

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 45; Number 6

November 2021

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

November President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are enjoying this lovely fall weather. Our first outing to the Melvin School and the Melvin-Lewis Cemetery was fun. It was nice to see many of your faces in-person again.

It was great hearing the history of both the school and the cemetery and an extra treat getting a book from Lee Whitley about the Smoky Hill Trail and the weather was nice. Look for some pictures of the event later in the newsletter.

We have programs set for November through March that I am sure you will enjoy. First, we will have Jonny Barber on November 23rd at 6:00 PM at the Aurora History Museum. He will be talking about Colfax and its history. On January 25th, we will have our annual Pot-Luck, and a visit from Annie Oakley (Elsa Wolff). (I have heard her before, and it is well worth the time). More details about the pot-luck will follow in the January Newsletter. On March 22, Historian Dr. Ballard will talk to us about Ivy Baldwin, a Colorado daredevil. More about these presentations later in the newsletter.

We are also planning more field trips as well as our Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. If you have a field trip that interests you, please let us know your ideas as we continue to plan for the next year and beyond.

Also, take a look at the many projects AHS has supported and continues to support. We are making a difference in preserving the history of Aurora.

Best wishes,

Lynne Evans

Aurora Historical Society President



Colfax – by Jonny Barber - **23 November 2021 @ 6:00 PM** -Aurora History Museum

Lunchtime Lecture November 17th: History of the NFL Noon-1pm Aurora History Museum or online.



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES

It is time to send your dues payments for year 2021 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/>

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: Susan Hicks, Sandy Sweeney, & Karen Schwieder

Membership: Larry Wilterdink

Hospitality: Vacant

Historian: Michael Lockwood

Program Committee: Susan Hicks

Education: Vacant

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

If anyone is interested in taking over the Newsletter or the website or both, please let me know.

Trivia Question Answers:
 1. b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c



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: Watering Holes



Where do you go on a first date? Well, a standard option for a teenager in the early 1970's was to take her to a movie. And there were several options. There was the East Drive-in on Colfax and the Havana Drive-in at Havana & Mississippi but if those were a little too risky for a first date then you could always go to the Aurora Fox or, for a more modern feel the theatres at



Buckingham Square. Unfortunately, only the Fox



remains, and it has changed from movies to a performing arts venue putting on some very good plays. My wife of 43 years and I have been to several plays there and I highly recommend it even if it's not your first date.

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.

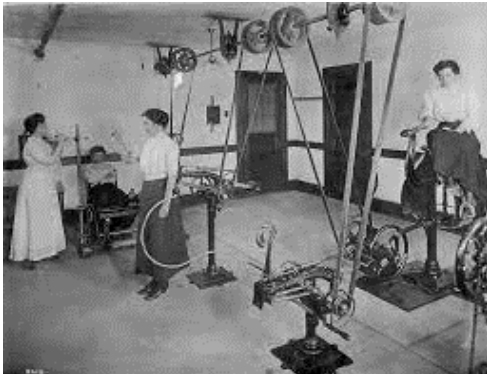
MAYOR #29

Bert T. Howard

- Served from 1945 – 1948
- His birthplace and birth date are unknown
- He was a licensed pharmacist in Michigan and Colorado
- Never married
- Unknown when he came to Colorado or Aurora
- He owned Howard's Rexall Drug located at 9801 E. Colfax
- He lived at 1426 Chester
- His death date and burial place are unknown
- He was active in Kiwanis, Aurora Chamber of Commerce & Isaac Walton League of America
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were John Charles Vivian & William Knous
- While he was in office:
 - Plans were initiated to curb, gutter and pave Colfax
 - The Aurora Democrat-News started operation
 - World War II ended
 - Planning Commission created
 - In the first 6 months of 1946 building permits were issued at a rate of 100 per month
 - Intense campaign to promote Aurora as a residential suburb

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. When did the Cluff Sanitarium become the Mt. View Convalescent Home
 - a. 1943
 - b. 1953
 - c. 1963



2. Who once owned KOSI radio station located in Aurora?
- a. Wolfman Jack
 - b. Rick Crandall
 - c. William Armstrong



3. What was the name of the lumber yard located on Colfax that's still there?
- a. The Chapin Lumber Company
 - b. The Straits Mill and Lumber Company
 - c. Hugh M. Woods Lumber Company



4. Why was it difficult to convince people to open the East Drive-in in Aurora?
- a. The weather was too cold
 - b. There were other drive-in theatres in Aurora
 - c. Colfax couldn't handle the traffic



5. Where could you get a wolf whistle from a mynah bird?
- a. Stanley Aviation Corporation
 - b. Aurora fire station #1
 - c. Howard's Rexall Drug Store



Aurora History Museum Exhibits

22nd Annual Festival of the Wreaths

The Festival of the wreaths is here again and opens November 2 through December 10th. Go online to bid and see the wreath that AHS member Judy

Keilman made for our AHS entry for the museum. Bid on your favorite wreaths. The money goes to support the museum.

