

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 41; Number 4; July 2017

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

President's Letter July 2017

Our planning committee is hard at work planning for the 2017/18 season. We hope to have some interesting speakers, tours, and events this coming year. As I have said, there is so much history going on in Colorado, and we've just barely scratched the surface. We are so sorry to have had to postpone the 17-Mile House tour and talk, but the weather was really iffy and seemed at the time to be the better part of valor not to take any chances with those of you planning to journey in that direction. There are some of you that do not have e-mail and showed up even though we had tried to notify the membership. If you do not have e-mail please let me know and you will receive a phone call to inform you of any change in plans. We do apologize for the glitch in the system, your interest is so important to us all. The 17-Mile House is being rescheduled and we will let you know as soon as we have a firm date. Our committee consists of Lynne Evans, Mike Lockwood, Carolyn and John Brassell, Dolly Gray and myself, please let us know if you know of an interesting program our society might be interested in.

Stay cool this most unusual summer and stay tuned for further news on future programs and tours.

Sandy Sweeney

Treasurer: Michael Lockwood
Directors: Dexter Harding, Carolyn Brassell
Membership: Larry Wilterdink
Hospitality: Caroline Brassell
Historian: Michael Lockwood
Newsletter, Website, & Publicity: Lynne Evans 303-671-0874
Program Committee: Dolly Gray, Lynne Evans, Sandy Sweeney, Carolyn Brassell
Education- Vacant
If anyone is interested, please contact Sandy Sweeney @ 303-854-4249 or Livelyline@aol.com

Rescheduled Tour of 17 Mile House
Tour of 17 Mile House on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 2:00 pm.
Garry O'Hara will be leading the tour and there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. 17- Mile house is located at 8181 S. Parker Road, Centennial, CO 80016. 17 Mile House is a 155 -year old farm which served as an important resting stop for pioneers traveling on the Cherokee/Smoky Hill wagon trails in the 1860's.





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

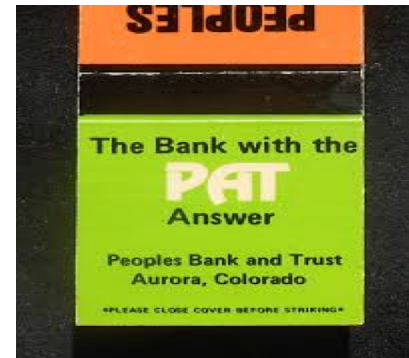
REMEMBERING: Money in the Bank

I first remember going into Western Federal Savings and Loan, located on the southwest corner of Colfax and Galena, with my mother. There, just inside the door, was a wooden cut out of a tree. It stood maybe 2' high and holes had been drilled into the foliage of the tree. Inserted in those holes were suckers. Free suckers for the kids. I've got to tell you that I always wanted to go with Mom when she was going to the bank. As I got older, I eventually had my own passbook that looked just like the one pictured here. The teller would insert the passbook into a machine, line it up and then the transaction would be entered onto the next blank line.



And then there was People's Bank and Trust over on Montview Blvd where many people banked. My wife got her first car loan there. When I was the treasurer of a men's bowling league, we had a special account there. While I wasn't in it very often I do remember how much bigger and nicer it seemed than the small Western Federal Savings and Loan. Of course, it paled compared to the inside of Colorado National Bank in downtown Denver, but it was big time for us.

Finally, my wife remembers that as a student at St. Therese, once a week the students that had an account with the St. Therese Credit Union would get an envelope with the name and account number written on it. The student then would put whatever money they had that they wanted deposited into the envelope and then the envelope would be collected at the end of the day. Great way to teach kids to save.



Time waits for no man and our history eventually becomes shared memories of people and places. Preservation can help 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. Special thanks to Carolyn Brassell for her research and assistance

MAYOR #4

William Albert Cundy

- Served from 1898 – 1899
- Born in 1860 in Hazel Green, Wisconsin
- Graduated from a university in Madison, Wisconsin
- Graduated from the Gross Medical College in Denver in 1896
- Worked as a physician and in 1920 his occupation was listed as surgeon
- He would have been 38 years old when he became Mayor
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Alva Adams (2nd time as Governor) and Charles Spalding Thomas
- Married to Cora (last name unknown) in 1889
- Cora died on November 23, 1902 and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, Los Angeles, CA
- He then married Roma Claudine Coolidge on December 31, 1904 in Los Angeles, CA
- He died on July 25, 1922 because of injuries sustained in an automobile accident
- He is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, Los Angeles, CA
- While he was in office:
 - Silver crash of 1893-1897 depression coming to an end
 - Samuel Perry sells his interest in his various trolley companies to the Denver Tramway allowing him the financial ability to not to have to sell his land in Fletcher

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SUSS BUICK GMC

SUSS BUICK GMC is a family owned and operated dealership whose mission is to provide a **positive experience** in shopping, buying, and servicing your automotive needs.

