

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 40; Number 1; January 2016

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

President letter January, 2016

A very Happy New Year to you all!

We had some great meetings last year and we are hoping for the same this year. It's hard to believe 2016 has begun. We are heavily into the planning process right now. We have heard from several members that they no longer enjoy driving at night so we are still trying to come up with some interesting venues at other times during the day and on weekends, we really would love to have everyone enjoy their memberships.

Our upcoming annual meeting and potluck will be at Parkview Congregational Church, 1244 E. Parkview Drive beginning at 6:00pm. Please bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Mark Shaker from Stanley, and he will bring us up to date on all the happenings there right now and talk about the history of the old Stanley Aviation, which was a huge part of the history of the area.

The Aurora Historical Society, in partnership with the City of Aurora, will help celebrate Aurora's 125th birthday with a cake cutting in the Aurora Municipal Center the end of April. Stay tuned for more information on all the events planned to help celebrate.

We are planning a tour of Riverside Cemetery later in the summer- what a wealth of fascinating stories there. The date will be announced shortly so you can put it on your calendar.

Again thank you to Jennifer Kuehner and the staff at the Aurora History Museum for a great working relationship.

See you all at the annual meeting.

Sandy Sweeney, President Aurora Historical Society.



Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting
January 26, 2016 at 6:00PM
Parkview Congregational Church
124 E. Parkview Drive

Speaker: Mark Shaker to tell us the history of the old Stanley Aviation and the renewal of the building
Please bring a dish to share

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



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:

Education:

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



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 Historian

As I'm writing this it is just a few weeks before Christmas. When I think of Christmases past, I remember all the huge toy catalogs that my parents would pick up at the big department stores (Montgomery Wards, JC Penny, etc.). They were a young child's fantasy dream land come true. The hours I'd spend thumbing through the pages and imagining all the toys I'd get come Christmas morning, almost none of which actually came to fruition (even though I'd circled what I wanted so my parents could see without any effort on their part). But right after the disappointment, the dreaming for next year started up. That catalog didn't get thrown away until next years was available.

But this is supposed to be about remembering Aurora. Thoughts of the dream catalog reminded me about another dream catalog that was available all year long and didn't depend on Christmas – the S&H Green Stamp catalog. As a boy growing up in the 1960's my mother would take my grocery shopping with her most of the time. As I recall most of our shopping was done at Miller's Super Market. And to keep me occupied, I would get certain duties. One of them was operating a hand held, manually operated, money counter. As she would pick things up from the shelf she'd tell me the price and I'd click the buttons and watch the amount that she had spent so she could stay within her budget. And at the end of the shopping as we'd check out, (remember the manual cash registers and how fast those clerks could hit the buttons and the enter button. Man their fingers flew. I wonder what their accuracy rate was?) we'd be presented with some S&H Green Stamps. As soon as we got home I got to lick those stamps and put them in the S&H Green Stamp book. And then I would count up the completed and partially completed books, pull out the S&H Green Stamp catalog and dream of what my parents were going to get for me. Of course, the selection wasn't big but there were bicycles and transistor radios and sports equipment. Funny, I don't remember ever getting anything when Mom redeemed the stamps.



A little information about S&H Green Stamps - They were operated by Sperry & Hutchinson Company, which was founded in 1896. The stamps were popular from the 1930's to the 1960's. There were 50 pts per page in a book and each book had 24 pages. You could redeem your stamps through the catalog or at a Green Stamps store.

"Remember When..... Bertis Lafayette Jordan

Aurora Police Judge and Adams County Justice of the Peace 1944-1966

This article was written by Gladys Metcalf and appeared in the November AHS Advocate in 1979. We have found many of these articles interesting and worth another look. So we will be reprinting some in this and future newsletters.

Living in the late Victorian house and in one of the first homes built in Aurora is B. L. Jordan, who was an Aurora police judge for 22 years.

This home on Chester Street is constructed of brick and is one and one-half stories with a gabled roof and a veranda or porch on the

front of it. The walls are three bricks thick, according to Mr. Jordan, who discovered this fact when putting some vents into the walls. The second story bay window was removed in 1979.

