

## "Considered Attractive"

Mattie Silks was a famous Denver Madame who lived in Denver from around 1870-1929. I come across her often in my reading and research at the library. I've never really been that interested in her for some reason, even though there are lots and lots of outrageous stories about Mattie. Miss Silks and another woman were said to have had the first duel in the streets of Denver, a gun fight on Market Street over a man. Both women missed each other, however, Mattie's stray bullet actually wounded the man they were dueling over in the neck! He survived.

What struck me about Mattie is that everything I have read about her says things like "considered an attractive woman" and "known as good looking", etc. But, along with the text they always include the same photo of her and she is odd looking to say the least! Very strange curly hair, major double chin action, a little on the chubby side. It is always surprising to me to see who and what was considered attractive back then! In Mattie's case, I think it must have been her outrageous personality.