

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 42; Number 9; May 2018

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

May President's Letter

Welcome Spring, at least I think so as I sit and write this message and watch the snow falling, *well* what can I tell you, it's the Colorado that we all love.

We have some really exciting fun events coming up. By the time you get this newsletter we will have taken a couple of very large b-day cakes to the City Building to celebrate our 127th B-Day on April 30th with all who show up. We will very much miss having Mayor Hogan join us this year as he undergoes extensive cancer treatment, our very best wishes go out to him from all of us.

On June 16 at Centennial House on Galena Street , from 1 to 4:00 we will host our fund raiser, the Ice Cream Social. This year the Capitol City Brass Band, an 1870s town band, will join us. Many towns and other groups in the 19th century had their own bands. These bands provided music for concerts, church services, parades, funerals, Victorian dances, and special occasions. They all play antique instruments and perform in period costume. A great time for all. Please join us and bring your friends. Tickets will be mailed out and are also available at the gate for only \$5.00

As we continue our great partnership with the Aurora History Museum we were honored to present 3 students from Lotus School for Excellence gift cards totaling \$105 they were Melgen Burciaga , Jennifer Gamez and Kubera Patton, they completed a project about Aurora's history , as part of The Aurora Region National History Day contest that was held on the 17th "Aurora v.

Fletcher: Naming Rights, Junior Group Exhibit". Congratulations young ladies.

On May 26, please join us at the Plains Conservation, for a tour and Hay Ride, we will be on a truck, so don't worry about having to walk. Bet you haven't done that for a long time. Should be beautiful weather by then, come and enjoy the scenery and tour at 10am. More information in this newsletter.

Thank you so much for your support, we hope to see you soon and have a great summer. We will keep you updated on any other events occurring this summer.

Sandy Sweeney, President

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



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES

On January 1, 2018, 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

You can now pay your dues online at the AHS website on the join today page using PayPal if you would like or you can mail them in.

<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/join-today/>

Because of the increased costs of postage and printing, we are asking that you add \$5.00 to your membership cost if you wish to have the newsletter mailed to you.



Remembering Aurora

Michael Lockwood, Aurora Historical Society

An Aurora native, a graduate of the Aurora Public Schools (Vaughn Elementary, North Middle School & Aurora Central High School) and still living less than 2 miles from where I grew up, Aurora has been a big part of my life ever since I was born. Having grown up here, I have several memories that I'd love to provide for your reading pleasure via The Advocate newsletter. For those of you who have Aurora connections that go back as far as the 1950's the recollections presented may bring back waves of nostalgia. And while I have 60 years of memories to relate, if you have some stories you'd like to share, please feel free to contact us at the Aurora Historical web site: www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org

REMEMBERING: The Old Homestead



I was just remembering how common place it was back in the 50's to get full service at the gas station. Okay, I know most of you know what I'm talking about, but for those of you reading this who were born in the 70's or later, let me explain. Gas stations used to be all about service. When Mom would pull up to the pump there was always an attendant that would come out, ask Mom, who was still sitting in the car, what she wanted. Mom would tell him how much gas she needed and what octane (this was before there was unleaded gas, but later he would ask "Regular or Unleaded"?). The attendant would then clean the car windows, check the oil, and check the air pressure in the tires. When he was all done, and the car was filled up, he'd come to the window, Mom would pay him in cash (credit cards were virtually unheard of then. I think Mom's first credit card was at Eakers), wait for her change and then we'd be off.

And then came self-service pumps where you could save a few pennies a gallon by pumping it yourself. The demise of the service attendant was right behind as stations didn't have to pay for as much help and eventually the savings of pumping gas yourself faded away.

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.

Aurora's Historic Newspaper Digitization Project

The Aurora Historic Newspaper Digitization Project is going strong. You can now browse old Aurora Newspapers online. There is now a Pay Pal button on the Aurora Historical Society Website where you can donate to the project online. There is also a link to the newspapers on the links page on the

AHS website and on the Aurora History Museum's website.
<http://aurorahistoricalociety.org/donate-to-the-newspaper-digitization-project/>

The button is on the bottom of the page.

