

Denver, Colorado March 6-9, 2008

LCC 2008 Quick Updates

- Elaine Viets WILL be in attendance!
- Surveillance exercise added – see page 4 for details!
- LCC2008 Yahoo group added! Contact Pari Noskin Taichert at ptaichert@comcast.net for details.

Registration: \$165 Full, \$115 Light, \$55 Associate
www.leftcoastcrime.org/2008

Hotel: Adam's Mark Denver
\$139 single/double \$149 +
www.adamsmark.com/denver

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The View from a Mile High

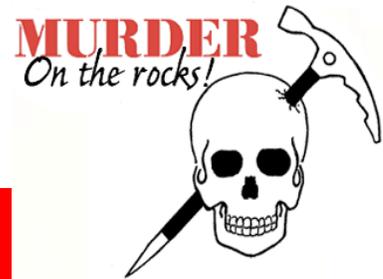
Greetings from Denver, where summer – and the key tourist season – is in full swing. The hikers, mountain-bikers, kayakers, campers, and other sight-seers have ascended the mountains to enjoy the blue skies and mild temps. So you're probably wondering what other activities you can plan here when you arrive for LCC next March.

This month D.A. Davenport dishes up some haunting options for you. From a complete tour of ghostly Denver sites, to a visit of an

old hotel or two, to a spooky museum, see what she suggests in this month's Things to do in Denver when your DEAD column.

Next, what is the magic that is LCC? Discover what draws LCC fans like Maddy Van Hertbruggen, Sally Cadigan, and Sylvia Ulan back to LCC conferences again and again in this month's feature interview.

Also, get a preview of what is sure to be a fan favorite at LCC2008 – R.T. Lawton's Surveillance exercise which



will be limited in size but huge on fun.

And finally, as authors, or lovers of great characters, I know, KNOW, you all are as guilty of loving to people-watch as I am. So check out this month's top ten list which offers some great places to see the quirkier sides of life at a Mile High.

I hope you're looking forward to LCC2008!

Lori Lacefield

Things to do in Denver when you're DEAD

(dehydrated, emaciated, or just in need of distraction!)

Ghosts, Grand Old Hotels, and Tours in the Denver area by D.A. Davenport

Denver is a great town and she loves her ghosts. And the Lodo area, the historic downtown area of Denver near where the LCC 2008 hotel, Adam's Mark, sits, is a prime place to start. See www.lodo.org/ and www.adamsmark.com/denver

Walter, the man who runs Denver's Haunted Tours says they have a fabulous tour that combines Lodo's best haunts with a pub crawl along the way. It starts with Union Station,

stopping at a couple of haunted saloons and ends with the superb Oxford Hotel, one of the many pet-friendly hotels in Denver. This two and a half hour tour sounds perfect for LCC 2008, and while LCC2008 is still working with the local MWA and others to arrange tours, this one sounds promising no matter what. Why not pick up local history and warm up those spooky chills with a nice scotch or two along the way? For more info, see www.denverhauntedtours.com and www.theoxfordhotel.com.

The Brown Palace has ghosts as well. Plenty of specters haunt that grand dame of a hotel! Unfortunately, no access to the tunnels under Denver is allowed. See www.brownpalace.com.

Now for a day trip. I suggest Estes Park to see the Stanley Hotel. Remember the Overlook in Stephen King's *The Shining*? This is the real deal, and where the ABC mini-series was filmed. You can have a drink at their lovely bar and then, if you're so inclined, even take a midnight swing

Things to do in Denver (cont.)

on the hotel's grounds. Stephen King actually wrote half of *The Shining* in room 217, but insiders say 418 is the most haunted. In fact, besides the bar and parlor, where the piano has been known to play itself, the entire fourth floor – the former servants quarters - is the place with the most reported ghostly activity.

Estes Park is also THE place to elk-watch since the town is packed with these magnificent animals and luckily, winter is prime wildlife watching season.

