

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 42; Number 6; November 2018

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

President's Letter November 2018

Can't believe Thanksgiving is just around the corner...*but I'm always up for a Turkey dinner.*

Recently we lost one of our founding members, Annabel Dunning, a wonderful lady and a great contributor to the City of Aurora, and the Society. The Aurora Historical Society was organized June 19, 1975 and became a non-profit in '76. Annabel was our first President in 1977 and she and her husband Hal were charter members. Annabel will be missed, may you *Rest in Peace*.

The AHS November Regular meeting will be held at the Aurora History Museum meeting at 7pm. We will have our regular business meeting at the beginning to fill you in on what's going on with the Society and the opportunities for helping and fun!

Our speakers for the evening will be Lynne Lawlor and Jack Stone who will portray 2 Civil War soldiers, telling us about life in the times and about the equipment necessary in order to serve, what they ate and how they lived – facts you always wondered about. They will be in full costume.

Drake Brownfield from the History Museum will speak to us about our partnership with the museum and DAR to fund a new sign for Centennial House.

We hope to see you there.

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

**UPCOMING
events**

Join us on November 27th at the Aurora History Museum at 7:00 p.m. to hear Jack Stone and Lynne Lawlor portray two Civil War Soldiers.

Join us on January 22th at the Aurora History Museum at 6:00 p.m. for our Annual Potluck Dinner. Drake Brownfield, the Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Aurora will talk about Historic Preservation Projects in the city.



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES

On January 1, 2019, it is time to send your dues payments for year 2019 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 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.

REMEMBERING: Shakey's Pizza



One of the big changes that took place while I was in my youth was the advent of fast food places. Today they are everywhere, and they cover about every type of food imaginable from Chinese to Mexican to Italian. The first pizza restaurant franchise in the United State was Shakey's Pizza Parlor. It was the forerunner to Pizza Hut and really wasn't what we would think of as a fast food place today, although it may have been closer than I recall. The restaurant that I remember was just past where Havana turns into Hampden and was right about where the Village Inn is today. It had a unique architectural design so that the place stood out, and you knew it was a Shakey's. Inside was, as I recall, a fireplace and they had live music consisting of a honkytonk piano and a banjo player. The staff all wore costumes that looked like they were straight out of a barbershop quartet. Pizza wasn't anything special but to a young teen it was fantastic.



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.



Spotlight on the Mayors of Aurora

Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 44 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 #12 Allington H. Kramer

- Served from 1908 – 1910
- Born 1864 in Pennsylvania
- Came to Colorado around 1891
- Married Margaret Werfield 21 March 1888
- Has two children, Lulu and Wilbur
- He would have been 44 years old when he became Mayor
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor was Henry Augustus Buchtel & John Shafroth
- While he was in office:
 - 1910 census shows population of the Town of Aurora to be 679
 - Anyone hauling the fire engine to a fire was to be paid \$5
 - Dr. Gustin was appointed town physician
 - Mrs. Jane Slattery and A. Collins were granted permission to shoot on Aurora Lake
 - A “jail cage” was requested to be built in the Town Hall basement
 - Health Officer position eliminated, town Marshall to take over duties with no extra pay

- Shall Aurora become anti-saloon territory? 116 voted yes and 15 voted no

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

Aurora History

Excerpt from the *Aurora Democrat* October 29, 1943

The Aurora City street department is busy improving Havana street from Colfax to the fine new entrance to the Denver Arsenal.

All fences have been moved back, and the one house which abuts on the street will be set back. The city is doing a real job and is starting in the right way to make Havana street the main road artery north and south through Aurora.

It is now possible to use Havana street north, across the U. P. tracks to the south entrance of the Arsenal, and hence you can go either east or west. West you enter Highway 6 at the old bridge over Sand Creek, and east you go around the arsenal grounds to enter the Barr Lake road.

