

# The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 40; Number 2; March 2016

## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

### **President's Letter March, 2016**

Our annual meeting and pot luck held in January was greatly enjoyed, and after a brief business meeting was topped off with an outstanding speaker, Marc Shaker, who spoke on the history and redevelopment of the Stanley, an icon in the area. When the construction is finished we will have a meeting there and see for ourselves a development of the future.

It is with great sadness I report on the death of Art Caldwell, a long time supporter of the Historical Society and husband of our Vice President Nadine Caldwell. He was buried with honors at Fort Logan on February 24.

The Fairmount Heritage Foundation donated some of their Riverside guide books to our membership at the January meeting and many of our members took them home after the meeting. A big thank you to the Foundation and Gary O'Hara, the books were such a treat and full of history of the area. We will be visiting Riverside during the summer and the books will give us a heads up on what we will see.

Our regular meeting in March will be at the Aurora History Museum on the 29th at 7pm. The speaker will be Eugene E. Dawson Jr., Ph.D., Social Gerontologist. The subject is to be "Writing the Stories of Your Life". Bring materials for note taking, as the talk will enable you to leave a legacy for your children and family, improve writing skills, and evoke memories of events that were filed away

and seemingly forgotten. We look forward to seeing you on the 29th.

*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

**Hospitality:** Nadine Caldwell

**Historian:** Michael Lockwood

**Newsletter, Website, & Publicity:**

Lynne Evans 303-671-0874

**Program:** Vacant

**Education:** Vacant

**We still need a program director and Education Director for our board. If anyone is interested, please contact Sandy Sweeney @ 303-854-4249 or [Livelyline@aol.com](mailto:Livelyline@aol.com)**

**"Everyone has a story to tell- If you don't tell yours, who will?"**



**Our Next Meeting is at the Aurora History Museum On March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. The speaker will be Eugene E. Dawson Jr., Ph.D., Social Gerontologist.**

**He will be talking to us about "Writing the Stories of Your Life"**



**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.**

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**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.aurorahistorical.org](http://www.aurorahistorical.org)

**REMEMBERING: The East 70 Drive-In**

Remember your first home, you know, the place where you grew up? For me, it was the house at 12705 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Just a block off Colfax and on the corner of Scranton & 14<sup>th</sup>

Avenue. It was a nice little 3-bedroom ranch that my uncle owned. He had his living area in the basement, and Mom, Dad, my sister & I had the upstairs. Now 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue didn't go through heading east from Scranton, and any cars traveling east had to turn on Troy Street to go south, but for a couple of houses, 14<sup>th</sup> continued on until it bumped into the drive lanes for the East 70 Drive-In. It was the perfect place for us kids to play, in that small dead end. No traffic to interrupt our whiffle balls games. During the day when we didn't have school we'd ride our bikes up and down that East-70 drive and sometimes we'd even go inside the parking area and ride between the speakers. Doing that, however, ran the risk of being chased off by the guy that ran the Drive-In.

Oh yeah, we did go to a couple of movies there, too. There was the Havana Drive-In, but why go there when the East-70 was just a block away. Of course, my Dad would occasionally complain about the traffic, and my sister recalls a car or two that would pull up outside our house so some kids could climb into the trunk before the car would go into the Drive-In. Now our house was in a direct line with the movie screen. But the screen was angled just slightly so we couldn't see the movie from our street. But some of families up on Troy Street could, and there were rumors that they could get free passes to the show since they could watch it anyway, albeit without sound.

Now, I really don't remember which movies I saw there as a kid. I remember the playground area at the front section of the screen, and I remember the concession stand, which we didn't go to because Dad wasn't going to spend that kind of money for a hot dog (he was a frugal, depression era guy from Kansas and you didn't spend money foolishly). Dad also warned us not to spill any of the food that we brought from home in the car. I remember the speakers being kind of gravelly and how LARGE that movie was. On one occasion when I went with our neighbors who had a station wagon I remember spreading out blankets and pillows and lying in the back of the car.

Years later, my wife and I took our kids there not too long before it shut down. They were not impressed, but then why would they be. The Drive-in was special for its era, as were other entertainment venues of the past, like Celebrity Sports Center. Glad I was able to experience it and on occasion, when you're out traveling in some small town you can still find a Drive-In up and

operating, and go all nostalgic and spend the evening in your car watching a movie.