In 1980 Jim Suss bought the Seifert Pontiac GMC dealership that had been in Aurora since the mid 1950's. The Seiferts' first location in 1953 was on 1615 East Colfax

where they sold Pontiac's and Cadillacs. Later in the late 50's they moved to 6300 E Colfax until finally moving to 1301 South Havana to Aurora in 1972. Jim Suss took over the Havana location in 1980 that was now a Pontiac and GMC Truck store. He brought in his two son's Paul & Jim to join the team that same year to round out his management team and the sons have since taken over the operations of the dealership. Jim Sr. had acquired over 50 years' experience in the auto industry in which over 13 years were with Buick Motor Division. It was only fitting that with that Buick experience that the dealership would add the Buick Franchise in 2006. Of course, the Pontiac Franchise was dropped from GM's lineup in 2010.

A major precept of the dealership since its inception was to be active in the community. Volunteering is a major part of their corporate game plan. The Suss men have been leaders in Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Club, the Community College of Aurora, the Auto Dealers Association, and many other community betterment projects. They have taken an active part of making their community a better place.

Community events are also an area that Suss Buick GMC has been active supporters. The Suss family believes their success is a product of treating people right, being able to recruit talented employees from the surrounding community, and having the community support them by buying their products and services. That support is why they make it every effort to be active and give back to the Aurora.



What's in an Aurora Name... Hinkley High School...
The Man for the Job

Reprinted from July 1977 *Advocate*- Bill Hinkley came to Aurora in 1949 and was APS Superintendent from 1949-1968. The years of some of the greatest growth in the district.

Historical Background

The Aurora schools in District 28-J were not always as they are today. The quality of the district did not just happen...or “grow like Topsey.” However, there has always been a community spirit which supported the educational needs of the town.

When Aurora was incorporated in 1891 as Fletcher, one of the first requests was for a school. District 28 had been organized in 1885, Through the efforts of William Smith. In 1892, a school was built at 16th and Fulton Street, where one teacher taught all eight grades. High school students were sent to school in Denver.

Additions were made to this school in 1905 and in 1913. This made it possible to house all twelve grades in the building, and in 1917 the first graduating class (a total of six students) received their diplomas. On George Washington’s birthday, February 22, 1919, that first school burned to the ground. Students (125) were taught in the Town Hall, while citizens worked continuously to have the new school ready by September.



The Aurora Central Grade School was built in 1892 on the current site of Crawford Elementary. The building burned down in 1919.



A second school was built on the site. This school was torn down in 1972 as the current building was erected. The current Crawford Building was remodeled in 1980.

This new school, still called “The Aurora School,” was later named Crawford School in 1953. It would serve as Aurora’s only school until 1931, when William Smith High School was built.

The community was proud of the exceptionally well-designed and constructed high school, and expected it to serve the needs of the District for years to come.

Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, changed Aurora from a small farming community to an active, bustling town. World War II saw the expansion of Lowry Air Force Base, Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Buckley Field, and in 1943 the opening of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

School board minutes of this period called the situation “the emergency.” The two Aurora Schools began to overflow, but wartime restrictions made construction out of the question.

1949 -- Children on the Doorstep

In 1949, when the District was in the process of building a new high school (now West Middle School), Superintendent Ray Moorhead died. The school board members at that time were Maurice Bauer, President; Foster Putney, Secretary; Purse, Treasurer; Pauline Lincoln, and Hazel Sterling. They knew the decision was an important one. Children were waiting on the doorstep; classrooms were over-flowing. they chose William C. Hinkley for the job.

Aurora Growing Pains

In 1931, when William Smith High School was built, total district school enrollment was 596. In 1949, the enrollment was 1100; all attending school in those first two school buildings. All classes through the eighth grade we on split sessions.

After looking over the situation, Bill Hinkley found that not only was the school population expanding rapidly, but the school district would not build any more schools, because the district had reached its legal debt limit.

