

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 45; Number 3

May 2021

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

May President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all safe and well. It seems like many of us have now been vaccinated, and some things are starting to open. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to plan a meeting or a field trip of some kind in the not to distant future. It would be lovely to see all of you again. In the meantime, please take care of yourselves. Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers and Grandmothers out there. The weather is starting to warm, and spring does seem to be in the air. As I write this and look out the window, I can see some of my lilacs are starting to bloom on the very top of one of my lilac bushes. We were not able to celebrate Aurora's 130th Birthday as we have in years past, but hopefully we can celebrate again for the 131st.

I want to express my gratitude for those who have donated to the Aurora Newspaper Digitization Project. This has been an ongoing endeavor and one dear to my heart. It is my hope that we can complete it in the not to distant future. As you will see later in this issue AHS has donated over \$5,000 to this project through your donations, but another \$20,000 is needed to complete this project and as years go by more will need to be digitized. What a great legacy to leave for the future. I hope you will continue to support this cause.

For now, take care and stay safe until we meet again.

Best wishes,

Lynne Evans

Aurora Historical Society President



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: Doenges-Glass Ford

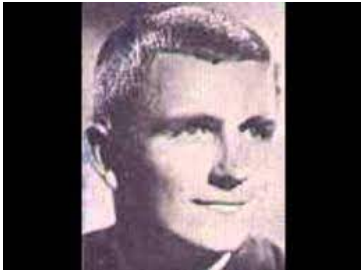


There was nothing quite like going with your Dad to look at new cars. My first excursion was going to look at new pickup trucks on the Doenges-Glass Ford lot at 1st and Havana. Dad, of course, complained about how expensive they were but man was it fun to look. I'm sure we didn't buy one that day as Dad probably took the salesman he was "just looking" but looking back now I bet he was wishing he could have afforded a brand new truck. Now Doenges-Glass opened in 1963 and operated at that location for 21 years until it was sold to Big Mike Naughton. Today Havana street has many car dealerships of all makes and models but back in 1963 Doenges-Glass was the only one. I can vividly remember dreaming about owning one of those new sporty Ford Mustangs. Oh, and Mike Naughton Ford in February was bought out by Ralph Schomp Automotive.

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.

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. Who was the radio star that opened a youth center at Montview & Dayton?
 - a. Charley Martin – Charley's Place
 - b. Harold Moore – Hal Baby's
 - c. Jay Mack – The Mack Shack



2. What Motel was not in Aurora?
- Blue Spruce Motel
 - Cactus Motel
 - Tumbleweed Motel



- The price was on the bottom of the banana split dish
- You picked a balloon and popped it – price was inside



3. When did this High School split sessions with Hinkley High School?
- Overland High School - 1978
 - Gateway High School - 1974
 - Rangeview High School - 1983

4. Where is one of the last video rental stores in Aurora located?
- Video Video – 3rd and S. Chambers Road
 - Video Buffs – 6th and Peoria
 - Video Pursuit – Mexico and S. Chambers Road



5. How did Woolworth's on Colfax determine the price of your banana split?
- You drew a piece of paper from a bowl



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

MAYOR #26

W. Jasper Parrish

- Served from 1937 – 1941
- Second time as mayor of Aurora
- He was born 4 March 1878 in Fulton County, Illinois
- Married Kathryn Beech Watson on 1 November 1906 in Warren, Illinois
- No known children

- He worked as a farmer, speculator in the stock yards, merchant & at the Denver Ordinance Plant
- He lived at 1368 Dayton from prior to 1920 through 1940
- He would have been 59 years old when he became Mayor the 2nd time
- He died sometime after 1952
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Ray Talbot, Teller Ammons & Ralph Carr
- While he was in office:
 - Lowry Field opens on February 12, 1938
 - Helen Bonfils' associates began construction on "The Havana Subdivision" south of Colfax to provide housing for Lowry base employees
 - Over the long run this meant Denver could no longer annex land to the east or south
 - Aurora's population in 1940 stands at 3,437
 - September 1939 Germany invades Poland



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 & Julanne McCarthy!
Mary Vickers
Alice Main

Since we started in October 2015, the AHS has issued the following checks:

April 2016 - \$2,468.30
 October 2016 - \$1,501.15
 December 2016 - \$409.80
 February 2020 - \$262.00
 February 2020 - \$141.00
 November 2020 - \$500.00

That is a total of \$5,282.25

And currently we have \$495.00 in the digitization account and a check has just been sent to Colorado Historic Newspapers for \$428.40 to digitize the Aurora Democrat from October 1968 through December 1968.

