

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 44; Number 5

September 2020

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

September President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all staying safe and well. This year has not been kind to me. Besides dealing with COVID-19, I had emergency surgery at the end of July, and I am still recovering at this point. So please excuse the newsletter if it seems short. The September AHS meeting is canceled and all future meetings until we are allowed to meet in groups once more. I have no idea when that may be, but hopefully in 2021.

I was saddened to cancel the September meeting as our speaker, Dr. Gordon Tucker had already been canceled last year because of snow. The good news is that Dr. Tucker is going to adapt his program so we can upload it to our website. That way you can watch it at your leisure by going to <http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/>. I will let you know when it is ready for viewing.

In the meantime, please take care of yourselves.

Sincerely,

Lynne Evans, President



Please welcome our new AHS Board member Josh Hursa! He will be in charge of Education.



All AHS events, including the September meeting are cancelled until further notice



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: Sick at home

Today is August 23 and what has been on everyone's mind for at least the last 6 months is COVID-19 and the precautions being taken. That led me to remembering when I would become ill and have to stay home from school and how my mother cared for me. The first thing I remember is having a bucket put on the floor outside my bed in case I threw up. I think seeing the bucket



beside the bed made me queasier than I really was. Next was the vaporizer filled with water and there was a little place to hold the Vick's VapoRub so I could breathe easier. And, of course, there was a steady dose of children's chewable aspirin to keep any fever at bay. My wife remembers her mother giving the kids Aspergum, but I don't recall my mother ever using it. She probably thought we'd get addicted to chewing gum. And no mention of being cared for could ever be complete without mentioning that devil's liquid of iodine that was put on any small open cut or scrape. The searing pain alone probably made us tough enough to endure almost anything.

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 #23

Edward S. Murphy

- Served from 1927 – 1929
- He was born 1874 in Kansas
- Married to a woman named Mary (last name unknown)
- They had 2 sons, Edward Vincent and John Leo
- He came to Aurora after 1920 and before 1926
- He was a Captain in World War I
- He was renting a house at 1541 Clinton Street in 1930
- He was a manager of Murphy Brothers Chevrolet (later became Day Chevrolet)
- He was President of Aurora Mortuary Corp. in 1926
- He would have been 53 years old when he became Mayor
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Billy Adams
- While he was in office:
 - The 2nd bank robbery attempt of the 1st National Bank of Aurora on October 1927
 - March 1928 the Town of Aurora became the City of Aurora
 - Aurora's second telephone exchange opened at Colfax and Dayton in 1928
 - Wall Street stock market crash on October 29, 1929
 - Peoria street extended north from Montview Blvd along the edge of Fitzsimons in 1929
 - He pushed for Dayton Street to be the main north-south street in Aurora

- He is elected President of the newly formed Aurora Civic and Commercial club in 1924

Reprinted from the July 25, 1995 edition of the Advocate Vol 20; No. 2

Officers for 1995

President: Shirley Hood
Vice President: Paul Chuvarsky
Secretary: John Dale
Treasurer: Don Lindemann
Education: Elizabeth Watson
Float: Bob Cloon, Bob Staadt
Historian: John Gigikos
Hospitality: Maynard & Elizabeth Miller
Membership: Larry Wilterdink
Newsletter: Mary Pierce
Program: Billy Jean Brenk
Publicity: Annabelle Dunning
Telephone: Mary Kate Summers
Directors: Ruth Barnett, Don Chase, Bev Murray
Past president: Jo Creager

Meet Your Board (1995)

Mary Pierce, Newsletter Editor

Now that you have learned the personal history of all the other members, it is my turn. I was born in Pueblo and lived there until I left for college in Nashville, Tennessee. My major was speech. After graduating, I returned to Colorado and spent one reckless year in the mountains working on road construction and waiting tables in bars and restaurants. I then got serious and began working at the Denver Museum of Natural History in the Education Department. I taught classes in Geology, Insects, Paleontology, Ecology, Evolution, and other subjects the museum covered. My favorite subject was geology-how can you grow up in the Rockies and not love rocks?

After nine years at the DMNH I joined the Peace Corps in Columbia, South America. I taught environmental education in a natural history museum and put together a slideshow on the history and natural history of a local national park. I lived in the mountains in a town that had 70 degrees all year long, a twelve-month growing

season, palm trees, a volcano puffing away in the distance, cows walking down the streets, and lots of outdoor restaurants. I loved being there and gained a real affinity for the Latin culture. After two years in the Peace Corps, I returned to Colorado and ultimately got a job at the Aurora History Museum. I worked there 12 years and came to love our town and the people here.