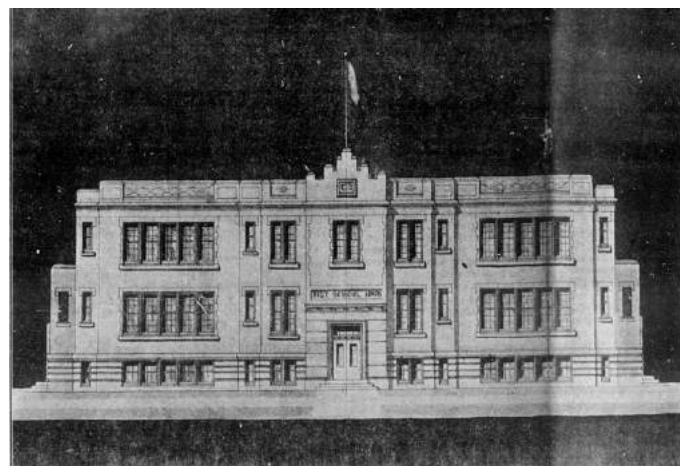
Aurora Democrat, Volume 10, Number 29, April 25, 1919 here is an article about the proposed Aurora School

Aurora youngsters will not be obliged to continue their lessons in the local church or town hall after the next bond election if the voters favor the school bond issue, which is very probable because plans have now been completed by the architects for an adequate two-story structure which will combine great economy with considerable beauty of design.

The plans were prepared by Wilson and Wilson, architects of Denver, in competition with other architects and embody ideas which have proven very successful in other buildings of the kind throughout the country. Economy without the sacrifice of appearance or utility is a feature of the plans finally adopted.

The building is to be of substantial appearance, of high-grade brick with terra-cotta trimming. Low-pressure steam will provide heating by means of direct-indirect radiation. This will permit the copious supply of warm fresh air into class-rooms while the foul air is removed through foul air ducts.

Fenestration, which is simply the manner of arrangement of windows, has been attended to in the designs by providing daylight through batteries of large windows so placed that all light comes over the left shoulder of



The proposed Aurora School

every pupil, thus avoiding eye-strain from conflicting light and shadows while the pupil is writing.

Grammar grade rooms are on the first floor; high school rooms on the second floor; the basement including rooms for domestic science, manual training, gymnasium and general toilet rooms. For the latter purposes all the basement windows have been placed well above the ground in order to give exceptional light and ventilation.

On the first floor there is a teachers' room with adjoining toilet and supply room; also the principal's office with its toilet and supply room. Entrances on the first floor have been arranged in three parts, the principal entrance from the main facade being intended for the grammar pupils. The other two entrances on either side of the building are for the boys and girls respectively of the high school grades and lead directly to the upper floor.

On the second floor there are, in addition to the high school rooms, an assembly hall and a combined chemical and physical laboratory with adjacent rooms for apparatus. The high school class rooms are similar in arrangement to the primary grade rooms on the first floor.

Spacious and well ventilated cloak-rooms are connected with all the class rooms and one main wide hallway with connecting corridors runs through the center of the building.

In drawing up their designs the architects so planned that additions can be made to the building when demanded by growth of the school without compromising the general design or appearance of the structure in any particular.

For the information of Aurora citizens original plans have been placed on exhibition at the Aurora bank building and photographs of the plans may also be seen in several of the local stores.

The voters now seem to feel that further continuance of the policy of housing the pupils in inadequate quarters not only menaces the health of the children and consequently of the community, through lack of proper ventilation and sanitary conveniences, but that education in the community will suffer sadly unless proper school facilities are provided.

It is generally felt that a wise decision has been made in selecting these plans especially in view of the requirements and considerations of convenience and appearance which are carefully worked out in the designs.



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 #9 Wilmer J. Parker

- Served from 1905 – 1906
- Born 1870 in Maryland
- Came to Colorado before 1897
- Married Sarah E. Mifflin on December 8, 1897 in Denver and they had a daughter
- Resigned from being Mayor
- He would have been 35 years old when he became Mayor
- He was the third in succession of Mayors that only served 1 year
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Alva Adams and Jesse Fuller McDonald
- While he was in office:
 - Plans are underway for a town hall to be built
 - Fletcher struggles with repaying bonds sold in 1891 used to buy East Denver Water Co.
 - In 1906 the Democrat-News began publication
 - While there was quite a bit going on in Fletcher (like water issues, population growth and the emerging of Colfax as a major artery), this was a relatively quiet time for Mayor Parker.

The Hoery's Lived and Farmed along Toll Gate Creek

Reprinted from the May 1982 Advocate

Tollgate Creek is playing an important role in the history of Aurora with the finding of prehistoric human remains and artifacts which have been unearthed from the creek bank along the west branch in Horseshoe Park.

The Creek has also played an important role in the life of the farming community that lay to the east and west of it. Water has been provided for gardens, crops, and livestock as well as recreational swimming.

Tollgate Creek, according to information provided by Phil Forbes on the Engineering Department of Public Works, begins at the top of the basin three miles east of the city adjacent to Smoky Hill Road, drains northwest through Aurora, and empties into Sand Creek north of Fitzsimons Army Medical Center and west of Highway I-225, which is east of Sand Creek Park.

The major split in the creek into East and West Tollgate Creeks occurs at 6th Avenue and Chambers Road. There are four other named tributaries of Tollgate Creek within the city.

(The following story of the Hoery family has been written from Stone's History of Colorado, Volume 4, 1917; from letters; from interviews, and from taped interviews.)

