

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 41; Number 1; January 2017

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

President's Letter January 2017

Our November meeting was inadvertently planned on the coldest night of the year to date, but much to our surprise we had a great energetic crowd attend the talk on Ft. Logan National Cemetery. Our speaker James O'Neal Hughes was outstanding and most in the crowd want a tour of the cemetery, which we will plan sometime this next summer. Thank you all for coming out on such a cold evening, but sounds like we better get used to the cold now - *it is Colorado!*

In January we have a presentation by Leigh Jeremias who will speak on the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection, an incredible wealth of Colorado History – not to be missed. This is also our annual meeting and we will be voting on some by-law changes. Do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend,

And on March 28 Dick Kreck, will be our speaker. Dick recently retired from the Denver Post after 38 years as an editor and columnist. He previously worked at the San Francisco Examiner and the Los Angeles Times. Dick Kreck has written several books, including Colorado's Scenic Railroads, Denver in Flames, Anton Woods: The Boy Murderer, and Smaldone: The Untold Story of an American Crime Family. Dick is always a very entertaining speaker. He will be talking about his latest book and the history of the area. More information on the location shortly.

Our May program will be a joint meeting with the

Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society.

All the best to you all for a very Happy New Year!

Sandy Sweeney, President

Historical Society Officers

President: Sandy Sweeney (303-854-4249)

Vice President: Nadine Caldwell

Secretary: Dolly Gray

Treasurer: Michael Lockwood

Directors: Dexter Harding, Carolyn Brassell

Membership: Larry Wilterdink

Hospitality: Nadine Caldwell

Historian: Michael Lockwood

Newsletter, Website, & Publicity:

Lynne Evans 303-671-0874

Program Committee: Dolly Gray, Lynne Evans, Sandy Sweeney, Caroline Brassell

Education: Vacant

If anyone is interested, please contact Sandy Sweeney @ 303-854-4249 or Livelyline@aol.com

Next Meeting

January 31st Annual Pot Luck Dinner/meeting at 6:00pm. We will meet at the Aurora History Museum. The program is on Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection presented by Leigh Jeremias.



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

On January 1, 2017 it is time to send your dues payments for year 2017 to Michael Lockwood, 1629 Galena St., Aurora, CO 80010. Our membership dues come due in January each year now and with the New Year arriving please send your dues payment.

	Memberships
Family	\$15.00
Contributing	\$30.00
Business/Corporate	\$200.00
Life	\$200.00
Newsletter mailing	\$5.00

Because of the increased costs of postage and printing, we are asking that you add \$5.00 to your membership cost if you wish to have the newsletter mailed to you.



Remembering Aurora

Michael Lockwood, Aurora Historical Society

An Aurora native, a graduate of the Aurora Public Schools (Vaughn Elementary, North Middle School & Aurora Central High School) and still living less than 2 miles from where I grew up, Aurora has been a big part of my life ever since I was born. Having grown up here, I have several memories that I'd love to provide for your reading pleasure via The Advocate newsletter. For those of you who have Aurora connections that go back as far as the 1950's the recollections presented may bring back waves of nostalgia. And while I have 60 years of memories to relate, if you have some stories you'd like to share, please feel free to contact us at the Aurora Historical web site: www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org

REMEMBERING: Searching the Record Bins

Music played a big part of my life back in my youth and it still does today. I can remember my sister giving me her portable turntable that could play 45's on it when I must have been around 9 or 10 years old. Along with it she gave me a handful of 45's to play. I'll bet I wore them out playing them over and over and over. And yes, I can still sing all the words to Ricky Nelson's "Poor Little Fool" because of that.

But, of course, as time went on I wanted more records and more current ones. But what's a person to do when they have little money? Why go to Woolworths and search through the 45's record bin. I was always on the lookout for that one popular record that everyone had overlooked. And then you'd think, there it is – The Beatles "Love Me Do". Your heart skipped a beat and you thought you'd struck gold. Only to look closer to see that it was the Beatles song as performed by the London Symphony. In the end, I ended up buying one from Tommy James and the Shondells that had two songs you had never heard of before but at least I knew the name of the group.



Well as time went on and I got a job and had a few more dollars in my pocket I turned to buying vinyl albums, of which I still have some 150 or so although during a cleaning phase I got rid of several of my early ones (still have my Leslie Gore "California Nights" album). And while the albums were nice it still couldn't replace that excitement of searching the record bin.

Time waits for no man and our history eventually becomes shared memories of people and places. Preservation can help to keep those memories a little more tangible so that we can share with future generations.



Spotlight on the Mayors of Aurora

Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 42 Mayors since its beginnings back in 1891. Starting with this issue of the Advocate Newsletter we'll take a quick look at each of them.