This land was originally owned by the Colfax Trust Company, who sold the land to the Aurora Land Company in 1892.

There are many similar brick house on Dallas, Chester, and Clinton Streets. This area was developed along with Galena (Hathaway) Street by the Colfax Trust Company and later the Aurora Land Company, who wished to entice people to settle in the Aurora Subdivision, and early subdivision of the town of Fletcher.

Tuberculosis

Bertis is Mr. Jordan's first name, but most people call him, "Bert." He came to Camp Fitzsimons in August of 1921 from the state of Arkansas. This young man had been discharged from the Navy, and his health problem had been diagnosed as tuberculosis.

"There was no cure for this disease other than rest," said Mr. Jordan, "and good food supposedly, if you could get it through the Army."

Mr. Jordan was in several of the hospital wards, but finally was treated in the heliotherapy ward. A Colonel Bruns, who had brought the idea from Switzerland, developed a method of sun treatment. It exposed the body to the sun's rays "directly or indirectly, but mostly directly, summer and winter." The method was experimental. Those who had tuberculosis of the spine were helped a great deal. Those that had chest TB had their chests exposed to the direct sun for certain periods of time. Within the year, all six men who had taken part in the chest experiment were dead. Apparently it was bad to expose the chest to the sun but the other parts of the body it was beneficial.

In the heliotherapy ward men were housed on porches which were not even screened. They were put into stalls and stayed there, summer and winter. The weather, Mr. Jordan believes, was as cold then as now. The patients would go to bed and take a couple of hot water bottles with them. By one or two o'clock in the morning the water bottles were lumps of ice; so the men would kick them out of the bed. When the bottles hit the floor they bounced! They were solid ice by that time. The men had so many blankets covering them they could hardly turn over in bed.

At that time, Fitzsimons General Hospital was primarily a tuberculosis facility. Mr. Jordan remembers that the men were dying there at the rate of 700 to 800 a year. Many men who had returned from World War I didn't discover their disabilities until they were too sick for any hospital to help them.

The dreaded disease had two causes, according to Mr. Jordan, exposure and Spanish Flu. Exposure to the weather had taken place during field maneuvers and on the combat fields of World War I. At that time no immunity to flu had been built up in the people. Many service men died or were weakened by Spanish flu, the name given to that particular flu it was following the Spanish flu that Jr. Jordan had contracted a disease that was finally diagnosed as tuberculosis.

In his memory, he still hears the pheasants in the alfalfa field in front of the hospital crowing at five o'clock in the morning, and the coyotes, in what later became Morris Heights, north of the hospital howling in the night.

After his dismissal from Fitzsimons, Mr. Jordan came to his present home. His parents, John and Camilla Jordan, had purchased this home on Chester Street when they came from Arkansas to be near their son, who was their only child.

Four years later, Mr. Jordan married "a girl by the name of Jordan, as strange as it may seem, Virginia Jordan, who was a Lt. Colonel in the Nurses Corps." They had two children, a daughter, Leeberta, who was married to Alton Vickers and lived in Dallas, Texas; and a son, and

Ralph, who was married to Sharon Stewart and lived in Aurora. Ralph Sharon also had two children: Shelley and Kirk. Ralph was in charge of the high school Students at the Aurora Public Schools Technical Center. (Pickens Tech today).

Before Mr. Jordan became a police judge, he played that part of an invalid and did not work. Men who had tuberculosis were never really completely cured of it because the disease was very hard to shake; there wasn't a definite cure for it. During this time, he took care of his health and lived on his government pension.

Career Begins – 1944

An appointment as police judge by the City Council in 1944 began a career of 22 years in government service. A. O. Hill was the City's mayor. Mr. Jordan then served under several mayors: B. T. Howard, 1945; Chester E. Tupps, 1948; William Mansfield, 1953; Allen Bradley, 1955; Henry Allard, 1959; Robert Fennig, 1963; Norma Walker, 1965; and Paul Beck, 1967.

As police judge, Mr. Jordan's jurisdiction was limited to enforcing the ordinances of the City of Aurora. He had no jurisdiction in the way of Colorado State law.



