

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 45; Number 2

March 2021

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

March President's Letter

Dear AHS members,

Well, it has almost been a full year since our world changed drastically. I do hope that all of you are well and safe. I hope that many of you have received the Covid-19 vaccine by now. I just had my first shot this week. I am hoping that some semblance of normal is not too far away. It would be lovely to see all your faces again on a field trip or at a meeting.

It saddens me to announce that we have lost two more long time members in the past few months. Peggy Kerns and Bill Murray, both of whom served Aurora well during their lives. They will both be missed. I am including links to both of their obituaries as well as an article in the Sentinel about Bill later in the newsletter in case you have not seen them. I will miss them both.

The museum is open again by appointment, and there are two online lectures scheduled I have included information on how to sign up for the online lectures in this newsletter. I hope you can at least listen to the lectures. They both sound interesting. They museum is also still in need of judges for History Day. If you can participate please do. That information is also included here and on the Facebook page.

It is my sincere hope that we can plan some type of outing by this summer. If we can I will send the information as soon as it is available.

I hope you are all keeping a record of this time in some manner. I would love to have records to combine in some sort of book. So, if you have pictures, or commentary please send them to me, and I will compile them into a booklet for members.

In the meantime, be kind to yourselves and kind to one another. Stay safe and well!



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://aurorahistoricalociety.org/join-today/>

Thank you FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank You! To all who paid your 2021 Dues, we appreciate your continued support even though we have not been able to meet.

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

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: St. Patrick's Day at school



Valentine's Day just ended, and St. Patrick's Day is coming. Do you remember going to school on St. Patrick's Day and making sure you had something green on? And if you didn't, especially during my elementary school days, someone was sure to pinch you. Oh, the cries of "I do so have green on. My socks are green" in protest of wrongly being pinched. The pinching part, according to some folklore, is because green makes you invisible to leprechauns and leprechauns like to pinch people. Vaughn Elementary school where I attended had some of the parents make cookies (green frosting of course) that were shared in the class at the appropriate time. And then there was the St. Patrick's Day parade down Colfax. I remember when my children were little standing on the curb, freezing, while the parade participants tossed some hard candy towards to kids.



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

TAKE ME
TO YOUR
LEADER

Newsletter we'll take a quick look at each of them. Special thanks to Carolyn Brassell for her research and assistance.

MAYOR #25

Charles F. Holzer

- Served from April 13, 1931 – April 7, 1939
- He was born March 2, 1896 in Brooklyn, New York
- Married to Ida Juni on February 3, 1925. Ida died April 24, 1925
- They had a son, Charles Holzer Jr. who was born April 19, 1925
- Married to Frances Fay on February 17, 1927
- He came to Colorado in 1923
- He was a branch manager of Aurora National Bank at Fitzsimons until it closed in 1933
- He lived at 1237 Chester Street
- He also sold insurance and real estate
- He died on August 25, 1939
- He would have been 34 years old when he became Mayor
- Colorado Governors when he was Mayor: Billy Adams, Edwin Johnson, Ray Talbot & Teller Ammons
- While he was in office:
 - Unemployed Citizens League was formed
 - Aurora National Bank closed, found to be insolvent and ordered in receivership
 - Lucy Chapin forms a depositors committee, bank reorganized in December 1933
 - T.F. Gilligan, the bank president, indicted for embezzlement, convicted, served 6 years in Federal penitentiary in Leavenworth. He never returned to Aurora.
 - Fitzsimons slated for closing. Denver cancels 99 year lease, gives land to the Army.

Lowry Field opens in February 1938 to the first students



*Welcome to our new Lifetime
Members!!!!
Kimberly and Bill Daniels!*



*A special thank you to the following
members for their continued support of the
Aurora Newspaper Digitization Project!*

**Bob LeGare!
Bruce and Mary Leonard!
Gordon Davis & Julianne McCarthy!**

**Links to Obituary information for Peggy Kerns
and Bill Murray**

Peggy Kerns Obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/denverpost/obituary.aspx?n=margaret-kerns&pid=197139023>

Bill Murry Obituary:

<https://www.domicofh.com/obituary/2244248>

Sentinel Article about Bill Murray:

<https://sentinelcolorado.com/opinion/perry-aurora-loses-an-ally-and-a-champion-of-intellectualism-with-bill-murray/>

Excerpt from the Aurora Democrat

THE AURORA DEMOCRAT

Founded 1909 by R. N. Gwynn

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Volume 37 Number 6 February 15, 1946

THE *"A Bit of Old Mexico"*
YUCCA
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"Colorado's Finest"

DANCE

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Wm. Smith High School

Saturday Evening, February 23rd.

