

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 45; Number 1

January 2021

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

January President's Letter

Dear AHS members,

I hope you are all safe and well, and that you had a wonderful holiday. Let's hope that 2021 will usher in a better year for us all. I am hopeful we will be able to meet again sometime in 2021, now that a vaccine has been approved. I know it has been a struggle for some and lonely for many of us because we have been isolated for so long. We have some wonderful programs and activities lined up as soon as it is safe to meet again. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and hope that 2021 has great things in store for all of us.



Historical Society Officers

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



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/>



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: Halloween in the 60's



Today is October 24 and we're wondering if Halloween is going to happen and even if it does, in what fashion. I started remembering those hard plastic masks that had the small eye holes that you

could barely see out of them, and the rubber band that went around your head either broke or it ripped the mask where it was connected. And talk about hot! I'll take a Covid-19 mask over those any day of the week. Of course, before you could graduate to a store-bought costume you had to endure the one that Mom made where you were a hobo or a pirate or a ghost. And then there was the pumpkin carving. I remember how awesome our pumpkin would be and how scary it would look. But in the end, it had two triangles for eyes, a triangle for a nose and a smile that only had three teeth. Not nearly as frightening as I imagined it in my mind. Great times.

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 #24
Brown B. Nevius

- Served from April 25, 1929 – April 13, 1931
- He was born January 21, 1874 in Kansas
- Married to Ida Gartrell on March 30, 1898
- They had a daughter, Hazel who was born in 1903 in Iowa
- He came to Aurora in 1924
- He was a contractor
- He bought a house at 1568 Clinton Street on June 30, 1924
- He lived there the rest of his life
- He was the town Marshall, superintendent of sewers and city building inspector
- He died of a heart attack on December 16, 1952 and is buried at Fairmount Cemetery
- He would have been 55 years old when he became Mayor
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Billy Adams
- While he was in office:
 - Aurora population reached 2,295
 - Wall Street stock market crash on October 29, 1929
 - Peoria street extended north from Montview Blvd along the edge of Fitzsimons in 1929
 - Aurora's first sewer plant was started
 - Volunteer firemen were insured
 - Women's Club library was accepted by the city

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. Who has a middle school located on Telluride Street named after her?
 - a. Lena Barron
 - b. Ellin Mrachek
 - c. Ruth Fountain



2. Why was President Eisenhower hospitalized at Fitzsimons?
 - a. Gout attack
 - b. Appendix removal
 - c. Heart attack



3. What facility was built by the Works Progress Administration?
 - a. Del Mar Park
 - b. Lowry Field
 - c. A sewage disposal plant



4. Where was the Fan Fare building located?
 - a. Havana and East 3rd Avenue
 - b. Havana and Mississippi Avenue
 - c. Havana and Mexico Avenue



5. When did Aurora's first telephone exchange begin?
- 1912
 - 1909
 - 1910



Aurora Democrat from January 7, 1921
100 years ago.

WARNING

Unless you see the name "Bayer" on tablets, you are not getting genuine Aspirin prescribed by physicians for 21 years, and proved safe by millions.—Say "Bayer"!

SAFETY FIRST! Accept only an "unbroken package" of genuine "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin," which contains proper directions for Headache, Earache, Toothache, Neuralgia, Colds, Rheumatism, Neuritis, Lumbago, and pain generally. Strictly American!

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—land similar to that which through many years has yielded from 20 to 40 bushels of wheat to the acre. Hundreds of farmers in Western Canada have raised crops in a single season worth more than the whole cost of their land. With such crops come prosperity, independence, good homes, and all the comforts and conveniences which make for happy living.

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are sources of income second only to grain growing and stock raising. Good climate, good neighbors, churches, schools, rural telephone, etc., give you the opportunities of a new land with the conveniences of old settled districts.

For illustrated literature, maps, description of farm opportunities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, reduced railway rates, etc., write Department of Immigration, Ottawa, Can., or

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The first and original Cold and Grip tablet, the merit of which is recognized by all civilized nations.

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The genuine bears this signature
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Modern Deluge.
The biggest yearly rainfall is in Assam. In 1861 the world's record was broken there by a fall of 84.5 inches, or more than 67 feet of rain.

WOMEN NEED SWAMP-ROOT

Thousands of women have kidney and bladder trouble and never suspect it. Women's complaints often prove to be nothing else but kidney trouble, or the result of kidney or bladder disease. If the kidneys are not in a healthy condition, they may cause the other organs to become diseased. Pain in the back, headache, loss of ambition, nervousness, are often times symptoms of kidney trouble. Don't delay starting treatment. Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, a physician's prescription, obtained at any drug store, may be just the remedy needed to overcome such conditions. Get a medium or large size bottle immediately from any drug store. However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.—Adv.

Men do not leave home in order to make sure that absence makes the heart grow fonder.



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W. N. U., DENVER, NO. 2-1921.

The Tramway says it is going to put in the switch at the end of the car line right away and light 'er up. With the present cigar boxes running up and down for cars, what is the use? Why not have the "whatnot" on 'em, pick them up and turn them around.

Wanted—to hear from owner of farm for sale, state price. Mrs. W. Booth, Hipark, Box D, Des Moines, Iowa—ad.

Sheriff McNamara of Arapahoe, isn't going to have any undersheriff. Miss Ennis will do the office work and the new janitor to be appointed, George Nichols, will look after the prisoners. Flor Aashbaugh will be appointed county attorney by the new board of commissioners. District Attorney Boatright will appoint Horatio Ramsay, deputy district attorney for the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hopper's little boy is dangerously ill following an attack of erysipelas.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Phillips spent a few days in Aurora with Mrs. Phillips' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Darnwood. They were on their way by auto to their home in Canon City.