Our understanding is that Havana street through Aurora, is a part of the new super highway north and south, planned by the State Highway Board. It will be an almost direct air line to Colorado Springs.



1. Buckingham Square was opened in _____ ?
- a. 1971
 - b. 1973
 - c. 1968



2. *Day Chevrolet* was located at Colfax and _____?
 a. *Dayton*
 b. *Dallas*
 c. *Boston*



3. *Aurora's first (and only) female Mayor* was _____?
 a. *Naomi Walker*
 b. *Nora Walker*
 c. *Norma Walker*



4. *The graduating class of Aurora High School in 1917* consisted of _____ seniors
 a. *5*
 b. *6*
 c. *7*



Reprinted from the July 27, 1999 Advocate Volume 24., No. 4
Fitzsimons Army Hospital Closes as a Military Base.

After eighty-one years, the Fitzsimons Army Garrison closed as a military base. The garrison's flag was lowered for the last time on June 30th. With that Federal control of the property ended.

This signaled the transfer of the 660+ acres to civilian use, as stated in an order signed four years ago by President Clinton. The property now belongs to Aurora, and the University of Colorado, as well as other private enterprises. Most of the base, however, will be occupied by University Hospital and genetic research firms.

There are those among us who see this as the end of one era and the beginning of a bright new future for Aurora.

Obviously there have been big changes to Fitzsimons since this article appeared in 1999.



Fitzsimons 1920



Fitzsimons 2010



Anschutz Campus 2018



Plan for the future

A second article from the July 27, 1999 Advocate contains an article that is a snap shoot of life in Aurora nearly a hundred years ago.

“I Miss the Old Aurora”

By Ruth Bowen Spencer Woodbury

The Aurora that I miss is a small town, mostly agriculture. My dad always had a couple of horses and a cow and some chickens. We moved into a house in the 20 hundred block of Galena in 1916, and I have lived there ever since. I believe that I have lived in Aurora longer than any other person.

The first place I remember living was on a farm at about Smith Road and Dayton Street. Dad farmed some land that later became Stapleton Airport. I wanted to go everywhere with dad, and when he couldn't take me, they would tie me to a clothesline. That way I could run and play outside, but still be close to Mother. Well, of course, I got loose one day, and went to find Dad. I started across the railroad track and caught my foot in the cowcatcher. I screamed bloody murder and Mother came running, (as fast as she could -she was pregnant with my brother, Jack at the time.) Jim Chambers, who worked on another farm came running too, and freed my foot. Shortly after that my parents moved to Montview and Galena Street.

The old Fletcher school burned in February of 1919. A new school was built at 16th Avenue between Florence and Fulton Streets. My class was the first clas to start in first grade in that new school and we were also the last class to graduate from there. In those days there was just one school in Aurora, and children attended first through twelfth grades. William Smith High School was built in 1931.

Most of our social life centered around the church or the school. One of my fondest memories is going on picnics at Camp magpie on the Hoery Ranch near Chambers and Smith Road. We also went for hayrack rides out there. The horses would pull a wagon full of hay, and we would sit in the wagon and sing, and joke and have a wonderful time.

There was just one tennis court in the whole town. It was on the school grounds. We had to wait our turn to play or get there very early in the morning or late in the evening. We didn't care when, because we met our friends and gad a great time. Because the town was so small, we knew everyone, and everyone knew us.

I took music lessons from Mrs. Stark and played the violin. We had an orchestra called the Squared Circle Orchestra – that orchestra is certainly one of the highlights of my teenage years. We played whenever and wherever entertainment was needed. We didn't play for dances, because we played mostly classical music. I still miss the applause and compliments we received.

We didn't have any place to go ice skating or swimming in Aurora, so we had to go into Denver. That was part of the adventure too. We got on the old #14 street car and then transferred to where we wanted to go. We would usually go swimming at either Washington or Berkeley Park, and ice skating at City Park. The street car came out from Denver on Colfax and turned around on Geneva Street then sent back into Denver. It was more usual to take the street car than it was to drive anywhere in the car.