The budget necessary to handle the enrollment required a tax increase from 19 mils to 38. Colorado law required voter approval of the increase by a ¾ majority. Although there was a majority approval it was not enough.

Bill says, “There were left to us only two alternatives: to ask for annexation to Denver, or to somehow see the situation through. “This was not the first time in Aurora’s history that annexation to Denver had been considered when problems seemed insurmountable, and as always, the citizens held on.

Hinkley held a conference with his staff of 28 and they agreed to do whatever was necessary to meet the problem. Salaries were held at \$1800 a year. The only bills which could be paid were those for utilities, salaries, and a 1% commission to the County Treasurer for collecting taxes. “There was not one dime for supplies or equipment.”

The Truck and Green Paper

The only supplies that were available, at no cost, were surplus materials at the Federal Center. Good quality, 8x10 light green paper could be picked up. There was a surplus, damaged pick-up also, for a fee of \$25.00. The District could not find the \$25.00, so Bill paid for the truck himself, put old tires on it, and the truck was used for seven of eight trips to haul about 2000 reams of green paper to Aurora. These were the only supplies which were available to the Aurora Schools in 1949-1950.

(The truck had a very long life and was sold to Slim Place, shop teacher, for \$1 before his death. It was still running, and there are stories that some of the green paper was still around in 1977).

Unorthodox & Unconstitutional

To meet the building needs of Aurora, Bill Hinkley proposed that a private corporation be set up to sell bonds, build two schools, and lease them to the District until the debt was paid. The Colorado Attorney General ruled that there was no denial of this plan by law, but that approval should be asked from the Aurora voters. The community responded with a 3-1 vote for approval.

The School District Authority was set up, with the corporation officers to be the same as the current school board officers. Because there was no money for an architect, Bill Hinkley went to Washington D.C. to apply for Federal Planning money. He was refused and told that the Authority was not only unorthodox, but also unconstitutional. The architect, therefore, agreed to design Kenton and Montview Schools, and would wait for his fee until the District had the money to pay him.

These two schools were built that year, 1950, and two more from the same plans, Vaughn and Fulton in 1951-1952.

Significant First

It is possible that District 28-J was the first to use a private corporation to build schools when the debt limit had been reached. After the plan was put into effect, many other school districts used the very same documents used by Aurora. The debt has been paid, and the Authority has gone out of existence.

Hoffman Heights Opposed

Aurora fought many fights with a bedroom community on its eastern boundary, Hoffman Town. In 1950, this "greatest square mile on earth" began building many homes, with many children ready for school. Sam Hoffman gave the land for Vaughn School to the District, this being the **first donation of land**. Previously, the District had purchased the land for schools. Bill says, "The district always seemed to be growing faster than the city. In 1949, the District extended only from 11th Avenue to 25th on the north, and from Yosemite to about Potomac on the east.

School district reorganization and a requirement that a district provide a high school (rather than tuition) forced many school districts to consider the needs of their students. Districts which dissolved and became a part of 28-J included Altura 1959, Clyde Miller 1961, Coal Creek 1960, First Creek 1960, Sable 1955, and Toll Gate 1952. The district increased in size to over 118 square miles, extending north to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, west to the Denver City limits, south to the Cherry Creek School District and east almost to the town of Watkins.

Financial Situation Improves

Bill Hinkley was a master at finding funding that was available for school purposes. During his nineteen years, as Superintendent 26 elementary schools, 3 junior high schools, and two high schools were built. Student population grew at 1000 or more students per year. Fitzsimons Army Hospital served as an Aurora school. For many years children who lived on the Post were bused to Denver schools by the Federal Government. In one day, in March 1951, Fitzsimons (then a part of the Sable School District) annexed to 28-J, and their students were then enrolled in the Aurora Schools. Because of the school situation, it was decided to use four of the buildings at Fitzsimons for a junior high. There are many citizens of Aurora today who remember attending school in those buildings.

The city of Aurora and the District also entered into cooperative agreements. The District bought the school site and the City developed one area of the site for a park. The first such cooperation was at Fulton School, and then at Park Lane and Wheeling Schools.

Retirement without Salary

In 1977, you could catch Bill Hinkley on his motorcycle or at his office in the Colorado High School Activities Association. He said he was retired, but still working for the District and the children of Colorado. He never lost his interest in people and giving of himself.

