

# The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 41; Number 6; November 2017

## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

### Upcoming events

Our Next Meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 28, 2017**, at 7:00PM at the Aurora History Museum. Our speaker will be John Barry. John Barry is the former Superintendent of Aurora Public Schools and CEO of Boys & Girls Club of Metro Denver. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the "Wings of the Rockies Air & Space Museum.

Our Annual Potluck Meeting and Dinner will be on **Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Aurora History Museum**. Teri Johnson will present a program in costume as Mary Elitch for our entertainment. So, bring a dish to share and come join us. AHS will supply ham, chicken, & beverages.

In March, Jack Stone, author, actor, and Western historian will present a program on "The Seamy Side of Denver City." So, **join us at 7pm at the Aurora History Museum on March 27<sup>th</sup>**.

In May, we are planning a hayride at the Plains Conservation Center. The date and time TBA.



covermyfb.com

### 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:** 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](mailto:Livelyline@aol.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Look for Our President's Letter in the next newsletter. Sandy Sweeney is recuperating and will have an update for us in January. Until then we wish her a speedy recovery.**





**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.**

\*\*\*\*\*



So, if it was going to be a rainy day, the little girl got dressed in a rain slicker, and she got an umbrella.



Next I remember *The Fred and Fae Show* on channel 2. They had a live audience of school children, and one day my elementary class got to go on our first bus ride downtown and be on the show. It was all awe-inspiring.



Then there was *Blinky The Clown and Captain Kangaroo* (I loved that Mr. Green Jeans). And Shari Lewis and Lambchop – my wife just bought a Lambchop hand puppet that she uses when she substitute teaches.



**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: Children's Television**

Growing up in the 50's and early 60's television was still, in a way, in its own infancy. And yet, the television people knew that one of their main audiences was children. Perhaps the educational depth wasn't quite there in the early days, but those children's shows sure knew how to promote good manners and teach us about growing up to be good citizens.

My early recollections were of *Romper Room*. Don't be a don't bee, do be a do bee. And the silly weather girl that was a picture of a little girl ready to go outside. She was on a board that you could stick vinyl to and the Romper Room teacher would "dress" her according to the weather report.

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.



**Welcome to our newest members:  
Lisa & Robert Hale  
Mary Manning**

## 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? With each 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 #6 Jonas Washburn

- Served from 1901 – 1903
- Born May 17, 1845 in Scranton, Pennsylvania
- Married Harriet Frink in 1868
- No children of their own but they adopted and raised 4 boys
- Worked as a railroad man, in mining, rancher and dairy farmer
- He would have been 56 years old when he became Mayor
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was James Bradley Orman
- Living at 2083 Galena Street when he was Mayor
- Came to Colorado in 1879 and came to Aurora in 1900
- Harriet passed away in February 1921
- He died on March 29, 1925 at his Galena Street home at the age of 80
- He is buried in Fairmount Cemetery
- While he was in office:
  - Denver achieves “home rule” in 1902, City and County of Denver created
  - Arapahoe County divided, creating Adams County
  - Several lawsuits from bondholders over inability to pay interest on water bonds
  - Aurora begins buying water from the Denver Union Water Company

### *Hoffman Heights: Democracy in Action 1951-1955* *“The Greatest Square Mile of Earth”*

Reprinted from *Hoffman Heights Mirror*-January 28, 1954 –  
appeared in the November 1977 *AHS Advocate*

History does repeat itself, many times. Perhaps human nature remains characteristically human. Today in 1977, a community, Eastridge, situated on Aurora's southern doorstep, is awaiting a court decision which will determine whether or not that area can legally incorporate or will be annexed by Aurora.

It seems like only yesterday that a similar controversy was simmering, almost to the boiling point in Hoffman Heights, an energetic, vital community begun in 1951. Hoffman Heights, one square mile in area, includes land from Peoria Street to Potomac, and

from sixth Avenue north to 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Homeowners look across Peoria at Aurora and its growing pains.

There were five years of feudin', fussin', and fightin' when the crucial question was: incorporation or annexation to Aurora? Lines were drawn as the question became a source of neighborhood conflict. The story is a fascinating one, perhaps because it seems as if citizens cared so much; community identity crowded out apathy. For three years, the residents conducted a volunteer government. Their efforts deserve recognition. They got involved!!!

