

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 44; Number 3

May 2020

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

May President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all well and safe. I know that these are uncertain times and none of us is sure how the coming months will unfold. My deepest hope is that all of you and your families will not suffer any lasting harm and will weather this storm we are all in the midst of.

Since we have no way of knowing what the future will bring, I have made the decision to cancel both of the May events at Rambler Ranch on May 2nd and at Melvin School on May 16th. It is my hope that we will be able to reschedule them at a later date when our members would be able to safely attend.

As of now, the July 25th Ice Cream Social is still on the calendar. It is my hope that we can still hold the Ice Cream Social, but as July gets closer, I will gauge what is happening, and if needed cancel it as well.

Since we are all living through an unprecedented historic event, and we are an historical society, I invite all of you to keep some kind of a written record as to how you are handling sheltering at home and the impact COVID-19 is having on your lives. I will be happy to publish them in some fashion or store them for history. Please email or mail your accounts to me if you are willing to share.

I have been at home since March 13th. I am lucky in that my daughter can shop for my husband and myself and bring us what we need. My husband is working from home, so is here with me as well as my oldest daughter (who leaves for work daily) and my 3-year-old grandson who is with us 50% of the time.

I have plenty to keep me busy. I have been archiving family records as well as AHS records and my DAR records. That alone could keep me busy for months. I have also done some quilting and sewn some masks. The mindset of just running out and getting something has been a struggle at times, but as long as I think ahead it has worked. Spending time working in the yard when the weather is nice has also been helpful. It keeps me from feeling too cooped up.

All told, my family has fared well compared to others, and I have to remind myself what is important at times. I know it has been far more difficult for some. My youngest daughter lost her job, so she is searching for a new one. She still has to pay for rent and food and all the rest, so it has not been easy for her. We can help some, but long term that is not a solution. I have become proficient at electronic meetings. Which seems to work fairly well, but I do miss the human contact.

For now, that is the best I can do. I am happy to have a roof over my head and food on my table. I am happy that my family is safe and well. I am happy that the sun is

shining, and the day is lovely as I write this. I am hopeful that we will come through this as our country always has weathered each challenge it has been given in the past. We will survive, and hopefully, we will be kinder to all and more appreciative of those people who have been there working to keep things running while we sheltered at home. I have seen many examples of the best in human nature through this crisis, and I have seen some of the worse side as well. Let the best prevail and hope that we concentrate on what we have to be grateful for as we move forward.

Wishing you all good health and safety.

Sincerely,

Lynne Evans, President



**July 25th Ice Cream Social Fundraiser 1-4pm
Centennial House, 1671 Galena Street.**

**September 22, AHS Meeting/ Dr. Gordon Tucker /
archeology in Aurora 6:30 Aurora History
Museum**



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

It is time to send your dues payments for year 2020 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

REMEMBERING: Easter Dinner and Easter Outfits

Today is April 12, 2020 and it's Easter. We were a more traditional people in the 60's. I'm not sure we were more spiritual than we are today but certainly more of us went to church. And on Easter, if you



could afford it, you went to church in a brand-new Easter outfit. For the ladies and girls, it was quite the ordeal to get the best Easter dress you could, complete with new shoes, and a new hat. And us young gentlemen had outgrown last year's suit,

so we got a new one as well (man I hated having to try on the clothes). And then there was Easter dinner. Seems it was always ham. And it was an affair at our house. Mom spent all day cooking once we got home from church. One year





she made a cake in the shape of a rabbit like the one pictured above. It was covered in coconut for the rabbit's fur. Have I mentioned that I hate the taste of coconut? A young boy's torture – love

cake, hate coconut.

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.

Trivia Question Answers:

1. b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c



Spotlight on the Mayors of Aurora

Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 43 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 #21

- Served from 1921 – 1926
- He was born 17 April 1877 in Plymouth Township, Russell County, Kansas
- Married Emma Roseburg Banks in 1906 in Topeka, Kansas
- They had no children
- He was a stenographer for the railroad
- He was a Private in the Spanish American War
- He was a Mason and a member of the Colorado Conservatory Valley of Denver

- He had a new house built at 1629 Galena Street in 1912 (that I own and currently live there)
- He owned Aurora Realty until about 1951
- He would have been 44 years old when he became Mayor for the 2nd time
- His 5 years as Mayor was, at the time, the longest tenure of an Aurora Mayor by 2 full years
- He died 27 October 1973 at the age of 96 in Kansas
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Oliver Shoup, William Sweet & Clarence Morley
- While he was in office:
 - The Sunlight Shop opened at Colfax & Dayton
 - The Friend Furniture Co. opened
 - The volunteer fire department was reorganized by Al Lewant & John O'Kane
 - The Hollywood movie theatre opened in 1925
 - Colfax Avenue becomes part of U.S. Highway 40

This is an article reprinted from the March 1995 Advocate about the board members serving at the time. Don Chase served on the Aurora Historical Society Board for many years from 1990 to 2002. We are lucky to have his son, Gregg currently serving as our AHS Secretary. The article was entitled "Meet Your Board."

