



**For Immediate Release**

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***Black History Month - Chautauqua pays tribute to Oliver T. (O.T.) Jackson***  
*Chautauqua's first Dining Hall Manager and a prominent Colorado entrepreneur*

On Monday February 22, two archival CCA photographs from 1899 and 1900 and a short biography of Oliver (O.T.) Jackson, the first manager of the Chautauqua Dining Hall, were placed on permanent display at the Dining Hall. This followed a short ceremony attended by Shelly Benford, Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA) CEO and several Chautauqua staff and board members.

At the event, CCA Board Member Dan Corson described the important work and legacy of O.T Jackson who was a prominent Boulder resident between 1892 and 1907. In addition to being the first manager of the Chautauqua Dining Hall, Jackson was also a leading Boulder restaurant entrepreneur, founder of the African American Dearfield Community in Weld County and served as a State of Colorado "Messenger." Messengers served as the chief liaison between the Colorado Governor, the Colorado legislature and the various Colorado departments - a role akin to Chief of Staff in today's Governor's office. Corson concluded his remarks by noting, "We are proud and privileged today to honor O.T. Jackson's role, both at Chautauqua and in Colorado history."

Chautauqua's Director of Preservation and Sustainability, Jeff Medanich, summed up the importance of the display, "An integral part of Chautauqua's mission is to honor the people who shaped our past. We were fortunate to have a major historical figure like O.T. Jackson as the first manager of the Dining Hall and now our community can easily learn about him and his staff."

Chautauqua thanks Dan Corson for his commitment to researching and communicating the legacy of O. T. Jackson, the Dining Hall for giving space to the display and CCA partner Boulder FastFrame for framing the images. The community is welcome to view the photographs, read about Jackson, and stay for a meal any time at the Dining Hall - which O.T. Jackson would still recognize over 120 years later.

For those who are not able to visit, the entire display may be viewed on the history section of the Chautauqua website: <https://www.chautauqua.com/about-us/history/chautauqua-history/>