### Cottonwood Ranch

Just as Aurora in its early days had been a farming area, this section of land had been a farm. George Adam had been an early farmer there, and in the 1940's it had been known as Cottonwood Ranch. A large farmhouse sat at about what is today 11<sup>th</sup> & Quari, with a lane leading to it through large cottonwood trees. To the south, at about 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue was a large reservoir.

A.O. Johnson (Al) owned the ranch at the time Robert Boggs returned from a trip and told Johnson about homes he had seen and admired in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Johnson had built a few homes in Park Hill and was interested.

Al Johnson, Andy Anderson, and Ed Dempsey formed the Cottonwood Development Company and put together a plan for the property. They then took it to the Albuquerque builder, Sam Hoffman.

### Sam Hoffman

In 1950, Sam Hoffman and F & S Construction (Father & Son) Company was the second largest builder of homes in the United States (Levitt was #1). At the time the proposal was brought to him, Hoffman was building in seven states.

As a young boy of 12 years, Hoffman had walked out of Russia to escape the Red Russians. Going first to Canada, he then went to Detroit and worked in an automobile factory. It is possible that seeing the assembly line production of cars sparked his later methods in home building.

Hoffman was a pioneer in the mass production of homes. When he decided to go ahead with his development in Colorado, he planned to build 1700 homes, having 100 homes in the process of construction at all times, with a target of 12 homes completed each day.

Recently Robert Boggs said, “Hoffman was a mover; he wouldn't tolerate delay,” Michael Dichter remarked, “Sam could fly over the project in his plane, and tell if we were on schedule, just by looking.” It is possible that Aurora was not prepared for such a mover of rapid “growth”. Today in 1977 the “growth” of Aurora generates mixed emotions.

When veterans of World War II returned home, there was a great demand for homes. Today the growth is generated by the baby-boom from 1946-1961.



photo courtesy of Aurora History Museum



### **Aurora Refuses Annexation**

Ed Dempsey, President of Cottonwood Development Company, recalls, "Annexation of this land was first asked for in 1948. After 51 trips to the Aurora City Council and 51 refusals, we gave up. We decided to try to develop the land in Arapahoe County and by water and sewerage from Denver."

Is there anyone who could have foreseen the rapid growth of Aurora in the 1950's? There is speculation that the City Fathers refused the annexation because in the 1940's there was so much vacant land within the Aurora Boundaries.

In addition, Hoffman, using mass production methods, appeared to be upsetting the housing market, and competed successfully for the potential homebuyers. The Metropolitan Homebuilders Association was concerned about his competition.

Hoffman offered an attractive brick home with 1600 square feet, three bedrooms and two baths and attached garage for \$12,450 or \$86 dollars a month. Model homes were built at 850 and 876 Peoria Street, with 400 homes sold before construction even began. Robert Boggs signed the contract for the first home on Racine Street.

### **Aurora Resists**

Aurora City Council then had a sign erected across the street from the show homes, the sign saying, "No Aurora Services, water, sewer, police or fire protection will be given to Hoffman residents." The sign was torn down many times, and Spencer Garrett, Police Chief at the time, said, "I spent a lot of time getting that sign put up again."

Aurora then refused to allow water and sewer lines from Denver to be built in Aurora streets to reach Hoffman Heights. Only after a court decision, which established that the public right of way belongs to Arapahoe County, not Aurora, were the mains installed. The water mains were placed on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the sewer line along 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Grass Roots Cooperation**

Even before families began moving into their new homes in 1951, it became apparent that there was a need for some type of government.

The Cottonwood Water District and Cottonwood Sanitation District were formed in November of 1950, with the first officers being the developers, since there were as yet no residents.

Sam Hoffman transferred ownership of the water district to the residents in 1952. Among the early directors elected by HH residents were Leonard Beal, Paul Harward, Randall M. Smith, Frank Duncanson, William Nordloh, and John Tanner.

Hoffman transferred of the Sanitation District to the resident late in 1953. Among then elected from the homeowners were Oscar Swanson, Neil DeRiso, and William Suitts.

Next came the Hoffman Heights Fire Protection District. In 1952 residents approved a \$75,000 bond issue to provide equipment for fire protection. John S Ralston served as president of the fire district.

A fire station was built on Hoffman Blvd. and two pumpers and an ambulance were purchased. By 1954, there were 46 active volunteer firemen, who staffed the station so that two men were on duty every night all week.

