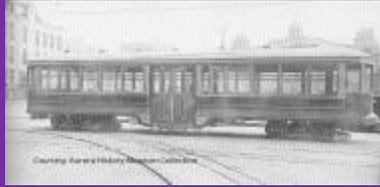


The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 40; Number 4; July 2016

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

President's Letter July, 2016

We've really been in the heat of the summer lately, but hope your summer is going well. Know many of you have really enjoyed the articles in the Advocate about Aurora's past, intriguing how much has changed over the years. Thank you for your comments. Talk about changes...we had a great group that was able to attend the tour of the Stanley and enjoyed the history of Stanley Aviation and the glimpse into the future of the site. Many thanks to Mark Shaker for the great tour.

The Board received really exciting news at our meeting about the funding for the digitation of the Aurora Advocate, we have received over \$1000 to continue and probably complete another roll. Thank you all so very much for contributing to this extraordinary project. We are indeed preserving the past for the future.

Our next event "Where are we in Colorado" will be at Riverside Cemetery on August 13, complete information elsewhere in the newsletter. Do hope you all will be able to join us. It is Denver's oldest operating cemetery and a National Historic District, founded in 1876, the year Colorado became a state. We will have a guided tour and visit some of Colorado's most interesting and historically significant settlers. Several times during our tour you will see the word "pioneer", which means that person had arrived in Colorado no later than January 1861, and was a member of the Colorado Society of Pioneers. To be a

one had to play a noteworthy role in the growth of early Colorado. After the tour we will enjoy some ice cream (If it's hot we'll probably need it). See you there. We would like to have some idea as to how many will be attending, would you please call or e-mail me (303-854-4249 or livelyline@aol.com and let us know how many will be coming. Thank you so much, see you on the 13th.

The dates and times for other upcoming events and programs will be available shortly.

Sandy Sweeney, President Aurora Historical Society

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

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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



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES
 On January 1, 2016 it is time to send your dues payments for year 2016 to Larry Wilterdink at 15163 E. Bethany Place, Aurora, CO 80014-3804. 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

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: Skaggs Drug Center

Oh, that walk to school. Back in the olden days we children were expected to walk to school. No one worried about what might happen to their precious 13-year old (that would be me) as they walked our 11 blocks (about 1 mile) to North Middle School, going west on a busy Colfax Avenue and then north on an equally as



busy Peoria Street. No parent driving you to school, not even in bad weather. And that walk could seem like it took forever. Thankfully, along the way, after school had let out and we were headed home, there was an oasis.

Back in the late 60's, on the corner of Peoria and Colfax, a Safeway grocery store had been built. The store faced Colfax but sat back with the parking lot filling from the front of the store to Colfax. On the east side of the lot there was a Skaggs Drug Center, which faced Peoria. For those that might not be familiar with Skaggs Drug Center, think a smaller version of a Wal-Mart. At the time there weren't pharmacy's inside a grocery store and Skaggs served as a sister store to Safeway. Grocery stores sold almost exclusively groceries and Skaggs sold all the other stuff. In later years the Safeway would become an Albertson's and then many other businesses. The Skaggs would become an Osco Drug, then other businesses and finally it met the wrecking ball.

The things that I remember about Skaggs was the candy counter (hey, I was 13) and knick-knack bins that were at the front of the store on the east side. You could get individual pieces of candy and it seemed like there were an amazing amount of choices. The knick-knacks were things like key-chains, coin purses, etc. The type of thing that today lines the checkout aisles. And I vividly remember my father taking old TV tubes up to Skaggs because they had a machine about the size and shape of an ATM where you could plug in the TV tube to see if it was still good. If it was burnt out, they had replacement tubes right there for you to buy. If you made a right when you came in the door, there was a soft-serve machine where you could buy a soft-serve cone (vanilla, chocolate or you could swirl them together). And a icee machine for something cold to drink and give a kid some severe brain freeze.

At the time it was a great thing for Mom to be able to do her grocery shopping and then go right next door for any prescriptions or other non-grocery things she might

need. For a kid walking home from school, it promised sugary treats, if you had any money. And it promised a placeto get in out the weather at about the ½ mile mark where you could warm up or dry off.

