

## **New Book Brings Victor's Lowell Thomas Back Bigger Than Life**

The Victor Lowell Thomas Museum will honor Victor's own home town hero – Lowell Thomas during a special event Saturday, Sept. 2 during Victor Celebrates the Arts. The newest and first biography of Lowell Thomas will be for sale and New York author and journalism professor Mitchell Stephens will be on hand to sign books and give a presentation about Thomas.

The book outlines Thomas's life from his boyhood times in Victor in the 1890s to his career as a noted television and radio broadcaster. Stephens will present a brief history of the noted journalist at 2 p.m. at the museum and then sign books for those interested in purchasing the publication. The purchase of a book will include admission to the museum to view the Lowell Thomas exhibit.

Stephens is a professor of journalism at Carter Institute at New York University and has written about journalism for several major publications and has authored five books. He visited Victor and Cripple Creek to gather information for the Lowell Thomas book.

At the age of eight in 1900 Thomas moved to Victor with his family where he got his start in journalism - as editor of the Victor Daily Record. At the age of 10, dreams of becoming a newsboy began to circulate in his head and late that summer he joined the newsboy's union - one of 35 members.

Hired on to work at the Victor Daily Record by owner George Kyner, Thomas folded and delivered the morning paper to the business and red light districts of Victor and Goldfield. In addition, Thomas took up delivering during the early morning hours the Denver Post to saloons and gambling houses, and made it to school in time each morning. Later, in 1911, Kyner hired him as the editor of the Victor Daily Record for \$95 per month. Like many small town newspapers of the day, being editor meant being the one-and-only-man show at the paper. He covered prize fights, brawls, shootings and operas. With promise of more pay, Thomas switched jobs in 1912 and took over editorship of the Victor News and, after leaving for law school, was hired as a reporter for The Chicago Evening Journal.

In the mining district, he lived through the labor strikes, the tensions mounting over unions and non-union miners; and through the boom times in Victor when mines were producing millions of dollars of gold a year. He climbed Pikes Peak before age 14 and in 1916, he left Victor to attend college (in two years he had a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degree.) At age 24 he was a student and professor at Princeton, by then already well-traveled In March of 1925 he spoke for the first time on radio and Thomas later became one of the first television news broadcasters.

In 1976 President Gerald Ford presented Thomas with the Medal of Freedom and on April 30, 1976, Thomas told the world, from Victor, that he would retire from broadcasting on May 14 of that year.

His last visit to his boyhood home of Victor was in August 1981. Less than two weeks later at the age of 89, he died at his estate in New York. Thomas left a legacy for all journalists and that legacy along with a long list of adventures across the globe is the focus of new book.

His first work place as a journalist, The Victor Record building, still stands on south Fourth St. The Lowell Thomas Museum houses memorabilia from his illustrious career.

Funds from the sale of this book as well as other gift shop purchases go toward the museum's building renovation fund.

For more information, visit [VictorColorado.com](http://VictorColorado.com), email [museum@victorcolorado.com](mailto:museum@victorcolorado.com) or call 719-689-5509.