Early fire chiefs included Orville Boston and Al E. Imirie. Among the many volunteer fireman were Al Sussman, Jim Barr, George Wortham, Leo McCarrell, Joe Delchamp and Tom Gribben.

### **HH Association Organized**

In the spring of 1951 the Hoffman Heights Association was organized and served as the only form of government, other than the legal districts which had been created.

Robert Boggs was elected the first president of the Association, and remembers, "About 20 fellows showed up for the meeting. They were all high-caliber individuals, with much talent and willing to serve."

It seems as if a committee came into being eventually to take care of whatever needs arose. Garbage collection was contracted for, a committee was organized to build, paint, and install street signs.

Arapahoe County was asked to install stop signs and enforce speed regulations. An election precinct was asked for. Rudy Roth served as an early Democratic committeeman and W. Robertson White, the Republican.

The membership committee handled the dues of \$2.00 per year per family, to provide operating funds for the Association. \$2.25 a year dues provided for street lights.

A planning and zoning committee was appointed to advise the Arapahoe County Commissioners. Other committees dealt with Heath & Welfare, Police Liaison, Beautification & Recreation, and many more.

The Association remained active for many years, and included the following as presidents: Robert Boggs, Anthony Ferraro, Russell Smith, William Glassford, William Lemke, James Rodwell, Leo McCarrell, and Frank Newman.

### **New Schools Each Year**

Although HH was not part of Aurora, it was within the limits of School District 28-J.

The district grew from 600 students in 1944 to 6,000 students in 1954. Some of the Hoffman Heights children attended a new school each year for three years. Kenton School opened in 1951, Vaughn in 1952, and then Peoria in February of 1954.

Sam Hoffman had donated the land for Vaughn School, this being the first donation of land ever given to the school district. Vaughn opened already over-crowded, with first grades on double session. Soon all grades were on double session.

The children who would attend Peoria School attended morning classes at Vaughn. Because the two schools were built with the same plan, moving day to Peoria School was simplified. Children moved from Vaughn to the same room at Peoria.

In 1977 (when this was first printed), children are again waiting on the doorstep for school doors to open. In 1954, Peoria was built for 300 students and opened with 600 waiting. The junior high school situation had also been

unable to catch up, so many students were going to junior high in buildings at Fitzsimons.

### Hoffman Park

In 1952, Sam Hoffman had donated 11.6 acres to the HH Association, with an additional \$2,500 for playground equipment. Residents launched an extensive campaign in April 1954 to actually get the park under construction.

The area was divided into 4 zones, with committees to canvass every house for donations. Meadow Gold Dairies aided the cause by bringing in trucks loaded with cottage cheese. A part of each sale was given to build the park at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Hoffman Blvd.

### Churches

Residents worked from the beginning to establish churches in the area. Methodists met in a home at 1000 Ursula, with church services in the heated garage. Each Sunday 150-200 children arrived for church school in the house, which was also the home for the Reverend Dean Shaw and his family. Burns Memorial Methodist Church was built in 1952 at 11<sup>th</sup> and Newark Streets.

Lutherans held their first services February 8, 1953 in the home of Pastor Tange, 1262 Quentin. The dedicated St. Marks Lutheran Church January 10, 1954 at 12377 Hoffman Blvd.

Hoffman Heights Baptist Church was built at 12400 Hoffman Blvd. Larkspur Parkway (later renamed Del Mar Circle) saw construction begin for Central Baptist in 1958 at 29 Del Mar Circle, the Church of Christ at 802 Quari and St. Stephen Protomartyr at 1 Del Mar Circle. Dr. H. Sol Cersonsky of 1221 Salem led the efforts to organize a Jewish community center.

### Culture

There was activity in all directions. Girl and boy scout troops were formed. Residents joined the Aurora Drama Club and supported the Denver Symphony with morning coffees. Hostesses, among many, were Mrs. Clay Nelson, Mrs. Ed Grout and Mrs. Al Ryan.

### Tree Planting

In February of 1954, Stan Swanson of 1244 Quari wrote an editorial in the *Hoffman Heights Mirror*, pointing out the need for a tree planting program in Hoffman Heights. The idea was a popular one, and today the results can be admired.

### Last home—February 11, 1954

A little less than three years after the first house was built, the Carl J. Wolf family moved into their home at 13214 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Theirs was the last home to be built in the Hoffman Heights Project.