That's \$5,777.25 that has been collected so far. Nice job Aurora.

A little less than \$20,000 is still needed to complete this project. Let's keep the donations rolling in and get this done!!!

Aurora History Museum Exhibits

The Aurora History Museum is open for business, but you need to make a reservation because of COVID. Call 303-739-6660 to make a reservation. New exhibit opening May 11th.



Religious Diversity in Aurora

Open through May 30, 2021

The Aurora History Museum is showcasing the wide variety of faiths and religious experiences of Aurorans in the new exhibit *Religious Diversity in Aurora*.

For the creation of the exhibition, faith leaders, community leaders and congregants shared their stories with museum staff. The powerful messages of personal faith, community involvement, relationship building, and individual beliefs are told from the words of those most involved with Aurora's faith community.

"In these difficult times, we thought it would be meaningful to create this exhibition to promote better understanding and unity within our community," said T. Scott Williams, Aurora History Museum director.

Exhibit visitors will explore photos of over 140 houses of worship in the city and will learn about other people's beliefs and traditions. The "Religious Diversity in Aurora" exhibit celebrates Aurora's diverse religious community and will run through the end of May 2021.

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.

Super Old News

Live, every Tuesday at 11 a.m. on the AHMHS Facebook page, Super Old News brings you up-to-date old news from Aurora's historic newspapers. You can help the Super Old News Network by visiting the link below and donating to the efforts of the Aurora Historical Society to digitize Aurora's historic newspapers and make them available

online. <https://auroracohistoricalociety.org/donate-to-the-newspaper-digitization-project/>

Morning with the Museum Activity Kits

New Kits on the First Wednesday of the Month.

Once a month the museum will have a set of activities and crafts for preschool aged children. Check our Facebook page for a monthly instructional text with a few reading selections based on that month's theme. Pick up the craft supplies for free (while supplies last) follow the online instructions using whatever supplies you have around the house. Designed for children ages 2-5 with adult supervision. See museum calendar for new craft kit debut dates.

ONLINE LECTURE: What's for Dinner in 1920?

Wednesday, May 19

Noon-1p.m.

Colorado meals in the 1920s varied radically from today. Our menus were based on traditional foodways, food production and distribution systems, and kitchen technologies. Professor Geoff Hunt discusses some Presidential favorites from the 1920s.

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.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ONLINE LECTURE: What Kalaupapa can teach us about COVID-19

Wednesday, June 16

Noon-1 p.m.

Local historian, Mark Kahalekulu and Museum Director T. Scott Williams discuss Hansen's Disease and the Kingdom of Hawai'i's response in light of current world events.

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.

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 11

Historic Sites Geocache Collection

Find geocaches located at [Aurora Landmarks](#) No. 9, No.

11, No. 20 and No.26 using Geocaching.com. After you find the cache, visit the Aurora History Museum during regular business hours when we reopen and receive a limited edition coin for each geocache you find. We showcase a different historic landmark every year, so start your collection today!

Coins are limited and are available on a first come, first serve basis. You do not need to pick up the coin on the same day you find the cache.

Excerpts from the Aurora Historic Newspapers

Household Hints from *Aurora Democrat* May 9, 1941 page 3

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

When rooms are to be painted, coat windows with a cleaning powder. If paint splatters on the glass it comes off easily when the powder is wiped away.

A teaspoonful of vinegar added to any boiled frosting before spreading will keep it from becoming brittle or breaking when it is cut.

Before baking potatoes, let them stand in hot water for 15 minutes. Then rub with butter or lard and put in oven. They will bake in half the time and will not shrink.

Advertisements from *Aurora Democrat* May 9, 1941 page 3

Swapping the Country!

EASY TO MAKE—
DELICIOUS—
ECONOMICAL!