MAYOR #1

HARRY MELVILLE MILLIKEN

- Served from 1891 – 1894
- Born September 30, 1862 in Portland, Maine
- Worked as a mining broker
- His home at 1638 Galena was built in 1891 and is an Aurora landmark
- He would have been 29 years old when he became Mayor
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were John Long Routt and Davis Hanson Waite
- He signed the petition to incorporate the Town of Fletcher
- By 1900 he had moved back to Portland, Maine
- He died on January 4, 1929 in San Diego, California
- While he was in office:
 - The schoolhouse burned down in 1892
 - The Denver-Fletcher trolley began operating in 1893
 - Records indicate that he failed to attend any meetings in 1892 or 1893
 - Panic of 1893. Price of silver plunged. Mines closed, banks failed, real estate collapsed
 - Summer of 1894 the town suffered for days without enough water to meet its needs

History in the Making - - The Making of Aurora’s Community College

By Ellin Mrachek

Reprinted from the January 1983 Advocate Newsletter

Aurora’s dream of a community college may be a reality in 1983, after a 30-year nightmare of frustrating experiences.

The State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) has given approval. Now favorable recommendations from the Commission on Higher Education (CCH) is needed to back the legislative action that will create the college. Senator Robert Allshouse will sponsor the bill.

The trail of history began in 1952 when a group of citizens spearheaded by Olen Bell, publisher of the local newspaper and Roy Van Dyke, editor, promoted a tax-supported junior college. A district was carved out of a larger section of eastern and central Arapahoe and Adams counties. The issues went to the electorate where it was

soundly defeated.

In 1968, a second attempt was made to establish a college. The General Assembly had created the state system of community colleges with the Community College of Denver (CCD) to have three campuses, one in the core city and the others in adjacent counties.

Velma Sanford, then president of the Aurora PTA Council, and Ellin Mrachek, Aurora School Board, launched a campaign for money, land or a building that would entice the SBCCOE to designate a campus in Aurora. Presentations to the school board, city council, and chamber of commerce produce coly blessings, resolutions, and appointments to a college committee. Area legislatures were only mildly interested. The gerrymandering of political boundaries in 1960 and continuing to the present has never given Aurora solid political power.

All Aurora could offer SBCCOE were potential students and raw land. Life for an Aurora Community college died when Adams-Commerce City received the designation and Jefferson County was next in line for the other campus.

The loss of the college, although disappointing, had its positive effect. Paralleling the community college effort was the school district thrust toward a vo-tech center. Adult education under Kenneth Dunbar was strengthened by more courses and a night high school. The school board and the city council through a Mott Foundation Grant established the state’s first community school, giving children and adults access to recreation and community service activities. Later, Bruch Waldo, Aurora Parks and Recreation, developed a nationally recognized recreational and avocational program that blankets the city. All these services many community colleges provide.

With the opening of CCD Auraria campus, Aurora requested outreach classes. After the school district offered night use of Hinkely High without cost, evening classes were scheduled. There was no supervision and classes were cancelled or instructors failed to appear. Loud protests led to the appointment of Marlene McCracken as part-time coordinator and later, Gwen Thayer was added. The outreach office moved from the McCracken home to the Tech Center.

Enrollments increased from 41 students to more than 200, but problems continued as advertised classes were cancelled or shifted to the Auraria campus. One college committee in desperation discussed an alignment with Arapahoe Community College or Metro State.

The third thrust came in 1976 when Representative Gerard (Jerry) Frank developed a plan for an Eastern Community College, thus eliminating the confusion between Auraria and Aurora. CCH and the legislature rejected the plan, but a victory was won when the Joint Budget

Committee designated separate funding for Aurora Students.

When the 1978 CCHE Master Plan on the state’s higher education was published, the ire of the community was raised because Aurora had anticipated recognition as a viable part of the community college system.

After meeting with Aurora citizens, CCHE appointed short range and long range committees. The short-range committee recommendation resulted in the Aurora Education Center (AEC) to be housed in the Old City Hall that had been offered by the City Council.

The center opened in April of 1979. Credit for its rapid growth can be attributed to Dr. Nai-Kwang who added more courses, qualified teachers, and carried out an extensive public relations campaign. Classes were in a dozen places: enrollment soared to 1750 students, mainly Aurora residents.

CCHE found the long-range committee recommendation unacceptable and employed Dr. James Wattenbarger, Florida educational consultant, to make an impartial study. His four-phase plan called for Aurora to be a fourth campus of CCD but only after the legislature provided the resources, local citizens agreed on the site and the school district deed the Tech Center to the state.

The Tech Center, since it opened in 1972, has been entwined in the college effort because vocational education is an integral part of a comprehensive community college. Beginning in 1974 and continuing through the years, college communities were informed that the facilities and governance would have to be relinquished before community college approval would be given.

When the Aurora College Master Plan by WJM Associates targeted the Tech Center, the school board took decisive action. The board pledged support for the college, willingness to contract services but definitely “no” on deeding the Center to the state. Now, through a school-college coordinating council, the problem may be solved.

The campus location has long been a debatable issue. While Buckley was a logical choice, efforts to secure additional land have failed. Downtown merchants have viewed the college as a way to revitalize old Aurora, but without extensive urban renewal no site is adequate for a growing college. With the donation by the City Council of the Bresnahan land south of 6th Avenue on the east side of Chambers Road, a future building site, the issue is settled.