Farms along Tollgate Creek included the ones of Thomas Gully, John Kennedy and the Hoery's—Bill, Theo, and Len.

The N. Rupert Hoerys

The Hoery family began when N. Rupert or as he was known in the United States, Robert, was born in Helsing, Germany, (not Baden) on March 27, 1956. The son of Joseph and Bebeanna Hoery, he came to this country when he finished high school as many other European immigrants did. Before moving to Denver, he was employed in Buffalo, New York for three years.

Love of gardening as an occupation led him to raise vegetables near Smith's Lake (later known as Washington Park) in Arapahoe County for six or seven years. Additional moves took him to Harman Co., and along East Colfax Avenue where he again raised garden crops.

Then he leased 320 acres on 6th Avenue to farm. In 1918 or 1919, he purchased land on Chambers Road near Smith Road.

On October 5, 1887, he married Katherine Pellens of New Orleans. To them were born 10 children, two of whom died when they were young (Louis and Georgie).

The other children were Joseph William "Bill", born July 1, 1888, and died August 28, 1944; Jacob Edward, "Ed", September 22, 1891-October 10, 1980; Leonard "Len" Nicholas, July 6, 1893-May 8, 1971; Theodore "Ted, Theo, or Tatters" Gilbert, March 1, 1895-May 29, 1981; Helen Elizabeth (Scott), December 14, 1896-November 4, 1978; Bebeanna "Annie" Marie (McQuade), February 19, 1899-1992; Emelia "Millie"

Barbara Lehman, March 1, 1901-1985; and John Fredrick "Fred", March 1, 1901-1993.

Bill Hoery

Probably the best known of the Hoery brothers was William or Bill. Not only did he have a pleasing personality, but he also was a respected dairy man and business man.

For 35 years he ran the farm that came to be known as the Tollgate Farm through which Tollgate Creek ran. A 640-acre farm, it was located from 6th Avenue north to Colfax Avenue and from Potomac Avenue to Chambers Road. The house and buildings stood where Sable Care Center is now.

Crops grown on the farm purchased in 1909 consisted of alfalfa, wheat, barley, corn and sugar beets. Alfalfa from which hay is produced and good pasture met the needs of the dairy cattle.

To haul beets to the dump at Sable on the Union Pacific Railroad, wagons were purchased, and some were built with the help of other farmers including Max K. Maul. The farmers hammered the beds together which were then placed on the framework which was purchased along with the necessary hardware.

In 1918, Bill married Mabel L. Drown. He used to walk from the Tollgate Farm to the DeLaney place where the Drowns lived to court her.

When Bill moved to this farm, there was a little house on the Creek called the Bunkhouse. Bob Gunson was living there. The Leslie Family was living in the farmhouse, which later became Bill's house. All of the up-to-date buildings on the farm were planned by Bill. (See Fred's story for the inventory of the buildings.)

In 1934, Bill established a creamery on Colfax Avenue. Calling it Bill's Milk Depot, he used the slogan, "Direct from Tollgate Farm."



Inside Bill's Milk Depot, left to right, Marian Scott and customer, in 1938.

Four years later, he erected his own building on Colfax Avenue and Hanover Street where the Coachlight Restaurant used to be. As modern as it could be, the building had a man-size cooler with forced-air fans which kept the milk and cream at the proper

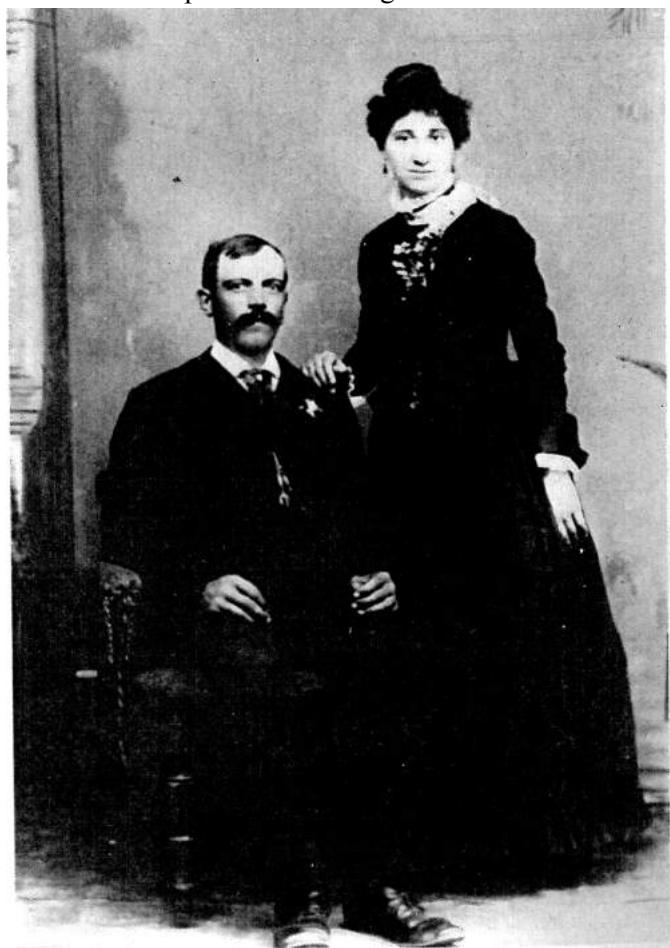
temperature. Electric refrigerators and display cabinets also kept the food products---butter, cottage cheese, ice cream and eggs---at the right temperature.

