

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 42; Number 5; September 2018



President's Letter September 2018

It's that time of the year for some changes, excitement, and new beginnings...Our first meeting will be at the Aurora History Museum at 7p.m. on September 25. We have an interesting meeting planned for you and do hope you can make it. The Society will be presenting a donation to the Museum in honor of our recently deceased Mayor Steve Hogan, in remembrance of his caring and support of our community.

We will have a short business meeting to update everyone followed by a wonderful presentation by Historian/Enactor Lee Michaels. Lee will be presenting Madam Laura Bell McDaniels who began her career in Colorado Springs and continued on to Cripple Creek. We'll all learn more about a time and place than we ever knew existed. We may be shocked a bit and sometimes tearful when we learn about some of the women of an era.

Our program committee is currently in the process of planning for the coming year and creating some very interesting meetings to show us where we are in Colorado (in time and place) a wonderful place to be. More later.

Thank you to the Aurora History Museum for sharing your wonderful space with us for our meetings, and while we're there please check out the wonderful exhibit currently on display.

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



**Join us on September 25th
Aurora History Museum
7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker is Lee Michaels
Historian/enactor
Presenting Madam Laura Bell McDaniels**



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES

On January 1, 2018, it is time to send your dues payments for year 2018 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.



My father was not a church-going man. I suspect that growing up during the Depression and serving in WWII had something to do with it. My mother, on the other hand, was a devote Baptist up until the day she passed on. And Mom made sure that her children got a spiritual education. My first church was Aurora Community Baptist Church at 19th and Macon. The picture above is very close to what it looked like. Next to the back side of the church was a rectangular 2-story building for Sunday School and Administrative offices. You can drive by today as the buildings are still there today.

My favorite Sunday School teacher was George Dodge, and he made learning a very interesting time for a 9-year old boy. Our Pastor was Leslie Goodman, and I still have the bible I received on being promoted, although I'm not sure what I was promoted from or to.

A humorous church story: As a little boy, going to church on Sunday really cut into play time. So how to maximize play time while still going to church? A brainstorm – I'd wear my play clothes underneath my church clothes so that when I got home from church I could save time changing clothes. Only one problem, I looked like the Pillsbury Dough Boy and could barely move. Amazingly enough my Mom caught on instantly and made me take the play clothes off. Another great plan thwarted.

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.



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

Aurora Community Baptist Church



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 #11
Edwin G. Smith

- Served from 1907 – 1908
- Born November 8, 1865 in Indiana
- Came to Colorado around 1907
- Married Stella Chapman ~1896
- Has four children, Clara, Ruby, Edna May and Agnes
- He would have been 42 years old when he became Mayor
- He was the fifth in succession of Mayors that only served 1 year
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Henry Augustus Buchtel
- While he was in office:
 - It is unlawful to harbor swine within 3 blocks from any street car line
 - Attorney hired to fight repaying water bonds sold in 1891 in court or settle out of court
 - Murray Presbyterian Church is the first established church in Aurora
 - Speed limit is 10 mph except on Montview, Peoria, or Colfax
 - Library is started in the Town Hall cloak room
 - Denver Gas & Electric supplying electricity at 10 cents per kilowatt hour
 - Jack rabbits are running loose, Mayor to chase them out of town

Aurora’s Historic Newspaper Digitization Project UPDATE

Have you checked the *Aurora Democrat* or the *Aurora Advocate* online?

The *Aurora Democrat* is digitized an available online from 12/22/1909 to 12/30/1949. The *Aurora Advocate* is digitized from 1949-1952. The *Stanley Capsule* has also been digitized. The cost for the project so far has been **\$16959.80**. The project has been funded by **citizens**, (Thank You AHS members who have donated), the **Aurora Historical Society**, the Aurora Genealogical Society, Colorado Historical Records Advisory board grant, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Aurora Museum Foundation.