A total of 1705 homes had been constructed, representing about 7000 residents. In all, 940 deluxe brick homes had been built, 505 economy, 210 cosmopolitan bricks, and two 4-bedroom homes.



original brick home

economy home

pictures courtesy of Aurora History Museum

### D.U. Studies Hoffman Heights

As early as 1951, the need for some form of government had been seen. A study had been made of Hoffman Heights by the Denver University Department of Government Management. No formal decision was made, and the HH Association continued to handle affairs.

In October 1952, residents voted at a meeting to begin incorporation proceedings as a **second-class town**. A vote was to have been held in the spring of 1953.

The HH Association issued a statement in April of 1954: "Adequate government requires more than limited functions of our fire, water, and sewer districts, and the various functions of services or Arapahoe County, splendid as they have been.

Voluntary cooperative efforts have done much and may well be a source of pride to all of us. The time has come in the growth of the community when the needs of the people require more than a mere voluntary effort can supply.

We see a need for full-time officials. We support a study that will give a realistic and impartial approach. We wish to resolve the question of a form of government."

### C.U. Report

The HH Association had underwritten the cost of a study by the Colorado University Bureau of State & Community Service. Comparisons were to be made of the advantages of incorporation a metropolitan district, or annexation to Aurora.

Cost of services were compared, such as water, fire and police protection, courts, parks, recreation facilities, libraries, street maintenance, snow removal, storm drainage, etc. Cost and revenues were compared under incorporation or as a part of Aurora.

The report in June 1954 made these conclusions: "Annexation to Aurora seems to provide the best choice." By annexing, HH could join an already existing government and benefit from central administrative or "overhead" services and the capital investments of Aurora. Annexation promises the highest level of services for the tax dollar, but with the loss of local autonomy in government.

Incorporation would have the satisfactions of local self-government, but with a lower level of services and high taxes upon residential property."

Dismayed proponents of incorporation angrily challenged the validity of the study, charging that the study included statistics that were not appropriate and did not consider HH unique costs for water, sewer, and fire protection. The impartiality of the study did not appear to cool down the issue.

### Committee for Incorporation

As mentioned previously, the lines of opposition were drawn. A committee for incorporation, headed by Frank Duncanson, was formed in July 1954. Events began to move quickly. Petitions were taken from door-to-door, asking residents in favor to sign for incorporation.

Other petitions were circulated, asking for annexation to Aurora. A counter-petition was then carried asking for signatures against annexation. Some residents became

confused or changed their minds and signed more than one petition. The validity of the signatures later was hotly contested by all concerned.

A petition for incorporation was filed July 12, 1954 with the Arapahoe County Court. It is not apparent whether this petition was accepted. No election was held.

Leaders in the petition contest were: Russel J. Smith for annexation and Harold Honor against annexation.

#### **Aurora Accepts Petition**

August 23, 1954, the Aurora City Council accepted an amended annexation petition, with Councilman Jim McKee voting against it. He was not convinced that an overwhelming majority of the HH residents wanted to annex. The petition had been amended by deleting the shopping center.

George Bonham, chairman of the counter-petition against annexation, then presented his 1421 signatures and asked Council to hold an election to allow residents to decide.

#### **Signatures Disputed**

City Attorney Leslie Gifford examined the signatures on all the petitions and ruled that the petition against annexation was invalid, since it fell short by 24 names of the required number. The petition for annexation was then accepted. On October 19, 1954, Council annexed Hoffman Heights and no election was held for the residents.

#### **Taxpayers League**

Controversy did not end with annexation. A taxpayers league was formed, with Frank Duncanson, president; and Ed O'Donoghue, treasurer. Funds were raised to challenge the annexation. Suit was filed December 18, 1954, with plaintiffs being George Bonham, Robert W. James, C. G. Yiannikis, and Walter A. Carey.

The HH Association attempted to remain neutral, for it felt that the Association should follow the wishes of the residents. However, election of officers often involved candidates' platforms on annexation.

Aurora hired a Denver attorney mas Melville to defend the city in Arapahoe County Court. The validity of the petition signatures was again considered. The Court issued 50 subpoenas for residents to appear with deeds to prove that certain signatures were illegal.

Melville argues and the Court agreed that it had no right to upset or set aside findings of the Aurora City Council and that Council had acted in good faith.

#### **City Services Begin**

Aurora had begun city services on November 1, 1954 to HH homes. Police cars began patrols in the area, street cleaning began and the city agreed to assume responsibility for street lighting and to begin garbage pick-up when contracts were completed.