Due to the low price of dairy products, the farmers had begun to sell milk, etc. direct from their farms. This change in selling, from stores to farms, led Bill to feel that he could serve his customers better if he had a facility to do this business somewhere in the city.

Contractors and builders of the brick, tile and cement building were the Bohm Brothers, Hans, Bill, and Fred. Porter Plumbing and Heating Company planned those facilities.

In the fall of 1943, Bill sold his business and retired. Bill's two brothers, Theo and Fred, took over the operation of the farm and operated it following his death in 1944.

The farm grew into one of the top milk producing farms in the area. Holstein cows, 48 of them, supplied the milk. In order to keep 48 cows milking, many more had to be maintained. The cows were milked twice daily at 2 a.m. and 2 p.m. with milking machines.



N. Rupert Hoery and Katherine Pellens on their wedding day, October 5, 1887. N. Rupert was known as Robert in this country.

Ed Hoery

The third son and the only one to have a military background, Edward enlisted in the Army during World War I and was injured in France. He received a medical discharge in 1918 and was awarded the France Victory Medal.

Following his Army service, because of his love of birds and animals, he studied and became a taxidermist.

On July 3, 1922 at S. Thomas Seminary in Denver, he married Mary "Lena" Lehman. They had four children, Margaret, Edith, Edward, and Richard; and one granddaughter, Sharon. Lena was the sister of George Lehman, who married Millie, Ed's sister.

For a short time after his marriage, Ed worked as a ranger for the Denver Water Department at Ontario Reservoir. But, he could not stay away from farming.

In 1924, Ed purchased 10 acres at 1600 Altura Boulevard and built a home that is still occupied. He also bought what was known as the Wheeler place, 160 acres that ran east of Chambers Road between East Colfax Avenue and Smith Road. Using well water, he grew corn, wheat, alfalfa, and potatoes.

Selling to Mr. Stark in 1938 enabled him to purchase a larger farm, 360 acres, one and one-half miles east of Tower Road and north of Smith Road. He grew corn, wheat and alfalfa without the use of wells. Ed farmed this half-section until 1938 when he sold this property to a Mr. Mack, who developed the land into Sky ranch Airport.



Bailing hayed & Bill Hoery

Moving further away from Aurora with each move, he finally bought one and one-half sections southeast of Strasburg which he farmed until he retired in 1963. Here he raised corn and wheat and also cattle. This ranch is still held by the family. (That was true in 1982, I can't verify if it is still true in 2018).

In 1961, Ed sold nine and one-half acres of his home on Altura Boulevard to the Aurora Public Schools. An elementary school, Altura, was built on the site.

Needing a place to relax and to get in some good fishing, he built a cabin in Grand Lake Estates on Shadow Mountain Lake, which the family still enjoys.

With the death of Lena in 1967, he began to think of selling his home, which he finally did in 1972. Ed purchased another one in Lakewood from which he could see the mountains he had grown to love.

As so many early farmers, Ed was active early in the Grange movement and was a dedicated Grange man. He was a member of Sable Grange until it was discontinued. Then he transferred his membership to Cherry Creek Grange. When Victory Grange was organized in 1942, he became a charter member, but he did not state with this one. He changed back to Cherry Creek Grange where he remained a member until his death at 89.

His community activities included being a Democratic election judge in the 1930's. A past commander, he was a life member of VFW Aurora Post #3631.

Len Hoery

Leonard or "Len", the fourth son, had the distinction of farming a part of the 35,000-acre ranch owned by C. J. Richardson, which lay to the north of original Aurora.

Married to Opal Cumberland in 1922, Len and his bride lived on Bill's Tollgate Farm for one year. They built a house on the top of the hill to the east close to 6th Avenue. Sixth Avenue Road was straight until the bridge. It, however, sat "catty wampus" over Tollgate Creek; therefore, there was a little jog in the approach to the bridge.

Then the couple moved to a 40-acre farm at Nursery (Billings) and Evergreen Streets east of Peoria Street and north of Colfax Avenue. Opal had a street named for her when the couple donated land for it. Its name, however, was changed to Blackhawk when Aurora annexed the area so that the streets could be in alphabetical order.