The *Aurora Advocate* still needs to be digitized from 1953-1963. The cost estimate is **\$12915.73**. **So, keep those donations rolling in. Let’s finish this project!**

There is now a Pay Pal button on the Aurora Historical Society Website where you can donate to the project online,

and a link to the newspapers on the links page on the AHS website, and on the Aurora History Museum’s website. <http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/donate-to-the-newspaper-digitization-project/>

Help Aurora participate in the *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection*. For more information please visit www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org

Historic Aurora Newspapers - Digitization Project

Yes! I want to give my support with my tax-deductible gift.
 \$25 \$50 \$100 other

Please make checks payable to: *Aurora Historical Society*

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____

Please send checks to:
 Aurora History Museum
 15051 E. Alameda Parkway
 Aurora, CO 80012



Trivia Question Answers: 1. a 2.b 3.c 4.b

Aurora History
Excerpt from the *Aurora Democrat* August 13, 1943

75 Years Ago

Aurora Democrat, Volume 34, Number 40, August 13, 1943

Two Major Improvements Announced This Week

COLFAX TO BE FURTHER IMPROVED

The business men and women of Aurora have been very much pleased with the improvements made to Colfax Avenue. The State Highway has done a fine job of filling up all holes and cracks in the pavement, and filling in the depression opposite the Maws garage.

Now, Mayor A. O. Hill has succeeded in getting the two counties to release \$5000 of the 3 per cent gas money (\$2,500 for each county), and this will be used by the State Highway department to grade and on 12 feet on each side of the pavement, where the pavement does not extend from curb to curb, throughout the length of Colfax Avenue in Aurora. This will practically give us wide and as fine a thoroughfare as is in the heart of the business district.

It is also expected later that money will be forthcoming to raise the grade in two blocks on Colfax so as to take care of the flood problem which exists at that point.

All in all, the Mayor and the Council are showing a fine spirit of co-operation, and a desire to get real things done, that has greatly pleased everyone.

CITY COUNCIL ORDERS ZONING OF AURORA

One of the most progressive steps ever taken by our city was taken by unanimous vote of the City Council Monday night, when they passed a resolution ordering the zoning of Aurora.

This step, in our opinion, should have been taken years ago, and if it had, it would have solved our present building and trailer problems.

We now join the ranks of the other progressive cities adjoining Denver, and our two counties, which have completed zoning around Aurora.

The contract for the work of zoning was awarded to S. R. De Boer, who has handled in a most satisfactory manner, practically all of it that has been done around Denver.

We join with the great majority of the citizens of Aurora, in congratulating the Mayor and the Council upon this forward step.

Aurora now becomes a city.

- b. Gutheil Nursery
- c. Fletcher Nursery
3. In what year did Aurora become a city?
 - a. 1891
 - b. 1907
 - c. 1929
4. Fitzsimons Army Hospital was named after:
 - a. Revolutionary War patriot Thomas Fitzsimons
 - b. WWI officer Lt. William T. Fitzsimons
 - c. Spanish American War Pvt. James J. Fitzsimons

Howard's Drug Store

by Bill Nakooka

Reprinted from the May 1993 *Aurora Advocate*



Courtesy of the Aurora History Museum

Bert Howard came to Aurora in 1943 and purchased the drugstore at 9715 East Colfax and named it *Howard Rexall Drug*. Mr. Howard immediately became involved in community activities. He served as mayor in 1945 and 1946. He campaigned for the City and County of Aurora and was known as the father of the Council-Manager form of city government. He did the ground work in establishing the Home Rule Charter. He was active in the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Isaac Walton League, and numerous professional organizations. The Chamber of Commerce named him the Man of the Year in 1962.