Donald Marcus Chase was born in Pawnee City, Nebraska, and attended a one-room country school until his family moved to Nampa, Idaho in 1934. They were a farming family and Idaho was just opening up. While a junior in high school, he obtained a job with the local Talley Funeral Home and began working in his life-long vocation. He continued to help with chores at home, played in the high school band, and served as business manager of the high school annual. Idaho Law would not permit the granting of a Funeral Director License until the age of 21. Therefore, Don moved to Denver, Colorado and started a new apprenticeship at the Rogers Mortuary, while attending and graduating from Barnes School of commerce in 1940.

In December of that year he married Mary Margaret Gilbert in the First United Presbyterian Church,

Denver, Colorado, where he served as an Usher, Elder and Clerk of the Session for many years. He was called into the U.S. Army Air Corps December 1942, and served in a Training Center Squadron, in Minnesota, California, Louisiana, Texas, and overseas to Okinawa. He was discharged in 1947 from Buckley Field as a First Sergeant.

Mr. Chase enrolled and graduated from the St. Louis College of Mortuary Science in 1948, returned to Denver and passes all Colorado State Examinations and became a licenses Colorado Funeral Director and Embalmer.



He was employed at the Capitol Mortuary in Denver in 1948 until he and his wife purchased the Blakesley Funeral Home on August 1, 1958. (Per the sales agreement the name was changed to Blakesley-Chase Funeral Home. One year later, Mr. Chase changed the name to Aurora-Chase Mortuary and added the ambulance service). The Chase's lived in the funeral home with their two sons Donald M. II and Gregg Alan for five months when they moved into their home on Jamaica Street.

Aurora at that time was the community between Denver and Fitzsimons Army Hospital with miles of open prairie and dry land to the east into Kansas, a large area which they served. They found the community to be made of many dedicated military,

small business and agriculturally oriented families, and it was just a short time until many of these people knew them on a first name basis.

The corporate name was changed to Aurora-Chase Mortuary and Ambulance Service in February 1959. As the community grew, so did their business, and they build a new Mortuary at 1095 Havana Street, moving there April 5, 1966. Ambulance Service was discontinued, and their equipment was given to the City of Aurora.

Don Chase served his profession and the community well. He was President of the Metropolitan Denver Funeral Home-Owners Association, Colorado Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, and in 1970 was elected to a four-year term as Governor of District X National Funeral Directors Association, which encompassed the ten western and south-western states. He was active in the Aurora Masonic Lodge, the order of Eastern Star, Colorado Consistory and El Jebel Shrine; the Okinawa Masonic Club, Paul Beck Post American Legion, and he was the Charter President of Aurora Knife and Fork Club, Denver Executive Club. Don served on many Aurora Chamber of Commerce committees, as well as being Chairman of the Aurora American Red Cross Chapter for ten years. He was honored with awards from the Aurora Police Association, the Aurora Kiwanis Club, the Colorado State and National Funeral Directors Association.

He retired after serving his profession 49 years and immediately became the President of the Aurora Kiwanis Club. He has traveled extensively with the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. He has visited almost all of the major clock and watch factories of Europe and Japan; also seeing many world-famous collections throughout many countries, including a visit through New Zealand and Australia. He has traveled with Opera Tours most of the world-famous Opera Houses.

Mr. Chase continues to be active in church activities, volunteering at the Denver Museum, and caring for many folks with personal needs.

He also speaks with great personal appreciation of the people of Aurora and the many wonderful families who called upon him in his professional capacity.



**Donald Chase died
September 4, 2001**

TRIVIA

CHALLENGE

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. A.G. Stitt, a marshal of Aurora for several years, had the nickname?
 - a. Smokey
 - b. Pop
 - c. Reverend



2. Which subdivision is NOT an Aurora subdivision?
 - a. Hutchinson Heights
 - b. Morris Heights
 - c. Cheltenham Heights



3. Aurora has how many standard zip codes and how many P.O. zip codes?
 - a. 15 and 3 respectively
 - b. 13 and 5 respectively
 - c. 14 and 6 respectively

4. In 1990 the Aurora Reservoir was filled using how many cubic meters of water?
 - a. 39,000,000
 - b. 3,900,00
 - c. 390,000,000



5. When was construction of Lowry Titan I Missile Complex 1A started?
 - a. April 1960
 - b. October 1959
 - c. April 1959



History Museum Summer 2020

HISTORIC SITES

DeLaney Farm Historic District

Story Line is now available online!