There are also wonderful shops, fab Christmas stores open year-round and a terrific glass-blowing studio where you can purchase some lovely tree ornaments after watching the artists fashion stunning art-glass. Also, dinner at Dunraven's – located in the Stanley – is a MUST. The place is wallpaper in wildly decorated one dollar bills. Bring felt-tip pens and add one of your own. The food is wonderful too. Estes Park is at the foot of Rocky Mountain National Park, and while you could probably drive into it a little

ways, Trail Ridge Road WILL still be closed in March due to massive amounts of snowfall. To look into booking your day trip or long romantic weekend (several resorts offer special packages) see www.stanleyhotel.com and www.rockymountainnationalpark.com.

Don't forget the Molly Brown House Museum back in Denver. Molly Brown, famed Denver socialite and philanthropist, is best known outside Denver for surviving the Titanic.

Did you know? Stephen King wrote half of The Shining in room 217 of The Stanley Hotel. Redrum, Redrum, Redruuuuum!



Redrum!

Redrum!

However, Brown was far more than that. She was a nurse, a pursuer of women's rights, and ran for Senate even before women were given the right to vote. The house, all 7600 square feet of it, is now a museum, and will be open during LCC2008. The museum is haunted as well and a great place to tour. For more information, see www.mollybrown.org. Ghosts, goblins and crime fans, a perfect combination. Don't miss a single bit of it. Tell your friends to register today for LCC2008! www.leftcoastcrime.org/



When the Carpathia docked on pier 54 in New York, reporters surrounded Molly Brown. "What do you attribute to your survival they asked?" "Typical Brown luck", she replied. "We're unsinkable."



Q&A with LCC Fans Maddy Van Hertbruggen, Sally Cadigan, and Sylvia Ulan

<p>Q: How did you first hear of LCC and where was your first conference?</p> <p>Maddy: I first heard about LCC from one of the mystery publications. My first LCC was in 1998 which was held in San Diego. That convention is still one of my favorites – the weather was wonderful and the organizing committee ran things perfectly. I still remember sitting outside with a box lunch, looking at the bay and chatting with what felt like hundreds of new friends!</p> <p>Sally: My friends, Cae Carter and Billie Laney from Killeen, Tx, went to LCC in Seattle in 1997 and thought it was so much fun that they encouraged me to go the next year. My first LCC conference was in 1998 in San Diego. I've only missed one since then.</p> <p>Sylvia: Chris Acevedo of Clues Unlimited advised me that LCC would be here in Tucson in 2000. My first LCC was mind-boggling to me. I have been a mystery reader for</p>	<p>years, but the exposure to everyone there was awesome. Sue Grafton was a guest of honor and Harlan Cobin was also honored. From that point on I was hooked, and have attended every LCC since except Bristol in 2006.</p> <p>Q: What other conferences/conventions do you attend and how does LCC compare?</p> <p>Maddy: I've been to Bouchercon a few times, but the sheer size of that intimidates me. I much prefer LCC, which has a more manageable number of people. That makes it more intimate for me.</p> <p>Sally: I've been to several other conferences including the two Eyecons, several Bouchercons, and Magna cum Murders and they are all good in different ways but LCC is my "not to miss" favorite.</p> <p>Sylvia: I must say that LCC has become a family tradition. My daughter, sister, and niece have attended</p>
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<p>different LCCS, including Monterey, El Paso, and Seattle. My daughter and I attended Bouchercon in Las Vegas but found parts of it difficult. We also attend Poisoned Pen events.</p> <p>Q: What do you like best about LCC?</p> <p>Maddy: To me, LCC is the perfect size for a convention. It's nice to meet people, and know and know that you are likely to run into them a few times over the course of the conference. I love the composition of the attendees. It's not just an author's convention; there's a good mix of authors, fans, and other people associated with the crime fiction community. And the authors that attend represent all parts of the genre, from cozy to noir and everything in between. I've also found that the attendees are almost</p>	<p>universally friendly. You never need to be alone; you can strike up a great conversation with just about everyone, whether sitting next to you while attending a panel, in the hallway, or in the restroom!</p> <p>Sally: First of all, I like the LCC locations because I can travel to the west of the US and the west of England with lots of friends. The size of the con is perfect: large enough to attract a variety of authors but small enough to manage panels and visit with friends or authors.</p> <p>Sylvia: I think the size of LCC is one of its pluses, large enough to have a nice variety but not overwhelming. I love the accessibility of the authors after panels and signings.</p> <p>Q: What's your most memorable LCC moment or moments to date?</p>	<p>Maddy: I moderate on online mystery discussion group. The first time that members of that group attended LCC en masse was at LCC Portland. It was wonderful to see them experiencing LCC for the first time and falling in love with it just as I have. Since that time, our group's attendance has increased every year. There were several dozen of us from that group at the latest LCC.</p> <p>Sally: I guess one would be meeting Ian Rankin who is a long time favorite of mine, another would be when I was on a panel in Pasadena, and finally the Bristol con because it was such a good combination of authors from many places.</p> <p>Sylvia: It's hard to think of one memorable moment. Meeting writers whom I</p>	<p>admire and chatting with them is certainly one of the best points. I did win a raffle in Portland, am a character in an L.C. Hayden book, and my daughter won a breakfast with Phil Margolin.</p> <p>Q: What new authors have you discovered as a result of LCC?</p> <p>Maddy: I discover several authors every time that I attend. I may find them as a result of a panel or have chatted with them in the bar.</p> <p>Sally: The ones who come to mind quickly are Steve Hamilton, Ann Cleeves, and Cath Staincliffe.</p> <p>Sylvia: Cara Black, Sharon Newman, Denise Hamilton, Libby Fisher Hellman, Valerie Wolzien, Jonnie Jacobs, Lee Harris, Matt Witten, Paula Woods, Judith Smith-Levin, and more!</p>
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Top Ten Places to People Watch