#### **Supreme Court Test**

September 8, 1955 a record of the annexation was filed with the Clerk of the Colorado Supreme Court by C. J. Berardini, attorney for the Taxpayers League.

HH residents were encouraged in the spring of 1956 to pay their taxes under protest while waiting for the Supreme

Court decision.

In March of 1956 the Court ruled that the County Court transcript had been entered late and the Court refused to consider the evidence. Annexation was final. Hoffman Heights became a valuable addition to Aurora.

This has been a very brief summary of what was a complicated court process.

#### **After Annexation**

The people of Hoffman Heights continued to work for a better community. The park was seeded in June of 1955, and it was not until May 1956 that ownership of the park site was transferred to the city. By this time residents felt that the City could maintain the park and carry out the plans as they had drawn them.

The HH fire department also continued to answer fire calls. The Aurora city budget now included the salary for one paid fireman on duty 24 hours a day at the Hoffman Heights station.



Hoffman Heights Fire truck photo courtesy of Aurora History Museum

The controversial question of who would be in charge of fires was resolved in April 1956. In the absence of Chief George Moorhead or Assistant Chief Bill Hawkins of the Aurora Fire Department, the HH officers were in charge.

Twenty-three years have gone by since the annexation (66 now). Hoffman Heights residents have made many contributions to Aurora and have become an integral part of the community.

Determined not to lose their voice in local government, HH voters supported the successful election of Aurora City Council T.C. (Chappie Cook) and Robert Fenning, HH resident. Many others were appointed to city commissions.

Robert Boggs, who was against annexation to Aurora, considered what his reaction would be to the question in 1977. "I would probably favor annexing to Aurora now, knowing what I do about the problems of being unincorporated and also problems of being a small town without a tax base." Hindsight can change attitudes.

The importance of community identity and neighborhood cooperation is recognized by this city, and neighborhood groups are being organized through the Aurora Planning Department. The Northwest Aurora and Northeast Aurora Neighborhood Organizations have begun activities that may improve communication between residents and city services. At this time, Sherry Kahn-McMullan, Aurora neighborhood planner, is assisting in the organization of Hoffman Heights residents. There is a heritage in this "greatest square mile" to build on. Perhaps there will be a new chapter in this story of Hoffman Heights. Annabelle Dunning  
(This article was written with information obtained from the *Hoffman Heights Mirror*, Jan 1954-May 1956, loaned

by Anthony Ferraro, and conversations with Robert Boggs and Michael Dichter and many others.)

{Side note: Today in 2017 Hoffman Heights seems to be undergoing a new resurgence with the influx of workers to the new Anschutz- Fitzsimons Medical Campus. I think a new chapter is beginning for Hoffman Heights.}

**STILL... YOUR BEST BUY**

**only \$1250 DOWN**  
G. I.

FHA \$2,650 DOWN (Approx.) \$86 Mo.  
\$12,450 Total Monthly (Approx.)  
3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bath, 1,421 Sq. Ft.  
Brick Veneer Construction  
Ceramic Tile in Kitchen and Bath  
Applied Tile Floors Throughout

**DE LUXE HOME**

**only \$550 DOWN**  
G. I.

FHA \$1,250 DOWN (Approx.) \$61 Mo.  
\$9,250 Total Monthly (Approx.)  
2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 1,025 Sq. Ft.  
Cedar Siding, Siding, Concrete Walk and Steps to Entries  
Applied Tile Floors Throughout

**THE ECONOMY HOME**

**PLUS**

Paved Streets, Curbs and Sidewalks  
Steel Casement Sash  
Copper Lifetime Plumbing  
Automatic Hot Water Heater  
Fully Insulated

Choice of Color Selection  
Plenty of Kitchen Cabinets  
Thermostatic Heat Control  
City of Denver Water and Sewerage  
Incinerator and Clothes Poles

**HOFFMAN HOMES**  
MODEL: 850 and 876 PEORIA STREET  
HOMES: OPEN 9 TIL 9 WEEKDAYS, SAT. 9 TIL 6

Picture courtesy of Aurora History Museum

The other memory is of trick or treating on Halloween night. Our parents turned us loose for a certain time and off we went to ring doorbells and get candy. There were lots of kids in their costumes, and every house was available for treats. One house had a grown-up dressed up like a monster who came flying around from the back of the house and scared us all. We must have known about how far we could go in our neighborhood before heading home, where our parents carefully inspected the contents of our haul. One year my brother and I found money in our sacks, with mom and dad wondering which neighbor was giving out money. A confession from a friend who was visiting solved that question. He had slipped it in our sacks.



