

# The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 43; Number 4; July 2019

## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



### Embrace your city, your past

#### President's Letter July 2019

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather. It has been a strange spring with all the rain and cool days we have had. One result of the strange weather was that AHS had to cancel the Ice Cream Social on June 22. We did have the sign dedication at Centennial House that day, and it was well attended considering the weather. The rescheduled the Ice Cream Social will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Centennial House from 1-4. The Capitol City Brass Band will be there and tours of the house will also be available. Tickets from the June 22<sup>nd</sup> event will be honored. Please join us and have some ice cream on what we hope will be a bright sunny day.

We have other events scheduled as well. On September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am we have a group tour of the grounds and the Victorian House at Four Mile Historic Park. More about this in the newsletter. We also have some great programs planned for upcoming months.

Please don't hesitate to call with questions or suggestions for future events.

*Lynne Evans, President*

#### Historical Society Officers

**President, Newsletter, & Website:** Lynne Evans

303-671-0874 [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Nadine Caldwell

**Secretary:** Dolly Gray

**Treasurer:** Michael Lockwood

**Directors:** Carolyn Brassell, Susan Hicks, & Sandy Sweeney, & Karen Schweider

**Membership:** Larry Wilterdink

**Hospitality:** Carolyn Brassell

**Historian:** Michael Lockwood

**Program Committee:** Dolly Gray, Susan Hicks, & Carolyn Brassell

**Education-** Vacant

**If anyone is interested, please contact Lynne Evans  
303-671-0874 [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)**

#### UPCOMING events

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> Ice Cream Social at Centennial House**

**Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Tour of Four-Mile Historic Park**

**Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> AHS meeting /Speaker Dr. Gordon Tucker/ archeology in Aurora**

**January 28, 2020 Annual Pot Luck Dinner/Speaker Dr. Rena Fowler/ women homesteaders in eastern Colorado**

**March 2, 2020 AHS meeting/ Beth Nobles – Sand Creek Trail**

**May TBA Melvin School house tour  
Stay tuned for more information- Hope you can join us!!**



### IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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/>



### 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](http://www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org)

### REMEMBERING: Backyard Fun

The start of June meant that school was out with lots of time for lazing around the house or going out to the backyard and playing some family games. Now neither

my Mom or my Dad were big on these activities, but on occasion, we'd break out either the croquet set or the badminton set. It seemed like the croquet wickets took



too long to set up and in our backyard one end was right where there was a steep hill so if you missed, the ball was going all the way out to the street. Of course, after playing for an hour we were done, and nobody wanted to pick everything

back up. I'm sure Dad "encouraged" us to put it all away. Badminton, on the other hand, only had a net to set up so it went up pretty quickly.

The down side was that where we played was right next to the house and it wasn't long before the shuttlecock ended



up on the roof. The set usually came with two of them so we could keep going until the next one went up there. After that it was game over. Oh well, let's head over to the picnic

table that my Dad made and have a hamburger that Mom made.

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 #16

George Edwin Smith

- Served from 12 April 1917 – 7 Dec 1917
- He was born 13 February 1889 in Ft. Dodge, Iowa
- Married Tressie Herzog 30 October 1909 in Denver
- Has at least two children
- He was a jeweler for Bohm Allen
- He was shot while changing a flat tire at 4<sup>th</sup> and Williams Street
- He would have been 28 years old when he became Mayor
- He died sometime in 1961 in Thornton, Colorado
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Julius Caldeen Gunter
- While he was in office:
  - He was in office for such a short time that all was status quo for the city

Trivia Question Answers:

1. b 2. a 3. a 4. c

*Reprinted from the March 1978 Advocate*

#### Gilligan Home

Twice a “Model” Home: 1925 – Aurora’s Electric Home; 1978 – Beeler Street East

By Molly Markert

#### Introduction

A large, architecturally unique home stands at 1455 Beeler Street in Aurora, surrounded by new apartments, a motel and bar, and a large section of unkempt land. One enters the home from a parking lot on the east side of the building, and immediately notices that this home is not your average suburban dwelling.