After the Wattenbarger report, the 21-member AEC Advisory Committee, chaired by Daniel Tauriello, became active in the college effort. In November of 1981, Governor Richard Lamm during an address to the Chamber of Commerce said, “I don’t think you will be disappointed in the (governor’s) call” for the 1982 General Assembly. In December, the group, however, was disappointed to find that Aurora’s college would not be considered. Progress

was made, though, when the Governor directed the development of a master plan for the college and the drafting of a bill for the 1983 General Assembly.

Will 1983 be the year? If so, it will be well-earned. Since 1968 many college committees have been formed, dissolved, revived, reconstituted, retired and reorganized. Hundreds of names pass in review representing all facets of the community. Local politicians used the college as a campaign issue, vowing that this was the year of the college or even a university. While Aurora was being studied and restudied, other colleges and universities tapped Aurora’s fertile soil to gain student enrollments.

Now, within Aurora’s grasp, more surely than ever before, is a community college.

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Just a side note.

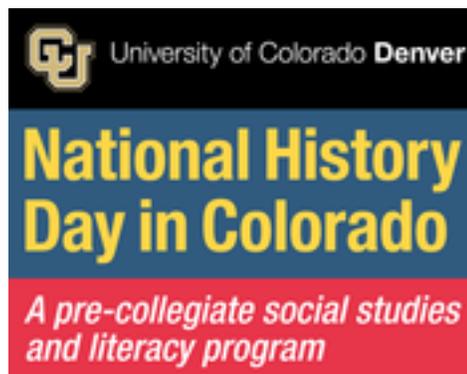
1983 did turn out to be the year. CCA was founded in 1983. It serves three counties: Arapahoe, Adams, and Denver. Did you know that the Red Fox is CCA’s mascot?

According to the CCA website, annual enrollment is 10, 529.

- Full time – 20.8%
- Part-time – 79.2%
- Male – 41.3%
- Female – 58.5%

Diversity

- Students from five continents and more than 60 countries
 - African American – 22.4%
 - American Indian – 1.6%
 - Asian/Pacific Islander – 7.8%
 - Hispanic/Latino – 23.8%
 - White/Non-Hispanic 23.8%
 - Unknown – 6%
-



The Aurora History Day Contest is 3 months away. Students are working on their research projects and preparing to compete on March 18th. If you would be willing to volunteer to help or judge visit the Aurora History Day Website:

<http://auroranhdc.weebly.com/judges--volunteers.html>.

**Aurora History Museum Programs
Winter 2017**

Exhibits

The Doctor will see you

Now through May 7th

Early Aurora Physicians often operated out of their homes or in small clinics. Explore the history of medicine in Aurora by learning about the doctors who cared for its citizens.

Celebrating Colorado: Women in Stem

Now Through March 12th

The Colorado Women's Hall of Fame celebrates the accomplishments of trailblazing women on our state. Featured portraits recognize Colorado's contributions of the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Events

Upcoming Programs

Ukulele Lessons & Talk Story Presentations

January 21 2017 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

January Talking Story topic:

Museum Director, T. Scott Williams, discusses the history of Kalaupapa and his past experiences serving as Museum Curator for the National Park Service at Kalaupapa National Historical Park located on the island of Molokai, Hawaii.

Kalaupapa: Enduring Spirit, Sacred Ground

When Hansen's disease (leprosy) was introduced to the Hawaiian Islands, King Kamehameha V banished all afflicted to the isolated Kalaupapa peninsula on the north shore of Molokai. Since 1866, more than 8000 people, mostly Hawaiians, have died at Kalaupapa. Once a prison, Kalaupapa is now refuge for the few remaining residents who are now cured, but were forced to live their lives in isolation.

February 18th 2017 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Talk Story and Ukulele Lesson

Talk and Nature Walk

January 28 2017 9:30 AM to 11:00 PM

Colorado Women's Hall of Fame Talk and Nature Walk. Learn about a few of Colorado Women's Hall of Fame inductees and their work with natural and social sciences. Then, enjoy a nature walk through DeLaney Farm Historic Site and Open Space conducted by a city of Aurora natural resource specialist. Meet at the Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy.

Brown Bag & White Linen Lecture Series

Sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society

Wednesdays * 12-1pm

\$4 (\$3 Residents)

Free for Aurora Historical Society Members.

Bring your lunch.

February 15th, 2017 noon to 1PM

Brown Bag Lecture series: Is that Safe to Give Back?

By law, some items housed in museum collections are eligible to be returned to indigenous groups, around the world upon request. Unfortunately, not all of these items are safe to return or even to move due to the possibility of damage or contamination. A researcher from the University of Colorado Denver discusses the work being done by Dr. Timberly Roane and her research team to remove potential contaminants from objects for safe repatriation to the original owners.

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If anyone would like to receive the newsletter by email and let the Aurora Historical Society save the postage, Please contact Lynne Evans at 303-671-0874 or lyevans@comcast.net

Also-If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the newsletter you can contact me as well.