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.

*This article appeared in the March AHS Advocate in 1981. We have found many of these articles interesting and worth another look. So we will be reprinting some in this and future newsletters.*

### **Ted and Margie's Grocery Stores Colfax Avenue Landmarks for 33 years**

***(How many of us wished we would have kept a diary? Margie Swedborg is no exception. It is very hard to recall names, addresses, and dates accurately. This story is from a taped interview made when Margie became a life member of the Aurora Historical Society)***

Many people have come to mile-high Denver as a result of chest diseases such as asthma and tuberculosis hoping to find relief. Suffering from asthma, Ted Swedborg decided to come to Colorado as his doctor suggested. The Swedborgs, however, decided that Kansas was a good place to stop.

Ted was feeling fine. There was a little grocery store for sale so they purchased it. Hardly had two or three months gone by when Ted began to suffer with asthma again due to the rainy season there.

With a friend Ted came to Colorado. They stopped in La Junta, went to Manitou Springs and climbed Pike's Peak. Ted felt "just wonderful up there. It was the altitude that helped him," concluded Margie.

This trip had taken place in the Fall of the year. When Spring came, the Swedborg's sold their store in Kansas and came to make their home in Colorado.

When the couple arrived in Denver, it was a hot, summer afternoon. They decided it might be a little cooler in Aurora. A friend of theirs in Kansas had a brother by the name of Frank Strauss, who was living in Aurora. The couple "found some rooms" over the restaurant of the Pulliams in the 9500 block of Colfax Avenue. Then they called on Mr. Strauss, who said that Aurora was a good place to live. The Swedborgs arrived June 25, 1924, and have lived here ever since.

Both Ted and Margie were raised in the northern part of Wisconsin and were married in that state in 1921. Ted's given name was Arvid Theodore, but he was always known as "Ted." The Swedborgs had two girls, Doris born in Kansas and Patsy born in Denver. Doris was one and on-half years old when the Swedborgs moved to Aurora. Patsy died in 1930 from complications when she had the then dreaded disease of whooping cough.

Before Ted went into managing a grocery store, he had been post-master at Prentice, Wisconsin, for seven years. Although he had an eight-year term, he had to resign because of his health.

When the family came to Aurora, Ted found work in a shoe store in downtown Denver, but he didn't like the shoe business. Looking around for something else, he found that a Mr. Duncan wanted to sell his store at 9633 E. Colfax Avenue. The Swedborgs purchased it.

#### **Two Grocery Stores**

"Just what did a grocery store in those days have for their Customers?"

When the Swedborgs bought Mr. Duncan's store they were

surprised to find that he had just about everything: hardware, shoes, and groceries. "It really was a mess," commented Margie. The front windows were adorned with "six to eight million dead flies." Among the many items found there were stove pipes. The first order of business was to clean out the windows, which was a big job.

The Swedborgs then decided to carry meats, vegetables and fruits; thus limiting their store rather than trying to carry everything and be a "general store." Margie worked alongside her husband. She did the bookkeeping and some of the checking.

During the Depression in the 30's, the couple lost their store. They were doing a credit business and there was no money to pay bills. They had to close in 1935.

One year later, the Swedborgs were back in business, but not at the same location for another business had moved in there. "Ted was a fighter." Commented Margie. The couple then opened their second grocery at 9637 E. Colfax which was on the east side of the Barber Shop



Ted Swedborg

Margie Swedborg

In 1947, the Swedborgs remodeled their store by changing the front windows, the door, and the interior. Ted was always proud of his store, and Margie felt that sometimes he was too eager to make changes.

Most of their customers paid by the month or every two weeks. "Pay day" was a big event because then the Swedborgs received the money for groceries and their customers charged more.

At this time their employees were a butcher who cut the meat and a delivery boy. The store delivered groceries six days a week, Sunday being the exception. Later, deliveries were limited to three days a week.

Of course, there were many delivery boys who worked after school and on Saturdays. A few that Margie remembers were her nephew, Keith Johnson; Joe Lincoln, Pauline Lincoln's son, who became executive vice-president and secretary of Central Bank Corporation and chairman of the Board of Central Bank in Aurora; the Wilson boy's, Waldo, Tommy, and Bill; Frank Bruner and Bob Seidenberg.