**RICE KRISPIES
MARSHMALLOW
SQUARES**

Tested and proved in thousands of homes. Ideal as a confection . . . a dessert . . . a treat for youngsters' lunch boxes.

Copyright, 1941 by Kellogg Company

**QUICK EASY RECIPE
ON SIDE OF PACKAGE**

Alleviating Repentance
Who after his transgression doth repent, is half, or altogether, innocent.—Herrick.

Our Fallings
No one is satisfied with his fortune, nor dissatisfied with his intellect.—Deshoulieres.

Thrifty Women Everywhere Use

CLABBER GIRL

BAKING POWDER

JOIN THE THROG BUY-A-CAN TODAY

it than to consume wealth without producing it. — George Bernard Shaw.

Study Reveals
The more we study, the more we discover our ignorance.—Shelley.

Excerpt from the *Aurora Advocate* May 3, 1951

Aurora Jewelry And Appliance To Offer Monthly Prize For Largest Colorado Trout

Fisherman Ahoy! Once again the Aurora Jewelry and Appliance, 9529 E. Colfax is co-operating with the Advocate in offering the anglers in this area a chance to win prizes. This year however the prizes will be monthly instead of one grand yearly prize.

For the trout that weighs the most and caught in Colorado beginning with the official opening of fishing season until June 24, a prize of \$25.00 in your choice of fishing equipment will be given absolutely free. And each month thereafter the same prize will be offered.

The same rules prevail with the exception that you must register this year with the Aurora Jewelry and Appliance.

1. No Mackinaw (lake trout) may be entered in contest.
2. Contestant must have Colorado fishing license.
3. Trout must be caught in Colorado.
4. The weight, not the length of the fish determines the winner.
5. You must register in person at the Aurora Jewelry and Appliance, 9529 E. Colfax.

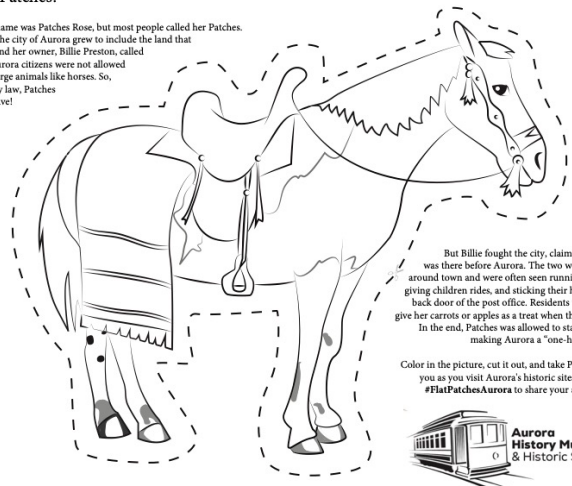
When asked how he would determine whether the trout had been caught in Colorado, Astor Amos, manager of the concern replied "Well-I'll tell you, although a fisherman might prevaricate about the size of the one that got away he's really a sportsman at heart and will abide by a set of rules. With the rule that it must be a Colorado trout, it means that many fishermen who find it impossible to take long trips still will have a sportsman's chance at winning the prizes, and very seldom will you find a sportsman who will stoop low enough to cheat someone out of a prize."

Great Activity for kids and grandkids.

Visit the Aurora History Museum's website and download ["Flat Patches"](#) Color in the picture, cut it out, and take Patches with you as you visit Aurora's historic sites! Post with #FlatPatchesAurora to share your adventures!

Meet Patches!

Her full name was Patches Rose, but most people called her Patches. In 1957, the city of Aurora grew to include the land that Patches and her owner, Billie Preston, called home. Aurora citizens were not allowed to keep large animals like horses. So, under city law, Patches had to leave!



But Billie fought the city, claiming Patches was there before Aurora. The two were popular around town and were often seen running errands, giving children rides, and sticking their heads in the back door of the post office. Residents would even give her carrots or apples as a treat when they saw her. In the end, Patches was allowed to stay, officially making Aurora a "one-horse town."

Color in the picture, cut it out, and take Patches with you as you visit Aurora's historic sites! Post with #FlatPatchesAurora to share your adventures!



