusiastic talkers and had accomplished a great deal, but without the town's bankers and big mine and smelter men the ice palace remained a dream. Senior requested \$10,000 to begin construction, but never reached his goal. "When he got to the \$4,000 limit he stuck fast. The people would not budge farther. Whipping and driving did no good. A new driver was demanded."

The *Free Lance*, a local gadfly weekly who claimed early that the ice palace would never be a success except as a local affair, insisted that Senior was the victim of big money and low



Pioneers' Museum, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Ice Palace workmen

dealing. The retired general manager in an open letter to the *Free Lance* stated "the directors, so far as I know, have no doubts as to my ability or honesty, or ill will towards me, and I certainly have none towards them, or any living soul in the Cloud City."

The *Free Lance* wasn't satisfied. They continued to beat the dead horse in their November 11, 1895, issue by claiming that Senior had been forced out. This "gang or clique with arrogance and jealousy . . . usurped the rights of Senior and made him retire." But the dead horse chose not to move; the issue was dead.

In a meeting held at the Vendome Hotel on Friday evening, October 25th, Leadville people had the opportunity to decide the fate of the ice palace. There was a large turnout, especially among the well-to-do. The first question: Continue or Stop? The majority said go ahead. Who should lead? Tinsley S. Wood was a unanimous choice. Wood refused to accept the position on the spot and asked for a few days to check costs and sources of supply. It was a prudent request and was accepted.

Four days later at a meeting chaired by wealthy mine owner A. V. Bohn, Wood stated he would accept the newly vacated position of general manager if he could be assured \$20,000 for the project. Wood originally came from Southeastern Ohio, was general manager of the highly productive Lilian, Benton, Agwalt, and Antioch Mining Companies, and a member of the Miner's Board of Exchange. He was popular in mining and business circles and was an excellent choice.

Eyes moved around the room when \$20,000 was mentioned and a few lips murmured disapproval, but on the whole the crowd was favorable. Then Leadville's famous husband, the spouse of the Unsinkable Molly, Mr. James J. Brown, started the money moving by saying, "Gentlemen, it is useless to talk longer until we see some money in sight. I subscribe \$500.00." Tingley Wood and John Campion came forth with like amounts. Before the evening was done they had \$8,000 toward ice palace construction.

A financial committee headed by one of Leadville's leading bankers, Charles T. Limberg, was organized and set to work the following day. The following evening the committee reported

that \$7,000 had been raised, but Wood stood his ground—\$20,000 or no director-general. Three nights later \$15,000 had been pledged for immediate use, \$3,000 more was pledged for November and the committee was confident of the remaining \$2,000. Wood acquiesced. He was elected President of the board of directors with the title Director-General. A new board with Charles Limberg as vice president was elected. W. L. Temple, as secretary, was a holdover from the original board. Frank X. Hogan, assistant cashier at the Carbonate National Bank, was elected treasurer. The remaining board members were: S. D. Nicholson, mayor and president of the original board; D. H. Dougan, banker; George L'Abbe, co-owner of the Topic Saloon; J. H. Weddle, manager of the Arkansas Valley Smelter; John F. Campion, manager of the Ibx Mining Company; James J. Brown, president of the Rex Mining Company; C. N. Priddy, superintendent of the Leadville Water Company; and J. W. Smith, owner of the Smith Dry Goods Company.

Wood lost no time once in the driver's seat. He wired C. E. Joy, the architect, to come immediately. The old Leadville Ice Palace and Crystal Carnival Association was restructured and renamed the Leadville Crystal Carnival Association, and the incorporation papers were signed by Wood, Priddy, and Limberg on November 7, 1895, and they were notarized and filed for record on the 9th. The new association moved its office to 400 West 8th, while Wood set up offices in the Delaware Block, where his mining offices were located.

Wood's next move was to survey the property and secure what was necessary from the county. An agreement was drawn up giving the association a five-year lease at one dollar per year to the four hundred block on West 7th, the south side of the four hundred block on West 8th and a few scattered pieces of land in the five hundred block on West 7th, which was three or four times the size of Senior's request. The agreement was signed by Henry C. Rose, Chairman of the county commissioners, on November 18th, and was filed for record on the 20th.

Preparation of the land began before the agreement was signed and most contracts had been let by the 1st of December.

Director-General Wood sketched the plan for the ground



Denver Public Library Western Collection  
Ice rink, Leadville Ice Palace

floor himself, but it was up to the architect, C. E. Joy, who arrived from St. Paul on November 6, to convert Wood's ideas to action. Joy was not new to the problems of ice construction, nor did his career end in Leadville. He built the St. Paul Ice Palace in 1894, and after constructing the Leadville palace in 1895 went to Montreal where he is reported to have constructed a smaller one in 1896.