How did the home come to be? What purpose did it formerly serve? Why the “sideways” entrance and the unkempt yard? These thoughts and other questions intrigued me four years ago when I first visited the (former) nursing home. My curiosity about the residence



was given a back seat due to my job working with the people living in the home. Other than noticing a few “unique” features, I ignored the physical surroundings until a project was suggested as a class requirement for History of Denver with Dr. Leonard at Metro State College.

This paper, then, is a project for that class. Although, I did not uncover or discover nearly as much as I had hoped to learn, I did talk with many interesting people and came to know and appreciate the depth and length of time historical research requires. Learning the process of historical research is, to me, much more valuable than knowing the number of tiles on the roof; so, I feel I have gained a great deal from the project.

Unfortunately, many questions remain to be answered. I hope to continue with this project independently until my curiosity is, at least in part, satisfied.

#### 1925-Research Methods

Some of the methods used to uncover the facts about the origin of the house would make a historian shudder in his boots, but were the only recourse available to me with three weeks time. The Colorado State Historical Society closed until August, limited material at the Denver Public Library Western History Department on Aurora, and no previous experience in historical research.

I started with local rumors about the home, and then



proceeded to contact members of the Aurora Historical Society and other interested persons to check out the gossip. My only factual

data came from 1920-1930 editions of “The Aurora Democrat”, fortunately available on microfilm at the Aurora Public Library.

One lead connected with another, and unfortunately all dead-ended. Public Service Company of Colorado referred me to the Rocky Mountain Rural Electrical Association, which seemed to know nothing about Aurora other than the current water problem with Denver. City Directories only covered Denver, and the Denver Combined Suburban Directory was not started until 1941. Conversations with interested persons were incomplete, when available. Several vital persons were on vacation or unavailable.

Given those constraints and problems, I’m surprised I even have the barest glimmering of factual information about the origin of the home.



## 1925-origin

Thomas F. Gilligan was a Director of the Aurora First National Bank, President of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and considered to be one of the leading businessmen in the small suburban community of Aurora. The society section of the *Aurora Democrat* for June 12, 1925, comments that "The Gilligan house is rapidly being completed and will undoubtedly be the finest home in Aurora. We understand that before being occupied, it will be open for inspection." Quarterly statements for the First National Bank on June 30, 1925 show the bank's total assets at \$599,590.50, attested to by T. F. Gilligan, James F. Gilligan, and D.H. Stanley, Directors.

By July 24, 1925, the local paper began weekly front page "Progress" reports to the home's completion. The home had been selected as an "Electrical Display Home"; with Westinghouse and General Electric having complete control of the most modern wiring, fluorescent lighting, and every known electrical appliance" available. The America Furniture Company completely furnished every room, and O'Meara Ford even supplied a new auto to grace the garage.

### Description

The Gilligan home was designed by O. J. Grisier, who also served as general contractor with W. W. Stoddard, builder of many homes in Aurora. The exterior of the home was a cream-colored stucco and was accented with brick arches over the window and doors. Tall chimneys featured arched tops. The beautiful terrace faced Colfax Avenue. (There is a motel there today, so the front of the home is difficult to see.)



The basement had a large double garage, a laundry room, play room, billiard room, and den, space for coal and a furnace. The floor was

brick, rather than concrete.

The main floor had a reception hall, dining room, living room, sun parlor with two balconies, owner's bedroom, children's bedroom, kitchen, owner's private office and den, breakfast room and pantry, maid's room and bath, and owner's bath. A cedar-lined closet was considered a special feature.

"An unusual detail of the living room was its huge tile fireplace, made by special order in California. This room had lights concealed in the beams, providing indirect illumination." The owner's bath had orange and black tile with a build-in shower and concealed lights.

The second floor had two commodious guest rooms, the south room leading to a sleeping porch. A bath for

guests competed this floor, whose unique feature was its central location over the first floor.

Every bedroom had a large closet. Floors throughout the house were of double-thickness oak.