Time waits for no man and our history eventually turns into 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.

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This article appeared in an old edition AHS Advocate. We have found many of these articles interesting and worth another look. So we will be reprinting some in this and future newsletters.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY (now 115th anniversary)

By Nellie Kruse

In the days of Fletcher, 1891-1907, people in the town and surrounding area had to go to Denver to go to Sunday School and church. It often was an all-day journey in their buggies.

After completion of the Colfax Electric Railway (it accepted a franchise to build, operate, and maintain a railway, Ordinance No. 30. In February of 1899), people could then park their buggies at Parry's, who in addition to having hay, grain, and coal also maintained a livery stable. From there (Clinton Street and Colfax Avenue), families would ride the trolleys to services.

The nearest churches at that time on or east of Broadway included Trinity Methodist, Central Presbyterian, First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, and Immaculate Conception (Catholic).

Or people could gather in homes in the Aurora area to talk about religious matters, sing songs, and say prayers.

After 1903, Catholics could go to the schoolhouse at Sable, east of Fletcher, where Father Marcellus from St. Elizabeth's Church in Denver came out to say mass. Platte Land Company erected a community building in 1910 across from the school. This facility was used for their masses. Services at Sable were conducted by the Franciscan Fathers until 1917. Then Father James Walsh of St. James Parish in Montclair come out for two years. Since most people had cars in 1919, Father Walsh decided that the parishioners would benefit from coming to St. James Church (See September 1981 newsletter for story on St. Therese Church).

The first formal church organization in Fletcher was undertaken by the Presbyterian Church. The following article was written by Nellie Kruse for the Bicentennial-Centennial Celebration in 1976. Mrs. Kruse, who was the church historian for more than 40 years, is a former Adams County school teacher. She was married to Elmer Kruse, who died November 29, 1969. They had lived in Illinois and moved to Aurora in 1927. The couple had one daughter, Florenell, who was a teacher in the Aurora Schools and who was married to John Stackhouse. They had three sons, John, Jay, and Raymond. Mrs. Stackhouse, a talented violinist and pianist, died July 25, 1964. Mrs. Kruse lived in Aurora until her death in 1993, and was active in many community organizations. She was especially proud of having

received the Master Teacher Award in 1962 from District 14 Adams County. She was also a chairman of the Good Citizen Committee of the D.A.R. for eight years.

1906-1925

The First Presbyterian Church, which is now located at 1585 Kingston Street, was one of the oldest organizations in the city. It was organized in the Town Hall on Sunday, March 31, 1907, under the name of Murray Presbyterian Church. Within a week's time, the name was changed to the Aurora Presbyterian Church.

A number of years later, it was called the Aurora Community Presbyterian Church as people came from the other states and communities and needed a church home. The motto, "A friendly church in a friendly community," Was adopted.

At the time, Aurora was a little suburb of 200 persons. The town, which had been known as Fletcher, began in 1891, and changed its name on February 25th, 1907, just five weeks before the organization of the Presbyterian Church.

The first meetings of the church were held on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. The next location was in a tent which had been used for a Sunday School. The first Sunday School had been organized by a Sunday School missionary, W. N. Schureman, of the Denver Presbytery the year before. The tent was located at 16th Avenue and Emporia Street. A severe storm blew the tent down. Then the church moved to the Aurora School. More difficulties arose. The schoolhouse burned down on Washington's birthday in 1919. The members decided that they must try build a church. Until it was built, services were held in the Town Hall.

There were 12 members to start with, but by November 1908, there were 23. A site for a new building was purchased at 17th Avenue and Elmira Street for \$450. The building was begun in the spring of 1909. The Presbyterian Board of Home Missions made a grant or gift of \$500 and a loan of \$500. The church was completed at a cost of \$2,500 and was dedicated in October 1910. By then the membership had grown to 36.

During the years from 1907 to 1916, the following pastors shared in the work of caring for the church:

1907-1912	Rev. William J. McBean
1912-1914	Rev. John Knox Hall
1914-1917	Rev. J. M. Travis
1917-1927	Rev. Francis E. Smiley

The Home Missions Committee of Denver Presbytery decided in 1916 to unite the Aurora church with the Valverde Presbyterian Church so that the two churches could share the pastorate and have Rev. Smiley for the minister. The Aurora members, with the aid of the pastor, carried on a Gospel tent evangelistic campaign. It began on July 14th, 1918, and for three weeks the services filled the tent. More than 50 members were added to the Aurora church.