Buy your flowers at home. Flowers appropriate for every occasion, fresh from the greenhouse. Phone or leave your orders with the Acacia Drug Co., Aurora 5, or the Cartwright Floral Co., York 7924. Greenhouses at the entrance to Fairmount cemetery—adv.

The Treasurer's office in Adams county changed hands Monday, when the new treasurer, Walter Merrill, took charge. C. E. Glockner has been re-appointed deputy treasurer. Ben Shearston is helping Assessor Moore get out the tax roll, which is expected to be ready the latter part of the month.

School was dismissed Friday morning on account of a broken water pipe.

The Aurora Realty & Investment Co., sold the Mertz house on Chester street to R. J. Lutz, who will make improvements immediately.

Mr. Gunther lost a valuable short-horn cow Tuesday.

The Jack McCloy sale, Thursday, brought out a large crowd and most of the stuff brought good prices.

Do you have family New Year's Traditions? If so please tell us about them on our Aurora Historical Society FaceBook Page <https://www.facebook.com/1975colorado.aurora>

I hope you all saw the AHS Wreath in the Aurora History Museum's Festival of the Wreaths. I hope you also bid on it



and some others. Please thank Judy Keilman for putting together our AHS Wreath again this year.



Even though the Aurora History Museum has had to close its door for the second time due to COVID 19 they are working hard to bring history to the public. The new exhibit "Religious Diversity in Aurora" opened on December 15th and is available to view online at https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/aurora_history_museum/exhibits_at_the_aurora_history_museum

You can view their other exhibits there as well. The museum has also acquired the neon sign from the Zephyr Lounge. It will eventually be on display for the public. (More to come later). You can learn more about the Zephyr's closing here: <https://www.westword.com/music/zephyr-lounge-closes-amid-covid-19-and-new-development-in-aurora-11836181>

COVID19 Collection: The Aurora History Museum would like to hear how the pandemic affected your life. They will be asking for pictures and oral histories. You can learn more by visiting the museum's website.

There are lots of other virtual tours and exhibits to be seen so visit the Aurora History Museum's site to find other things to see. https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/aurora_history_museum

The Aurora Newspaper Digitization Project still needs \$22,000 to complete the project. Please consider donating to this very worthwhile project. The donation coupon is on the last page of this newsletter.

Please view Dr. Gordon Tucker's presentation about "Archeology in Aurora" on our website. <http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/>

From the November 1995 AHS Advocate

Membership Update

Lola Faye Hicks

Sharon A. Lane Drive

by Juanita Sparks

"Where is Sharon A. Lane Drive?"

It is the roadway that leads from Colfax Avenue to the main hospital building at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.

Traditionally, the streets at Fitzsimons are named for individuals who have made significant contributions to the United States Army and to Fitzsimons Hospital. The hospital itself was named for Lt. William Thomas Fitzsimons, the first medical officer killed in World War I as the result of hostile fire. Streets on the post are named for many former commanding officers and others who made significant contributions.

Sharon A. Lane Drive is named for Sharon Anne Lane, who was the first Army Nurse killed by hostile fire in the Vietnam War. Lt. Lane was stationed at Fitzsimons General Hospital from June 14, 1968 until April of 1969. She was a general duty nurse on the Tuberculosis Ward and Intensive Care.

In April of 1969 she was sent to Vietnam and assigned to the 312 Evacuation Hospital. She died of shrapnel wounds while on duty at the hospital in Chu Lai.

Homestead City

The Aurora Museum Foundation's *Homestead City* was a great success. This unique living history event attracted approximately 20,000 people during the three days and hundreds of volunteers worked on this project.

Sandy Sweeney, President of the Aurora Museum Foundation, encourages you to extend your personal thanks for the support of the following businesses who were the corporate sponsors:

GOLD
Aurora Mall
City of Aurora
Fitzsimons Credit Union
Rocky Mountain News

SILVER

Aurora Historical Society
Aurora National Bank
Bench Ad
Lowry Redevelopment Authority
Suss Pontiac-GMC

BRONZ

First Federal Bank
Piper Jaffray

IRON

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The Fan Club
Redi-Pring, Inc.
Waste Management

HOMESTEADER

Albertsons
Double Tree Hotel
XEL Communications

DONORS

Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Dixon Paper Company
Mario Waller

Aurora History Museum

DROP 'N' SHOP

Ease the holiday hassle. Sign-up your children for classes. DROP 'N' SHOP is designed to give parents some free holiday shopping time while children enjoy fun at the Museum. Each Saturday session will offer crafts, games and snacks. Sign-up your children for December 2 "Deck the Halls" or Dec. 9 "A Prairie Christmas. *Advance Registration is Required.* Time 10 AM - 1 PL, ages 6yrs. & up. Cost: \$10 For information call Mary Dwyer at 340-2218.

Excerpt from the November 1995 AHS Advocate

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



Got Questions?

Ask a
Historian

Aurora Historical Society
mdlkel@aol.com

Aurora's Historic Newspaper Digitization Project

The *Aurora Advocate* is currently being digitized. The cost to finish the project is almost \$22,000. 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!

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*

Name _____
Address _____
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Please send checks to:
Aurora History Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012



Online Lecture: **Repatriation of Mijikenda Tribes Grave Posts**

20 January 2021 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Description: Dr. Steve Nash is Director of Anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Years ago, he recognized sacred Mijikenda grave objects, known as vigango, in the museum's collection. Dr. Nash shares the long and difficult process of returning the vigango to Kenya.

The lecture is free, but you must register to receive the link to the online Webex meeting. Space is limited, please only register if you plan to attend. More than one person can attend using the same computer. There is no cancellation fee.

[REGISTER HERE](#) or contact Jessica Lira at jlira@auroragov.org