A meeting at the bank on July 23, 1925 "enthusiastically endorsed" the project and selected a committee of Aurora ladies to serve as hostesses and tour guides for the Grand Opening, slated for August 29, 1925.

City promoters quickly realized a way to induce Denverites to move to the suburb, and by July 31, 1925 a booklet "filled with the good points of Aurora" was prepared for distribution to the thousands expected to be at the Grand Opening. The event was broadcast on KOA radio, and there was little doubt that all this promotion would result in "the biggest possible advertisement for our town."

More good publicity flowed in the paper, noting that the house was "designed, built, and all materials furnished by Aurora men, whenever possible." The paper that date also stated that "No man is better informed as to the financial status of Aurora and to the

real value of property here, other than Thomas F. Gilligan, owner of the home."

Construction delayed the Grand Opening until September 5, 1925, and the publicity to make Aurora "Denver's finest



suburb" continued unabated.

On Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, a complete description of the dream home appeared in the paper headlined "electric Home is Aurora Built", again proclaiming Aurora's glories and urging people to attend the Grand Opening. The modified Spanish or Castilian design was determined to be "the most modern trend in luxurious home". Over 125 electrical outlets were available, and the walls alone required over 78,000 bricks.

### Grand Opening

The September 4, 1925 *Aurora Democrat* devoted half of the front page to a picture and story about the home. Although mostly good publicity for Aurora, the article cited Thomas Gilligan as President of the Aurora Electrical Home Association, and the names of the "bevy of pretty Aurora girls" who acted as guides. Lovely young hostesses were: Blanche Lancaster, Louisa Hasamaer, Marcia Hertzmark, Mildred Hertzmark, Miriam McDowell, Vivian McKenzie, Helen Lewand, Twila Garkle, Lilliam Parker, Helen Dodds, Ethel Wadleigh, Elsie Harrison, Merle Harrison, Catherine Cleaves, Hazel Stoddard, Ruth Lancaster, and Marian Haight.

Follow-up front page articles on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> mentioned that Governor Morley attended the Grand Opening (one and one-half hours late) as did 15,000 other people. The society news reported that Mr. and Mrs. Gilligan would take possession of their lovely new home on September 19, 1925.

### **1926-1930 (?) - Rumors**

At that point, facts end and only memories serve to fill in the gaps. The only other mention in the *Aurora Democrat* were financial statements and advertisements for the First National Bank through July 11, 1930, still carrying Thomas Gilligan as director and listing deposits of over \$450,000. An obituary in the *Denver Post* on March 21, 1953 stated that James F. Gilligan, a former cashier in banks in Salida, Boulder, and Aurora in 1925 through 1937 had died. The obituary mentions two brothers and other family in California.

Rumors abound for this time period, and no confirmation was located for any of the material. Things must have gone well for a while, yet memories indicate the contrary.

Supposedly, the bank closed in 1933, never to reopen. The Gilligan Family was said to have moved to California. The house was vacated, and remained empty until sometime in the late 1930's.

### **1930 (?) to 1952 - Assumptions**

The cause of historical research was not advanced by myself at all for this period, and only some assumptions are available. The only fact, from the *Denver Combined Suburban Directory*, shows Dr. Arthur C. Cluff as owner of the Cluff Sanatorium at 9100 East Colfax in 1941 through 1952. The only remaining visible testimony to his owner was a sign above the bedroom (then an office) door (removed in the early 1970's) stating "Dr. Cluff".

The assumptions are that Dr. Cluff purchased the home in the 30's (whenever it was available for sale) and did extensive remodeling to make room for the tuberculosis patients he cared for. The remodeling is another visible remnant of his ownership, since the house was divided to make room "for at least 40" patients. Other remodeling and landscaping could have been done under his ownership.

### **1952-1975 - Ownership and Use**

The *Denver Combined Suburban Directory* is again the only factual information source I had for this time period. Much more research could be done in this area given time.