The Cradle Roll was started by Miss Edith Leeke and continued until she moved from Aurora in 1910. There were 52 children enrolled. Then work stopped for the lack of a leader. The Cradle Roll was again organized in June of 1920 with 25 members.

The Ladies' Aid, later named Friendship Circle, then United Presbyterian Women, kept busy doing the many little details to keep the work of the church going. By serving dinners, having

teas, and planning progressive luncheons, it helped to finance the upkeep of the church. Each month it pledged a certain amount toward the pastor's salary.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in March 1922 with 10 members. Its desire was to study both home and foreign missions. One important idea that it stressed was no prejudice among the races. One of its programs was "Respect of our Negro Brother." Another program given by Mrs. Flanniken was the work of the black poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar.

The first church owned was the tent. The second was the first permanent building at 17th Avenue and Elmira Street. It was a one and one-half story structure and was dedicated in 1910.

As the years passed, the membership increased, and the facilities became more crowded. In the early 1920's, a membership of almost 250 and a Sunday School of nearly 300 made it obvious that a larger building was needed.

The entire community of Aurora contributed toward the building of a new church. It was to be a building that many organizations could well use. The structure was to house a devotional hall, an educational wing, and a recreational building. Funds were inadequate, and only part of the plans could be carried out.

The church building fast became a community center, and the name, the Aurora Community Presbyterian Church, had been truly given. It was to serve as a library, meeting hall, and assembly room for athletic events. It was to have motion pictures, concerts, and various civic activities as well as Boy Scouts, devotional and church school purposes.

One group of loyal church school workers were the members of the Primary Department. They sold imitation bricks for 25 cents each.

1925-1955

Pastors serving during this time:

1917-1927	Rev. F. E. Smiley
1928-1929	Rev. Thomas L. Lund
1930-1933	Rev. Benjamin Freye
1934-1936	Rev. John B. MacDonald
1937-1938	Rev. Andrew Murray
1939-1954	Rev. Paul Neel
1955-1974	Rev. C. V. R. DeJong

The new church located at Fulton Street on East Colfax Avenue was completed on June 8 1924 and was dedicated on April 12, 1925. A total of 155 individuals and members of 22 organizations in addition to the membership aided in financing this church, which was never actually completed due to an under-the-surface condition of the soil. A Builder's Roll of Honor was placed in the cornerstone which would reveal the names of the donors. By 1940, the population was nearly 3,000 in Aurora, and the church membership had increased accordingly.

During the Depression years, the first part of the 1930's, all organizations and citizens in Aurora felt the shortage of money. Many civilian employees were released from work at Fitzsimons Army General Hospital and replaced with Army Personnel. Many people went elsewhere because of the employment situation and left the church.

One group of people who kept up their courage was the young adult class. With the help of the pastor, young men and women



Laying the cornerstone of third church name Aurora Community Presbyterian Church. Rev. Smiley is standing.

organized a class naming it the "Triple F", which stood for faith, fidelity, and fellowship. This name was adopted as its motto. This class worked hard through the years to increase the church membership and to create a strong bond of fellowship with the older adult class named "Loyalty". These young people needed a place to have their class.

With permission from the Board of the church and a promise to pay for their own expenses, the young adults dug out the northwest corner of the basement room and built a nice classroom. All members took turns doing the construction and furnishing the room. How did they pay for it? Many projects were carried out; some brought in better returns than others. Projects included a class play, which was given in the gymnasium. The proceeds were divided with the choir to purchase new hymn books. A topsy-turvy program brought in a goodly sum and provided much amusement. At no time could a large admission price be charged because of the Depression that Aurora was going through.

