

# The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 43; Number 5; September 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 end of summer. Fall will be here soon. The Ice Cream Social was a fun event. Everyone enjoyed the music, the company, and the ice cream. The garden at Centennial House was lovely and the weather cooperated this time.

Sandy Sweeney was honored for her years of service to the Aurora Historical Society. We are truly indebted to her for her leadership of the historical society in the past and her continued support.

We hope that many of you will join us on September 21<sup>st</sup> for the tour on Four-Mile Historic Park. Please RSVP for this event so we have an accurate count for our tour. You can email me at [lyeveans@comcast.net](mailto:lyeveans@comcast.net) or call 303-671-0874. It promises to be a great tour. Bring your friends and neighbors too.

In November, Gordon Tucker will speak to us about archeology in Aurora. You will learn a lot about Aurora's past.

Hope to see you all at these upcoming events!

*Lynne Evans, President*

#### Historical Society Officers

**President, Newsletter, & Website:** Lynne Evans  
303-671-0874 [lyeveans@comcast.net](mailto:lyeveans@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 [lyeveans@comcast.net](mailto:lyeveans@comcast.net)

**UPCOMING**  
events

**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: Shopping for School Supplies

Back in the 60-s and 70's shopping for school supplies was something that didn't start until about a week before school. Nowadays it seems the



school supplies came out back in July. There were always the things we wanted as a kid, like a Trapper Keeper, folders with our teen idols on them, fancy pens to write with and cool, trendy clothes. What we got was the boring Pee Chee folders, a three-ring binder that would pierce your finger when it snapped closed, a couple of BIC pens (one red one), new underwear, a new pair of jeans (stiff as a board) and a new pair of tennis shoes from JP Penny (no name brand shoes for us). But some things never change – Dad complained about the cost and wondered why I went through tennis shoes so fast (we just bought you a pair a month ago).

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 #17**

Harry Miller Katherman

- Served from 8 December 1917 – 1 July 1918
- He was born 3 July 1888 in Warrensburg, Missouri
- Married Leola Ecton 7 December 1909 in Otero County, Colorado
- Had one child – Dale Ecton who was born 5 April 1915 and died 5 April 1915
- He was the Aurora postmaster from 1934 through at least 1953
- He claimed exemption from WWI as a member of the Church of the Brethren
- He would have been 29 years old when he became Mayor
- He died 25 December 1956 at the age of 68 in Aurora, Colorado and is buried in Fairmount
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Julius Caldeen Gunter
- While he was in office:
  - U.S. Army Hospital No. 21 was authorized by the War Department February 1918
  - Citizens purchased 600 acres from Judge A.H. Gutheil and leased it to the Government for \$1 per year for 999 years
  - Ground was broken for Fitzsimons 29 April 1918

Trivia Question Answers:

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

# TRIVIA

## CHALLENGE

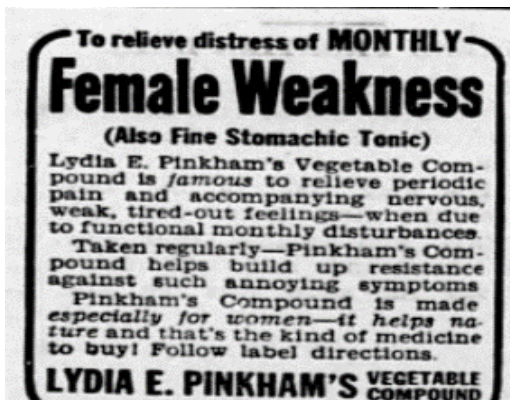
**City of Aurora Trivia Questions**

1. “Tex” Wilson, who went before the Colorado Supreme Court, was the proprietor of which business?
  - a. Aurora Pool Hall at 9647 E. Colfax
  - b. Aurora Social Club at 9517 E. Colfax
  - c. The Belvidere Night Club just east of Fitzsimons



Trouble with the Law

2. The Aurora City Council passed a resolution that it was illegal to sell any intoxicating liquors for 24 hours for what event?
  - a. The anticipated enactment of Prohibition
  - b. Upon receiving news of the end of hostilities in the European War
  - c. In memory of lives lost on the Hindenburg disaster



Aurora Democrat - August 4, 1944 (75 years ago)