Come Join the Kickoff event for the festival on November 10, 2021, at the Museum 5:30pm to 8:00pm. The event sponsor is: “ Haykin Family Cider “ *“ Haykin Family Cider is an award-winning small batch cidery run by husband and wife, Daniel and Talia Haykin. With tiny bubbles, they produce a sparkling wine-like cider in a variety of sweetness levels. Elevating the apple like wineries treat grapes, Haykin Family Cider highlights the flavor and complexity of interesting and unique apples.”* Come join the live auction and fun. Reserve your free ticket for the event at [FOW Opening Event](#).

Here is a picture of the AHS wreath.



“Art by ‘Woody’ Crumbo”

Our newest exhibit features 17 prints of indigenous dancers.

Crumbo, a well-known Native American artist whose work is on display at the Smithsonian Institution and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, also was a flautist and dancer of Potawatomi descent. In the 1950s, Crumbo

spent time as an independent prospector, discovering one of the largest beryllium veins in the country. His works often depict traditional dancers and clothing. Crumbo died in 1989.

The prints were donated by Bill and Sue Hensler, long-time Aurora residents, museum supporters and benefactors before they moved to Dolores, Colo. The Hensler Collection has previously been on display at the Aurora History Museum in 1991 and in 2010.

Lunchtime Lecture: History of the NFL

November 17 noon to 1pm Online or at the Aurora History Museum.

Scott Perry wrote the book on football. The local author of the reference book, NFL Since 1970: The Ultimate Visual and Historical Standings Reference provides an overview of NFL highlights since the AFL/NFL merger 50 years ago. Bronco fans, and all football fans relive the victories and defeats of past seasons.

The Rise of the Aurora Suburb During the Cold War

Open through April 24, 2022

Following World War II, Aurora experienced rapid suburban growth. The presence of military centers like Fitzsimons General Hospital, Lowry Air Force Base, Buckley Field and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal brought many military personnel and their families to Aurora. The city transitioned from a small agricultural community to a bustling suburb. Between 1940 and 1960, Aurora's population expanded by more than tenfold. Meanwhile, the great powers of the Soviet Union and the U.S. faced off, causing tension and fear worldwide.

Join the Aurora History Museum & Historic Sites for an in-person exploration of Aurora's economic prosperity and suburban expansion during the Cold War with the exhibit, "The Rise of the Aurora Suburb During the Cold War".

"In this exhibition, we provide local stories of Aurora residents' experiences during the Cold War to enrich our understanding of this great period of the city's growth while expanding on what was happening here when the nation was preparing for the threat of a potential global nuclear holocaust during the Cold War years," said T. Scott Williams, director of the Aurora History Museum & Historic Sites. "The Rise

of the Aurora Suburb During the Cold War" exhibit will remain open through April 24, 2022.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is always free. For more information and to stay up to date on related programming, visit AuroraMuseum.org.

Growing Home & Trolley Trailer No. 610

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.

The Aurora Museum Foundation was instrumental in raising funds and in-kind donations through grants and support from local businesses, organizations and individuals. The 1,630 square foot gallery was completed in November 2014. The addition was designed by Humphries Poli Architects and built by Palace Construction.

Aurora's Historic Growth Exhibit

Published on Mar 19, 2020

Aurora has grown by leaps and bounds over the decades. Once a small suburb of Denver, Aurora has boomed into the third-largest city in the state of Colorado. The city sits in three different counties: Adams County, Arapahoe County and Douglas County and lies just east of the city and county of Denver. The number of Aurorans just keeps on growing. As of July 1, 2019 the population was estimated at 381,000. The citizens of Aurora are diverse and come from many different backgrounds. The people of Aurora represent about 140 different countries. In fact

around 1 in 5 Aurorans are foreign born. As the city expands geographically and demographically, it is hard not to recognize the historic growth underway. This exhibition will explore how the city has changed from its foundation up to the present day, dig deeper into the booms and busts that have defined Aurora's past and discover how growth is redefining the once small town.