Aurora Mayors

Having served under nine mayors, Mr. Jordan felt that two of Aurora's mayors had especially contributed to Aurora's progress. The first one, Mayor Chester Tupps, had knowledge of heavy machinery and knew where it could be purchased. Even if the City had to buy used machinery, "Chet" knew the probable life of a piece of equipment. Up to that time, Aurora was far behind in maintaining its streets. Most of them were "pure dust" except for Colfax Avenue which had been paved.

The second one was Mayor Norma Walker. She put Aurora on the map by being able to communicate with the City of Denver, a rather difficult task in those days. She was able to obtain consideration for combining Denver's and Aurora's sewer systems. Later the people voted affirmatively on the proposition. Out of this beginning, the Metropolitan Sewage Disposal District was formed. She certainly was influential in the formation of this district.

Charter Convention

While he was police judge, an important event in the history of City government occurred. Judge Jordan swore in the members of the charter convention which met in 1961. They were **Glenn C. Leader, Jr., Chairman; Henry Allard, Harry Booker, Allen Bradley, Jay Chaplin, Kenneth Dunbar, Clell Hardee, Joseph Harris, Bryan Hefley, Marion Hutchinson, Shirley Jorgensen, D. Kingman, James Larsh, William Mansfield, Orville Schister, Joe Spagnola, Robert Soderberg, Dorothy Turkowski, Norma Walker, J. Tracy Whitaker, and Carl Zeiger.**

When Mr. Jordan first came to the town of Aurora in the twenties, it was not the “Roaring Twenties” town as depicted in history books. Rather, it was a sad town with the water debt hanging over it.

Aurora never had enough money to do anything. There was little street maintenance of any kind. The town did not even pay wages that amounted to anything. This condition also existed in the thirties.

No Money

Aurora was a small scattered town. It was limited; the Town ran from Yosemite Street to Fitzsimons at Peoria and from where Stapleton Airport was to 6th Avenue---the original boundaries of the city.

Quite a bit of tax monies was taken out of the city due to the fact that Aurora wasn't furnishing some portions of the city with services of any kind. These portions would petition the District courts in Arapahoe and Adams Counties to be segregated from Aurora so that they wouldn't have to pay any taxes. The procedure was standard. It allowed areas to secede or segregate from Aurora as it stood at the time. One such area ran from 14th Avenue to 6th Avenue. Most of these areas were in Arapahoe County.

In the twenties and most of the thirties, Colfax Avenue had paving in the center of it only. Trolley tracks ran on the south side of the paving as far east as Geneva Street. The north side of the paved strip was dirt. The trolley line which turned around at Geneva Street gave service to residents of Galena and Geneva Streets, which were settled with homes.

Jitney Service

To supplement trolley transportation, jitneys ran to Fitzsimons General Hospital. A “Jitney” was slang for five cents, the original fare of the service. Mr. Jordan, however, paid 15 cents when he made his trips to Fitzsimons in one of those Model T Fords. Fifteen to twenty jitneys were then being run.



When Fitzsimons Hospital was first built, the access road was still dirt and therefore at times impassable. It was a long walk to Aurora. As a result, a line of jitney buses was formed to transport staff and patients to town. There the trolley could take them to downtown Denver if they wished. (Courtesy Aurora History Museum.)

Coming from Denver, patients or persons wanting transportation to the hospital would get off the trolley at Dayton Street. There was a pool hall there where the passengers would congregate until the line of jitneys came in. Then everyone would pile in the Model T's for the ride to Fitzsimons.

The area west of Havana Street is the oldest part of Aurora and is designated on the early maps as Aurora Subdivision. As the Town began to expand, New England Heights first filing and New England Heights second filing are to be found. Those areas platted the Town to about Peoria Street, north of Colfax.

The building of Fitzsimons General Hospital in 1918 has some affect on the growth of Aurora. The hospital created some jobs; however, some of the workers lived on the Post and quite a few came from Denver.

Aurora – a Dead Horse?