Amos Roberts Helps Thousands of Lowry Soldiers

Air Force Is Born in Aurora

Little did Amos Dalton Roberts realize that his trip to Fitzsimons General Hospital (now Fitzsimons Medical Center) in 1922 would be the beginning of life in Colorado where he would finally work at Lowry Air Force Base, literally help thousands of servicemen to continue their education after testimy started.

This interview is from a tape recorded in his home in Hoffman Heights with two of his closest church friends, **Robert** and **Margaret Goolsby**, who help Amos and his wife Wilma, both 87 years old, with transportation to church, to doctors and to shopping.

Because of a breakdown in health, Amos decided to come to Colorado on the advice of his doctor. When he arrived at the Veterans Administration in Denver, he asked its office to send for his medical records. His file came and Dr. Trout said, "You are going to Fitzsimons".

"Not out there"! Amos protested. Dr. Trout replied, "Someday you will thank me".

On Saturday afternoon, April 26, a bus discharged its load of servicemen at Fitzsimons. Among the men was Amos, who was taken to one of the barracks where he was assigned a bunk bed and a small space to hang his clothes. Just as Amos began to hang them up, an orderly rushed in and said, "You don't belong here; you belong in the officers' ward."

Since he had been a second lieutenant in World War I, he was taken to Upper D, which faced south and was on the second floor. Partitions between the beds gave little privacy. However, there was a lounge where the men could read.

Waiting for treatment were servicemen who ranged from a general to second lieutenants. After diagnosing Amos' problems, a mild case of tuberculosis, the doctors began to treat him. At first he didn't do anything; he just lay in bed, read, went to the Mess Hall and took correspondence courses. Most of his time was spent in resting and reading. As he improved, he began to exercise moderately.

There were not only TB (tuberculosis) patients, but also many servicemen who had contracted flu which had weakened their bodies. The men received very good treatment, according to Amos, and could have anything they wished to eat. "I have nver eaten better in my life," commented Amos.

Among the personnel at Fitzsimons who Amos remembers was a **Mrs. Ward**, who was in charge of the library and who retired several years ago. She came to the patients to see what they wanted to read and saw that they received the requested books. Amos felt the hospital had a good library and especially, a good librarian. He also recalls a **Capt. Wilson**, who took care of him and checked on his progress.

A favorite recreation was hiking. Before Amos was sent to Fitzsimons, he decided to go for a hike with a friend. Together they climbed Lookout Mountain. A spring snowstorm hit as they were walking down. By the time they were back to the bus line, there were two or three inches of snow on the ground.

When his bride, Wilma, arrived May 11 at Denver's Union Station, another snowstorm was raging. It was hard for him to understand because the weather had been so beautiful and clear in May. Amos, as a newcomer to the state, was not familiar with spring in Colorado.

As the servicemen walked into Aurora along the dirt road known as Montview Boulevard, prairie was all they saw. One Amos' friends at the hospital, **Joe Tooley**, later on purchased the one large house that stood in the midst of the prairie and raised chickens on the land.

Another recreation that Amos enjoyed was playing golf. Prairie dogs, and there were plenty of them around, sat near their holes and observed. "If the little animals watched me

they didn't see much good golf because I was just a beginner. Although the course was new, it was nice with its green grass", commented Amos.

Wilma Lived in Aurora

Wilma's husband came to see her every day. After supper, which was early at Fitzsimons, he would catch the trolley at the corner of Peoria and Colfax. There was a shelter where he could sit down while he waited.

Just as other patients' wives did, Wilma came to Aurora to be close to her loved one. She lived at about 1620 Galena Street where she boarded and roomed with "Pa" and "Ma" House, who were in their 50's.

Wilma recalled the time "Pa" House purchased a Ford and learned to drive "that thing after a fashion". A teacher at the Y.M.C.A. in Denver, "Pa" would take "Ma" and Wilma for a ride. "Ma" would say, "Do you see that car?" "Pa" would answer, "Yes, dear", and he would continue on the road until the next car came along, and "Ma" would repeat the same question. "Pa" never had an accident. In those days the roads were really bad, especially after rain and snow.