Online exhibit

https://issuu.com/aurorahistoricsites/docs/aurora_s_historic_growth_exhibit_panels

https://www.auroragov.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_1881137/Image/Things%20to%20Do/Aurora%20History%20Museum/Exhibits/Aurora's%20Historic%20Growth/Timeline_Small.pdf

Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame Exhibit

Published on Mar 19, 2020

The Aurora History Museum and the Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame partnered to create an exhibit on the great women of Aurora's history. The display profiles the Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame organization as well as the twelve women honored by this hall of fame. Celebrate and learn more about the great and influential women of Aurora featured in this exhibit.

https://issuu.com/aurorahistoricsites/docs/colorado_women_s_hall_of_fame_exhibit_panels

The Doctor Will See You

<https://coaapps.auroragov.org/museumkiosk/medical/>

A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Ethiopian Communities

<https://coaapps.auroragov.org/museumkiosk/ethiopia/>

Speaker Bios for AHS Programs 2021-2022

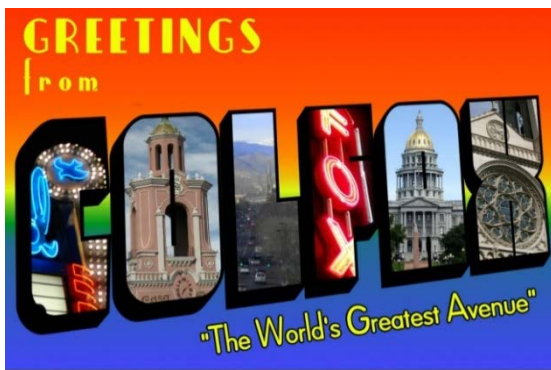
Colfax – by Jonny Barber - 23 November 2021 @ 6:00pm at the Aurora History Museum. Door prizes.

Ever wonder why Colfax is called “America’s Main Street”? How long is Colfax anyway? What was the mysterious Colfax business called “Charlie Chan Village”? From its early days in 1926 as US Highway 40 until I-70 diverted traffic away in the 1960’s, “the FAX” was loaded with tourist attractions, beautiful homes, and kitschy neon signs.



This November, Jonny Barber, Mr. Colfax Avenue, will take us on a tour of our famous Main Street, unravel some mysteries, and talk about the street's colorful history. Barber is guest curator of "[Forty Years on the 'Fax'](#)" at the

History Colorado Museum. He has been interviewed on CPR's Colorado Matters, Westword, and 9 News. An ardent fan of Colfax, Barber even opened a museum to this "sweet sister gone wild". Jonny is a



musician (aka the Velvet Elvis), collector, and restorer of 'old things' including quite a few Denver Victorian homes. But his love of Colfax often takes center stage.

Join us on a tour of the "longest, wickedest street in America" and be sure to check out colfaxavenue.org.

January 25, 2022, Annual AHS Potluck at the Aurora History Museum. Our speaker will be Annie Oakley. More details in the January Newsletter about the potluck itself.

Annie Oakley as portrayed by Elsa Wolff, "America's Shooting Star" Living History Program.

Annie Oakley, born Phoebe Ann Moses, was the most famous American woman of her day. Now in her late 50's, Annie speaks of her life and experiences from her humble roots in rural Ohio, to taking center stage as champion

shooter and star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West. You'll hear stories of challenges she faced in



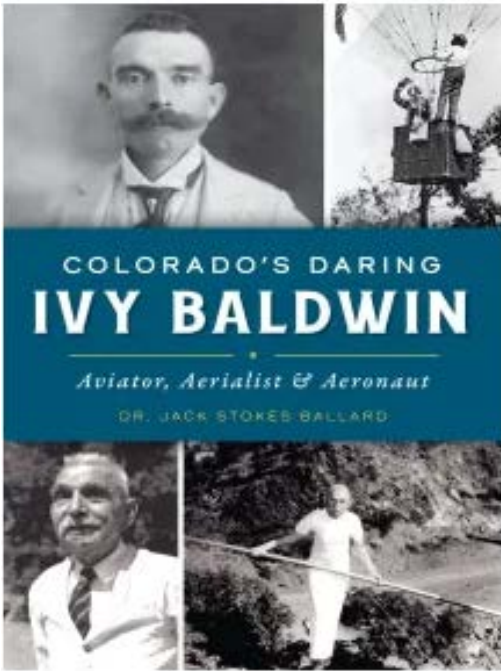
and out of the arena. Annie made her mark while competing in a sport and world dominated by men, all the while maintaining her reputation as a dignified lady.