One worthwhile project was the waffle supper. Aunt Jemima donated the pancake flour; a well-known coffee company furnished the coffee and tea. Sigman's gave all the sausage; and the class did the work. When the supper was going full blast, out went all the lights, and there was not electricity to heat the waffle irons. Too heavy a load was put on the circuit, and the fuses burned out. One new member of the class who had come late and seeing the huge crowd, rushed home, brought his waffle iron and plugged it in. The men who were in charge did not know what was happening until later. They rose to the emergency; each brought fuses from home. The ladies had a supply of candles on the tables, which gave some light until the power came back on.

Another very active, enthusiastic group of workers was called the "Squared Circle". These young people, who were the teenagers of yesterday contributed much to the growth of the church. Their leader and spiritual advisor was Mrs. Alice Clarida, who is now a member of Faith Presbyterian Church.

An orchestra was formed and directed by Miss Sarah Fuller. These students provided music for civic groups, and school and church programs. For a good many years, it was the only

orchestra in town. When the new theater opened, this orchestra provided the musical program. Besides giving of their talents in a group, they won many honors for the Aurora School.

On Christmas, this class furnished a half-ton of coal for an elderly lady who had limited means. The members cared for many of the elderly in town and shared both time and talent as well as energy to supply their needs.

A unique service was held at the church during the morning service on June 12, 1936. The congregation with the pastor, Rev. J. B. MacDonald, honored three of the church's oldest couples who had just celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversaries.

The 30th anniversary of the church was celebrated with an unusual banquet and program. Over 100 plates of food were prepared and served by the women of the church, namely the Friendship Circle. The cost of the meal was paid, or with a voluntary contribution. With fear and trembling the ladies took reservation as they neared the 100 mark. They heaved sighs of relief when \$2.39 above the cost was donated. The ladies in charge had held a little prayer service early that morning with Rev. MacDonald.

Rev. MacDonald was married during his pastorate at the church, and a lovely reception was given in his honor. The bride, the former Esther Powers of Denver, was presented with a white satin Bride's book and Rev. MacDonald, with a chest of lovely silverware.

One of the most faithful workers in the church from the late twenties until now has been Mrs. Virginia Hall Purse. No program would have ever been as excellent if she had not participated with her music.

During this period of time, the membership reached an all-time high of 327 in 1942: The Sunday School reached 520, The Cradle Roll Department being the largest. Next to the Cradle Roll Department was the Vacation Bible School, which did so much for children during the summer months. At promotion time, much emphasis was placed on "What going on into the next department meant." White caps and gowns were worn by the Primary Department.



Dedication of Aurora Community Church, Colfax and Fulton April 12, 1924

1955-1976

The Aurora Community Presbyterian Church was a church home for many people of many denominations for many states of the United States. In the early forties and through the fifties, the town grew rapidly. In 1940, the population was 3,000; in 1950, 11,000; and in 1953, 19,000. Future growth could not be predicted, but the foresight which the officers of the church had held true. The different denominations began to pull away and build new



First Presbyterian Church, 1580 Kingston, south view of church churches for themselves.

Since the Aurora Community Presbyterian Church at Colfax Avenue and Fulton Street could not be completed and enlarged due to a sub-surface condition, a new place needed to be found to erect a church. The first step would be to choose a strong leader who would help to put the church on a better financial basis to meet the needs of the congregation. It was felt that the untiring efforts of the church officials working with the membership would bring success. Rev. C. V. R. DeJong was chosen to be that man and pastor of the church.

A fund drive to obtain \$40,000 was successful. The location was to be 1565 Kingston Street. Ground was broken on May 1, 1955; the cornerstone was laid on November 20, 1955. The first service was held on December 25, 1955; and the dedication took place on March 4, 1956. The old mortgage held by the Board of National Missions was burned at this time by Mrs. Ada Wilhoft, the only living member of the 1907 church. The new building was erected at an approximate cost of \$125,000 and was really the first complete church and educational facility.

The church then received a new name, "The First Presbyterian Church." An assistant pastor, a church secretary and a choir director were added to the staff. The educational building had to be enlarged, and more doors had to be added to the whole building.

The population of Aurora grew rapidly. A new church was to branch off from the First Presbyterian Church. Rev. DeJong was instrumental in helping the new one, Faith Presbyterian Church, to organize. Many people living in the area of the new church moved their membership to it.