A person, however, was considered as “silly” if he bought property in Aurora and paid for the “old dead horse.” (The water bonds were settled in 1917 for nearly \$431,000.00, which had to be paid by taxation until 1942). The Town was terrifically handicapped until it got rid of that water bonds problem. The challenge was to get enough people to move to Aurora to help pay the taxes “so it would not hurt so bad.” There was never enough money to maintain the streets or to pay for “anything that amounted to anything.”

During the Depression in the 1930's, the people of Aurora lived on W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) just like the rest of the country. There were few jobs. Aurorans were just as bad off as everyone else, if not worse, according to Mr. Jordan.

Aurora's problems in the forties

“The town felt it was doing fine,” said Mr. Jordan. The water bonds had been paid off, and Aurora could buy a little machinery to maintain the roads. The Town Was even recognized by “people who never knew it really existed.” By that statement Mr. Jordan meant primarily that the newspapers, the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*, were beginning to carry more news about Aurora.

Lowry Air Field had quite a lot to do with the growth of Aurora because the men stationed there liked the general area, enjoyed the climate and all that went with it. Quite a few men came back to this area or even stayed here after they were discharged from the service. Lowry was begun in 1937 and was added to during the forties.

Zoning – New in 1943

Zoning and building codes were new ideas that Mr. Jordan had to contend with as police judge. The old timers felt that if they owned a piece of ground they could do whatever they wanted with it. When the City of Aurora tried to stop them, it had a problem on its hands.

Citing an example that happened in the forties, Mr. Jordan told this story: Where North Junior High School is now located, a man wanted to build some horse barns. His idea was to have horses to rent to people at Fitzsimons. Of course, he was stopped because it was zoned for residences. Every time the City turned its back, he would start to build again. It took a couple of years to stop him. The case was finally transferred into the District Court before he quit trying to build barns at that location.

At that time there was a row of business houses between the old Highline Ditch lateral and Peoria Street, just north of Montview, which was patronized by patients from Fitzsimons. There was a restaurant or two and a pool hall. All were torn down many years ago. Then the Highline Canal, ran parallel to Peoria Street for three or four blocks before angling to the west. It doesn't exist anymore; it was filled in.

Trees and Spaces

In the forties there were few homes in the area except on Geneva and Glenside Streets. From Havana Street east there were alfalfa or various types of fields. There were only three farm houses between Havana and Fitzsimons on Montview Boulevard.

This whole area was farm land which was under irrigation. Along the ditch banks were “worlds” of cottonwood trees. Someone had come into the area with the idea of developing it or else had bought it or had taken title to it in some manner and had cut all the trees down---hundreds of trees. This hadn't happened

Just along the Highline but also along the branches or laterals that ran off the Highline in the area.

Business Buildings

When Mr. Jordan first moved to Chester Street in the middle twenties. There were about two and one-half blocks of business on Colfax Avenue extending west from Dayton Street. Most of this business was on the north side. There were only one or two businesses on the south side. Most of them were small grocery stores, a hardware and businesses of that nature. Believe it or not, there was a dry goods store, the Sunlight Shop run by the Blaisdell sisters!

Mr. Jordan had never been inside Munn's Hotel at Beeler Street and Colfax Avenue (later known as the Cottonwood Motel.) It was old then, but through the years it has been renovated and additions were made to it.

Another building that Mr. Jordan had never been inside of was the Novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy. This large building stood between Dallas and Dayton Streets on 14th Avenue. It was part of the Mt. Mercy Addition.

Since Denver stores were so much larger and better, most people coming into Aurora from the farms around it went on to Denver to do their shopping. In Aurora shopping was mostly for groceries. This was about the time that the building which housed the Piggly Wiggly, a large grocery, was being developed. The location is where "Lefty Martin" later had an appliance store. Aurorans felt that they were really getting something.



A woman by the name of Rose King, who had lived in Aurora a long time, built it. The house where Mrs. King lived on the southeast corner of Dayton Street and 14th Avenue was still there when the original interview of Mr. Jordan took place. He had lost track of Mrs. King, but then she appeared in his court with a parking ticket. She started to talk about old times. Mr. Jordan said she had married very well; it was evident, "her diamond would make a headlight for a locomotive." She also dressed very well.