Although many think they know Annie's story through the stage, television or motion pictures, this Living History program aims to shoot down any misconceptions giving a clear and personable glimpse of the real woman behind the legend, revealing that *truth* is even more profound than fiction.

Elsa Wolff: Storyteller, singer and speaker for 18 years, Elsa has recently added *Annie Oakley* to her Living History repertoire. Elsa captivates the audience with her touching performance as Annie. She is also known for her portrayals of Amelia Earhart, Minnie Pearl and Maria von Trapp.

Ivy Baldwin: Colorado's Tightrope Walker and Daredevil – by historian Dr. Jack Stokes Ballard – March 22, 2022.

In 1878 Ivy Baldwin ran away from home and joined the circus. He was 12 years old. He learned how to be a tightrope walker and a balloonist. John Elich brought Ivy to Colorado to perform at the famous Elich Gardens. Ivy fell in love with Colorado and decided to stay. In 1810 Ivy first crossed Eldorado Canyon on a tightrope at the age of 14. He would cross the canyon 80 more times with his last canyon crossing on his 82 birthday. But Ivy did not stop with Eldorado Canyon. He performed in San Francisco, Baltimore, and was a parachutist of great skill. You won't want to miss this portrait of Ivy Baldwin's amazing life. Join us for a night of 'edge of your seat' entertainment.

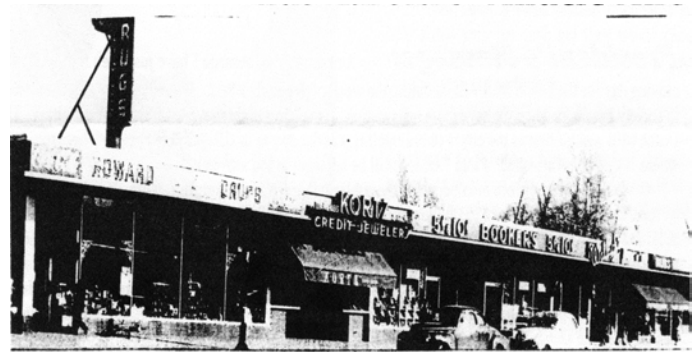


Author Jack Stokes Ballard holds a Doctor of Philosophy in American history from UCLA, taught history at the Air Force Academy, served a career in the Air Force, and, as a lieutenant colonel, was chief of the Plans and Requirements Division at Lowry AFB (1974-1980). He has enjoyed researching Ivy Baldwin and says Ivy "had an amazing life".

Aurora Advocate article reprinted from the September 2008 edition.

When Colfax was Aurora's "Miracle Mile"

For oh so brief a time after World War II restrictions were lifted in 1945, Colfax Avenue became the almost exclusive business district for a rapidly growing Aurora. So many new businesses and buildings appeared on Colfax that Aurorans began calling their downtown the "Miracle Mile." That title was neither original or exclusive. New strip malls in many American cities were called Miracle Miles in the 1950's.



One block on Colfax avenue made room for the six new businesses shown in this 1954-55 photo.

During its first half century, most Aurora businesses were west of the last streetcar stop at Galena Street. There was a big gap between downtown Aurora and the few cabin courts and motels clustered around the corner of Colfax Avenue and Peoria Street. The army's Fitzsimmons hospital was in unincorporated Adams county-well outside the Aurora city limits.

Once World War II building restrictions were lifted, a host of new buildings filled that gap and attracted many new merchants anxious to play a role in Aurora's rapid growth.

In 1954, the *Aurora Advocate* carried advertisements for at least eight stores offering women's clothing, almost as many offering men's and boys' clothes, three drug stores, five hardware stores and as many shoe stores-all on Colfax Avenue.



But even in the 1950's, the Colfax merchants were beginning to face competition from the new neighborhood shops at Hoffman Heights and on Montview Avenue. Hoffman Heights had 40 stores including Woolco, Hested and Walgreens that seriously competed with the Colfax merchants. The Montview Shopping Center had Red Owl, Aurora's first supermarket.

