



RICHARD A. (DICK) RONZIO

Richard A. Ronzio was born on Nov. 16, 1911, in Pueblo, Colorado. At an early age, his family moved to Leadville and finally Montrose, where Dick graduated from high school in 1930. He then entered the University of Colorado at Boulder from which he graduated in 1934 with honors and a B.S. in chemical engineering. While at the university, he met his future wife Frances and they were married in 1938. They have three children and four grandchildren.

After graduation, he was employed by the Department of the Interior, surveying the upper waters of the Gunnison River and the next year made hydraulic studies on the Grand Coulee Dam and the All American Canal. In December of 1935, he went to work for Climax Molybdenum and remained with them as it grew into Amax Inc. He retired in 1976 after 41 years of service. He had the honor of developing several patents dealing with the processing of molybdenum. Dick had always been interested in the history of Colorado's early mining towns and railroads and now that he was retired, was able to pursue his hobby of collecting early pictures of these. His collection is probably the largest one in the state. He has furnished illustrations for over 25 books dealing with Colorado history.

He is a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, a life member of the Colorado Historical Society and for a while served as an appraiser for its incoming photographic material. He is a member of the Ghost Town Club of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club. He is a former sheriff of the Denver Posse of Westerners and was editor of its 1965 Brand Book. He has given several papers before that group. He also has served on the city of Golden's Board of Adjustment.

Along with two other members of the Hall of Fame, Francis Rizzari and the late Charles Ryland, they formed the Cubar (R³) Associates. Under that imprint they published the rare William's Tourist Guide to the San Juan Mines, 1877. This was followed by the extremely rare Croft's Grip Sack Guide of Colorado, Vol. II, 1885. There are only ten original copies known of this book. He wrote and illustrated Silver Images of Colorado, and is presently working on a pictorial history of Leadville.