Later in high school it was homecoming bonfires and snake dances down Peoria and Colfax.

I think these scenes played out in towns and cities all over America during this era. It is hard sometimes not to miss the good old days, but time marches on and times change.

**Aurora History Museum Exhibits & Events**

Fall 2017

**PROGRAMS**

**Polynesian Arts and Culture Days**

Dec. 16, Jan 20, Feb 17

11:30am-3:30pm

Drop in activities include hula dancing, talk story & ukulele lessons.

**Historic Sites**

**Holidays on the Farm**

Sat & Sun Dec. 2 & 3 10am-2pm

DeLaney Farm Historic District

Celebrate the holidays in the 1930's with a glimpse into Aurora's past. Enjoy free tour, hot chocolate & cookies.

**Victorian Open House**

Centennial House 1671 Galena St.

Sat & Sun, Dec 9 & 10

11-2pm

Celebrate the holidays with a glimpse into Aurora's past. Enjoy free tours, tea & cookies. Co-hosted by the Aurora Historical Society.

**Stanley Marketplace History Tours**



**GROWING UP IN AURORA**

By Carolyn Brassell

I grew up in Aurora in the 50s and 60s. Vaughn Elementary was my grade school, and every fall an important event

took place – the annual school carnival! It was a fund raiser, I think for the PTA. Every school room was assigned a game or activity to sponsor. It was exciting to have your teacher announce what your room was going to do. Tickets were sold, and each game/activity took a certain number of tickets. The auditorium had a “fishing pond” and a white elephant bazaar. The basement of the school was turned into a walk-through haunted house, and it was scary! I can't remember what all the games were, but one activity was fortune telling, but the coveted one was the cake walk. Cakes were decorated and donated, then the game was musical chairs with the winner getting their choice of a cake. I think that took more tickets than the other activities, but the parents certainly wanted you to win a cake!



Don't miss your opportunity to learn the unique & eccentric stories hidden in this community-focused marketplace & historic landmark. Dates, Themes, & times vary.

**MUSEUM FOUNDATION**

**Sponsor a Wreath**

The Aurora Museum Foundation's annual "Festival of Wreaths" raises funds to support exhibits and education programs. Visit our website or call 303.739.6660 to learn more about sponsoring a wreath.



**BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES**

**Wednesday Noon – 1:00 \$4 (\$3 resident) Aurora Historical Society members: Free Bring your lunch**

**Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA)**

**Nov. 15**

As Executive Director of the CCIA and Ute Mountain Ute tribal member, Ernest House facilitates communication between the Southern Ute Indian and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribes and other American Indian organizations, state agencies and affiliated groups.

**Letters to Ann: The Korean War 1950-1951**

**Dec. 20**

Editor Ann Marie discusses her book featuring letters from Capt. John F. Hughes to his daughter during the Korean War.

**Gosham Carmel**

**Jan 17**

Freelance photographer & filmmaker Goshen Carmel discusses his work & participation with *Picture Me Here*, a storytelling program for refugees, immigrants & others who have been displaced.

**460<sup>th</sup> Space Wing**

**Feb 21**

A speaker from Buckley Air Force Base talks about the mission of the 460<sup>th</sup> Space Wing & how this unit protects America & its allies with satellite-based infrared sensors.

**EXHIBITS**

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Wreaths**

**Nov. 14 – Dec. 8**

See festive wreaths sponsored and beautifully decorated by local businesses, organizations and individuals. Organized as an annual fundraiser for the Aurora Museum Foundation, each wreath is sold through an online auction. Proceeds support exhibits and educational programs. To sponsor a wreath, call 303.739.6660.

**Wings to Satellites: A History of Buckley Air Force Base**

**Opens November 21 – June 3**

From its early days as a technical training school and bombing range for Lowry Field, to its current role in providing the nation with strategic missile warning defense, Buckley has been a ubiquitous feature of Aurora for nearly 80 years.

**US Route 40 & the American Road Trip**

**Dec 12- Mar 4**

Grab a bite to eat, fill up the tank & take a trip through the history of the motels, restaurants & gas stations that lined Colfax Avenue since the rise of the automobile & the American road trip.

**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](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)**