I miss my teachers. Sarah Fuller was a music teacher and a positive role model in my life. Then there was also Miss Barnard – probably one of the most beloved women to ever live in this town. The year I was a senior Miss Barnard wrote our class play. I was a musician, not an actress, and Miss B recognized that since my high school sweetheart Vernon Spencer was in the cast, she better write in a part just for me, because I would be hanging around all of the practices, anyway.

After we graduated from high school, Vernon and I were married, and he became Chief of Police in Aurora.

Another thing I really miss is the way politics was in those days. We knew most of the candidates in the city and in the county. The state candidates often came and held meetings and talked to the residents, and then we voted for them. The weeks before election time Emily Bowen, would put on her hat and go door to door

carrying campaign literature. She was elected and served as a Justice of the Peace, and that was in the days when women were not normally elected to offices.

I miss the old Aurora – it was a wonderful place to grow up in. I often wonder how I got so lucky.

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On September 25th, the Aurora Historical Society donated \$250 to the Aurora History Museum “In Memory of Mayor Steve Hogan” at the regular September Meeting. We also enjoyed the presentation of Madam Laura Bell McDaniels done by Lee Michaels.



Aurora History Museum Exhibits and Events Winter 2018-2019

HOURS

Tue.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sat. & Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Free Admission

EXHIBITS

Drink Local: Aurora’s Craft Beer Scene

Nov. 20, 2018–April 7, 2019

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

Cultivating Community: Hoery Family Photos

Dec. 11, 2018-Mar. 10, 2019

Experience Aurora through 100-year-old photographs of the Hoery family. Whether by farming, education, business ownership, land stewardship or leisure – the Hoery family helped shape early Aurora’s community and created an enduring legacy.

19th Annual Festival of Wreaths

Nov. 6-Dec. 7

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

PROGRAMS

Ukulele and Hula Lessons

3rd Saturday of every month

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

Sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society

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

\$4 (\$3 Resident)

Aurora Historical Society members: Free

Bring your lunch

Winter Wonders

Kathleen Arnold fosters public education for all age groups through community discussions. This December, she presents a Lifelong Learning presentation themed around the winter months.

Dec. 19

Beer Archaeology

In addition to lecturing for the University of Colorado, Travis Rupp is the Innovation and Wood Cellar Manager

at Avery Brewing Company. Rupp shares his observations on craft beer's impact on the local community.

Jan. 16

Cider in Aurora

Haykin Family Cider has the distinction of being Aurora's only operating small batch cidery. Founders Daniel and Talia Haykin talk about the cider making process and celebrate their first year in Aurora.

Feb. 20

HISTORIC SITES

Visit AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites

Holidays on the Farm

Dec. 8 & 9

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

DeLaney Farm Historic District

Celebrate the holidays in the 1930s with a glimpse into Aurora's past. Enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, crafts and a blacksmith demonstration. See a special holiday performance by Aurora Dance Arts in the Coal Creek Schoolhouse at 1 p.m.

Open House at Centennial House

Dec. 15

11-4 p.m.

Centennial House, 1671 Galena St.

Celebrate a Victorian holiday inside an 1891 Fletcher home. Enjoy a free tour, tea & cookies.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer for National History Day in Aurora on March 16. Support local middle and high school students by judging projects or helping with the event. Contact us for details jlira@auroragov.org or 303.739.6663.

Sanders Museum Store

Find unique gifts from local authors and artisans. Items include Aurora themed gifts, books, wood cut earrings and more! Located in the Museum lobby.



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

The Aurora Museum Foundation presents...

19th Annual Festival of Wreaths

Nov. 6 - Dec. 7

This festive annual fundraiser features wreaths generously sponsored and decorated by local businesses, organizations and individuals. Wreaths are sold through an online auction. Proceeds benefit the exhibits, programs and preservation efforts at the Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites.

