

# The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 40; Number 3; May 2016

## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

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

As we approach the 125th birthday celebration, preparations are being made for many events in our city during the year sponsored by the Aurora History Museum, the Historical Society and the City. We had a huge population back in 1928 when the Town of Aurora became known as the City of Aurora, about 2,174...what a change!

New businesses were coming here, The Aurora Aircraft was located at 1520 Emporia St, they manufactured parachutes and monoplanes and named their planes appropriately "Aurora". The Wheatall Co. on 16th and Nome produced cereals, and the Universal Woolen Mill on 9726 E. Colfax began, and if one purchased a new coat or suit would be given a \$2.50 gold piece. A whole new business block was constructed at 9700 E. Colfax. *Reprinted from the Aurora Society Newsletter, Nov. 21, 1999*

We will not be holding a meeting in May, our usual time, but instead we will be hosting a tour of the almost finished Stanley. Marc Shaker who spoke to us on the the history and redevelopment of the Stanley at the annual pot luck will conduct a tour of the property. We decided not to wait until entirely finished as will be easier to tour before occupied. Do hope many of you will be able to attend as the entire project is most inventive with conservation of the historic aspects of the original site.

Many of you enjoyed the March presentation by Eugene Dawson on "Writing Stories of Your Life". I have so many

stories running around my head, it's time I put them all on paper and I hope you're doing the same.

The dates and times for the upcoming events 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

**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)**



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

The fast food restaurant was something of a novelty to Aurora in my youth. It started with McDonalds but as other chains saw the enormous potential and profit that McDonalds was making they joined the fray. Early ones that have come and gone that I remember are:



**Red Barn** – I can still sing “When the hungries hit, when the hungries hit – hit the Red Barn.” The mascots were Hamburger Hungry, Big Fish Hungry and Fried Chicken Hungry. The chain started in the early 1960's and were pretty much gone by the 1970's. While they didn't last long, the building, which was in the shape of a barn, is still standing at Colfax and about Ironton. I didn't go there often but I remember them as the “other” option to McDonalds for a short time.



**Burger Chef** – A fast food place that, at one time, was 2<sup>nd</sup> only to McDonalds. In the early 70's they were at their peak. The Burger Chef in Aurora was located on Peoria, just to the north of Hoffman Heights Shopping Center. This was within walking distance for kids going to Aurora Central High School and I went there so often that the staff there knew my order by heart. They would have it ready for me before I could get to the front of the line. Burger Chef eventually merged into Hardees.



**Bronco Burgers** – Located in Buckingham Square at the northwest end right across from the arcade. I'm not sure if this was a chain restaurant or not, but I don't believe it was. For teenagers hanging out at the arcade this was the place to eat lunch.

The food wasn't particularly good, but it sure was cheap. The hardest part was deciding whether to spend your money on food or on pinballs/video games. I would always order a BBQ burger and to this day I recall it being pretty good (or maybe that's HOW I want to remember it).



**A&W Drive-in** – They were located at Colfax and Lima. And right behind them was a Putt-Putt Miniature Golf course, where I hung out quite a bit. Play some miniature golf and then break for lunch with a Papa Burger or a Mama Burger (a Baby Burger wasn't nearly enough). And when Dad would drive us there it was a treat to be able to eat in the car and have a tray hanging from your car window. If we were really lucky Dad would buy a gallon of the root beer and bring it home. He never wanted to splurge for the A&W Mug that you could buy (which getting a frosted mug with root beer in it seemed really awesome to a young kid. We never had frosted mugs at home).



**McDonalds** – Colfax & Kenton and they're still there. I can still recall a rare time when our Dad decided to take my sister and I out to eat. Going out to eat was a rare thing for him to do and he considered it a very special occasion. When he asked us where we wanted to go we both chimed in with "McDonalds." His response was "I can make you hamburgers at home." To him McDonalds wasn't special, but to me, at age 7 or 8, it was a magical place. Nothing against home cooking, but the McDonalds burgers tasted so much better than anything like what we got at home.

**Here's a "Little Tidbit" that Carolyn Brassell found while researching Historic Newspapers in Aurora.**

From a 1942 issue of the *Aurora Democrat* "DON'T LET THIEVES GET YOUR TIRES! Have them monogrammed today for Positive Protection and Identification. Your Initials Permanently Branded on All Your Tires for only \$1."

\*\*\*\*\*



Rose M. King poses in her Sunday best in front of the clapboard house that she and her husband built shortly after their marriage in 1907. Edward King was a traveling salesman for a lumber company, but he still took the time to supervise the construction. Later a larger brick house was erected for the couple. When her husband suffered a stroke, Rose took in 135 tubercular boarders for several years to pay for the home. (Courtesy Aurora History Museum.)

29

## Business Woman

By Larry L. Carre'

Rose Severyn was born August 15, 1887, in a sod house in Valley County, Nebraska, the youngest of Mary and Karl Severyn's five children. Her father died when she was three. As a young girl, Rose attended school on Ord, Nebraska, and was hired out to people in that area to keep house and take care of children. She came to Denver in 1905 to visit her sister.