Dancing from 9 to 12 P. M.

With Virginia Purse Orchestra

\$1 Per Couple

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HOW ONION AFFECTS EYES — The Aurora Democrat March 4, 1921 — Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

"Gas" Given Off Causes Smarting and the Organ Hastens to Take Relief Measures.

The "gas" given off by a freshly peeled onion makes itself apparent in two ways—by a strong aroma which is at once apparent to the sense of smell, and by a smarting of the eyeballs, which, being very sensitive, are hurt by this substance to which they are not accustomed.

The nerves of the eye immediately signal the brain to turn on the tears or liquid which is secreted by the body as a natural eye-wash. This, flowing over the eyeball, forms a curtain which prevents the onion "gas" from coming in direct contact with the nerves and thus injuring them.

Tears are present in the eye at all times. When we wink, a tiny drop of the tear-liquid is smeared across the ball of the eye and washes off particles of dust which may have accumulated. But when this liquid is produced so rapidly that it cannot be carried off by the trough at the lower part of the eye, the tears overflow and run down the face.

FITZ JOINS AURORA SCHOOL DISTRICT — The Aurora Advocate April 5, 1951 — Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

FITZ JOINS AURORA SCHOOL DISTRICT

In order to consolidate the request for federal aid for school buildings in the Aurora area, the land upon which the Fitzsimons Hospital is located, has been transferred from the Sable School District to District 28J. Both the Aurora schools and the Fitzsimons Hospital thru the commanding General had made requests for federal assistance in the building of necessary school buildings. Now that the claims have been consolidated, it is felt the area will have a much better chance of receiving aid within the near future.

Children living on the post at Fitzsimons have for years attended Denver schools. They will continue to do so for the present and until federal funds are made available for school buildings in the Aurora area.

Under recently enacted federal statutes, school districts providing schools for federally connected children are being reimbursed from federal funds.

An enrollment in excess of 2500 pupils for the September 1951 term, is expected in Aurora schools. Only a part of the building need can be met with local district revenue. The remainder must come from other sources. Within less than a year or about the time it would take to complete needed buildings, there will be needed two additional elementary schools and an addition to house junior high school students. Capacity of our five buildings on a full day basis is 2090.

**Aurora History Museum
Great Online Lectures scheduled
Online Lecture: Colorado's Love Affair with
Drive-In Theaters
March 17, Noon to 1 p.m.**

Aurora was home to Colorado's first drive-in theater, and dozens more soon followed. Some were gone within months. Some are still alive today. Join Michael Kilgore, author of "Drive-Ins of Colorado," as he describes the people, the stories, and the giant screens that entertained millions of movie-goers.

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.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-lecture-colorado-drive-in-theaters-tickets-138966407265?aff=erelpanelorg>

**Online Lecture: Colorado Military Women
April 21, Noon to 1p.m.**

Colorado women from every corner of the state enlisted in the military, joined the workforce, and volunteered on the home front. As military women, they served as nurses and in hundreds of noncombat positions. In defense plants they riveted steel, made bullets, inspected bombs, operated cranes, and stored projectiles. They hosted USO canteens, nursed in civilian hospitals, donated blood, drove Red Cross vehicles, and led scrap drives; and they processed hundreds of thousands of forms and reports. Whether or not they worked outside the home, they wholeheartedly participated in a kaleidoscope of activities to support the war effort.

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.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-lecture-colorado-military-women-tickets-139962304019?aff=ebdssbeac>

The Aurora History Museum is not open. Here is the link to schedule an appointment to see the current exhibits.

https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/aurora_history_museum

We still need judges for History Day!

The judge registration is now open for the virtual Aurora Contest on March 27. You can find the registration link and more resources at a new website.

<https://nhdc41.wixsite.com/auroranhd/judges>

There are some rule changes for this year and you'll find a summary of those on the website as well. Kayla with the History Day in Colorado State office is working on the protocols for virtual interviews. The interviews will be hosted on Zoom. Kayla or I will send out the judge assignments and virtual interview information after March 20.

Students are already working on their projects to get them ready for the contest, so I hope you can join us on March 27. Feel free to reach out to me with questions.

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



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One Professional Team Delivering Quality Solutions to Every Customer Our Values in Action
Teamwork • Excellence • Accountability • Safety • Integrity • Communication



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

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

Aurora Historical Society
Aurora, Colorado

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://auracohistoricalsociety.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!