Coble and Kerr, local contractors, submitted the low bid for "interior wood work and erection of steel girders." Coble was in charge of construction and also "superintended" the laying of the ice. Coble came down with pneumonia and W. J. Kerr, his partner, "took charge of the putting up of the gin poles and ropes." He "worked like a beaver" and had "no superior in Colorado." The man in charge of providing the ice was William H. Cole. He and James McMordie owned the Leadville Ice Company, mistakenly called the Leadville Ice and Coal Company in many accounts. Much of the ice came from their ponds north of the city, while the rest was cut on Evergreen Lakes or shipped in from Palmer Lake.

H. B. Hardt, imported by Wood, was in charge of all displays. H. C. Dimick was given the toboggan slide concession and Alex Grant, a foreman at the Arkansas Valley Smelter, had the riding gallery. Harry S. Philips, Secretary of Williams Lumber Company, was appointed chairman of music and dances shortly before the palace opened. It was said he had 23 aides, for the most part young single gentlemen. Those who brought their appetites to Leadville's Ice Palace found John E. Miller, local grocer and confectionist on the job. Miller set up a simple short order restaurant in the exhibit hall and, given twelve hours' notice, "one can get the finest supper served elaborately in the Ice Palace."

## CONSTRUCTION

During the first two weeks of November the shock and sound of tree stumps being dynamited rocked the city. As soon as the land was cleared Coble and his crews went to work erecting the wooden interior structures and outbuildings. Work pro-

gressed at a rapid rate and local interest and curiosity was aroused that "Leadville people made a Sunday pilgrimage to see how work on the Ice Palace was progressing, and some camped there a good part of the day."

The *Free Lance* continued its pessimistic digs and wouldn't let Leadville forget the man who started it all. On the 18th of November they let go a blast at the "mighty barons" who could not be found "when the scheme was in its infancy." They chastised Leadville's elite further by claiming that Senior was "approached" by a "few weak mortals who are afraid to call their soul their own, who asked that he resign in order that their lords and masters might reign." Then in a final blast they cried, "You have never advanced from the first stages of the Darwinian Theory."

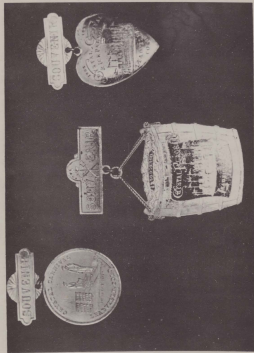
Not satisfied with both barrels at Leadville's upper crust, they took a long look at the palace's chance for financial success and in the *Free Lance* of November 4, 1895, noted that "Leadville has always received from Denver full credit, with interest, for all the pneumonia and small pox that ever prevailed." They were convinced people around the state and nation had heard the "ghost stories regarding our climate and the dangers of the altitude" and would stay home. "To nine-tenths of the population of the foothills, a trip to Leadville in the dead of winter would be like a journey to the North Pole."

"If we need a skating rink," the *Lance* continued, "let's build it and as Leadville always does—pay for it." But there was no need to lose the city's collective head. "Let the visionary talk of an ice palace end." But the visionaries continued and a cornerstone of ice was placed November 25, 1895. The basic design was that of a Norman castle.

Ice was cut on ponds and lakes by hand saws and pulled ashore with hooks, loaded on sleds drawn by four-horse teams, which were in critically short supply, and quickly hauled to the building site. "Quarry gin pole derricks, with horses for power, helped place the blocks of ice."

There seemed to be some confusion as to the size of the ice blocks. Ezra Dickerman in an unpublished paper on his Ice Palace recollections says 5' x 2' x 2'. James A. Murry, a workman on the Ice Palace, in an interview with Mrs. James Harvey, stated





Three of the many Ice Palace medals struck in 1896

Author's Collection

the ice was cut into 20" x 30" blocks. Contemporary pictures of the palace suggest various sizes were used, depending on the specific purpose and placement of the blocks.

The ice blocks were cut and hewn by stone cutters, but it was found they worked too slowly, so a group of Canadian wood choppers were called in.

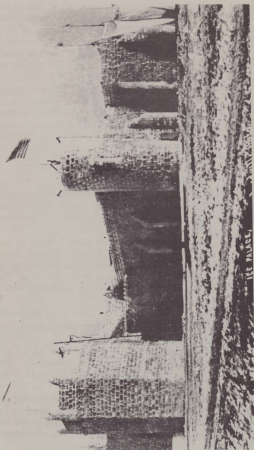
When the blocks of ice were placed water was used, instead of mortar, which froze, solidifying the wall. "It was cold work and I wore two coats most of the time," declared Mr. Murry.