I came to work at *Howard Rexall Drug* in the spring of 1950 as a pharmacy intern. After becoming registered, I stayed on as a pharmacist along with Janet Brayton. One of the first people I met was Judge Bert

TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. With a population of around 670, taxes raised by Aurora in 1906 amounted to:
 - a. \$3,500
 - b. \$350
 - c. \$6,500
2. The corner of Peoria and Colfax originally was the entrance to which nursery?
 - a. International Nursery Company

Jordan, who gave me a parking ticket for interviewing too long with Bert Howard. Another person I met was Tom Lincoln, who helped me find a place to live on Galena Street. I soon learned that the success of the drugstore was due in great part to the innovative promotional ideas of Mr. Howard. We had a Denver phone number installed which enabled physicians to phone in prescriptions by direct dialing. Aurora still had the operator assisted system in those days and the doctors became very impatient waiting for an operator.

A very popular promotion was giving a free drink to any child that attended Sunday school. We had to hire extra help on Sundays to serve the mob of kids after church. Many customers were startled when they entered the store and were greeted by a whistle or a remark from our talking Myna bird. Mr. Howard published a humorous map of Aurora showing the homes to which deliveries were made. This promotion was featured in a national drug publication.



Courtesy of the Aurora History Museum

Some of the businesses in our block were the *Aurora Drug*, *Jess Cook's Cleaners*, *The Community Store*, and the *Conoco Station* on the corner. The next year we moved into a new building on the corner of Colfax and Emporia built by Carlos Bellany. Some of our neighbors included *Kortz Jewelers*, *Booker's 5 & 10*, *Famous Men's*, *Paul's Shoe Repair*, *Edward's Carpets*, and the *House of Flowers*.

A few years later the store moved next door to a smaller location, without the soda fountain. *Gart Brothers* took over the corner location. Mr. Howard passed away on January 18, 1964, leaving a huge loss for the community. Janet Brayton, Wendall Young, and Bill Nakaoka carried on the business until September 1, 1967, when *Howard Drug* merged with *Nome Drug* and moved to the Montview Shopping Center.

Nome Drug opened a third location in the Montbello area in 1970. One of our partners, John Todoroki left the group in 1973 to pursue other interests. The Montbello store was the target of vandalism, numerous robberies, hold-ups and harassment, which resulted in our closing the store in 1977. In 1984, I bought out Harry Sumikawa's interest in the business. Finally, in January of 1985, my wife, Dorothy, and I sold the

business to Elaine Plaven, I remained with the store as a pharmacist until it was closed for good in 1989. Thus, came the end to a long and gratifying career in Aurora. The memories and friendships we made will remain with us forever.



Courtesy of the Aurora History Museum

Aurora History Museum Exhibits and Events Fall 2018

EXHIBITS

A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Salvadoran Community

Open through Nov. 4

As the third-largest national group in Aurora, the Salvadoran community impacts our city every day. The exhibit gives voice to the contributions of Salvadoran residents as they live, work and own businesses in Aurora. Presented in partnership with Aurora Sister Cities International and the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs.

1968: A Fifty-Year Retrospective

Open through Nov. 4

Explore key events and movements of 1968 such as Civil Rights, the Vietnam War, space exploration, political identity and advancements in gender equality.

Drink Local: Aurora's Craft Beer Scene

Nov. 20, 2018 – April 7, 2019

This exhibition showcases the history of craft beer in Aurora and the passion Coloradans hold for the brewing industry. Learn about the people, companies and beverages that makeup Aurora's dynamic craft beer scene.

MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Antique Appraisal Fair

Sept. 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hosted by the Aurora Museum Foundation. Local appraisers evaluate your antiques and collectibles. \$5/ item; 5 item limit. Aurora Museum Foundation members

receive one free appraisal. Call 303.739.6705 for an entrance time. No walk-ins accepted.
Aurora Central Library, Community Room, 14949 E. Alameda Pkwy

19th Annual Festival of Wreaths

Nov. 6-Dec. 7

The Aurora Museum Foundations' annual "Festival of Wreaths" raises funds to support exhibits and education programs. Visit AuroraGov.org/WreathsFestival or call 303.739.6660 to learn about sponsoring a wreath.

PROGRAMS

Call 303.739.6660 or visit AuroraGov.org/MuseumPrograms to purchase tickets.