Swedborg's truck went as far east as Chambers Road; as far south as Windsor Farm (where Windsor Gardens is now), to the Jim Chambers, to the Harvey Nickerson's and to the Pete Glasiers; as far west as East Denver; and as far north as 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Even in the worst winters, the store was always open. Delivering groceries in the storms was difficult. Often the truck would get stuck in the mud; then someone would have to go out to help the driver. The area around Windsor Farm was particularly bad.

In addition to the Swedborgs' store there was another small grocery at Galena and Colfax which was owned by Frank Woods. Then Piggly Wiggly managed by Frank Strauss, opened at 9745 E. Colfax to be followed by Safeway, which was managed by Garland Hughes, at Chester and Colfax.

#### **Grocery Employee's Strike**

One year that Margie remembers well was the year of the grocery employees' strike. Elmer Kruse was working for Safeway. Being that Swedborg's was an independent store, it did not have to strike. The store stayed open, and Mr. Kruse came to work for Swedborg's because

its business skyrocketed. Irene Ames was also working for Safeway and came to work for Swedborg's continuing until Swedborg's closed their store.

Other employees who Margie remembers were Marie Baker, who worked for more than 15 years; Margaret Kramer, who clerked on Saturdays through high school in Aurora and Colorado Women's College; Kenneth Hiatt, Art Herron, and Mr. Morey, who all cut meat. "I just cannot begin to recall all of the names of people who worked for us through the years," lamented Margie.

During the grocery strike, which lasted for some time, the Swedborgs not only labored days but also nights. They cut their meat, and restocked their shelves at night. Looking back now, Margie says, "It was kind of fun. We were competitors with the other groceries, but we were always friends."

The couple carried special items. Margie recalls that one Christmas they carried Lingon berries, a favorite with Scandinavian people. At that time, Ted was selling Solitaire brand of groceries. He asked all who purchased the one-pound glass jars of coffee to save them for him. Then he filled them with lingon berries, put them into the store windows and did they sell! Other treats were dill pickles and herring in barrels.

In those days, the Swedborgs purchased beans and rice in 100-pound bags and then rebagged the dry items in one, two, and three-pound sacks. They bought rounds of cheese and sliced it. Cookies and crackers were in wall cases.

In the late 1920's, Ted and Margie purchased their milk from Bill Hoery's farm. They paid five cents for it and sold it for six cents a quart. That included delivery and charging to the customer's account. "We were really making money in those days," joked Margie, "a penny a quart, but is just wasn't that much." "Eggs were probably 15 cents a dozen; bread. Five cents a loaf, and hamburger, about 15 cents a pound.

When the Depression came and Swedborgs lost their store in 1935, they removed those accounts to the basement of their home. There were no collection agencies in those days. A few years ago, Ted suggested that they burn all those accounts while they still had an ash pit. "We didn't even feel bad about them anymore," remarked Margie.

Sometimes, during the Depression, they took produce in payment of bills. Sometimes they took rabbits, chickens, turkeys, and eggs. Usually the Christians supplied the store with those items. The Jim Chambers also did.

Their telephone numbers were Aurora #1 and East 3605. They were able to get this number because of people moving out of Aurora. The stores needed two telephones because the Swedborgs had East Denverites as well as Aurorans for customers. "We had to say that we came here with the Indians so that is how we got Aurora 1. It was a good story," Margie recalled.

At first the Swedborgs had a large, round coal stove, but there were never any cracker barrels around it. Later they put in a modern floor furnace. Electric lights hung from the ceiling.

### **Neighbors on Colfax**

"Who were their close neighbors on Colfax Avenue?" In the Young Building erected in the 1890's, were Ted and Margie's store at 9633, Sheehy's Barber and Beauty Shop at 9635 and Frank Hampton's Pool Hall at 9637. West of Swedborg's was Weston's Confectionery and the Acacia Drug operated by the Harry McDowells at 9601. To the east at 9699 was T. F. Gilligans's First National Bank.

All of these businesses were on the north side of Colfax. Ted always said that he didn't have to shovel as much snow and ice for it melted more readily on that side of the street. "And that was true," commented Margie.