The Directory for 1954 shows Vesta Bowden and Calvin Douthitt owning the Mountain View Convalescent Sanatorium at the current Beeler address. Sometime between 1952 and 1954 the Colfax Frontage was sold, giving us the present sideways entrance and a view into motel windows. The original address was 9100 East Colfax. In the Directory for 1955-56, Vesta Bowden,

Juanita DePriest, and R. L. Manasco are listed as owners. Unconfirmed rumors abound for this period, when the home continued to serve as the Mountain View Convalescent Sanatorium.

By 1957, Vesta Bowden is listed as the sole owner of Vesta Bowden Nursing Home. Not much can yet be said for this period, mainly because Ms. Bowden is on vacation and partly because the rest is unconfirmed rumor. Some remodeling was done under her ownership to meet Nursing Home licensing codes and provide space for the 37 elderly and handicapped persons living there.

### **1975 to Present**

By 1975, Jack Smith, another current businessman in the nursing industry, had some ownership in the building. Due to increasingly stringent Federal and State licensing requirements for Nursing Homes, the decision was made to close Vesta Bowden Nursing Home. The building was then leased to Suburban Community Services and Training Center (SCTSC), who began the process of meeting the less stringent requirements for an Intermediate Care Facility. Fifteen of the original 37 residents remained in the facility, and history then repeated itself.

SCTSC obtained funds from Community Development Act of Housing and Urban Development to do extensive building repair to meet the intermediate Care Facility guidelines. The roof was repaired, more electrical outlets were installed, the wiring was redone, and modern lights were installed in the main part of the home. A grant from the Batchelder Foundation secured interior decorating assistance to design a model intermediate Care Facility (ICF) environment, including lowered lighting fixtures, carpet, and furnishings. Other donations were secured to complete the model ICF environment by June 1977.

### **Summary**

The model house of 1925 now provides a model home environment to the fifteen mentally challenged people living there. This facility is unique among intermediate Care Facilities in Colorado. Usually agencies for mentally challenged people have barely enough funding to provide adequate programming. In Aurora, at Beeler Street East, funds from the State provide exceptional programming, while Federal and private funds provided an exceptional physical environment.

Aurora's model home had held that distinction twice, once in 1925 and again in 1977. It has been 'Aurora's Model Home' twice this century.

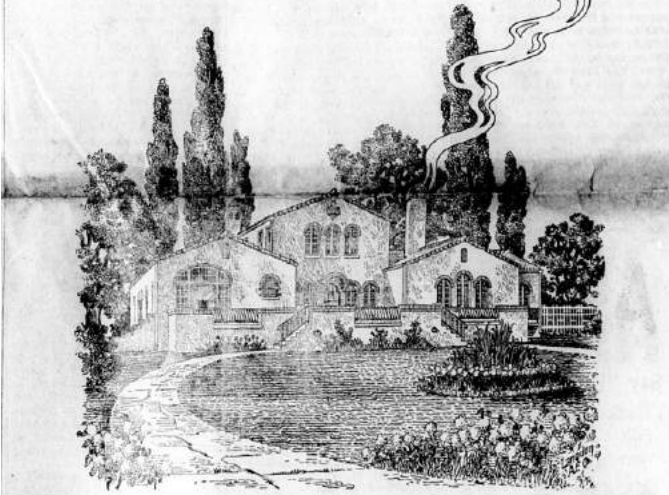
**The Thomas F. Gilligan House was landmarked by the city of Aurora in 1990. It is landmark #10**

# ALL READY FOR "ELECTRICAL HOME"

GOVERNOR MORLEY WILL OPEN THE HOME WITH OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS PRESENT. OPENING SET FOR SATURDAY AT 7 P. M.

THOUSANDS ARE EXPECTED TO VIEW THE HOME

## Aurora's Electrical Home



Unless pressing state business interferes, Governor Clarence J. Morley will attend the opening of Aurora's Electrical Home, Saturday, September 5th, at 7 p. m. Interviewed last week by Mayor John McMillan and Arthur Conner, the governor evidenced keen interest in Aurora's progress and said he would try his best to be present on that date.

In addition to the governor, other high state and Denver city officials are expected to be out. This fact, coupled with the popular interest in electrical homes, should crowd all roads to Aurora on the evening of September 5th.