Within the First Presbyterian Church, the Ladies' Aid or Friendship Circle and the Women's Missionary Society merged as one and reorganized as the UPW (United Presbyterian Women). The work of the UPW for the church and the community cannot be measured.

The youth groups are also worthy of praise. The Junior High Fellowship Westminster did outstanding work in helping to decorate, to care for the sick, to contribute to the work of the

Missionaries and to help in the Choir. The Sunday School and Vacation Bible School have both been very active.

Rev. Robert Stanbery became the church's pastor in 1974. In summary, the church building now stands like a lighthouse for all to find warmth, comfort, peace, and God within its doors.

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Aurora Democrat Tidbit

Found in the *Aurora Democrat*, from August 17, 1945

PEACE COMES

The news of the end of the war came to Aurora, as it came to all the world, a few minutes after five P.M. Tuesday, August 14, 1945.

The reaction in Aurora, as it was in all the rest of the world, was instantly to set bedlam loose. Automobiles, decrepit or not, managed to bust loose with their horns by the hour, and everyone went wild.

Denver was pandemonium itself, and the celebration kept up all night. Wednesday all the stores in Aurora closed – and only those who had essential jobs went to work.

We have had war so long, with all its attendant inconveniences, that it is difficult to realize it is over, and that because of the frightful inventions and discoveries in the art of destruction, war will be over forever.

Anything else is unthinkable!

As Carolyn Brassell read through the newspapers during this period of our history she shared her thought's:

"I think it is hard for us in this day and age to imagine the sacrifice that everyone went through during that period. Rationing, shortages, sending most of the young men off to serve. I know my dad was in the Navy, and never saw combat, but still sacrificed a lot during his time served. There are so few vets left to tell their stories."

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Please join us at the Riverside Cemetery Tour and Ice Cream



Please join the Aurora Historical Society for a tour of Historic Riverside Cemetery on Saturday, August 13th at 2:00p.m. There will be a \$5.00 fee for the tour. AHS will have ice cream bars and water for all after the tour. Please join us and don't forget sunscreen. We would like to have some idea as to how many will be attending, would you please call or e-mail Sandy Sweeney at (303-854-4249 or livelyline@aol.com) and let us know how many will be coming. Thank you so much, see you on the 13th.

Aurora History Museum

Exhibits

A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Ethiopian Communities

May 3-Sept. 11

Celebrate the heritage & contributions of Aurora's Ethiopian-born residents. In partnership with Aurora Sister Cities International.

Worth Discovering: 125 Years of Aurora History

Mar. 15-July 10

Discover the quirky & interesting past that led to the Aurora we know today. Revisit your favorite stories & learn something new through this photo exhibit.

Political Cartoons: The Herblock Collection

July 12-September 16

View the works of Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Herbert L. Block (Herblock) through his collection from the Library of Congress.

Programs

Summer in the City

Experience Aurora history at city parks with *Summer in the City*. Play classic kids' games with an Aurora twist.

May 25-Aug. 3 (no event June 8 or July 6)

Weds. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Locations vary. For complete list visit auroragov.org/aurora125.

Ethiopian Coffee Ceremonies

Drop in to see a free demonstration.

June 25, July 30, Aug. 27

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ukulele Lessons & Talk Story Presentations

3rd Saturday of every month, FREE

June 18, July 16

1-3 p.m.

Fourth of July

Craft an Uncle Sam magnet at the history museum. Purchase patriotic souvenirs from the Aurora Museum Foundation.

Mon., 6-9 p.m.

Global Fest

Visit the museum on a day of cultural celebration and see *Mosaic of cultures: Aurora's Ethiopian Communities*.

Aug. 20; 2-8 p.m.

History Camp

Hop on the historic trolley trailer, fight for water rights, and compete to be the finest suburb.

Ages 8-12.