WREATHS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT:
Aurora History Museum, Aurora Municipal Center-2nd Floor Mezzanine, and the Stanley Marketplace.
To sponsor a wreath email info@auroramuseumfoundation.org or call 303.739.6705.

Return the form below with payment (\$25.00) by Tuesday, Oct. 15, to:
Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora CO 80012.

All bidding can be viewed online at biddingowl.com/fowamf after Nov. 6.

Tell Us About Your Wreath! Please provide a typed detailed description of your wreath(s), attach separately as needed.
Note: Businesses we suggest gift cards or donated items attached to wreath.

Wreath Sponsor Name (for display label) _____
Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
Contact Person _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Wreath Description:
Business Name (on Facebook, Website URL): _____
Estimated Value: _____

City of Aurora Library and Cultural Services • Aurora History Museum • AuroraMuseum.org

Our Corporate Sponsors



1301 S. Havana Street Aurora, CO

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

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

For our many members who knew Annabelle Dunning

Annabelle Marie (Holick) Dunning has deep roots in Colorado. She was born in Greeley, on February 25, 1932, to Helen (Kruse) and Bus Holick, surrounded by many aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents on both sides of the family. She passed away on September 28,



2018. Annabelle is survived by her brother, Stephen Holick (Kathy), her brother-in-law, Andy Vassios, sister-in-law Collene Beitz, her 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren (# 7 coming in Feb 2019) and many other family members. She was preceded in death by her sweet husband,

Harold, and her beloved sister, Jacqueline Vassios and many other special friends and family members.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Annabelle's name may be made to Parkview Congregational Church Children's Ministries (12444 East Parkview Drive, Aurora, CO 80011) or to The Aurora Kiwanis Scholarship Fund (Aurora Kiwanis Foundation, PO Box 441774, Aurora, CO 80044).

She graduated from Loveland High School in 1950 where she was the Editor of the Redskin Reporter. In 1953, she married Harold Dunning of Loveland. In 1954, she graduated from the University of Colorado and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

The Dunning's lived in Las Animas, Colorado from 1954 until 1962. During this time, they welcomed four children- three daughters and a son- Jennifer Flanigan (Dennis), Gillian Dunning, Jaelyn Deaner (Jeff), and Jeffrey Dunning (Kathy). In 1962, they moved to Aurora, Colorado. While being a busy young wife, mother and community activist, Annabelle also substitute taught in the Aurora Public Schools.

Annabelle was a charter member of the Aurora Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW), serving as President 1968-1970.

Always very active in genealogy and history, the Aurora Historical Society was established as a non-profit in 1975, where she served as President from 1975-1980 and is a life-time member. During this

time the Aurora Historical Commission was founded to establish a museum. She was an active member on this commission from 1973-1981. She was president of the Aurora Genealogical Society from 1997-2003.

In 1979, she received the Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Woman of the Year" award for her efforts to preserve Aurora's history.

In 1982, Annabelle was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and represented House District 36, which included parts of central Aurora. As a legislator, she served on the State Affairs Committee, Local Government Committee, Education Committee, and the Finance Committee.

1985, Aurora Business and Professional Women – Woman of the Year

2004 - Aurora Woman Sculptor of Our Community

2005 – History Makers Award for formation of the Aurora History Museum

After their children left home, Harold and Annabelle enjoyed travels around the United States, Canada, and Europe. These were definitely their golden years together! Annabelle and Harold were very happily married for 56 years. In 2012, she decided to return "home" to Loveland after residing in Aurora for 50 years. Her greatest rewards came from her family and from memories of her dear husband and their life together. Annabelle believed in "living" her faith by showing kindness, generosity, and love to others! She devoted her life to her family, to her faith, to those in need, and to the betterment of the community. She continued to bring love and joy to those around her and loved to share about her life experiences!

Please do a random act of kindness for someone else. Look for the good in each day!