As far as existing records show, the Leadville Ice Palace was the largest ice structure every constructed in North America, possibly the world. The total length of the structure was 450 feet, the width 320 feet, over twice as large as the final structure proposed by Senior. In today's terms it was half again as long as a football field, and twice as wide. It covered over three acres. The octagonal north towers, flanking the entrance, were ninety feet high with a circumference of 126 feet. The south towers and corner towers were round and measured sixty feet high and forty-five feet high respectively. From each tower waved a flag on a 120-foot flag staff. There is some disagreement over the thickness of the walls, but five feet seems to be the most common thickness cited, which also seems the most logical in light of block sizes already mentioned and contemporary photographs of wall construction.

It was hoped that the palace would be ready for the public by Christmas, but a warm spell in mid-December, complete with chinook wind, almost ruined the structure and set work back several days. The wind "cut crevices in the ice on the shady sides, while the sun honeycombed the south walls making it necessary to firehose spray the whole exterior after the sun set. This caused a mother of pearl effect which was most lovely when the lights were turned on." Mr. Murry, in his interview with Mrs. Harvey, explained that they were forced to put up "10,000 yards of canvas" to protect the structure from sun and wind.

How warm the warm spell was is hard for anyone to believe who knows Leadville's weather. Beginning on the second of December a warming trend set in. The high on the second was 35 degrees. The following day it was 46 degrees and by the twelfth the temperature rose to a spectacular 65 degrees! Several days in





State Historical Society of Colorado

Ice Palace in February, 1896

Note the canvas used to protect ice from sun and wind

that period were in the fifties and on the tenth it was 60 degrees. Fortunately it dropped below freezing every night. The warm weather finally broke on the twenty-second and by New Year's Eve the thermometer registered a comforting low of 8 below zero. Only fourteen inches of snow fell during the month and only eleven inches of white stuff covered the ground on New Year's Day.

Sam Olds, one of the workmen, was seriously injured during the warm spell when a gin pole broke. "Also, during the same period, one of the north towers crumbled, overthrowing the derrick." Two men working in the big octagonal towers were thrown to the ground mid broken rigging and flying chips of ice, but miraculously were uninjured.

#### THAT WONDERFUL FIRST DAY

On December 28th, a group of merchants and miners met at the Vendome to organize an opening day parade. Mr. William R. Harp, general manager of the Union Smelter, was appointed grand marshal.

It was agreed that the parade would form in front of the Armory Hall on East Fifth and at 1:15 would proceed down Fifth to Harrison, thence to Eighth and west on Eighth to the Ice Palace. Then, because the entrance and towers on the north end were still under construction, the procession would enter the palace on Seventh Street.

Ceremonies in the Palace would be short. Harp suggested two or three five to ten minute speeches would be appropriate with the mayor "taking a leading part."

The mayor protested, claiming he wasn't much of a "performer on the rhetorical trapeze." Finally, it was decided that Mayor Nicholson, General Manager Wood, and Dr. D. H. Dougan would speak.

Merchants, many who allowed their employees half a day off to celebrate the New Year, and mine owners were asked to let their people off in honor of the January First opening of the Ice Palace. Most readily complied. Of course, it was a day off without pay.

By the 29th of December only \$15,460 of the promised \$20,000 had been collected. One thousand thirty-five dollars was raised at the parade meeting, but over \$20,000 had already been spent, and it was assumed at the time that it came from Wood's pocket. Nothing ever appeared in print that could be considered a complete accounting of the Leadville Crystal Carnival Association, nor have the corporation's records ever been found. If there is some doubt about the dealings, numbers of visitors, expenses, sources of funds, and the like, it has never come to light. Still it is strange that none of these items was ever made public, though it might be that the worsening labor-management situation throughout the summer drove Ice Palace concerns out of the public mind.

On December 30th, the Ice Palace workmen beat all previous records in a race to complete the palace before opening day. They "piled up 254 tons of the transcendent." The interior ice work was complete, with the exception of commercial displays frozen into the walls. Those were all placed after the opening.

Season tickets had been on sale for some time at Wood's office in the Delaware Block at \$25.00, \$15.00 down and the remaining \$10.00 before February 1. Gate tickets were 50c for adults, and children under twelve, 25c. In addition, there were club tickets. Members were given season tickets for \$10.00.

The rink, clay based, was flooded the evening of the 31st.

The City Council had quite a discussion, as did many groups, about what they were going to wear. The mayor wanted to go "whole hog or none." The *Herald Democrat* said the mayor "wanted a chance to air his knickerbockers and expose his fine ranch-fed calves to admiration."

Alderman Page favored a togue and sash, Joy wanted to appear in a plug hat and a Queen Lil sash of old gold, while Alderman Easum wanted to have nothing to do with their "freaky" ideas. Nothing was really decided as to the City Fathers' costumes, but they did instruct all uniformed police to join the parade and the fire department was ordered to "decorate their apparatus and join" the march on the Palace.

The same New Year's Eve meeting saw the Council vote to exempt the riding gallery from the purchase of a city license, while granting the peanut concession to a gentleman appropri-

ately named Charles Salter, "so that he could get a little ahead in the world."