While working in a restaurant near the Union Train Station, she met Edward King, a Seattle lumber salesman. He was a widower with two children who lived with King's mother. They were married in 1906, and lived in an apartment on Franklin Street in Denver.

Rose King Brown's long involvement with Aurora began when she responded to an ad in *The Rocky Mountain News* for a setting hen so she could start raising chickens. Returning on the streetcar on the long ride back to Denver from Aurora, she noticed a sign that offered lots for sale with a water line, which was a scarce commodity in the small town of Aurora. The Kings bought two lots on Dayton Street from Lucy Shackelford after mortgaging their furniture. They purchased lumber on time payments from Lucy and Jay Chapin and built a four-room house at 1360 Dayton in 1908. A larger house was built at 1390 Dayton to accommodate guests. As time went by, additional lots and houses were sold.

About two years later, Mr. King had a stroke and was unable to work. Having to stay home to take care of her husband and needing extra income, Mrs. King took in

borders. She soon found out that boarders did not want to live that far away from Denver jobs. She then firmly resolved to overcome her fear of tuberculosis and increased the number of boarders by caring for patients from Phipps Sanitarium in tents and two small houses on the back of her lot. Over the years 137 tuberculosis patients stayed with her and shared the fresh milk and eggs that were prescribed at that time. She even administered shots in the arm and kept everything spotlessly clean. Many patients came back years later to thank her for the good food, fresh air, and the care she had provided.

To buy sufficient nourishing food for all her boarding patients, Mrs. King would ride a streetcar to downtown Denver. The grocer would help her load the sacks onto the streetcar. When she returned to Aurora, the conductor would place the sacks on the corner of Dayton and Colfax. Mrs. King would then have to make several trips carrying the groceries to her home.

Because of her daily shopping excursions, Mrs. King was immediately interested when a man from Brighton approached her about building a Piggly Wiggly store in Aurora on her lot in the 9700 block of East Colfax. Mrs. King began an involved series of negotiations to secure money and materials. The Chapin Lumber Company agreed to carry her for the lumber needed for the building. She then went to Midland Loan Company in Denver because it was making construction loans. The loan officer told her no money was being loaned to the suburbs, especially Aurora which did not have its own water. Mrs. King went back a second time and was told she was wasting the company's time. Undaunted, she returned a third day. This time, the loan officer, perhaps impressed by her perseverance and probably just wanting to get rid of her, agreed to send a man out to Aurora and loaned her the money.

Following her first commercial building success, Mr. King was sent to Seattle to be with his mother and brother where he died within a few years. In 1929, Mrs. King married Ray W. Brown, a Harvard graduate who had a position with Dental Specialty Company. They moved to their home in Denver at 4345 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mrs. Brown sold the boarding house in 1930 and brought her mother to Denver to live with her for the next 20 years until her mother died at age 94.

One of the highlights of her marriage to Ray Brown was a three-week trip to Germany, France, England, and Czechoslovakia where Mrs. Brown found some of her mother's relatives. The Browns enjoyed a trip to Hawaii as well as camping and fishing on their property near Grand Lake, Colorado.

When Mr. Brown died in 1960, Mrs. Brown continued to live in her Denver home. Until 1974 when she moved to Park Manor. Later she resided at a local nursing home until her

death on March 31, 1989, at age 101.

She was a faithful member of Messiah Lutheran Church contributed to missions and church programs, and had Easter communion in her home. She didn't evangelize but was always willing to tell people she was a Christian.

Rose King Brown was known and respected by Aurorans for her business dealings that helped to develop the city. She was known as "Aurora's First Businesswomen." Even in her later years she felt that Aurora had the potential for unlimited growth. In a *Denver Post* interview, she said "I don't know why it should slow down...To think what it has done since I started out there; well, it's just fantastic. I could go out there and just get lose."

Rose King Brown learned early in life how to be self-sufficient. She was a survivor with a sense of humor and a proven system of efficiency. As Reverend Delmar Wiemers stated at Mrs. Brown's funeral, "What can I say? She was quite a gal!"



The Bus Café was where town officials met to discuss town business for many years. It later became a disreputable place as Colfax Avenue's popularity diminished. A snowstorm hit the metropolitan area in 1946, during which it snowed 33 inches in three days. This view of Colfax Avenue looks to the northwest. (Courtesy Aurora History Museum.)

## Aurora History Museum

### EXHIBITS

#### 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

#### 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.

230738 May 14

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

#### 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

#### Ukulele Lessons and Talk Story Presentations

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

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

#### 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.

230737 May 18

## Our Corporate Sponsors



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



#### Wagner Equipment

1800 E. Smith Road, Aurora, CO, 80011

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://auroracohistoricalsociety.org>



Aurora's Birthday Party at the AMC April 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

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.

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

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

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

**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**

**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