KOSI purchased the pasture land, about 20 acres, for the base of their operations. The land that was left was subdivided into one-fourth acre plots. Then the land was sold to Joe Freund, who erected apartments on it. When KOSI moved later on, Hillcrest mobile home park was developed.

The Hoerys kept about one and one-fourth acres including the house barn and garage. With his land sold, Len then helped Max Maul to farm. In about 1974, after Len's death (1971), Opal sold this land.

The original abstract for their property dates from February 5, 1870. When part of their land was sold to KOSI, the abstract company took out some of the early

records left only what pertained to KOSI land. In order to get the land, which they purchased on April 5, 1924, they had to pay some back taxes.

There they had their own well, an artesian one. There wasn't any water until the reorganization of the Sable Water District. A fight about having Denver or Aurora water ensued. It was settled with everyone getting Denver water.

For a short time, they lived on the Richardson Ranch at Peoria Street and Sand Creek. One of the property were two lakes, one of which the Hoery family used for swimming. Len dammed the other one to irrigate the fields. In the 1940's, WPA (Works Progress Administration) helped with workers to take care of the dam.

Len continued to farm on Morris Heights, a part of the Richardson Ranch, where he raised alfalfa, sugar beets, wheat, corn and oats. He also raised turkeys and had dairy cattle. After Richardson's death, Mrs. Richardson, with the help of Alfred Packard, farmed the land.

Before her marriage to Len, Opal worked at Mercy Hospital and remembers that the Sisters drove back and forth to the novitiate in Aurora. An old man took care of the horse and drove the Sisters of Charity around.

Opal belonged to the Pioneer Club. At the start, there were four women. Then it grew so large that eight ladies, including Opal dropped out and formed their own club. Some of the members were Clarissa Seggerman, Gertrude Moritzen, Velma Betz, and Florence Butter,

The Hoerys' children are Alice, who was an Aurora City Council member; Mary Kathryn, who had died, and Robert Leonard. They adopted Robert Brooks, who has always gone by his last name, Knowlton, and who was the son of their daughter, Mary. They have seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Opal moved to Fletcher Gardens in 1978.

Tatters Hoery

The fifth son, Theodores, was known by several names. Theo, Ted or Tatters. The name Tatters was given to him because he had on torn overalls when he was playing baseball with some kids. A man who was hitching a ride on the railroad came along and asked him his name. He said, "Theodore".

The man said; "I will call you Tatters."

Throughout his lifetime, he lived and farmed at various places in the Aurora area. The first place was the old Fraker place on 6th Avenue between Potomac Avenue and Tollgate Creek.

From there, Theo went to a farm on Chambers Road at Smith Road near the Faber place. It was while he was

here that he married Avelina Lovejoy. They had one daughter, Dorothy, who married Roger Lankford. They have two daughters, Karyn, and Kathryn, and four grandchildren.

Their next move was to the old Simonson place, south of 6th Avenue, west to Chambers Road and east to Sable Boulevard. This particular site has come to be an interesting one in the history of Aurora because the Tollgate stage station, house and barn, was located there on the Smoky Hill North Trail or the Fort Morgan Cutoff.

Shortly before Theo died, he was interviewed by Loyd Glasier, who was spearheading an effort to find out what he could about the station before construction crews would begin to build an apartment house complex, the Winding Creek Apartments.

Theo came to this land in 1917 after the Tollgate flood of that year and farmed 160 acres raising alfalfa and other crops. He had a house moved from 25th Avenue and York Street in Denver to this place. At that time, all the old buildings and the old Tollgate bridge were gone.

Toll was collected on the east side of the bridge, 10 cents for each passenger and 25 cents per horse. In Margaret Long's book *The Smoky Hill Trail*, she reports that W. H. Howery (she must have misspelled Hoery) has located the site. Families who had lived on the site before Theo's included McClure, Delaney, and Fahey.

In about 1928, the family moved to Mt. Morrison at Hampden Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard where they farmed for several years. But they wanted to return to Aurora. In 1937 or 1938, they bought a house at 1628 Hanover Street. Theo did what was known as "custom farming." He used his equipment to do farming for other farmers.

Another move, in about 1944, took them back to the first place where they had lived, the Fraker place. They stayed there until Theo and his brother Fred took over the farming at Bill's Tollgate Farm. They milked the cows and raised alfalfa, corn and sugar beets.



Theodore, Fred, Bill, Ed Hoery in front of Hoery's place

In order to raise beets, the brothers needed additional help and turned to Spanish-American labor. The men lived in a small house on the east side of the creek.

While live on the Simonson place, Dorothy remembers that the gypsies used to travel in wagons in caravans on Chambers Road. They were “seedy looking;” and children, if mischievous, were told, “The gypsies will get you.”