In 1925, Colfax was a strip of concrete down the middle with dirt on both sides. When there wasn't a car coming in the opposite direction the driver always used the middle of the road, it was a big day when Colfax Avenue was finally paved from curb to curb.

"There wasn't much on the south side of Colfax in the 20's," recalled Margie. Where the tavern is now at Dallas and Colfax, there was a restaurant, the Bus Café. From there to the telephone office, where Mrs. Edna Manis was the operator, on Galena and Colfax there was little. The telephone office was considered to be "way out on Colfax." Later, E. S.

Murphy built a garage.

When Margie wanted to shop for clothes, she went to Denver. The Sunlight Shop at 9709 Colfax carried some clothing but not a large selection. "Dress shops came and went through the years," observed Margie. She felt Aurora was too close to Denver.

Although the Blaisdell sisters, Hattie and Alice, carried a variety of clothing, they never carried shoes. However, they did stock bedroom slippers. Their shop stocked yard goods since most of the women sewed for their families, especially for their children. The shop had no men's wearing apparel except for underwear.

"The sisters had a really nice line of clothes; their customers hated to see them quit, but they became too elderly to operate their store," said Margie.

While the Blaisdells were still in business, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Carson opened a men's store across the street from the Swedborgs. Other businesses across the street were a feed and coal store owned by Ray Lancasters and Dr. Jay Bouton's veterinarian business. At that time he had a large animal practice. Dr. Bouton was Jay's (Margie's son-in-law's) father. Later he built the Bouton Veterinary Hospital at 9357 E. Colfax.

The George Friends opened their second-hand furniture store on the south side of Colfax at 9746. In addition to that business, Mr. Friend also had the Denver Post Agency. The newspaper delivery boys went there to get their papers. Later Mr. Friend bought Meadows Dodge and Plymouth (earlier Vorbeck's Ford Agency) on the north side and moved his business there.

When T. F. Giligan had his bank in Aurora the Swedborgs did their banking there. They did not lose any money when Giligan's bank failed in 1933 because their money was in their business.

Margie felt that Mr. Gilligan was a "victim of circumstances." He was "too big-hearted and gave credit to the point where it could not be paid back. He did not gain monetarily from the failure." There were, however, people who condemned him.

Ted and Margie visited the Gilligans in California about 15 years ago. (about 50 years ago now) When they came, Frank cried saying "You are the only people from Aurora who have ever come to see me." He was operating a filing station in California.

Another controversial figure in Aurora's history was R. W. Gwynn, owner of the *Aurora Democrat* and the *Adams County News*. Margie describes him as a "tall man who cared little about his appearance, who was very abrupt and who was very hard of hearing. He was also very opinionated."

Working for Gwynn was Mabel McFadden, who not only did typesetting and other jobs, but also gathered news. Margie remembers Mrs. McFadden "traipsing from one end of Aurora to the other getting ads for the big New Year's edition of the newspapers."

The Swedborgs delivered groceries to her. If she came into the store with a basket and it overflowed with groceries, they would take her home. Mrs. McFadden was one of those persons who always paid her bill on the first of the month. "Mabel was a small woman, a really lovely woman, who reminded her of another lady who gathered news for the papers--Lena Barron," commented Margie.

Another one of Margie's memories is seeing Mrs. McFadden's son Vince (Carl V. McFadden) out in the middle of Colfax Avenue taking pictures with cars moving on both sides of him. Then the traffic on Colfax was not as heavy as it is today.

A character in Aurora's history was A. G. Stitt, who the Swedborgs knew very well. For awhile he peddled "the *Denver Post*. He would stand at the corner where McDowell's store was and sell newspapers to the persons who were getting on and off the streetcars. If someone came along and said that he could not afford a paper, Mr. Stitt would say, "Well, here's one."

Stitt lived at 9811 Colfax with his wife and a sister, both of whom were also characters. Mr. Stitt was strong in two ways, his language

And his allegiance to the Democratic Party. Stories were told about him that Margie refuses to tell.