It has been Aurora's privilege to have grown with the leadership of such an individual. No matter what is said here, it will be inadequate to express the debt Aurora owes William Charles Hinkley. He WAS the "man for the job."

Editor's note: In 1963, Hinkley High school was built. It was named for former Superintendent William Charles Hinkley. Aurora High School was renamed Aurora Central and Hinkley became the 2nd Aurora High School.

According to the Obituary that appeared in the Rocky Mountain News on January 23, 1996, William Charles Hinkley died on January 23, 1996. He was 89.

W. Hinkley, ex-Aurora school chief

By Bill Scanlon
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer



William C. Hinkley, a long-time superintendent of Aurora schools who championed maximum education for all, died Sunday. He was 89.

When the Soviets launched Sputnik in 1957, Mr. Hinkley cautioned Colorado educators against hysteria and warned against refocusing schools to train just the elite scientists. Education's real purpose, he said, is to "elevate each individual to his own maximum stature."

Aurora Hinkley High School took its name from Mr. Hinkley, an outstanding athlete and past president of the Colorado High School Activities Association.

During his tenure as superintendent in Aurora, from 1949 to 1967, the district grew from 1,000 students to 17,000 students.

While superintendent, he also served as president of Colorado's largest teachers union.

He was born March 26, 1906, in Irwin, a mining district near Crested Butte. He graduated from Denver's Manual Training High School in 1925 and from Colorado College in 1929. He earned his master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1935.

Mr. Hinkley played football, basketball and baseball for Manual and Colorado College. In college, he roomed with another Colorado sports legend, Dutch Clark. Clark was Colorado's first All-American football player and an early superstar in the professional league.

Mr. Hinkley taught and coached in Las Animas, Berthoud and Fort Collins from 1935 to 1949, except for four years in the 1940s when he was a pilot for Eastern Airlines.

His "bronze brick" fund-raiser involved nearly all high schools in the state and was largely responsible for construction of the Activities Association's first headquarters building.

"Bill Hinkley, perhaps more than any other one individual, moved the association forward in the area of school athletics and activities," association Commissioner Bob Ottewill said. "Everything he did was designed to help students get an education."

Among Mr. Hinkley's many honors are the National Education Association's Distinguished Service Award. He is also in the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Hinkley is survived by wife Lois, a daughter and two sons.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Chase Mortuary in Aurora.



Hinkley High School 1963



William Hinkley was only a boy when he first visited Aurora. He worked a lot of odd jobs as he was growing up, and he also learned to fly. He worked as a pilot for Eastern Airlines, helping to train other pilots on the instruments. In 1947, Hinkley was offered the job of superintendent for Aurora public schools. He decided to stay where he was, but in 1949, he finally accepted the position, which he held until his retirement in April 1968. He went on to become a lobbyist for Colorado school districts and did not see Aurora again until 1971. Hinkley High School was named for him. (Courtesy Aurora History Museum)

Aurora History Museum Exhibits & Events Brown Bag & White Linen Lecture Series Sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society

Third Wednesday of each month, Noon-1 p.m. Cost: \$4 (\$3 Residents) Aurora Historical Society members FREE Bring your lunch

July 19, 2017 12:00 -1:00PM

Aurora History Museum Community Gallery

Front Range Anthropology and Archeology

Dr. Jonathan Kent of Metro State University talks about archeological finds along the Front Range and their impact on current studies in Colorado.

August 16, 2017 12:00 – 1:00pm

Digital Anthropology Collections

Dr. Esteban Gomez, a digitization specialist at University of Denver, discusses the impact of digitization on University anthropology collections and its continued use in museums.

Aurora History Museum Events

CITY EVENTS

Check out the Aurora History Museum during the following events.

Fourth of July

6-9 p.m.

(Museum closes 1 hour before event ends)

Visit the Museum before for the 4th of July Spectacular Fireworks! Support the museum by purchasing patriotic souvenirs from the Aurora Museum Foundation booth located outside the museum.

Global Fest

Aug. 20, 1-8 p.m.

(museum closes 1 hour before event ends)

Fantastic flavors, cultural experiences and artistic expression abound at Global Fest in Aurora. Visit the museum on a day of cultural celebration.

Program Schedule

PROGRAMS

History Hounds: Walking Tours and Treks for our furry friends and their Humans

Looking for a way to walk your dog and learn a little about Colorado's history? History Colorado and the city of Aurora invite you and your friendly canine companion to join us for a walking tour of DeLaney Farm Historic Site and Open Space.