Aurora and the home will be widely advertised. The Denver Post will carry a full-page advertisement on the home, in today's issue, besides subsequent smaller advertisements and new articles. Colored window display cards have been placed in local store windows and in Denver electrical shops. Several hundred auto windshield stickers already have been distributed in Aurora and Denver. An attractive colored folder will be given each visitor to the house. This will show the floor plans of the home, give useful electrical information and will carry a strong message on the desirability of visitors making Aurora their home.

Under the sponsorship of the Aurora Commercial Club and the full backing of all citizens who have the town's interest at heart, the

Electrical Home will do more towards boosting Aurora than any other previous civic undertaking.

Thousands of out of town people will read about Aurora in the Denver papers, while fully 10,000, at a conservative estimate, will attend the home and visit "Denver's Finest Suburb."

A bevy of pretty Aurora girls will act as demonstrators, or guides for visitors passing thru the home. They are the Misses Blanche Lancaster, Louisa Hasamaer, Marcia Hertzmark, Mildred Hertzmark, Miriam McDowell, Vivian McKenzie, Helen Lewand, Twilla Garkie, Lillian Parker, Helen Dodds, Ethel Wadleigh, Elsie Harrison, Merle Harrison, Catherine Cleaves, Hazel Stoddard, Ruth Lancaster and Mariam Haight.

Beautiful appointments in the way of richly decorated furniture and exquisite draperies have been installed by the American Furniture Co.

Those who have charge of the arrangements are: T. F. Gilligan, president of the Aurora Electrical Home Association; Fred A. Harrison, secretary and treasurer; Mayor John McMillan, chairman finance committee; Merle Jordan, in charge of electrical features, and Arthur Conner, publicity manager.

The Home will be open September 5th to 15th. Visiting hours will be 6 p. m. to 9 p. m., daily and on Sundays and holidays from 2 to 5 and from 7 to 9.

## Firemen Annual Dance

Aurora Town Hall, Saturday Evening, September 5th, 1925

See the Electrical Home and then to the Dance!

# TRIVIA

## CHALLENGE

### City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. Who was this U.S. Senator that lived in Aurora?
  - a. Paul Tauer
  - b. William Armstrong
  - c. Federico Peña



2. What type of business below operated at 18500 E. Colfax?
  - a. Radio station
  - b. Insurance company
  - c. Home builder



3. When did the first Aurora Public Library open?
  - a. 1929
  - b. 1925
  - c. 1931





4. Where was this previous Aurora Municipal building located?
- 1545 S. Chambers Road
  - 1305 S. Peoria Street
  - 1450 S. Havana Street



## Headlines from the Past

Aurora Democrat - June 13, 1919 (100 years ago)

**The Aurora Public School**

The School Board let the contract for the new school building, Saturday evening, to C. W. Olson of Denver, for \$35,500.00. This contractor also bought the old building for \$750.00. The plumbing and heating contract was let to the Wallace Plumbing & Heating Company of Denver, for \$5,900.00. The general contractor has given a bond to complete the job within 75 days. Four additional lots will be purchased adjoining the school property, and the building will be erected back from 12th Avenue. The four lots are being taken off the building to reduce the cost. The only other change in the specifications is that the basement will not be plastered. The building will look exactly as shown above, and by placing folding doors in the assembly hall, give nearly as many rooms as before. Construction will begin immediately and the building rushed to an early completion.

Aurora Democrat - June 9, 1944 (75 years ago)

## To the People of this Community

There will be a feeling of shame in this community if we find ourselves short of the mark when the Fifth War Loan comes to an end July 8.



We will not permit that to happen here, especially if we look around in our homes and our places of employment and see the shadows of relatives and friends who to-

day are in the midst of bloody battle for us.

We cannot emphasize too strongly that regardless of the size of the oversubscription of our community quota, the Fifth War Loan will be a flat failure for you if you do not exceed anything you have done in the past in War Bond buying.

In this invasion hour our fighting men have a right to demand that you make your record contribution to the success of a war loan.