The upstairs of the building where the Swedborgs first roomed was turned into offices. Dr. Frank Shipman, the medical doctor and Dr. Daniel Ryan, the dentist, had their offices there. Dr. Ryan went into the Navy, and Dr. Hubert Liggett moved into his office. When the new building was finished at Dayton and Colfax, the doctors moved upstairs there.

### Bank Robbery

"What day stands out in all of Margie's memories about Aurora?"

"The day of the bank robbery when I almost got shot," Margie says very quickly. The robbers' car was parked on Dayton and a man was leaning out of the car window shooting up and down Colfax. Margie could hear a siren blowing. Someone had said that moving pictures were going to be made at Crawford School that afternoon, so she went to the door of the store to see if she could see anything. Just then a man shot down the street and hit the barber pole next to their store.

Margie didn't start to shake until that evening when she began to think about the episode. The robbers were attempting to hold up Gilligan's bank, which was in the same block just east of the Young Building. The robbers were never caught in Colorado.

For recreation this couple took part in the typical activities of the 1920's and 1930's. They danced and went to picture shows. They enjoyed driving to Barr Lake northeast of Aurora and to City Park in Denver. They danced at Lakeside and saw plays at Elitch's. Sunday evenings they listened to the radio. They also "called" on people, which meant going over to friends' homes.

Among the places Ted and Margie danced was on the second floor of the Town Hall. Here local musicians played, mostly the violin and the piano. After William Smith High School was completed in 1931, the people danced there to the tunes of out-of-town orchestras. The Swedborgs usually went to these dances with friends.

Aurora's lodges also met at the town hall. The meetings took place upstairs. There was a little kitchen downstairs where refreshments could be made. Margie remembers that the judge's desk was on the first floor. There wasn't a stairway to the second floor; people had to climb a ladder that was nailed to the wall.

The Eastern Star chapter was organized in 1925. With a few chuckles Margie recalls climbing that ladder in her long white dress. It wasn't too long, however, before the Town decided that it could afford to build a staircase.

There was a bell tower on the Town Hall, but Margie doesn't remember whether a bell was rung for fires. At that time the Fire Department was housed in a building on Dallas street, the one that Friend's Furniture used for storage in the 1980's.

### Another Attempted Robbery

An incident reminds Margie that the police department was there, too. By cutting the glass in the door one night, someone broke into Swedborg's and took the file case, a large piece of furniture. The Swedborgs kept their accounts in it but never any money.



Left to right, Hertzmarks Ready-to wear, Weston's Confectionery, and the Young Building which housed left to right, Swedborg's, Sheehy's Barber Shop and Hampton's Pool Hall.



Swedborg's delivery truck with Joe Lincoln, standing.

The robber, thinking that there was money in it, dragged it out of the store and into his car. He also took a case of eggs, several pounds of bacon, and other food items.

As he drove his car into the alley, which ran into Dallas Street and faced the police station, his car, without any lights on, was seen by the police at midnight. The police stopped the robber's car and recovered the loot for the Swedborgs. The police discovered he was a wanted criminal; he was convicted and died in prison. "This robbery must have taken place in the 40's and led to our installing bars on the door and windows," commented Margie.

"What were the difficulties living in Aurora in the 20's?" Without hesitation, Margie answered, "Lack of Money." Nevertheless, Ted and Margie didn't feel that taxes were too high. Yet, they felt that the interest on the water bonds and paying them off caused higher taxes which had a great deal to do with the slow growth of the Town.

When the Swedborgs came to Aurora, there were about 1,200 people. Margie observed that Aurora was a bedroom town where people lived but where they did not work. Also there were few families who did not have someone with tuberculosis. Fitzsimons General Hospital, which treated the servicemen, brought workers as well as patients and their families. Fitzsimons helped in the growth of Aurora.

The dirt streets caused Margie to do "lots of dusting." When the snow and ice melted, the streets were muddy and full of ruts.

Water pressure was not a problem, according to Margie. Although they did not do much watering, the Swedborgs did have a lawn as most Aurorans had. By the time the Swedborgs arrived in the Town, the chickens, cows, and pigs were gone from the backyards.

Active in masonic circles, Ted was a member of Lodge #156 and Margie belonged to Dawn Chapter of Eastern Star. In 1926 and 1927 Ted was elected to the City Council. He could not continue due to the great amount of work in his store.