She also recalls that her father, Theo was accused of putting water in the low place in the road so that he could be paid for pulling people out.

In 1924 or 1925, there was much excitement when an oil well was drilled on the hill by a man named Olson. Her father worked on the project with a Freson, which was pulled with two horses. It was so sharp that it cut of the horses’ hooves.

Their final move, in about 1957, took Theo and Avelina to the home they purchased at 1990 Tower Road. (Avelina still lived in Dorothy’s home in 1982 when this article was written).

Helen Scott

Seeing a flood that came down Tollgate Creek and writing about it won first place in a story contest, a \$1.00 award, for the Hoery’s oldest daughter, Helen, when she was 12 years old.

On July 17, 1916, she married Walter Scott. Their first home was on the Delaney place on Chambers Road. Helen D., their first child, was born there.

Not too many years after that, the family moved to the Lullis place on Smith Road near Tower Road. Marian K., their second and last child, was born in this home.



Father Robert Hoery and Helen D. on back porch of the Scott’s home (on the Lullis place at Smith Road near Tower Road) in 1919.

From there, the Scotts moved to the Gage place on east Colfax Avenue, which was between I-225 and Sable Boulevard.

Their next move took the family to a home on Bill’s Tollgate Farm where they spent most of the remainder of their lives. While there, Walter helped with the farming and milking. Helen E., Helen D., and Marian aided in the milking of the cows.

Upon the death of her husband, Helen E., had her home moved to a spot on the old Hoery property on Chambers Road and Sand Creek. Since Tollgate Creek has come into prominence in Aurora with the finding of human remains in the bank of West Tollgate Creek in Horseshoe Park, Marian remembers when 6th Avenue was straightened, and the old wooden bridge removed, workman talked about digging up the remains of a human body which they thought might be an Indian. They were going to take what they found to the Museum of Natural History.

Marian also recalls finding a fire ring made of rocks which she believed was an old Indian fireplace when she was living in her family’s home west of Bill Hoery’s house at the top of the hill to the north of 6th Avenue. At the time she was making a rock garden.

Annie McQuade

The middle daughter, Annie, recalls that the family was living on 6th Avenue about 1906, and all of them, except the older boys, attended Smith School that was one mile to the west of the family home. At that time ,she was seven years old.

At times, her mother went to Bill’s place (he was a bachelor) to cook the noon meal. The children often played in the creek and were allowed to go as far south as the old Tollgate bridge.

From Bill’s place on 6th Avenue the road turned south and then east again. On the other side of the bridge, to the north of the road, stood an old barn. On what is now Chambers Road, the road turned south again and ran past the Delaney place (now Bresnahan’s).

In the fall of 1910, the Robert Hoerys moved from their 6th Avenue place by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, north of Smith Road at Chambers Road. The Hoery children; Ted, Helen, Fred, Millie, and Annie, changed from Smith to Sable School, 26th Avenue and Sable Boulevard.

Annie was in Sable School until June of 1913 when she went to live with her brothers, Bill and Len, in their Tollgate Farm home. She had graduated from the eighth grade.

Even in 1916 and 1917, the old Tollgate bridge was there. At that time Helen D., was living at the Delaney place on Chambers Road. She and Annie used the Tollgate bridge to go back and forth to see each other.

Sometime in 1917, there was a cloudburst. Bill, Len, and Annie stood on the bank of the creek and watched the biggest flood that they had ever seen come down Tollgate Creek. Trees and all kinds of debris, including pieces of the old bridge, floated in the water. Her

brothers lassoed the logs and tied them to trees because they could use them for construction on the farm.

Later on, the new road, 6th Avenue, was built straight east, and a new bridge was constructed near Bill's house. That bridge sat at an angle and was still there in 1919 when Annie was married and moved to Englewood, CO.

She had two children, Francis and Kathleen. Francis Betz married Rosa Thompson of Walsh, CO. in 1943 and made his home in Springfield, CO. until his death. Her daughter, Kathleen married C. O. Hexemer, also in 1943, and moved to California where she lived until her death in 1980.

In 1943, Annie moved to San Francisco where she was employed by Civil Service and where she lived until her husband died in 1971. She then moved to Newhall in southern California.

Millie Lehman

The twin of Fred, Millie, remembers that the Hoery family did little shopping in Aurora because there were so few stores. They did shop for clothing at Blaisdell's.

One of her earliest memories, however, she thinks it was about 1906) is of the grocery store, Campbell's, that was about Dayton Street and Colfax Avenue. The Hoery's went to get their groceries in a two-wheeled vehicle pulled by one horse.

Another 1906 memory is walking to Smith School on the William Smith farm. Millie was five years old and in the first grade. Other Hoery's attending the school were Theo, Helen, Fred, and Annie. "When the Hoery's moved, the school closed because Jim Smith was the only pupil left," said Millie with a chuckle.

