

### Third time's a charm

By Jon Hatch

Welcome to the third edition of "On the Corner," a community newsletter designed to share some history of the people and events that shaped this neighborhood.

In addition to some of the history, I want to share stories and profiles of those who live here today and through this build better connections as neighbors.

I also want to inform you of upcoming events and happenings that you might not be aware of. Please feel free to contact me if there are events you want neighbors to know about. And if you have a special story to tell about the neighborhood or a resident please contact me and I will share it with readers in the next "On the Corner". Again, the outpouring of kind comments about the newsletter is very gratifying. Thanks!

Have a great day! *Jon Hatch*

*I intend to distribute the newsletter on a quarterly basis. If you would not like to receive this mailing please let me know and I will respect your wishes and remove you from the mailing list.*

### Great Garden award winner is Grace!

By Jon Hatch

Grace Murphy lives for her home garden. A resident of the 2200 block of Columbine Avenue, Murphy was recently nominated by neighbor Connie Hoon for creating a very special garden. "You've got to see it, it's so amazing and you'd never know it was there," Hoon said. 17 years ago Murphy bought the home despite the overgrown weeds and unkempt appearance of the front and back yards. Nine years ago the Boulder herbalist set out to change all that. She embarked on what has become a very special journey with her ever-growing spiritual sanctuary. Identified mainly by a large symbolic circular design known as a mandala, the garden is captivating and magical. Planted throughout the landscaped back and front yards are annuals, perennials, shrubs and medicinal plants. A hardy wisteria plant, rare in Colorado, gladly grows from an arbor. A Buddhist figure, a memorial for a deceased friend and resting benches are all places for contemplation says Murphy. "The hail storm was devastating but so many things survived," Murphy said. And after all, this is her "healing garden."



### Rockmont Nursery brought plants and trees to Bluebell

By Silvia Pettem

Years ago, there was a magnificent red oak in the middle of Bluebell Avenue near 23rd Street. Oaks are not native to Boulder, so the question often came up as to why it was there.

In the early part of the 20th century, horticulturalist Darwin Andrews started a nursery at 4th Street and Arapahoe Avenue. By 1910, renowned city planner Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. (author of a book of "improvements" for Boulder), called Andrews "a thoroughly competent arbor-culturist."

Needing room to spread out in the 1920s, Andrews relocated his plants, trees, and his home to 2250 Bluebell Avenue. He called his business the Rockmont Nursery.

Andrews brought in oaks and other deciduous trees from Iowa. He also traveled to England and France and imported many European trees and plants, including more than 100 hybrids of lilacs. It's not known if the grape vines in the neighborhood came from his shipments, but it's very likely that they did.

Rocky Mountain plants were another of Andrews' interests. He also ran a mail-order business and sold native plants and wildflower seeds all over the world. His specialty was domesticating native Colorado plants and shrubs for the home garden. Andrews died in 1938, at the age of 68. At the time, he was experimenting with different varieties of phlox.

Andrews' name, as Boulder's pre-eminent plant-grower, lives on in the Andrews Arboretum, a small city park on the old railroad grade on the east side of Broadway between Grandview Avenue and Marine Street. The arboretum was established in 1948 by Maud Reed, a botany teacher at Boulder High School. Andrews' son Philip donated many of the trees, and Reed used the arboretum as her outdoor classroom.

*please see Nursery next page...*



Tulips are framed in an old catalogue photograph (left) for Darwin Andrew's Rockmont Nursery. Andrew's business was run from his home at 2250 Bluebell (below).



photos courtesy of Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder Colo.