Town Hall circa 1906

Aurora

3. Where was the “J.E. Roupp addition” located (Aurora’s first land addition since incorporating? FYI – The Town of Fletcher was platted in 1891, the Town of Fletcher was incorporated in 1903 and the City of Aurora was incorporated in 1929?
  - a. Between Colfax & Montview, west side of Peoria
  - b. Between Colfax & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, east side of Peoria
  - c. Between Colfax & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west side of Peoria



Aurora History Museum  
Photographic Collection  
Colfax circa 1950

4. When was the “J.E. Roupp addition” resolution passed?
  - a. October 17, 1929
  - b. February 12, 1938
  - c. August 9, 1944



★ FIRST IN DENVER ★

**KOA**

850 ON YOUR DIAL

**DIAL 850  
AT 10 A.M.**

**10:00 A.M.—Time Magazine**  
praised Robert St. John for his news reporting on NBC. Hear him daily on KOA at 10 presented by Alka-Seltzer.

**10:15 A.M.—Everyone's Talking About**  
“Judy and Jane,” popular daytime serial presented by Folger's Mountain-Grown Coffee.

**10:30 A.M.—It's Gettin' Hot for Japan**  
and Larry Smith, ace Far Eastern reporter gives you the why and how of the S. Pacific War. K & B Packing Co.

**10:45 A.M.—Join in the Revelry**  
on “Studio Party” . . . a jamboree of musical favorites Tuesdays and Thursdays.

*Reprinted from the May 1983 Advocate*  
**Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society Acts to Save Seventeen-Mile House**

A resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society at a special meeting held March 25, 1983, to save Seventeen-Mile House located on Parker Road in Arapahoe County about 800 feet north of the county line.

The Directors asked that the Arapahoe County Planning Commission and the County Commissioners of Arapahoe County exercise their power over land use planning in the County so that protection and preservation will be given to Seventeen-Mile house prior to their requested rezoning and P.U.D. application.

Banbury-Ash Partnership had applied for rezoning for development of Ash Brooke Executive Park to include professional offices, retail businesses and warehouses.

Seventeen-Mile house served as a tavern and inn on the Smoky Hill South Trail, it is believed that it was built in the 1860's and was so named because it was 17 miles from the end of the trail, Denver. Included are the house and an old stage barn.

Other than Four-Mile House in Denver, the Seventeen-Mile house and barn are the last buildings in this area to remain from the days that the Smoky Hills South Trail carried travelers to the gold fields from



Leavenworth and Atchison, Kansas.

Don Paul of Landside, Inc., planners for the development, pledged that the landmark would not be destroyed but would be incorporated in their plans.

Hearing for the rezoning was set for April 26. County Commissioners delayed the rezoning hearing so that the developer could have a meeting with the Historical Society, which is trying to develop an easement. The Society wishes that the outside facades of the building remain as they are. The next date for a rezoning hearing has been set for May 10. The outcome will be reported in the next newsletter.

***Reprinted from the July 1983 Advocate  
Sundries section***

"Elected president of Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society for 1983 was Charles Dolezal. He reports that the preservation of Seventeen-Mile House was successful when the requested easement to the Colorado Historical Foundation and an escrow fund of \$10,000 to enforce it were brought about through the efforts of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society; the owners, Brooke Banbury and Irving Ash; the Colorado Historical Society staff; and the law firm of Holland and Hart, who did not charge for their services."

*17-Mile House is a great example of historic preservation as is DeLaney Farm. It shows what historical societies can accomplish.*

**Today you can visit 17-Mile House**

Residents can step back in time during a visit to 17 Mile



House, a 155-year old farm which served as an important resting stop for pioneers traveling on the Cherokee/Smoky Hill wagon trails in the 1860's.

This County-designated heritage area includes a historic house, red barn, silo and milk shed, which were restored to their known condition in the early 1900's, as well as two replica windmills and 30 acres of open space. The Farm Park also features a trail head to connect to the Cherry Creek Regional Trail.