To register please call 303-866-2394

**Dogs are invited to join their owners for these walking tours. Dogs must have current shots, mix well with others and remain on a leash. Owners are responsible for water and cleaning up after their dogs. There is a 2-dog maximum per registered guest.

Stanley Marketplace Walking Tours

Join us for a 30-45-minute walking tour and learn the unique and eccentric stories hidden inside this historic landmark.

Tuesdays: May 9 – July 11

Tours start at 4:30 at the North Entrance of Stanley Marketplace

2501 Dallas St.

July 29, 9-10:30 a.m.

Join us for a walking tour and learn the unique and eccentric stories hidden inside this historic landmark.

History Camp

Ages 8-12 July 24-28 9am- noon

\$110 (\$90 Resident)

Join us for a weeklong, half-day camp designed to engage your kids with their past. Campers hop on our trolley trailer, fight for water-rights, and compete to be the finest suburb as they discover Aurora's history.

Free Programs

Robert Stanley Innovation Station

Sundays March 19-July 9, 2017

11:00AM to 4:00PM

Put your brain to work this summer and follow in the footsteps of local aviation pioneer Robert Stanley. Every Sunday during the "From Manufacturing to Marketplace" exhibit test your problem-solving skills by following the prompt to create and innovate in the spirit of Stanley Aviation or experiment with your own ideas.

Polynesian Arts and Culture Days

3rd Saturday of each month

11:30am -3:30pm

Explore Polynesian arts and history. Drop in activities include Hula dancing, talk story and ukulele lessons.

Exhibits

The Doctor will see you

Now through July 23rd

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.

From Manufacturing to Marketplace: Innovation at Stanley Aviation

March 14-July 9

Aurora's Stanley Aviation was a leader in aerospace engineering and manufacturing. Learn about the technologies and people that made it successful.

Write Our World: Crawford Elementary School

August 8-Sept. 20th

This exhibit features stories by Crawford Elementary refugee and immigrant students that well about their journey to the United States. Crawford staff connected with the non-profit group Write Our World to help students share their experiences with classmates and beyond.

Picture Me Here:

Stories of Hope and Resilience by Refugees and Immigrants

July 11- Sept. 22

Features work by displaced and marginalized communities that promotes self-expression, social engagement, community building, integration and leadership.

DeLaney Farm Historic Site Tour

Available March - October

Guided walking tours of the DeLaney Farm Historic District include the only round barn still standing in Colorado and the oldest home in Aurora.

Location: 170 S. Chambers Road

originally named Fletcher) and domestic life in the 1890s. Only available for groups of 20 people or fewer at one time.

Early Area Walking Tours

June 18, July 16, and Aug. 13

2-3pm

1671 Galena Street

Join Aurora's Historic Preservation Specialist, Drake Brownfield, on a walking tour of a few local landmarks.

DeLaney Farm Historic Site: Open Days

10:00 AM-2:00PM

170 S. Chambers Road

Explore Aurora's agricultural roots with a summer full of performances and programs.

June 3 and 17

July 1, 15 and 29

Aug. 12 and 26

Centennial House Open Days

11:00AM – 2:00PM

Visit the oldest home on Galena Street, built in 1890, during our summertime open days.

June 4 and 18

July 2, 16 and 30

Aug. 13 and 27

Centennial House Tour

The tour discusses Aurora's early development Location: 1671 Galena St.

How to reserve a tour time during our Open Days

- Reserve tours at least 2 weeks in advance
- Less than 25 people

- Available Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Call 303.739.6663 or [email Jessica Lira](mailto:Jessica.Lira@aurora.org) for more information or to schedule a tour

Fees:

Minimum \$30 or \$3 per person

Checks payable to: City of Aurora - Museum

Mail to: 15051 E. Alameda Parkway Aurora, CO 80012

Our Corporate Sponsors



1301 S. Havana Street Aurora, CO

<http://www.suss.net/showroom/buick>



18000 Smith Rd. | Aurora, CO 80011

One Professional Team Delivering Quality Solutions to Every Customer Our Values in Action

Teamwork • Excellence • Accountability • Safety • Integrity • Communication

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.



Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming events.

We have many in the works.

I will get dates, times, and events out as soon as we have a firm schedule.