Mrs. King had quite a time constructing that building. Needing money to finish the structure, she had gone to Midland Savings to borrow it. The bank asked her where the building was located. After telling them, the officials told her that they were "not loaning a dime for building anything in Aurora." It was a dead issue as far as the bank was concerned. Mrs. King shopped

around until she finally obtained some money. Then she went back to Midland Savings where she got the rest of the money. Mr. Jordan felt that the Chapins (Lucy and Jay owned the lumber yard) had helped her. Mrs. King was able to finish the building which she later sold. She was disappointed that she had not held on for a few more years because it would have been more valuable.

What few pieces in the way of lumber that Mr. Jordan needed, he purchased from Chapin Lumber Company. For a long time, it was the only lumber yard in Aurora. Finally, another one opened for business on Boston Street.

The Chapins actually were the bankers in Aurora after the only bank closed its doors in 1933 during the Depression. The only place that a person could borrow any money was from Lucy Chapin. Most Aurorans, according to Mr. Jordan, needed to borrow some at one time or another. Lucy never lost any money because she kept close track of those who borrowed from her. For a time, the Chapins, therefore, were in two businesses: lumber and banking.

Robbery!!!!

Excitement ran high one day in the mid-twenties. The only robbery that Mr. Jordan knows anything about occurred then.

Everyone around at the time, knew that the four robbers didn't get any money because there was too much confusion. They thought everyone in Town knew about them because the siren that banker T. F. Gilligan set off was exactly the same tone and type and volume as the one that the Volunteer Fire Department had. Aurorans didn't even know that Mr. Gilligan had a siren in the bank, The First National Bank of Aurora.

The public was coming to see the fire, for it was a big event in those days. The robbers thought that everyone was coming after them; so they started firing right away. This was one attempted robbery where there was much shooting.

Nobody really knew what was happening. In those days the cage was located near the ceiling in banks. An old man, who was an ex-marshall by the name of Gunther, was inside the bank. One of the robbers went into the bank, Mr. Gunther caught the man around the waist from the back. He gave him a bear hug and was going to hold him, but the robber moved his gun around and shot Mr. Gunther through the abdomen. He lived about a year following the shooting.

Right next to the bank was a pool hall. Like all small towns in that day there was a bench for the loafers to sit on while they did their whittling. Some of them were sitting there that day. Among them was Dick Davis, who said that he was the second white child born in Colorado. The center doors to the building were recesses. The men were laughing Mr. Davis because he was trying to get into the building, but he was on the hinge side and couldn't find the door handle. He scratched all the paint off the door trying to find the way inside.

Mr. Jordan was told that a man by the name of Dwyer or Geyer, the pharmacist in the drug store that was on the northeast corner or Dayton and Colfax (The big corner in Aurora at that time) looked out the side door of the drug store and realized what was going on. The pharmacist got his gun, aimed at one of the robbers, but the gun just snapped. The gun had always been kept loaded, but the owner's son and E. T. Murphy's son, Ted had taken the gun to practice target shooting, following which they had failed to clean and reload it.

The robbers jumped into their car and shot at some people across the street. Alex Lacewell, the substitute marshal, who was also across the street, realized what was happening. He started toward them. The robbers saw him; so they began firing at him. Mr. Lacewell ducked behind a car, an old Model T, which soon had some bullet holes in it. Mr. Lacewell wasn't hit.

The men who attempted the robbery started west on Colfax

Avenue. The building to house Day Chevrolet was under construction at that time. The roof was being put on. The man who was putting on the sheeting threw a hammer at them, hit the car and broke a window. The robbers then broke out the rest of the windows of the car and poked their rifles out of them. Thinking the hammer had come from downstairs rather than the roof, they sprayed the building with bullets. At that time the men were shooting at anything.

Ed Dalberg, a good friend of Mr. Jordan's, had a filling station at the corner of Clinton Street and Colfax Avenue on the north side. He was sitting under a truck bed examining a tire when the robbers shot him in the forearm, shattering all the bones in it. He never fully recovered.

In the next block Joe Elder, who had the battery shop, was crossing the street to go home. One of the robbers held his pistol within a foot of Mr. Elder pointing the gun at his stomach. The robber fired; the gun was empty.