When the daughter of the Houses moved back to her parents' home in July or August, Wilma moved in with the Ray Lancasters, who resided in about the 1400 block on Boston Street in a big brick house. Ray was always reminiscing about his work in the Kansas City stockyards. He had come to Colorado for his asthma. His wife took in roomers and boarders. At that time there were also homes that took in tubercular patients who had been cured at Fitzsimons.

One incident concerning the husband of a woman who also lived at the Lancasters stands out in the minds of the Roberts. Mr. Smedley was a veteran and was learning the jewelry business in a store across the street from the Denver Mint. Four robbers stole \$200,000 from the Mint. One was shot and killed; the other three drove their car into a garage in East Denver with the slain robber in it. Just how they escaped the Roberts do not know nor do they know whether the three robbers were ever caught.

When the couple rode the trolley from Aurora to Denver, they saw prairie to Colorado Boulevard and beyond. The only buildings in view were Colorado Woman's College to the north and the National Jewish Hospital at Colorado Boulevard.

In 1922 about 900 people lived in Aurora. There was almost nothing in the Town, according to Amos. The Roberts did little in the way of shopping in Aurora. "It was just too easy to take the trolley to Denver", said Amos. However, he did do their banking at Fitzsimons.

There was only one school in the Town. Wilma went with "Ma" House to the P.T.A. meetings at the Aurora School (where Crawford School now is). She also accompanied "Ma" to the Unitarian Church in Denver on Sundays.

For recreation the Roberts would take a walk. They didn't see much of the houses or people in Aurora because they were newlyweds and were only interested in each other.

One lake, however, that the couple remembers is Barr Lake. They went fishing with the Lancasters and caught perch as well as carp. There were usually boats on the lake. (Barr Lake must have been a popular place for Aurorans to go in the '20's as most of the old timers that I have interviewed have mentioned it as a recreational place.)

Other forms of recreation were dancing and listening to music. The Roberts went to dances with a dentist, a **Capt. Harlan**, and his wife. The couple used to go to City Park in the evenings when concerts were held. "It was really romantic with the fountain flowing and the boats moving on the lake," commented Amos. "Then everyone felt secure at the Park because at that time there was no crime there".



Wilma and Amos Roberts. They celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on March 8. A life member of the Colorado Schoolmasters Association, Amos is also proud to have been a member of the American Psychological Association and former president of the North Colorado Superintendents of Education Association.

In addition to picture shows, the Roberts enjoyed vaudeville. There were two recuits, Keith's and Pantages'. Vaudeville was a variety program with dancing, singing, comedy and entertainment of different kinds in short acts.

Before being released from Fitzsimons, the servicemen had to walk a certain distance. The patients' temperature would be taken before he left and when he returned. Finally Amos was able to walk from the hospital to Florence Street and back without his temperature going up.

Some of the men wanted to stay at Fitzsimons so badly that they would hold cigarettes in their mouths when their temperatures were being taken. Naturally their temperatures would go up. But not Amos. He was "just dying to get out". Some patients married their nurses. His friend, Joe Tooley, married the dietitian.

Variety of Jobs

The couple left Aurora in January of 1923 and went to Ft. Collins where Amos attended Colorado Agriculture and Mechanical College (now C. S. U.)

On August 1, 1924, the Roberts moved to Wiley, a little town west of Lamar where Amos was hired to coach athletics and teach vocational education in the high school. During the second year he was principal and the third year, superintendent of the school system. Their next moves took the Roberts to Granada and to Erie where he was superintendent until 1936.

Because teachers, principals, and superintendents were not under Social Security and because schools had no retirement plans of any kind, Amos decided to get a government job.

Meeting an old friend from C. S. U., who was in charge of the training program for the Veterans Administration, Amos asked him for a job as counselor. His friend suggested that he take the examinations for registration officer for which there was an opening and for counselor. When enough veterans came back, his friend would move him into counseling.