<http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/17-Mile-House-Farm-Park-23>

**Aurora History Museum Exhibits and Events  
Fall 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

**Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Lunch and Learn Lecture: Hometown Pride and the Colorado High School Athletic Association**

Join us for a lively conversation with Rhonda Blanford-Green, Commissioner of the Colorado High School

Activities Association. Discover more about her connection to Aurora as a graduate of Aurora Central High, record-setting athlete, serving as an Aurora Public Schools educator/coach culminating into a discussion about the current activities that engage and impact lives of Aurora Public Schools students and beyond.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Lunch and Learn Panel Discussion: Historic Preservation**

Learn about historic preservation and landmarking historic sites in Colorado with experts, Steve Turner (History Colorado), Shannon Stage (Historic Denver) and Emma Lane (Aurora Historic Sites).

**EXHIBITS**

**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 26, 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.

**Festival of the Wreaths**

**Nov. 5 – Dec 6**

The Aurora Museum Foundations’ Annual “Festival of the Wreaths” raises funds to support exhibits & education programs. Visit [AuroraGov.org/WreathsFestival](http://AuroraGov.org/WreathsFestival) to sponsor a wreath.

**Aurora’s Historic Growth**

**Dec 15 – May 31**

From the humble roots of a farming community to the prominence of being the third largest city in the state, Aurora’s population has boomed over the last century. In this exhibit, we take a deeper look at Aurora’s growth and how it has impacted the economy, environment, and cultural landscape of our ever-changing community.

**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**

**Tea at the Aurora History Museum**

**October 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM cost: \$26.00**

Tea-time program featuring “The Horla” horror radio play, performed by live actors.

**Alice in Wonderland Tea**

**November 2, 2019 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM cost \$40.00**

Make a mad hat at this family-friendly tea-time featuring Aurora Dance Arts Performing selections from their upcoming production. Ticket include entrance for 1 adult and 1 child under 12 years old.

**Centennial House Open House Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 AM– 1:00 PM 1671 Galena Street, Aurora, 80010**

Visit the oldest house on Galena Street, built in 1890.

**History Trivia: Peak to Peak Brewery 9735 E. Colfax Ave. 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM September 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Our Corporate Sponsor**



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://auroracohistoricalociety.org/>



Got Questions?  
**Ask a  
Historian**

Aurora Historical Society  
mdlkel@aol.com



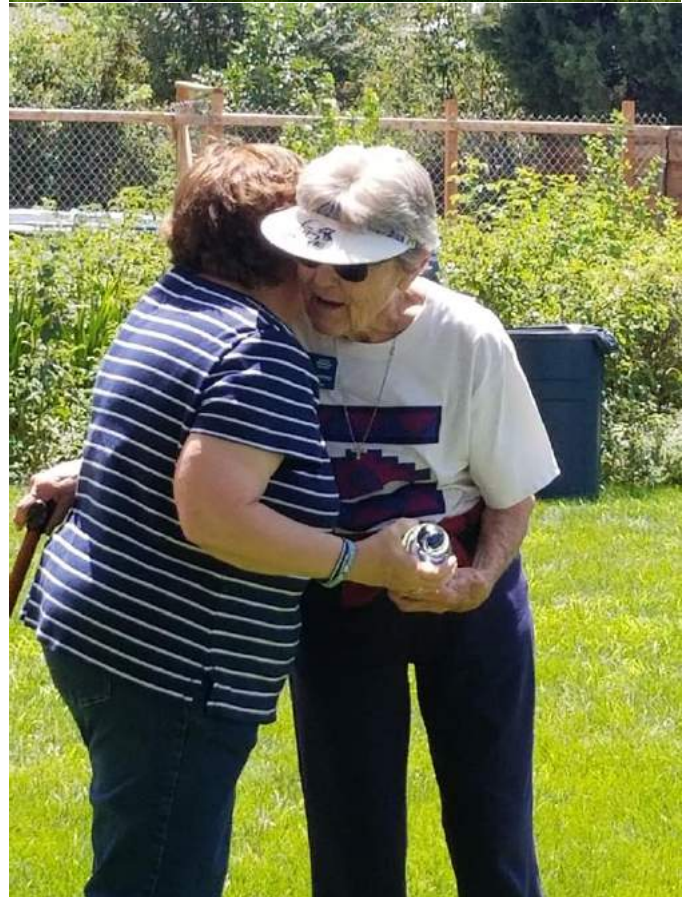
### Member benefits

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.**

### Sandy Sweeney honored at the Annual Aurora Historical Society Ice Cream Social.



# 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!