Final details were dispatched and on January 1, 1896, at 1:15 p.m. the three month long pageant began.

The police led the parade and Marshal Burgess, with his fine and flourishing Missouri Whiskers and Captain Long, with his smooth shaven face, were in the van. Behind the police officers came a sled pulled by a "couple of pug dogs" bearing five-year-old Hazel Marchin, "a tiny, sweet little . . . girl of the Rockies." The effect was overwhelming if we can believe the reporter who promised that "this scene of childhood was enough to melt any miner's heart and mingle his tears with joys, at the thoughts that took him back to 'Auld Lang Syne'."

Next came the Fort Dodge Cowboy Band (sometimes incorrectly called the Dodge City Cowboy Band) with a drum, a gift from the City of Pueblo, so large that it took four donkeys "to convey it."

Close on the heels of the musicians came David P. LaSalle's Leadville Carnival Snowshoe Club. It was said that Captain LaSalle's group was the best costumed group in the parade. And a sight they must have been, over a hundred members dressed in their "Knickerbockers—white blanket; stockings—red ribbed; moccasins—buckskin; snowshoes—Canadian Web." During the carnival season they met trains, greeted visitors, visited other communities and marched in parades all over the state.

Right behind the snowshoers came the tobogganers—all ladies—dressed in "their suits of red hot colors."

Next came the dignitaries and aldermen. The procession stopped at the Vendome Hotel and picked up Director-General Wood, who marched beside Charles T. Limberg, Vice President of the Crystal Carnival Association. They were followed by Mayor Nicholson and Dr. D. H. Dougan, President of the Carbonate National Bank. District Court Judge, Frank W. Owens, was dressed in a costume made of "old iron" to celebrate the "substratum of the great mineral product of the camp." Some suggested he looked like a tea kettle coming down the street.

After the notables came the miners' union, the largest group in the parade. Following them came the Patriotic Sons of America. A large group of children preceded the fire department who

preceded the most important group of all—the Ice Palace workmen. They carried a large banner proclaiming, "We helped build the Ice Palace." They pulled "crude" sleds which carried "blocks of ice similar to those they placed in the Ice Palace walls. They were armed with saws, axes, chisels, tongs and adzes."

To encourage visitors from out of town the Crystal Carnival Association set aside certain days for groups and cities; but Wednesday, January 1, 1896, was Leadville's day. The 50 cent admission, for those without season tickets, was reasonably high when one considers that T-bone steak was selling for 15 cents a pound at Van Camps' Grocery and a reserved seat at A. S. Weston's Opera House was only a dollar. Yet thousands were willing to pay the price to see the still incomplete structure. Ice skating was popular and over a thousand skaters participated on opening day.

Marshal Harp, in charge of the day's festivities, had the privilege of officially opening the toboggan slide, though according to the Griswolds, it was unofficially opened on the evening of December 11th, by several young boys. Harp, the *Herald Democrat* explained, "will shoot the chute." If they "come out alive" it will be opened to others.

On opening day Harp, Col. C. H. Macnutz, a local mining engineer, Major W. T. Perkins, teller at the American National Bank, and Mr. Harp's attractive daughter "seated themselves in the cushioned toboggan and Mr. Dimick gave the signal. The board was tilted and the plunge made down the steep incline." They made it, midst screams and shouts, though it was admittedly a "heart-in-mouth" ride.

The main entrance, still incomplete on opening day, was on Eighth Street where "Leadville," a nineteen-foot statue of a woman on a twelve-foot pedestal, stood pointing east toward the source of Leadville's riches. She held an ice scroll draped over her arm "with raised gold figures proclaiming \$200,000,000 of Leadville's wealth to the world."

The interior of the palace (see floor plan) was divided into three large rooms and other small areas, such as cloak rooms, display rooms, and ticket areas. The center section was a 16,000 square foot skating rink. The end walls were ice, the sides were wood and ice, and the ceiling, though made of wood and metal, was completely frosted and according to many accounts, was ice



Denver Public Library Western Collection

Lady "Leadville" at the Eight Street entrance

covered with icicles hanging from the great trusses. The enthusiastic reporter who compiled the information for the carnival's official handbook described the ceiling as "the glistening of a large bed of diamonds." The walls were lined with octagonal ice pillars, five feet in diameter, and spaced every fifteen feet. Frozen into the pillars were large numbers of electric lights. Large lamps were also embedded in the walls and over the arches. Other lights shown down from the roof trusses. Spotlights of various colors were placed in each corner and focused on the center of the ice floor. The corner lights were movable and when focused on the frost and ice covered ceiling the effect was "a dream of beauty."