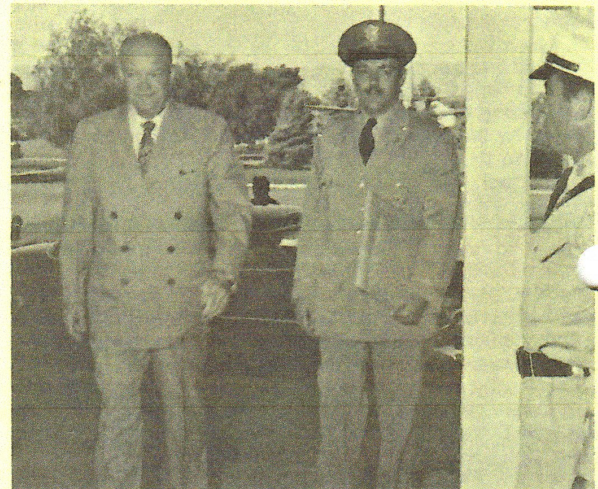
Amos took both examinations. He needed to be in the upper five percent to get the job. Amos did not hear whether he had obtained the job so after a few weeks he went to his friend to inquire about it. His friend said, "You made it easy for me; you have the job. You were No. 1 on the list."

After being the registration officer for two months, Amos went into the counseling and guidance office. He had been in administrative jobs for so long that he only wanted to be a counselor.

It wasn't long before he advanced to senior counselor, then chief of the counseling division. Under his jurisdiction were two centers: the one at Denver Opportunity School and the one at the Old Customs House. Finally the one at the Customs House was moved to the Federal Center.



Kirke Wilson, Christmas at Georgetown, 1980



President Dwight Eisenhower entering the Summer Whitehouse.

Lowry Air Force Base

After two years in the job, Amos began to counsel neuropsychiatric patients. When the veterans began to thin out, he applied at Lowry Air Force Base for the position of Educational Services Officer. On January 1, 1951, he started to work at Lowry in that position.

At that time little counseling was being done in the Educational Services Office. There were no schools on the Base, and few men were going downtown to school.

The first thing that Amos did was to obtain professors from C. U. and D. U. to set up classes on the base where the airmen could get credit. Then he began classes for servicemen who were below eighth grade level. Next he started classes for those below high school level. Hundreds of men were sent downtown to C. U. and D. U. to attend night school.

Amos could no longer do all the work by himself and needed an assistant. Civil Service sent him a list of names. After looking it over, he said, "There is no one on the list that I want; for they are not qualified". Civil Service told him that he would have to tell the applicants why they were not qualified.

"I know a person on this Base who is working in Personnel who is qualified; her name is Kirke Wilson," suggested Amos. Personnel had not wanted to let her go, so her name had not appeared on the list. Amos advised Kirke to apply for the job if she wanted it. She did and worked for him until he retired.

In September of 1964, Kirke went to Clark Air Base in the Philippines as Assistant Education Officer. There she worked under another Coloradoan, Lowell Jackson, from Eads. At the end of August in 1969, she came back to the education office at Lowry from which she retired on May 31, 1971.

Almost a native of Colorado (she was born three weeks early in St. Louis), Kirke has called Hardin, Hugo and Denver her homes at various times in her life. She is a graduate of Colorado Woman's College, Colorado University, and Denver University Law School. This capable woman was admitted to the bar in 1947. She now lives at Windsor Gardens.

U. S. Air Academy

When the U. S. Air Force Academy was begun at Lowry in 1954, Amos was to help the Academy to get underway. General Harmon, the commanding officer of the Academy, was given one week in which to administer intelligence tests to all the cadets. Scores were to be sent to the Pentagon by Friday of that week. There was no way for General Harmon to get the job accomplished - - - unless Amos would undertake the task!

Amos found that he could get the tests he needed at D. U., picked them up himself, brought them to Lowry and found that there was not a room large enough to get all the cadets into at one time. He thought General Harmon's professors could give the tests, but the General insisted that Amos do the job. Supervising the testing, Amos was able to finish it in time for General Harmon to catch a plane to Washington, D. C. and turn in the test scores by Friday.

The Air Force Academy was actually started on the Aurora part of the Base for the barracks, where the cadets lived, the Mess Hall where they ate, the classrooms where they attended school and even the command office were located there.

Summer Whitehouse

When President Dwight Eisenhower had his Summer Whitehouse at Lowry in 1953, 1954 and 1955, his son Col. John, who was his military aide, obtained material from the Educational Services Office. He wrote a note thanking the personnel in the office for their assistance.