Before the old bank building was renovated, there were bullet holes like pock marks. Even the barber pole in the front of the barber's had bullet holes in it. In addition to those injured, one old man was killed. He had been in Aurora about a year and one-half, but was a stranger to most Aurorans.

After leaving Town the robbers stayed in a coulee, a steep, trench-like ditch, on the bombing range southeast of Town. A rancher who hauled mild and cream, knew they were there, but he said nothing because he was afraid of them. When they were out of Aurora, in those days, they were pretty free to go wherever they wanted to go.

Later the Town heard that the robbers were cornered in a corn field in Ohio. The people there didn't surrender them they killed the men. The Ohioans felt confident it was the same group that had attempted to hold up the bank in Aurora because the description of the car fit the one used by the robbers in Aurora.

Times Change

His years as police judge started out with only a few cases. A little traffic, a few bar disturbances, and things of that nature, but as time went by and the City grew his biggest headache was dog cases. People would move to Aurora with a pack of dogs, and felt that they didn't have to control them. They would just turn the dogs loose.

More fights between people over dogs resulted in court cases that in any one other matter to come before the court. For example, in one case there were 25 people who had chosen one side and 25 people who had chosen the other side, and all wanted to testify in court. "People got very emotional concerning dogs," concluded Mr. Jordan.

Dog catchers were hired to catch the dogs running at large. They would ticket the owner, if they could find him, but too often he would say that the dog was a stray and he was only feeding it a little bit.

In the early days, animals running at large was a real problem. Finally, the chickens were forbidden, then the hogs, and then there were only a few cows and a few horses, but lots of dogs! When the Town was small there was much land for the dogs to roam, but as the Town began to fill in, the dogs became a nuisance, and the dog problem became worse!

Marrying Judge

At the time Mr. Jordan retired in the sixties, there were 75,000 to 80,000 people here; so there were various kinds of cases.

Mr. Jordan was not only a police judge, but he was also a

marriage vows before him. At one time there was a real rush on. Soldiers were being discharged from Lowry Air Field after World War II. Girls were coming from all over the United States, and as the soldiers were being handed their discharge papers, the girl friends were giving them some more papers---marriage licenses, which they had obtained at the courthouses. Couples were going to Justices of the peace all over the area.

Mr. Jordan's wife, Virginia, was quite religious and didn't like this way of being married: therefore, he never married anyone at home.

Alley Office

Couples wishing to be married had to find his office, which was located at the intersection of two alleys back of the businesses between Dallas and Clinton Streets. That is where the court room was for many years. Prior to that time, the police and Mr. Jordan worked together at the same desk that was in the front of the building. There were only eight to ten policemen: by the time that number was divided into two or three shifts, it was a really small operation. But, as time went by and the City grew, more room was needed and he moved into the alley next to the Volunteer Fire Department.

The jail on Dallas Street was so primitive, "It was a monkey cage," said Mr. Jordan. No more than two people could be put into it at one time. The jail was used to keep prisoners overnight. When daylight came, they were taken to the Adams County Jail in Brighton. Any policemen on duty was in charge of the jail. There was a restaurant around the corner where the police would take the prisoners for their meals, mostly sandwiches. There were two bunks, a lower one and an upper one.

From Dallas Street the police department and the court moved to 16th Avenue and Elmira Street in 1955. Everyone rattled around in the large space, but it was not too long before it was too small, and the City purchased the Emporia Building to increase space for City facilities.

In 1966 Mr. Jordan retired. He can hardly believe it but he was never defeated in an election nor did he ever refuse an appointment. Although he held the two offices at the same time, there was no conflict of any kind. Any kind of case could be filed in the justice of the peace court in those days. He handled State Patrol cases, Game and Fish Cases, civil cases, small thefts, etc. In the last two or three years of his career as police judge, Mr. Jordan did not run for the office of justice of the peace. He saw the writing on the wall. The justice of the peace system was being eliminated and is now no longer in use.