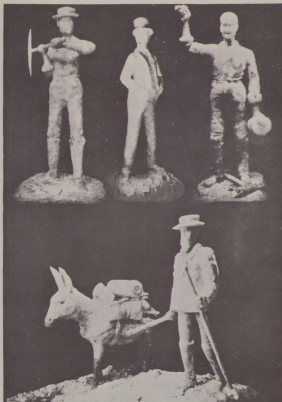
On either side of the skating rink were two large ballrooms, equal in size (80' x 50'). They were complete buildings within the Palace. The east room was dubbed the Grand Ballroom and was decorated in terra cotta and blue. The floors of both were finished with Texas pine. The west ballroom, or the Auxiliary Ballroom, decorated in orange and blue, was used as an "overflow ballroom," but its major function was that of a restaurant.

"The warmer colors were placed at the base to give a cheerful and more cozy glow to the rooms, while the lighter colors composed the frieze decorations." The inner walls of both rooms were glassed-in so watchers could view the action on the ice rink in the heated comfort of the ballrooms.

The twenty-piece Fort Dodge Cowboy Band provided the music during the first month. Local musicians were employed for the remainder of the Palace's reign. The bands were placed on a balcony above the Grand Ballroom and skating rink so they could provide music for both.

In addition to the ice-lady "Leadville," Wood and Joy designed a series of statues depicting the life of the simple miner. According to the Griswolds' series, "Leadville, A City of Contrast," the statues were "molded" in secret in the barn behind the Association's Eighth Street office. They were snowmen covered with water and frozen "to give it the proper polish. (see photos)."

Most of the exhibits were not unpacked until January 2nd, but eventually the walls of the castle were lined with colorful and ingenious displays frozen into the walls. Many brewers were rep-



Denver Public Library Western Collection

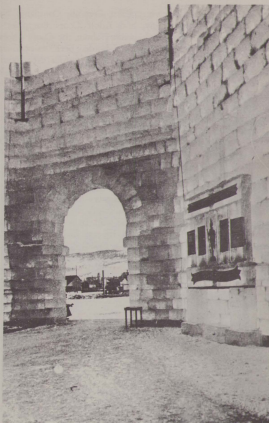
Ice statues in the Leadville Ice Palace  
 "A Miner" "The Mine is Sold" "Struck It Rich"  
 "Prospector and Burro"

resented: Phil Zang Brewing, Pabst Brewing Company, Neif Brothers Brewing Company, and Adolf Coors Company of Golden, Colorado. Murry told a story about the Coors display. The brewery sent up "six barrels of bottled beer" to be frozen into the walls. He also sent a case of twenty-four extra bottles in case of breakage. The case sat around for awhile and one day turned up missing. Murry and H. B. Hardt, who was in charge of all displays, looked for the missing case for two days. On the third it turned up in another part of the castle. Six bottles had been opened, but the rest were untouched. The two men, aware of Leadvillites' ability to consume liquor, couldn't figure out why only six. So they opened a couple of the others. Coors, afraid the freezing would break the bottles, had used salt water colored like beer.

There were displays of stuffed animals frozen in the walls, the South Park Railroad had a space in one of the halls where photographs of scenes along its route were displayed. The trademark of the Colorado Midland Railroad, a "red indian," was painted on glass and frozen into the wall. In addition to a "panorama showing the line road from Denver to Leadville," the Denver and Rio Grande had a working model of a locomotive on display that cost \$5,000 and was previously on display at the world's fair. Packing companies, hotels, newspapers, dry goods manufacturers, and the Cornforth Fish and Oyster Company all had displays.

Aside from the Ice Palace itself, the town had included several other amusements. Across West Seventh Street, attached to the Palace by a 27-foot span of ice, was the riding gallery, which housed a full-sized carousel for the children. According to Ezra Dickerman the gallery was "fronted with ice and the sides, back and roof" were painted in a "frosty silver grey" so it would conform with the style and color of the Palace.

A short distance from the riding gallery on Seventh Street was a small theatre that seated about 300 people, called variously the Theatre of Living Art or the Palace of Illusions. It was located near the southeast corner of the Ice Palace, and was jected. An ice arch covered the entrance and it had "built in towerettes and battlements that give to the building quite the appearance of a small ice palace in itself." It housed a "Ghost Show,"



Denver Public Library Western Collection

Ice Palace Exhibition Hall showing Colorado Midland display

the haunting effects coming from an "adjustable mirror," and opened January 11, 1896.

One of the most popular attractions was Dimick's toboggan slide. There were two slides. One started at the Ice Palace and ran down the south side of Seventh Street Hill to Pine Street. The other slide started on Harrison Avenue and ran toward the ice structure down the north side of Seventh Street to Spruce Street. Pine and Spruce are a block apart and set in a trough between the high points: Capitol Hill, where the Palace was located, and Harrison Avenue, the town's main thoroughfare. The total running distance was 2,100 feet.

The toboggan slide was not part of the Crystal Carnival Association, but was encouraged and supported by it. West Seventh Street was gaily lighted by the Citizens Electric Light Company to enhance evening tobogganing. Each slide had a heated station house complete with seats for those waiting their turn on the slides. Both stations were raised to give tobogganers an added boost, and the Avenue station had a small lunch counter in it. Young boys were paid a small sum to pull the toboggans back up.