Visit AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites to see which historic landmarks have a recorded story line.

New Programs:

MORNINGS AT THE MUSEUM – **Cancelled at museum look online on Facebook Live!**

Ages 3-6

Program includes a guided activity & a craft. For ages 3-6 with their adult caregiver. First Tuesday of every month, 10:30 a.m.

\$1 suggested donation

HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES – Possible: **Cancelled at museum look online on Facebook Live!** A program designed for memory care patients & their caregivers. Tour the Hometown Pride

exhibit discuss high school experiences & craft a pennant to take home. Call to reserve a spot.

FACTS ON TAP: TOUR & TRIVIA NIGHT **Cancelled at museum look online on Facebook Live!** Working on new date. TBA Powered by Science

6:30 p.m.

Ongoing Exhibits:

Hometown Pride: Student Athletic & Extracurricular History in Aurora **Cancelled at museum look online on museum website for panels soon TBA!**

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.

Aurora's Historic Growth **Cancelled at museum look on museum website for panels!** 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.

Exhibits: **Cancelled at museum look online on museum website!**

Exhibit: "US 40 and the American Roadtrip"

Exhibit: "A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Ethiopian Communities" Exhibit: "Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame"

Exhibit: "Powered by Science: Technologies of the Past and Future" **Internal opening scheduled for May 17, 2020. Please stand by for further announce of scheduled opening!**

Gallery 2, AHM

May 2020 to March 2021

Aurora's Historic Newspaper Digitization Project

The *Aurora Advocate* is currently being digitized. To complete the digitization of the *Aurora Advocate* from 1953 through 1972 will cost \$22,072. The Aurora Historical Society paid \$403.00 to digitize the *Aurora Advocate* from October 2, 1968 through December 25, 1968. AHS members had previously donated \$409.80 to digitizing the *Aurora Advocate*. Issues from July 21, 1949 through December 25, 1952 (116 issues) are already digitized and available online.

Visit the Colorado Historic Newspaper website and check out Aurora's history

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/>

The cost is a \$1.00 a page to digitize these papers. Please consider donating to this project. You can mail a check to the AHS treasurer, Mike Lockwood at 1629 Galena St., Aurora, CO 80010-220 or you can go to the Aurora Historical Society website and donate there.

<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/>

Please see the attached flyer and donate to this project. What a great legacy to leave to our city!

Member Discounts

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.

Reprinted from the Aurora Democrat, Volume 10, Number 29, April 25, 1919

Back

DIED

Joseph F. Fairfield, who moved to Aurora a month ago, died at his home on Montview and Geneva street on Tuesday, the 22nd, of complications, superinduced by Spanish influenza, an attack of which he suffered a few months ago. Mr. Fairfield and his wife came to Aurora with a view of making it their home. They had purchased their home and were already starting to improve it. He was with the marines for several years and had recently returned from the army. His wife, who survives him, has the sympathy of the neighbors who did all in their power to lessen her burden in her hour of trouble. The funeral arrangements have not yet been completed.

Historical Society Officers

President, Newsletter, & Website: Lynne Evans
303-671-0874 lyeans@comcast.net

Vice President: Nadine Caldwell

Secretary: Gregg Chase

Treasurer: Michael Lockwood

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

Membership: Larry Wilterdink

Hospitality: Carolyn Brassell

Historian: Michael Lockwood

Program Committee: Susan Hicks

Education- Vacant

If anyone is interested, please contact Lynne Evans
303-671-0874 lyeans@comcast.net

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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

Please visit the Aurora Historical Society Website

<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/>

and our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/1975colorado.aurora/>



Got Questions?

Ask a Historian

Aurora Historical Society
mdlkel@aol.com

We need your help!

For just \$1/page you can help digitize Aurora's historic newspapers!

Newspapers like the *Aurora Democrat* and *Aurora Advocate* are saved on microfilm reels which deteriorate over time and are cumbersome to use.

Digitizing this film creates an online and searchable database to find photos and articles from Aurora's past. Through Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection's website, you can already access hundreds of editions of historic Aurora newspapers from the early to mid-20th century. Learn more by visiting ColoradoHistoricNewspapers.org

Historic Aurora Newspapers - Digitization Project

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

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