Tea at the Aurora History Museum

Sarah Platt Decker and Colorado's Women's Clubs

Sept. 8, 2-3:30 p.m.

\$33 (\$25 resident)

Suffragist, reformer, and advocate for women, children, and working people, learn about Sarah Platt Decker's life in this historical performance played by author and performer Gail Beaton.

Food by Miette et Chocolat. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Parol Lantern Making Workshop

Nov. 3

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

\$12/Lantern (materials provided)

Learn how to make this delicate and beautiful holiday decoration from the Philippines and decorate your home with a traditional star-shaped lantern made by you.

Ages 7 to adult. Anyone under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Polynesian Arts & Culture Days

3rd Saturday of every month

11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

Wed., noon-12:45 p.m.

\$4 (\$3 Resident)

Aurora Historical Society members: Free

Bring your lunch

Salvadoreños Residiendo en Colorado (SARCO)

SARCO President, William Pineda, discusses Aurora's vibrant El Salvadoran community, its history and its bright future here in Aurora.

Sept. 19

Women in the Military

A veteran of 20 years in the United States Army, former paratrooper and JAG Attorney, Sabra Janko discusses the accomplishments of women in the military.

Oct. 17

Peak to Peak Tap & Brew

A representative from Peak to Peak Tap and Brew talks about the craft beer scene and their recent expansion to historic Colfax.

Nov. 14

Our Corporate Sponsors



1301 S. Havana Street Aurora, CO

<http://www.suss.net/showroom/buick>



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If anyone would like to receive the newsletter by email and let the Aurora Historical Society save the postage: Please contact Lynne Evans at 303-671-0874 or lyevans@comcast.net

Aurora Museum Foundation



ANTIQU
Appraisal Fair

Have your antiques and collectibles evaluated by experts.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018
Aurora Central Library, Community Room, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway

\$5 per individual item with a five-item limit per person.

To register, visit AuroraMuseumFoundation.org or call 303.739.6705 to reserve an entrance time as walk-ins are limited.

Aurora Museum Foundation members receive one free appraisal.

PLEASE NOTE: Entrance time is NOT the time of actual appraisal, the wait time depends on items being appraised.



Join us on September 25th
Aurora History Museum
7:00 p.m.

Speaker is Lee Michaels
Historian/enactor
Presenting Madam Laura Bell McDaniels

The livin' wasn't so easy for women in the 1800's, especially on the fringe of the frontier. On the saucy-side, stories from Colorado City about Madam Laura Bell's real rags to riches climb in fortune and misfortune



kept one's interest. Discover the "caste" system among the sisters of the night... the meaning of the red-light district and their compassion towards those in need. What was expected of a female in those times... their options for employment?

Lee's performance is chock full of knowledge from her extensive research of over 38 years. It may make you blush or evoke a laugh. Nonetheless, you'll discover an informative slice of frontier life, for Women In The Wilds.

Lee is currently writing the book "The Mysterious Madam: The Life and Times of Laura Bell McDaniel."

Aurora History Museum
Festival of Wreaths

For \$15, sponsors receive a wreath to decorate for the museum's display and recognition at the museum and online.

This year, wreaths will also be on display at the Aurora Municipal Center and the Stanley Marketplace.

Creative, colorful, and imaginative designs are encouraged, anyone can participate.

Decorative wreaths are due Nov. 12 to be installed Nov. 13. Exhibit is Nov. 14 - Dec. 8.

Wreaths are sold through an online auction. Proceeds benefit the Aurora Museum Foundation and the Aurora History Museum. All bidding will be viewed online at www.biddinggo.com/AuroraMuseumFoundation after Nov. 14.

For more information or to sponsor a wreath, email info@auroramuseumfoundation.org or call 303.739.6660.

Return the form below with your payment by Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 to the Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO 80012

Wreath Sponsor Name (on exhibit label) _____

Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ Donations are tax deductible.

Phone _____ Email _____

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