During the course of the Ice Palace's operation there were three lavish fireworks displays that made the Fourth of July look like a child's peep show. It was said that there had never been anything like it in all the West before.

In describing opening day the local papers lost themselves in a flood of Victorian prose:

"There was a rush and a roar, a swish and jostle, a merging and mingling of every class and description . . ."

"The Rocky Mountains rocked in the lap of the ages."

"The World moves, Leadville takes a leap."

"The sturdy delvers of the granite-ribbed mountains relax their hold on grasping gain and link hands in the loving arms of pleasure."

"The frozen rivers yield their crystal covering to please the eye and soften every sigh."

The poets had a field day. The following is excerpted from a poem by Virginia Donaghe McClung and published in the official souvenir booklet:

On the rock riven ramp of the mountains  
With the gleam of a gem of great price,  
From the deep frozen heart of the fountains,  
Is builded the Palace of Ice.

Crystal clear shine its glittering towers,  
All effulgent its icicled halls—  
Frowning over, the icy keep towers,  
Street-bright ramparts engirdle the walls.  
Down the snow fields toboggans are sweeping  
Where the light snow-shoes silently go;  
Mirth and Music their revels are keeping  
As the swift skaters glide to and fro.  
For when green-vestured Spring, too long banished,  
Shall unfetter the close-prisoned streams,  
We shall mourn our lost palace, then vanished,  
To the far, sunset land of our dreams.

The Director-General was not to be outdone. He was the author of the following short piece:

On a massive range, where towering peaks  
Hold white the font of the river's flow,  
We have builded a house from the Frost King's freaks,  
And invite all the world to play in the snow.

Frank Vaughn, Leadville's poet laureate, invited the world and explained,

For when Leadville goes mixing  
With any such fixing,  
You can stake your existence  
That it's pretty near right.  
"Will I be there? You bet me!  
That's if the fates let me,  
And take the old woman  
And kids for a spell.  
When I die there's no knowing  
Just where I am going—  
Chances are they won't have  
No ice palace in hell."

Another poet, reluctant to sign his name, deplored the ice and snow in a poem published in the *Free Lance*. A few excerpts might serve:



Denver Public Library Western Collection

Photo by W. H. Jackson

#### Exhibition Hall Displays

The snow; the snow; the beautiful white snow,  
 How I wish it could all to hades go:  
 It blows in the door and chokes up the well:  
 And t'w'd be lots better cooling off hell;  
 But things are not equal in hell or on earth;  
 Here some folks have poverty and of riches a dearth.  
 Leadville had dead oodles of ice and snow to sell;  
 While through lack of material there'll be no ice  
 palace in hell.

There seemed to be undue concern among the poetic elements of Leadville society for ice palaces in "the other place."

Musicians were not to be outdone. Ice Palace visitors listened and cavorted to such fetching numbers as the "Leadville Ice Palace Polka" and "Leadville Ice Palace Quickstep."

#### THE THREE MONTH CARNIVAL

Life in the camp during the winter months of 1896 was a series of parties, outings, and revelry. The *Herald Democrat* declared in its Crystal Castle Edition, December 22, 1895, "Leadville dedicates her Ice Palace to all the World," which was true—Leadville did dedicate her castle to "all the world;" but she built it to show the world. Leadville society had always lived under the shadow of Denver. Molly Brown was not the first, nor last, to be snubbed by Denver's social elite. The Ice Palace gave Leadville a chance to show the world they had arrived. "People in the valleys are beginning to realize that Leadville is something more than a rude mining camp. The Cloud City has made her entree, at last, into society circles."

Class at last. Unfortunately, Lou Bishop was arrested by Officer Johnson a few days after Leadville made "her entree" because he rode his horse through Scholtz's Saloon.

There were tugs of war, hockey tournaments, usually between local teams, or a local team and a visiting contender. Scotch-Canadians held curling contests.

Local miners and teams from other Western mining camps participated in the rock drilling contests, seeing who could drill the deepest in fifteen minutes. A block of granite was placed in the center of the rink. Two Leadville brothers, Mike and Joseph Burns, brought the trophy home with a drill hole 37 1/16 inches





Denver Public Library Western Collection

Ice sculpture of miner driving steel

deep.

The ice rink, under the supervision of Monty Fitzgerald, was always at its best. "After the skating during the afternoon the rink is sprinkled with warm water, and this freezes solidly from 5 to 8, so that when skating is resumed the rink is in the very best of shape." The ice was "eight inches thick floated on a brick clay base." The skating master, Otis Richmond, a local miner, had the pleasant task of observing the lovely ladies in their colorful attire as they circled the rink. It was said that Miss Lulu Christmann, a clerk at the Chicago Bazaar, was "one of the most graceful ladies." Miss Mulock, in her black corduroy, certainly turned many a head as she skated with "confidence" and grace. It was said that "Alex Harvey cut a good many shines," while pleasing the girls.