The slogan, *Back the Attack—Buy More Than Before*, is not merely a catch phrase. It expresses the cold facts about invasion. Unless we make the supreme effort to do everything humanly possible either at our work benches or in our homes, with our sweat, our blood and our dollars we hand over our share of the burden to our fighting men.

THE EDITOR.

Douglas County News - July 3, 1969 (50 years ago)

Mr. Monte Foreman, a trainer of numerous national champion reining horses and a consultant for Olympic jumping horses, will give a training clinic at the Aurora Stables, 10850 East Exposition Ave (two blocks east of Havana) on July 10, 11, 12 and 13. This clinic will be most beneficial for any rider regardless of his riding ability. Mr. Foreman has been requested to present this same type of clinic for the U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team at their summer training camp. For further information call 366-9252.

## Ads from the Past

Aurora Democrat - June 13, 1919 (100 years ago)

Report of Condition of	
Aurora State & Savings Bank	
At the close of business May 12, 1919	
RESOURCES	
Loans and Discounts	120,423.63
Bonds and Warrants	54,894.07
Furniture and Fixtures	2,500.00
Cash due from Banks	39,424.75
	\$225,742.45
LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	10,000.00
Surplus and Undivided Profits	5,063.03
<b>DEPOSITS</b>	<b>210,679.42</b>
	225,742.45

June 9, 1944 (75 years ago)

**HALVERSON COAL CO.**  
BEST GRADES COAL at POPULAR PRICES  
Store Early this year, as a scarcity may prevail before the end of the season.  
**TERMS: CASH**  
1203 Dayton                      Aurora 272-W.

Douglas County News - July 3, 1969 (50 years ago)

**GOT A**  
**JUNKER?**  
YOU CAN GET AT LEAST \$300 allowance on your present car, regardless of age, make, model or condition (even if we have to tow it in!) toward purchase of one of many used car Weekly Specials. Turn in soon at our "Drive-Thru" Used Car Terrace.  
**Doenges**  
**-Glass**  
**FIRST & HAVANA, AURORA**  
Weeknight till 9, Sat. till 6 • 343-1900  
Home of the Most Affordable Fords!

## Aurora History Museum Exhibits and Events Summer 2019

### HISTORIC SITES

Story Line is now available online!

Visit [AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites](http://AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites) to see which historic landmarks have a recorded story line.

### Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

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

\$4 (\$3 Resident)

Aurora Historical Society members: Free

Bring your lunch

### July 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Conversation with a Curator

Aurora History Museum exhibits curator, Christopher Shackelford, discusses his design process for the exhibit, One Small Step: Fifty Years Later, and explores the history of space travel and Apollo 11's mission.

### August 21<sup>st</sup>

#### A Local Home for an International Community

Colorado African Organization works with partners to help immigrants integrate in Colorado after their initial arrival and resettlement.

### EXHIBITS

#### March 12 – July 21

##### One Small Step: Fifty Years later:

In July 1969, for the first time in human history, a man walked on the moon. To commemorate this pivotal achievement and to educate a new generation about such a momentous time in history, the museum presents an exhibit chronicling the moon landing. This exhibit recounts the history of space travel, highlights humanity's reaction, and details Apollo 11's mission from launch to reentry.

##### Hidden in Plain Sight: Aurora's Historic Preservation Program

#### July 23 – Nov 3

Hidden in Plain Sight chronicles the stories concealed in Aurora's historic landmarks and districts and reintroduces the Cultural Heritage Site Program. Explore the exhibit to gain a deeper appreciation for the physical links to our City's unique history.

##### Hometown Pride: Student Athletic and Extracurricular History in Aurora

#### April 23 – April 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

Whether an athlete or a mathlete, many students grow up involved in some sort of extracurricular activity. This



exhibit explores the sports & activities that shaped Aurora's youth throughout the years. Relive your glory days & learn about Aurora's new generation of students as the museum celebrates Aurora's hometown pride.