Colfax Avenue remained the hub of Aurora's retail district until August of 1971 when Buckingham Square shopping mall opened with 70 stores including Joslins and a big, new Montgomery Ward store. The Aurora Mall opened a few years later with its Sears, J. C. Penney, and May D & F department stores.

The golden years on Colfax Avenue are worth remembering...

Advertisements from Colfax merchants in the *Aurora Advocate* from October 25, 1956.

PENNEY'S
ALWAYS FIRST QUALITY

10180 E. Colfax
FREE PARKING

in AURORA **OPEN MON & FRI**
UNTIL 8:30 p.m.

University. Styled



TARTAN PLAIDS

3 button version
with pleated back,
sanforized and
completely washable

2⁹⁸

all wool flannel
slacks w/buckle **9⁹⁰**



SPRED SATIN
MAKES HOUSEWORK EASIER

- FOR ALL INTERIOR WALLS
- 100% WASHABLE PAINT
- READY TO USE

Glidden

Guiry's Aurora Store
9515 E. Colfax
Wallpaper-Paint Co.
E.M. 6-0514

ANNIVERSARY SALE

FREE GIFTS DRAWING EVERYDAY
For Valuable Appliances

OPEN 'TIL 9 P.M.
SALE ENDS OCT. 31st
Limited Stocks of Most Models

\$50,000 Pre-Inventory STOCK CLEARANCE
BEST BUYS IN DENVER

RCA VICTOR TV
BIG TRADE-IN
BIG SAVINGS
Lots of Models
to Choose From

BIG COLOR TV
PORTABLES
Consoles—Table Models

RCA Victor
Priced From... **\$129⁵⁰**

YOU WRITE THE DEAL

BIG 10.1 CU. FT.
FRIGIDAIRE
ALL YOU PAY

\$149⁹⁵

WITH POST-WAR TRADE
OPERATING PROPERLY

NO CASH DOWN
Small Monthly Payments

FRIGIDAIRE 30" RDS38
Fully Automatic Elec. Range

\$179
with trade

300
Refrigerators
RANGES
WASHERS
FREEZERS
Unheard of Low Prices

ZENITH TV

BIG SAVINGS
Reg. Price... **'349⁹⁵**
PAY AS LITTLE AS

\$249

EASY TERMS
Consoles — Table Models — Portables

FRIGIDAIRE AUTO. WASHER
WSS4

\$149
with trade

DRYER TO MATCH
\$134
Easy Terms

Magic Chef
GAS RANGE
Regular \$249.95

\$99.95

Full Ventilation
Swing-Out
BROILER
LARGE OVEN
MAGIC CHEF
QUALITY
Model GR60
Full Size Range
That usually fits
the general

Maytag
Regular \$259.95

SAVE \$62.95

ALL YOU PAY \$197
with trade

1954 DELUXE
MAYTAG Automatic
WASHER.....

HOOVER
Constellation
Model 82
Complete With
Tools

- Exclusive Double Stretch Hose—Out to 16 Feet
- Exclusive Tangle-scoping Wand
- Throw Away Bags
- Brand New
- New Warranty

NEVER BEFORE SUCH A LOW PRICE

\$59⁹⁵
Complete with Tools


Open Till 9 P.M.

Bragdon's
inc.
Colfax at Rosemary

7540 East Colfax
DExter 3-5465

Spiritunes

BY CLYDE (Dick) DICKERSON



© R. D. INC.
"Sure—for my last meal I want a bottle of champagne—vintage 1989!"

The place to go . . . when your spirits get low!

- Free Parking
- Package Carry-Out
- Courteous Service

This prize fighter always figures on beating everyone to the punch but in this case settlement was made for a fifth of Bourbon from DICKERSON'S LIQUORS and everybody was satisfied!

Dickerson's Liquors

Colfax at Kingston EM. 6-9206
Always FREE DELIVERY



The tour of Melvin School and the Melvin-Lewis Cemetery on September 25th was fun. Here are some pictures from the event.





If anyone is interested in taking over the Newsletter Job! Or the Website Job! Or Both! Please let Know!
Lynne Evans 303-671-0874,
lyevans@comcast.net



Got Questions?

Ask a Historian

Aurora Historical Society
 mdlkel@aol.com

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.

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