According to Ezra Dickerman, another figure on the ice, Miss Laura Holcom, a Cherokee Indian, apparently cut a graceful figure on skates and dance floor alike. Mr. Dickerman described her as "a comely lass . . . always well dressed," and added that "the local swains made certain she had a very good time."

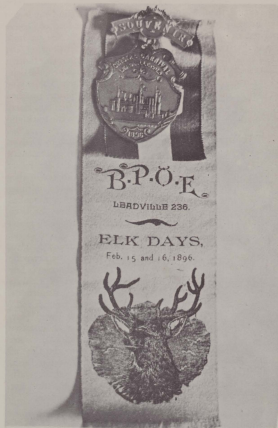
Prizes were given for everything conceivable. Skating prizes went to the fleetest, neatest, prettiest, fanciest, and most clever. There were prizes for art works, and several local artists won awards. Prizes were given for the best impersonations of Grover Cleveland, best typical miner, and best "French maid" and "Irish biddy."

And where did Leadville plan to put all the visitors she invited? Rooms in Leadville's hotels were readied, rooming houses and boarding houses made what rooms they had available. The railroads said they would sidetrack sleepers if necessary and Leadvillites volunteered their homes. The railroads also cooperated with the city in putting together, at reduced rates, plans to encourage travelers.

Midland Railroad offered railroad trip rates from Denver good December 31 through January 5 for \$5.00, two "Free of Charge" admissions to the Ice Palace included. Weekend excursions, \$8.00; "Special Tickets, good for ten days, \$13.50 round trip."

Shortly after midnight, January 2nd, two trains filled with newsmen left Denver. The first, the Midland, had a good lead





Author's Collection

Elk Days medal and ribbon

on the second, the D & R G R R, but Denver and Rio Grande was determined to arrive in Leadville first with their load of *Denver News* reporters. At 8:10 a.m., after traveling 273 miles, the train jumped the track at Malta. The wind had been blowing and packed snow in between the tracks. When the switch was thrown it didn't lock. The engine's front wheels took the switch, the drivers left the mainline, but failed to make the switch. The engine rolled on its side and it, with tender and baggage car, smashed into the depot. The engineer, J. G. Baker, and the fireman, Harry Hartman, were killed. The passenger car stayed on the track and none of the passengers was injured.

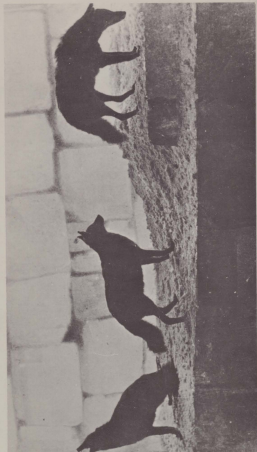
On January 4, Saturday, Leadville played host to Denver. Some accounts of the Ice Palace blame the project's financial failure on Denver's lack of patronage. Certainly the Ice Palace failed to receive the numbers expected, but more important they didn't spend money as expected. Many arrived on the morning train, a sack lunch in hand, paid their 50 cents admission, looked the displays over, and took the afternoon train home. Still, on Denver Day, January 4, 1896, the Capital came through in grand style, even though the follow-up appears to have been sparse.

The *Rocky Mountain News* declared on January 5, 1896, that "thousands poured in on the morning trains." The Leadville delegation met the dignitaries at Malta, a small rail center a few miles west of town. Dr. D. H. Dougan gave George W. Cook, a past Leadville mayor, a pot of red paint with the instructions, "Use whatever color you please, but see that you paint it red." Mayor Nicholson presented the key to the city to David May, President of Denver's Leadville Club. The key was at least two feet long, was a gold-bronze with a red, white, and blue ribbon attached to it. The ribbon was inscribed, "Key to the City of Leadville." Also in the group were Lieutenant Governor Bush, Denver's Mayor Murry and Governor McIntire and his staff. Signs were hastily painted for the parade, and one that got considerable attention had scrawled on it in large letters:

The Return of  
the  
PRODIGAL SON

.....

*Slaughter Your Rocky Mountain Canary*



Denver Public Library Western Collection

Mounted Coyotes in Ice Frame

A reporter asked in the *Colorado Mining Era* while writing about the palace “. . . if one of the ice walls should fall and kill a man would a coroner’s jury bring a verdict of death from hard drink?”

As the days passed other groups and cities were celebrated and brought their delegations to Leadville to see the ice wonder. Colorado Editorial Association held a meeting in the Palace on January 15, 1896, and were eagerly hosted by Leadville.

Frank Vaughn celebrated Elk Days at the Ice Palace in fitting form.