Millie recalls two people who were always "scurrying around" on the street of Aurora. They were Mabel McFadden, who wore a black apron and black visor since she was a printer, and her son, Vince, who wore eyeglasses with thick lenses.

When she was growing up, entertainment in the town consisted of the women going to movies at the Fox Theatre and the men playing pool at the pool hall and playing baseball north of Colfax Avenue.

One baseball team she recalls was known as the "Haymakers." Her brother, Tatters, organized the team which played on Sunday afternoons. Her brother Len and John and Steve Custy also played on the team.

Picnics and dances were other forms of recreation enjoyed by farm families. A dance that she will never forget was the one the night that Tatter's buggy hit a sandy spot in the road and upset.

The grange building was not only for meetings concerning farm problems, but it was also a recreation center. On Friday nights, the grange hall at Colfax

Avenue and Chambers Road, a two-story building with separated men and women's coat rooms, would have dances and minstrel shows.

Millie remembers the wonderful times she had at the Swiss picnics at Magpie Creek on her brother Fred's farm at Chambers Road and Sand Creek. Begun by the Swiss people who lived in the metropolitan area, they took place on Sundays.

The whole family would take part in the day's events. Children would vie for prizes in the races. After the families ate their noon lunch together, an afternoon baseball game would be played. Then a portable dance floor made of four sections of wood would be quickly erected. The orchestra would sit on a truck bed.

Another popular sport was horse racing. Many people came on a train to Sable (there was a section house) where they got off to go to the track located north of Smith Road and west of Chambers Road.

An unforgettable happening at the racetrack was the time Orville and Wilbur Wright came to fly a plane in 1914. A box-type affair, she could see it from her home. She was 13 years old, and she and her sisters, Annie and Helen D., and her brother, Georgie, all had the dreaded disease of scarlet fever. Georgie, then four, died from the fever.

When she was growing up, her favorite pastimes were swinging on the bank of Tollgate Creek so high that the person would go over the creek, jump out of the swing and hopefully land in the sand on the other side. Swimming in the creek in a place that had been dammed up; and sliding down the bank into the water.

Millie married George Lehman and moved into Denver. They successfully managed a greenhouse business. They had five children: Georgie, Mary Irene, Bill, Mildred, and Joe. 17 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Fred Hoery

Fred, Millie's twin, also attended the first five grades at William Smith School where he and his brothers and sisters learned "reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, spelling, and grammar." Millie says that it was all "tuned to the hickory stick."

The twins often drove a donkey hitched to a buggy to school. The donkey was tied to a fence in the school yard until Theo built a shed for it, right on the school grounds.

When the Hoery family moved to Chambers Road across from Smith Road, Fred finished the next three grades at Sable School. Little did he know then that one of his main interests as an adult would be education. Beginning in 1920, he served on Sable School's board

for 35 years. At that time board members did the maintenance as well as the hiring of the teachers. At times, he worked as late as 11:00 p.m. at the school.

Fred's farming experience was on his father Robert's rented farm at Chambers Road and Sand Creek where they grew wheat, oats, barley, and alfalfa on the 320 acres. They hired the combining and threshing of the grain.



Milk house on the Tollgate Farm in 1928, left to right, Walter Scott, Father Robert, Fred and Bill Hoery.

While living there, he married Marie Johnson, who was working at the First National Bank in Aurora and who was the teller when the bank was robbed on October 10, 1927. *(The story of this robbery and other early bank robberies appeared in the September 1982 Advocate and the March 2016 Advocate).*

When Fred became partners with Walter Scott, his brother-in-law, he rented the S and L ranch, (the old Smith place, which was half way between Chambers and Tower Roads on Smith Road). Here they milked 30 cows by hand.

His next move took him to about 28th Avenue and Chambers Road where he purchased 20 acres and rented the rest of the land he farmed, 360 acres or more, including the old Wheeler place. It was here that Fred and Marie raised their family and farmed for 45 years raising wheat, corn, barely, and alfalfa and marketing their crops through the Farmers' Union.

In 1942, Fred joined his brother, Theo to farm his brother Bill's Tollgate Farm. In addition to farming, they milked 48 cows to supply Bill's Milk Depot, and after it closed, Dolly Madison.

Fred believes "this farm was one of the of the largest dairying and general-purpose farms in the Aurora area." It consisted of the house; large barn with stanchions for 48 mild cows and a hay loft that held 30 to 40 tons of hay; a horse barn where horses, trucks and tractors were kept; a milk house, a huge silo; a chicken house and pig sheds.

One of Fred's memories about the town of Aurora was the lake that was about one-half mile long and one-half mile wide and covered about 100 acres. Named Aurora Lake, it was located west of Macon Street and north of Colfax. Fred thought the lake was fed by a lateral of the Highline Canal and was made for recreational purposes.