Weeklong, half day sessions, 9 a.m.-Noon

July 11-15 **230741** & July 25-29 **230742**

Centennial House Open Days

Visit the oldest home on Galena Street.
June 12, July 10, Aug. 14
Sun., Noon to 3 p.m.
Location: 1671 Galena Street

Brown Bag & White Linen Lecture Series

Wed., 12-1 p.m.
\$4 (\$3 Resident)
Aurora Historical Society members free
Bring your lunch

The Aurora Line

RTD's Tom Tobiassen and Lisa Trujillo discuss light rail development in Aurora.
234259 June 15

The Changing State of America's Airline Industry

MSU Professor Dr. James L. Simmons explores changes to the modern airline industry & the effect on DIA.
234258 July 20

Colorful Coloradans in Aerospace History, Part II

Back by popular demand, Chuck Stout discusses Colorado's aerospace legacy from the 1950s to today.
234257 Aug. 17

22nd Annual Gateway to the Rockies Art Show

View a juried exhibit of paintings, photography and miniatures. Co-sponsored by the Aurora Artists Guild. All framed and unframed artwork is for sale during the show.

Sept. 22 – Nov. 7

Wine and cheese reception
Oct. 2, 5 – 7:30 p.m. Awards at 6 p.m.

Our Corporate Sponsors



1301 S. Havana Street Aurora, CO
<http://www.suss.net/showroom/buick>



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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.

Please check out the AHS Website:

<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org>

Aurora's Historic Newspaper Digitization Project

The first reel is now online check it out at
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/>

1912- & 1913 Aurora Democrat is online and searchable. 8 more reels are being processed and should be online soon. Please keep supporting this project until we have all the Aurora papers digitized.

The digitization of Aurora's historic newspapers is a collaboration of many groups. Donations have been made by the **Historic Preservation Commission** and the **Aurora Historical Society**. We have also applied for three grants, one from **Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)**, one from the **Colorado Historic Record Advisory Board (CHRAB)**, and one from the **Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA)** to help pay for the digitization. It costs about a \$1.00 a page to digitize the newspapers. Historic newspapers are the most utilized resource in the Museum archives, as few other resources exist from the first half of the twentieth century; however, access is available only by appointment, and Museum staffing shortages make it difficult to accommodate research requests in a timely fashion. Additional challenges facing researchers include an unreliable microfilm reader with an inoperable print function and torn microfilm reels. Through a collaboration with the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, this project will provide free online access to searchable, digital copies of early Aurora newspapers. This will open the Museum's holdings to a wider audience and heighten interest in local history, allowing individuals of all ages the ability to research the Aurora area. Museum staff will also have much easier access to the information and can disseminate more thorough historical research through its exhibitions and programming.

Through a collaboration with a digital assets management system called **Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection (CHNC)**, these microfilmed newspapers would be scanned, indexed, and mounted on the CHNC newspaper server. This collaboration would provide free online public access to the newspapers in a fully searchable format, which would result in increased usage of this valuable historic resource.

Although copyright regulations restrict online publication of newspapers past 1923 without publisher permission, the **Aurora History Museum** obtained consent to digitize the local Aurora newspapers. The **Aurora Media Group**, owner of numerous current publications in Aurora and the rights to many of its historic publications, provided approval for this project.

The cost to digitize The *Aurora Democrat* from 1909-1955 is almost \$20,000. The first 1,200 pages have already gone for digitization and should be complete early in 2016. Grants will cover the next 9,000 pages, and we are hoping to fundraise approximately \$7,600 to digitize the remaining pages of the *Aurora Democrat*. Once digitized the newspaper will be available to anyone with online access. We hope to continue until all of the historic Aurora newspapers are digitized. We are launching a dollar per page coupon drive as well as other fundraisers, so please stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

We need your help!

\$1/page!

For just \$1/page you can help digitize Aurora's historic newspapers and ensure history doesn't get lost just because microfilm is hard to use!

Newspapers like the *Aurora Democrat* are saved on microfilm reels. Digitizing this film creates an online and searchable database to look for photos, articles, or anything else you might find interesting!

Sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society & the Aurora History Museum Archives



View the first pages online Spring 2016!

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Sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society & the Aurora History Museum Archives



View the first pages online Spring 2016!

Help Aurora participate in the *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection*. For more information please visit www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org

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Historic Aurora Newspapers - Digitization Project

Yes! I want to give my support with my tax-deductible gift.
 \$25 \$50 \$100 other

Please make checks payable to: *Aurora Historical Society*
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____

Please send checks to:
 Aurora History Museum
 15051 E. Alameda Parkway
 Aurora, CO 80012



Historic Aurora Newspapers - Digitization Project

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