Upon arriving, check out the traveling public at Denver International Airport.

After checking in, take a walk down the 16th street mall. After CEOs, there aren't enough acronyms to cover this crowd.

Stop at Union Station. The trains are interesting too.

Take a ride on Light Rail from downtown to Broadway and back. Yes, that is their real hair.

Grocery shop at King Soopers on 9th & Corona. The locals have another name for it.

Take a short walk to Civic Center Park on the weekend. Be wary of offers or "deals" of any kind.

Go with a group to Colfax Ave. It's the seedy district. If your name is John, don't mention it.

Shop in Cherry Creek north or Cherry Creek Mall. Play guess the plastic surgery game.

Denver Rescue Mission. They save the homeless and other lost souls.

Children's hospital. After this visit, everything else in your life will seem insignificant.

The Games Afoot...



Photos courtesy of Denver Chamber of Commerce

Oh sure, you've watched a TV show where the good guys follow the criminal to whatever critical location he's going. And you've seen the movie where our well trained protagonist spy manages to spot and identify all the members of the totalitarian police or opposition spy ring who are tailing him. But were you ever curious as to what really goes into surveillance? And, did you ever wonder if YOU could conduct surveillance on a moving subject and not get caught?

Well, here's your chance! Forty-eight attendees of the 2008 Left Coast Crime Conference in Denver will receive a one hour lecture from a retired federal agent on how to conduct surveillance. They will then be

divided into eight teams and given a photo of a "rabbit" and a starting location to find their rabbit. Then, the games afoot for one hour on the streets of Denver on the 16th Street Mall.

A subsequent debriefing of teams and rabbits will be conducted at the MWA Hospitality Suite. All conference attendees get to hear what happened on the streets. And, oh yeah, I should probably mention that the "rabbits" will be chosen from some of your celebrity authors. More details to follow, so sign up soon!

R.T. Lawton