Children loved to swim there in the summer and skate there in the winter. It was, however, a dangerous lake because children would drown while swimming and fall through the ice and drown while skating.

Harry Katherman, the postmaster, drained the lake because he rented the land from C. J. Richardson and wanted to grow wheat on it. He purchased a "Steele Mule" tractor, one of the first to come out in 1916 or 1917.

"Are there any stories that Fred might have heard about events that had taken place before his time?"

There is one that is especially interesting since the discovery of human remains on West Tollgate Creek. According to Tom Gunson, Indians went to his uncle's home, the Robert Gunson house, (later Bill Hoery's), north of 6th Avenue, and took the dinner off the table. Supposedly there was an Indian village or camping ground just south of 6th Avenue on the hill east of Tollgate Creek and west of Sable Boulevard. (This land is where the Walter Scott's lived and where their daughter, Marian, dug up a fireplace).

Fred and Marie moved to Elizabeth, CO., and then to Fort Lupton, CO. They had three daughters: Jean, Joan, and Janet and 18 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.



Posing in front of a 1925 Dodge owned by Theo are left to right, front row, Ed, Theo, Father Robert, Bill and Len; back row, Anna, Millie, Helen and Fred. Picture was taken in 1927.



Fred, driving a beet wagon, in 1918.



A Wallace tractor and a William Separator threshing machine helped the men, left to right, Bill, Theo and Jack Frunk, harvest the wheat in 1918 on the Delany place which was being rented by the Scotts.



Father and Mother Hoery's home on Chambers Road and Sand Creek.

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

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

May 16, 2018

Helping Veterans at the Sturm Center

Military Psychologist and Clinic Director of the Sturm Center for mental and behavioral health at the University of Denver, Dr. Katy Barrs will join us to discuss her ongoing work helping veterans and their families.

EXHIBITS

Wings to Satellites: A History of Buckley Air Force Base

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- May 6

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



Plains Conservation Center tour and hayride

Saturday May 26th, 2018 at 10 a.m.

There is a \$5.00 cost for the hayride.

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser at Centennial House June 16th from 1-4 Capitol City Brass Band and replica City Town Band will be entertaining us from 2-4. Tours of the house available. Tickets \$5.00

4/18/18

Michael,

Enclosed is my 2018 membership. I truly want to continue my membership.

FYI as I looked at your address, I recall a Colorado History Aurora walking tour last May, when a neighbor of yours saw about 25 tour walkers ^{and then} were invited into a home on the westside of Galena street, "Silk Stocking row". Most of our group were not from Aurora, but all were pleased to catch a glimpse into 1890 "Fletcher." Also most of us walked away with a fresher look at Aurora!

A partner in Aurora,

Sir,

4-4-18

We just received the mailing for membership. Included is a check for \$40. To pay for 2 year membership and 2 year of mailing it to us.

Thank you,

We winter in South Texas & mail to...

SALLY Mounier

Council Member
Ward 1, City of Aurora

Hi - Thanks for all you do for Aurora.

Sally

Dear Mr. Lockwood,

Please find enclosed payment for membership at the Contributing level plus payment for postage to have the newsletter mailed to us.

Bruce + Marcy Leona
P.O. Box 2891
Littleton, CO 80161-2891

We have enjoyed each article you have written for the newsletter and forward to any articles you may contribute for future newsletter issues. Thank you for your efforts in service to the society.

Sincerely,

Come Join The Aurora Historical Society and
The Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society for
a morning at the
Plains Conservation Center



Saturday, May 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Take a trip back in time to Colorado's high plains and pioneer life in the mid-1800s. The Plains Conservation Center is a true-to-life homestead stretching across 1,100 acres of dedicated open space located at [21901 E. Hampden Ave. Aurora, CO 80013](https://www.google.com/maps/place/21901+E+Hampden+Ave,+Aurora,+CO+80013). **Click on the address to see a map.** Explore the nature center, authentic Cheyenne camp with tipis, sod houses, blacksmith shop and one-room school house. Visitors can hike along rolling trails and may see rattle snakes, prairie dogs, pronghorn, coyotes and red-tailed hawks. Those who are especially lucky may catch a glimpse of the resident bald eagle family. **A truck driven hay ride for up to 30 people is offered around the property and to the sod houses and teepees. From Tower and Hampden head east on Hampden. The entrance is off Hampden on the north side of the street.**

RSVP to Garry O'Hara at gohara46@aol.com

Or

Sandy Sweeney at livelyline@aol.com

The Good Ole' Summer Time

Hats and Parasols encouraged



Please join us

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser

June 16, 2018

1:00 to 4:00 PM

in the Centennial House Garden

1671 Galena Street

Tours of Centennial House available
entertainment by **Capitol City Brass Band**
an 1870's town band

Aurora Historical Society

Tickets \$5.00