In 1944 his pay as police judge was \$50.00 a month, and was he ever glad to get it! His job as justice of the peace helped with finances. Since each term was two years, he ran nine times for the office in Adams County. Another of Aurora's citizens who had been prominent in its history, Pauline Lincoln, was Justice of the Peace during one of Mr. Jordan's terms.

There was real serious crime during Mr. Jordan's service, but it was not because Aurora was a suburb of Denver. Crimes included a general run of crimes such as burglaries and even murder. Before Mr. Jordan retired, however, criminals from Denver were beginning to drift out to Aurora.

Early Days

When the Jordans first came to Aurora, they attended church in the basement of the Aurora Christian Church. During the Depression the church held suppers to make a little extra money.

In those days, no one could afford anything more than baked beans. The gauge for how everyone was getting along financially was the number of strips of bacon across the bowl of beans. Some had one, some had two, and if there were three or four, that meant that the family was doing all right.

There were two William Smiths in Aurora. William Final Smith lived on the corner of Clinton Street and had been in Fitzsimons when Mr. Jordan was. The other William Smith, who had a farm south of 6th Avenue, was a

good farmer. The northeast corner of his land at 6th Avenue and Highline Canal, was the best pheasant hunting land that ny man might want.

Early day Aurora consisted mostly of farmers and patients from Fitzsimons and their families. Mostly Alfalfa and wheat were raised on the farms around Aurora. While there was very little corn, sugar beets was one of the main crops. There were many dairies as well as chicken farms. There were also two fox farms, Doerfler's and one other. Pete Glaiser farmed what is now the east end of Lowry Air Field. Alice and Jim chambers lived where Windsor Gardens is now and managed the Windsor dairies.

Stapleton Grows

Aurora homes were build before Stapleton Airport was expanded. In the beginning the air field was very small. Mr. Jordan used to take his children to the air shows when they were little. At that time there were no cross-country planes; there were just barnstormers. Rides were \$5.00 for 5 minutes.

Brown Canon had had his dairy where Stapleton Airport was built. He sold the land called Brown Cannon's Sand Hills to Denver. The airport had been located at Colorado Boulevard; so the *Denver Post* chided the City of Denver for quitting a good place to come out to Brown Canon's Sand Hills.

Aurorans felt that the airport would never be expanded beyond Dayton Street. Homes had been build north to the about 25th Street. Mr. Jordan used to drive to Brighten on Dayton Street, which then ran through what became the Airport and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

Aurora History Museum Exhibits & Events

Jan. – Mar. 2016

EXHIBITS

DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

Through Apr. 17, 2016

Before live streaming and podcasts, the radio connected people from across the country to national news and entertainment. Learn about the Golden Age of Radio, including presidential fireside chats, serial programming and how the radio influenced life in Aurora.

PEOPLE'S LIVES: A CELEBRATION OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Through Mar. 13, 2016

An exhibit from Humanities Texas featuring work from documentary photographer Bill Wright, who traveled around the globe to discover the people of the world in their own settings.

WORTH DISCOVERING: 125 YEARS OF AURORA HISTORY

Mar. 15-July 10, 2016

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.

FAMILY DAYS

Jan. 16, Feb. 20, Mar. 19 (3rd Saturday of every month)

1 – 3 p.m.

Ukulele Lessons and Talk Story Presentations

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

FREE

Sun., Mar. 13

2:30 p.m.

The WWII Homefront

Colorado author Nancy M. Peterson discusses her historical fiction novel, *Not to be Forgiven*, about a Nebraska town near a German POW camp. \$4 or \$3 for Aurora Residents. Aurora Museum Foundation members free.

BROWN BAG & WHITE LINEN LECTURE SERIES

Wed., 12-1 p.m.

Aurora History Museum

\$4 (\$3 Aurora Residents)

Bring your lunch.

Jan. 20

Colorful Coloradans in Aerospace History

Join local expert Chuck Stout & learn about Colorado's aerospace legacy.

Feb. 17

The Electric Automobile: Past, Present and Future

David McNeil and Tim Haas of the Denver Electric Vehicle Council discuss the past, present and future of electric vehicles.

Mar. 16

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.

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 Also-if you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the newsletter you can contact me as well.