### Library Board

Margie joined the Aurora Woman's Club, but her main interest for 35 years was the Library Board to which she was appointed in 1932. At that time, Mrs. Sarah D. Wood was the librarian; Lydia Cleaves, her assistant. The library was in Mrs. Woods's home at 1516 Dallas Street which later became the parking lot for Friend's Furniture.

It was in 1924 that the Aurora Woman's Club decided that the town needed a library. Mrs. Jessie Fuerstien spearheaded the effort. Mrs. Wood offered to have the library in her home. It was "one big room," with shelving on three walls. There was one shelf which was a very popular feature of the library. It was filled with the latest books. These books would be rented for 10 cents for five days. The rent money then bought more books.

If Mrs. Wood, who came from Albany, New York, and who had previous library experience, thought a certain book should not be read by young people of the community, it was kept under the counter. Margie doesn't remember what Mrs. Wood's definition of young people was, but she thinks it was anyone under the age of 18.

Since there was not much money to buy books, Aurorans donated them. What money there was came from bake sales, card parties, luncheons, etc. There were also book drives. When the City took over the library, it supported the facility.

Before the City-Manager form of government, the Library Board did everything. It paid the bills, purchased the books, and hired the librarian.

Mrs. Cleaves followed Mrs. Wood as librarian. Frances Hawkins and Faith Platt, daughter of Lena Barron, helped Mrs. Wood, who was elderly and no longer could do very much.

When Margie first went on the Board, there were three men and two women. Others on the Board were Sidney Hampton, a woman; Arthur Stark, owner of the floral shop; B. B. Nevius, former mayor; and one other man whose name she does not recall.

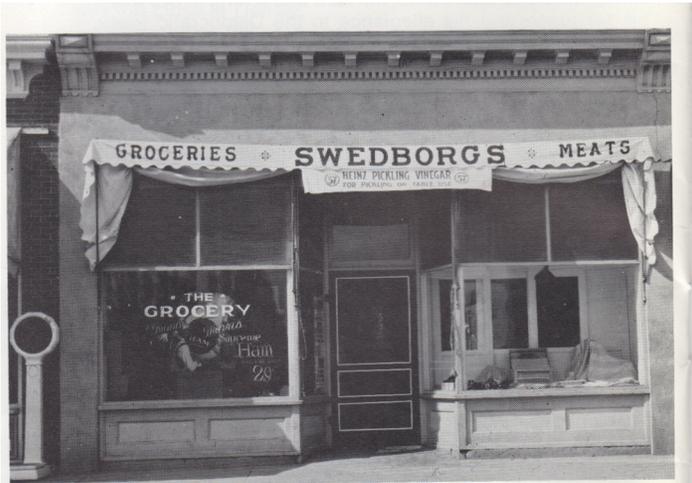
Margie was the last member of that early Board still alive in 1981. Minutes of this early board were lost when the library was moved from Mrs. Wood's home to the City complex at Elmira and 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. in 1953.

When the City complex was finished, the school children helped to move the books to the new library. From there the books were again moved into another new library at 1298 Peoria Street in 1964. When this library was being built, it was all Margie talked about; so her family kiddingly called it "Margie's Library." "It was very interesting to by the tables and chairs, the carpeting, the drapes and the shelves," said Margie.

When Margie retired from the Board in 1968, she had seen the library grow from one room to a building with 20,000 square feet. The City of Aurora and the Friend of the Aurora Public Library honored Margie for her 35 years of service of outstanding public service. O. James Murray, assistant to Mayor Paul Beck, presented a plaque to her which read, "Presented in appreciation to Margie Swedborg for her 35 years of service on the Board of the Aurora Public Library.

Due to his interest in history, Ted was appointed to the first Historical Commission by the City Council in 1970. At the time of his death, January 28, 1980, he was an honorary member.

Margie Swedborg will long be remembered by Aurorans as a petite, lovely lady, who ably assisted her husband Ted in two early grocery stores and who was a moving force on Aurora's Library Board for many years.



Swedborg's, 1935

## EXHIBITS DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

**Nov. 25-Apr. 17**

Learn about the Golden Age of Radio, including presidential fireside chats, serial programming and how the radio influenced life in Aurora.