From night till morn the merry horn  
Gives forth discordant call,  
For “It’s day all day” in Leadville,  
And there is no night at all!  
Throw off dull care, and everywhere  
Let pleasure have full sway:  
The world is bright, our hearts are light—  
The Elks are here today!  
Our palace grand, at their command  
Assumes a scarlet hue!  
They’ve boldly said: “we’ll paint her red!”  
And that is what they’ll do  
Put on your suit, get out and toot  
In carnival array,  
For none should weep, and none can sleep,  
The Elks are here today!

In the early days of the Ice Palace city government was concerned about the face Leadville turned to the world. They responded favorably to the request that “there should be something done to rid the town of the gang of pickpockets and thieves,” by hiring three extra policemen. They exhorted the citizens on West Seventh and Eighth to shovel their walks and repair the holes in the boardwalks.

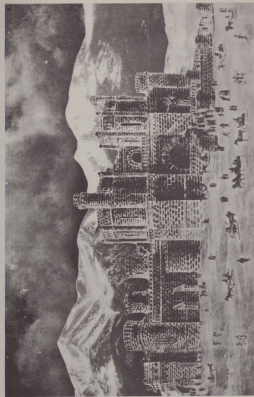
By mid-February the bloom was gone. Leadville was growing tired of costumes, parades, fetes, strangers, and fireworks. The City Council released their extra police, snow piled up on the sidewalks and local people spent less time and money at the Palace. The *Herald Democrat* tried to bring them out by suggesting the money they saved on coal during the balmy weather

could be spent at the Ice Palace. "The Palace would be an instantaneous and complete success," they explained in mid-February, "if the people of Leadville would simply turn out 1000 strong every night in the week for a month." They were undoubtedly right, but very unrealistic. Leadville people were ice palaced to death at this point. It was pointed out that those "who put in two hours skating every day are growing stronger, more graceful, and more beautiful . . ." But the public wasn't listening.

The Carnival Association had hoped for three months of continuous operation before spring. January and February ran smoothly enough, but on March 1, those fateful "Ides of March," the Palace began to melt. The weather turned warm and there was nothing anyone could do. Finally on March 28, 1896, the Ice Palace officially closed. Its closing was a whimper, not a bang. They chose not to dynamite the walls; the sun was doing a most effective job of destruction. There was no parade because of the mud. On March 28, they held a "Farewell Fete." There were some fireworks, but the most outstanding thing was the snow. It seemed a repentant nature was trying too late to help, and all she managed to do was wet the fuses on the fireworks and obscure the glow. The usual skating and dancing finished up the Ice Palace's reign. The first day and the last belonged to Leadville. Very few outsiders attended the closing ceremonies. The rest of the state was too busy preparing for the coming summer to be bothered by the demise of Leadville's Ice Castle.

### SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

By mid-March the local papers had said all they had to say about the Ice Palace and it was with a sigh of relief that the holiday atmosphere ended. The single greatest miscalculation concerning the Ice Palace was the weather. No one could have guessed that Mother Nature would choose the winter of 1895-96 to go on vacation. In mid-April the *Herald Democrat* was still shaking its editorial head in amazement. "When a fellow wants a linen duster and a palm leaf fan to visit the Ice Palace in the middle of January and a fur-lined ulster and toboggan suit to attend a Fourth of July picnic, the less I hear about the weather the better."



The world's highest ice palace silhouetted before Mt. Elbert, Colorado's highest mountain

Dennis Taylor, who had been in charge of Ice Palace activities, took over as general manager and tried to continue to bring crowds into the Palace with novel ideas such as a baseball game on the ice. There seems to be little indication that this or other schemes paid off.

Alex Grant moved his merry-go-round to the southeast corner of West Fifth and Spruce where he continued to run it for a few years.

Wind and sun cut the ice away from its wooden interior and the walls of ice disappeared. The miners' strike which began on the 19th of June pushed the winter holiday into a quiet corner of the mind and all plans for future carnivals were dropped. The outbuildings were torn down and used to build barracks for Camp McIntire, which housed National Guardsmen ordered to Leadville by the Governor to keep the peace during the strike.

The pavilion housing the ballrooms and skating rink was up for grabs. Unless someone came forth with a plan for its use it was scheduled for destruction on October 19, 1896. No one appeared and the last vestiges of Leadville's Palace of Ice were pulled down.

*The Herald Democrat*, December 28, 1896, recalled with regret and longing, "the crystal walls forever gone, the framework used to build a military barracks." Another winter, cold and grim, closed in on the Cloud City, and the Ice Palace slipped into the past to be recalled occasionally when old friends got together around the fire. Then a "streak of white and red flashed down" the toboggan slide again, and Alex Harvey cut his "shines" while the ice winked and glittered and the music pulled young and old to their feet. For brief moments from that day to this, Leadvillites have paused and reflected and smiled as they recalled their fabulous Palace of Ice.

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