I now own and operate a flower shop – *Absolutely Floral* – in the shopping center at the corner of Alameda and Potomac. This has opened up a whole new world for me and is proving to be very satisfying. Come and see me sometime!

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. Who was the editor of Aurora’s first newspaper, the Aurora Democrat?
 - a. Lucy Chapin
 - b. Raphael Gwynn
 - c. John Gully



2. Why was the Agnes Phipps Sanatorium built?
 - a. Treatment of cancer
 - b. As a mental hospital
 - c. Treatment of consumption



3. What business did the picture below originally advertise?
 - a. A tree nursery

- b. Cottages and trailer accommodations
- c. A dairy farm



4. Where is the northwestern corner of the Mission Viejo subdivision located?
 - a. Chambers Road and Hampden Avenue
 - b. Buckley Road and Arapahoe Road
 - c. Parker Road and Quincy Road



5. When was the first building code prepared in Aurora?
 - a. 1952
 - b. 1948
 - c. 1944



The Aurora History Museum reopened on August 18th

New Safety Protocols

SAFETY MEASURES FOR REOPENING

The Aurora History Museum & Historic Sites will be reopening with two new exhibits! Things may look a little different this year, but that is only because we are taking every possible measure to make returning to the museum as safe as possible for you and your family!

VISITOR PROTOCOLS

Visitors are expected to adhere to our new protocols to help us in slowing the spread of COVID-19 as we move forward in reopening.

Pre-scheduled reservations for timed entry must be made either [online](#) or by phone. No more than ten visitors will be allowed in the museum at any given time.

Before coming to the museum, we ask that our visitors perform a health assessment on themselves and any family members to determine if they are well enough to share a space with others.

Everyone on the premises will be required to wear a face mask or face covering.

Our lobby and galleries will have directional signage to control foot traffic. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of maintaining a 6 foot distance from others outside of your immediate group.

The Museum will provide hand sanitizer in areas with high contact points. Anti-bacterial soap will be available in restrooms. Please be vigilant in the use of these resources.

The water fountain has been turned off to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

STAFF PROTOCOLS

All museum staff will take further precautions by doing the following: Wearing a mask for your protection.

Adhering to social distancing guidelines.
Washing their hands and sanitizing, regularly.

Wearing gloves when handling any object that may be handled by visitors. Sneeze guards are installed at the front desk in the lobby.

Staff on site will perform daily self-health assessments.

All front desk staff are trained on new public interaction protocols, including the following:

A no contact system for admission reservations is in place.

All museum store purchases require payment with a credit or debit card to be inserted or swiped by the customer to adhere to a no-contact payment system. Cash will not be accepted until further notice. Candy has temporarily been removed from the store to further decrease possible contact.

Increased cleaning/disinfecting of high contact areas occurs regularly between groups of visitors.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 AT 12 PM – 1 PM

Online Lecture: Fitzsimons and the Flu of 1918
Retired Community College of Aurora instructor Geoff Hunt will speak about the local effects of 1918 flu and show photos he's uncovered. The lecture is free, but you must register to receive the link to the online meeting.

Aurora's Historic Newspaper Digitization Project

The *Aurora Advocate* is currently being digitized. The cost to finish the project is almost \$10,000. 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 \$609.80 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/>

More donations are needed, to finish this project so please consider donating.

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.

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- Josh Hursa

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

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THE AURORA SCHOOL

[The school notes are prepared by the high school students. A full staff will be organized next week and a more complete report turned in]

The Aurora school opened Tuesday, September 7, with an enrollment of two hundred students. Nearly all of the old ones have returned and we have many new ones.

Plans for the year were announced at assembly, Tuesday morning. Book-keeping and physical training for both boys and girls have been added to the curriculum. Twenty minutes of each day will be devoted to an assembly period for which good speakers will be secured to address the high school students from time to time. The Junior-Senior Literary society will continue its work and a new society will be organized in the grades.

A good year in athletics is anticipated. Preparations are being made for out doors basket-ball and for a new base ball diamond.

Alumni Notes

Mary Bradford has a position in the county assessor's office at Brighton.

Elizabeth Glandon was married last summer to George Evans. The young couple are making their home in Denver.

Joe Muzik has a position in the Federal Reserve bank.

Personals

Edith Glandon and Zelletta Hart have moved to Denver, but are attending the Aurora high school.

Nina Scott, who has been spending the summer at Tolland, returned Tuesday to attend school here this winter.

Girl Reserves

The Girl Reserve Corps, which was

Please visit the Aurora Historical Society Website

<http://auroracohistoricalociety.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

Please make checks payable to: *Aurora Historical Society*

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15051 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012