## A MOSAIC OF CULTURES: AURORA'S ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITIES

**May 3-Sept. 11**

Aurora is home to a vibrant Ethiopian community, comprised of people from diverse ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds. Celebrate the heritage and contributions of Aurora's Ethiopian-born residents. Presented in partnership with Aurora Sister Cities International.

### **Opening Reception**

May 12 Thu., 5-7p.m.

## WORTH DISCOVERING: 125 YEARS OF AURORA HISTORY

**Mar. 15-July 10**

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

### PROGRAMS

#### **The WWII Homefront: Fears, Foes and Blackout Curtains**

Mar. 13

Sun., 2:30-3:30 p.m.

\$4 (\$3 Residents)

The Aurora Museum Foundation (AMF) supports museum programming and exhibits year round. Join us for the AMF annual meeting and enjoy a talk and book signing with Colorado author Nancy M. Peterson. In her historical fiction novel, *Not to be Forgiven*, Peterson combined research and personal knowledge to recreate the early years on the American Homefront during WWII.

*Not to be Forgiven* is the story of how a small Nebraska town becomes home to a B-17 bomber training base and a prisoner of war camp for German soldiers. A young girl, Sis Gregory, experiences scrap-metal drives, food rationing, black out curtains and Victory Gardens while her soldier brother, Danny, serves overseas.

#### **125th Birthday Party and Volksmarch**

**Saturday, April 30; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Enjoy an Aurora themed birthday cake and visit the Aurora History Museum, Morrison Nature Center and DeLaney Farm. Celebrate Aurora's big day with face painting, nature walks and fun birthday activities. A shuttle bus will be available to transport visitors between all three locations.

Admission is FREE. Sponsored by the Aurora Museum Foundation.

#### **Lincoln Hills Tea**

The Lincoln Hills resort in Coal Creek Canyon was built in 1925, by and for African Americans. Learn more from Lonnie McCabe performing as Linda KaiKai Tucker, the niece of a resort founder.

May 14

- Sat., 2-3:30 p.m.
- \$26 (\$20 Resident)

#### **Antique Appraisal Fair**

Local appraisers evaluate your antiques & collectibles. Call 303-739-6705 to reserve an entrance time. No walk-ins accepted.

Apr. 23

- 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- \$5/item; 5 item limit
- Aurora Central Library

### Ukulele Lessons and Talk Story Presentations

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, FREE

Mar. 19, Apr. 16, May 21

1 – 3 p.m.

Monthly 30 minute presentations about Hawaiian culture followed by group ukulele lessons.

### BROWN BAG & WHITE LINEN LECTURE SERIES

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

### 1-70 & the Memorial Tunnel

How do you move mountains in order to move people? Senior CDOT historian Lisa Schoch shares the story of the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnel.

Mar. 16

### Oh Hey Stanley

Mark Shaker shares the history of local aeronautics pioneer, Bob Stanley & his company, Stanley Aviation. Learn about the transformation from manufacturing plant to Stanley Marketplace.

Apr. 20

### The Day to Day Life of Bikes

City Planner Anthony Avery shares what's in store for Aurora's bicycle network & how to make the most of the existing infrastructure.

May 18

## Dear Aurora Historical Society members,

The *Advocate* is printed January, March, May, July, September, and November every year. We are trying to find missing copies of the newsletter. You will find a list of the editions for which we do not have copies. If you have copies of any of these missing editions, we would appreciate it if we could borrow it to make a copy so the historical society has a complete record of all editions. If so please contact myself or Michael Lockwood.

1976: January, March, September & November

1977: January & September

1978: January & May

1979: March & July

1980: May & November

1982: January

1983: May & July

1984: May & July

1985: all 6 issues

1986: all 6 issues

1987: all 6 issues

1988: all 6 issues

1989: January, March, September November

1990: January

1991: July & September

2002: July

2009: November

2010: January & March

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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](mailto: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://aurorahistoricalociety.org>

### Aurora's Historic Newspaper Digitization Project

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 (CHRA)**, 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.

**Update:** \$4,200 was just awarded for the CHRAB Grant. We are making progress, but we still need your help to complete this project.

*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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Help Aurora participate in the *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection*. For more information please visit [www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org](http://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

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