### **Growing Home & Trolley Trailer no. 710**

Growing Home is a permanent exhibit about Aurora's history featuring Trolley Trailer No. 610, a fully-restored 1913 historic trolley trailer. The exhibit highlights people, places, and events from Aurora's history. It features over 100 historic photographs and objects, and the fully restored 1913 historic Trolley Trailer No. 610 in the new Ruth Fountain gallery. Go inside the trolley and experience 100 years of history first-hand. The exhibit was designed by Dennis Meyer of Filament Design/Build with support from museum staff.

In October 2012, the Aurora City Council approved funding for the construction of a new gallery and addition at the Aurora History Museum. Council resolved to name it in honor of Ruth Fountain, a former city councilwoman, community activist and museum supporter.



### **Programs and Events**

#### **Ukulele Lessons**

Lessons are free! All levels are welcome. Recommended for ages 8 & up. One lesson every month. Dates are subject to change. Call for details.

#### **Radio Days**

**July 13 & 27, Aug 10 & 24 11:30 to noon**

Watch a live performance of a classic radio broadcast & hear 1930's news bulletins from the *Aurora Democrat Newspaper*. See a different performance on each date.

**Visit the Aurora History Museum during these events:**

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Spectacular**

Thurs., July 4<sup>th</sup> 6-9 pm

**Global Fest**

**Sat. Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, 11 am – 6 pm**

### **Our Corporate Sponsors**



18000 Smith Rd. | Aurora, CO 80011  
One Professional Team Delivering Quality Solutions to Every Customer Our Values in Action  
Teamwork • Excellence • Accountability • Safety • Integrity • Communication

**If anyone would like to receive the newsletter by email and let the Aurora Historical Society save the postage.**

**Please contact Lynne Evans at 303-671-0874 or [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)**

Please visit the Aurora Historical Society Website  
<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/>



The Aurora Historical Society is missing some past issues of the Advocate. If any of our members have a copy of an issue below and they would be willing to let us have it or make a copy of it please contact me.

- January 1976
- November 1976
- January 1977
- November 2009
- January 2010

### **New member benefit**

FOX discount

We have a discount for 20% off of tickets for just this sort of thing. The discount code is CULTURAL. Anyone can use that for our Season shows online or over the phone (not valid for special event, cabaret's or rentals).

**Remember AHS members also get in free to the "Lunchtime Lectures" at the Aurora History Museum.**



## Centennial House Sign Dedication Ceremony

June 22, 2019, even though the weather was chilly and gloomy for the event they sun came out just long enough for the ceremony. There were quite a few in attendance despite the weather. Historic Preservation Specialist Drake Brownfield talked about how the sign came about. He also stressed the cooperation of the City of Aurora, the Aurora Historical Society, and the Toll Gate Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for coming together to fund the sign. Here are a few pictures from the event.





# *The Good Ole' Summer Time*

*Hats and Parasols encouraged*



Please join us

## **Ice Cream Social Fundraiser**

August 3, 2019

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*



# Aurora Historical Society Tour of Four-Mile Historic Park 715 South Forest Street Denver, CO 80246

The Aurora Historical Society will tour the grounds and Victorian house at 10:00 am on Saturday, September 21, 2019. The tour will take between 10-25 people. Adults are \$5 and Seniors are \$4. The house is a Victorian with narrow stairs up to the second floor, so that portion of the tour may not be handicapped accessible. Otherwise, the facilities and ground are accessible pending weather-related issues. We will gather in front of the Visitor's Center. We can book a 2<sup>nd</sup> tour if the first one fills up. Please reserve your spot by calling Lynne Evans at **303-671-0874** or by email [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)



## Where the Frontier Comes to Life

Discover this tranquil, 12-acre historic oasis and the site of Denver's oldest house. Tour the museum, stroll the gardens and grounds, pan for "gold", and visit our farm animals.

Exhibits, demonstrations, and special programming compliment cultural and natural history to enrich your park experience.

It is our mission to educate a diverse community through experiences that promote the preservation, responsible interpretation, and enjoyment of Denver's storied western heritage. Visit their website at <https://www.fourmilepark.org/visit/>

All are welcome to bring picnic lunches and make use of the picnic tables (no glass, please). September is lovely on the Park!