One incident that Amos recalls happened when the Budget Officer asked him to come up to his office. Amos was surrounded by guards and Secret Service men. They held him and asked him, "What are you doing here? What do you want?" Amos replied that he was on his way to the Budget Office. Finally several Secret Service men escorted him to the office to be sure that was where he was going. No chances were taken when the President's office was at Lowry.

At one Easter service Amos could have touched the President. Amos was attending services in the Chapel. President Eisenhower talked and smoked with Amos just as if he were any other person.

Developing Educational Services

Part of Lowry was in Denver and part, in Aurora. All the airmen and officers who were quartered on the Denver side could go to Denver Opportunity School free, but if they were quartered on the Aurora side they were to pay tuition. When Amos was in charge of counseling at the Veterans Administration, he had worked closely with Howard Johnson, principal of the School. Amos convinced Mr. Johnson to let all Lowry men attend Opportunity School free of charge.

This educator also convinced Mr. Johnson to let foreign students take courses without charging them. Later one wrote to say, "If all the people in America were like the

personnel in the Educational Services Office and Mr. Johnson at Opportunity School, the United States wouldn't have an enemy in the world." Often Amos set up programs with D. U. so that foreign students could learn English. When the ability to speak was such that they could take courses at Lowry, the students began their studies.

Amos was particularly proud of his foreign students from Iran, Iraq, Argentina and Ethiopia. They were sent by their governments to go through the technical schools at Lowry.

Most servicemen had high school educations, but very often they needed refresher courses in such subjects as algebra, geometry and trigonometry. Lowry courses included electronics, intelligence, photography, ballistics, weapons systems, fire fighting and aircraft crash rescue.

Amos was in charge of the off-duty education program whose purpose was to further the servicemens' general education.

Finally he was responsible for the airmen's education commissioning program. After two years of college training, they could apply for this particular program which sent them to college or university to complete their degree. Upon graduation, the airmen could go into Officers Candidate School for four months. Then they were commissioned as second lieutenants. The Air Force paid their tuition, board and room. When they finished the program, they were obligated to stay in the Air Force for four years.

Many servicemen went TDY - - - time off with salary to go to school. Airmen received sergeants' pay; officers held their rank and received officers' pay.

Home in Hoffman Heights

A year after Amos started to work at Lowry, the couple began to look for houses in Aurora. Wilma purchased one, but Amos did not like it, so he acquired the one that they now occupy in Hoffman Heights. Not wanting to keep Wilma's house for rental, they sold it.

The couple moved into their house on June 12, 1952. According to Wilma, "Not even a weed was blowing". The bulldozers had scraped the ground clean for the housing development. The soil was a sticky, clay one.

Then the big question was presented: whether Hoffman Heights should remain independent or join Aurora. At first it didn't seem to Amos that Aurora really wanted to annex the area. But after Hoffman Heights "got going" and had its own shopping center, Aurora became interested.

Two petitions were circulated, one for annexing and one against annexing to Aurora. As Amos remembers, one petition was thrown away or lost - - - the one against annexing. He felt that there were probably more signatures on that one. He is glad, however, that annexation did take place for "the needed services would have been hard to provide".

Thinking back over the years, Amos felt that Fitzsimons General Hospital had helped to keep Aurora from going bankrupt in the '20's. He also perceived that Lowry Air Force Base had contributed much to Aurora's economy in the '40's and '50's and beyond.

Educational Background

A graduate of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Amos had majored in science and vocational education. At C. S. U he took courses in agronomy because the doctors at Fitzsimons suggested that he work outdoors. However, he finally received his Master's Degree in school administration. Later he earned 57 hours toward a Doctor of Philosophy Degree, but he did not finish due to his eye problems.

It was in 1903 that the Roberts first met at a country school in Fayette County, Alabama. Amos had attended school with Wilma for years before he knew she was a student, too. He had noticed her two older sisters, but not Wilma. Finally he saw her, but they were not married until March 8, 1922, in Fayette County.

Amos and Wilma had one child, Amos Dalton, who is married to Virginia Smith from Iowa and who holds the position of Deputy Director of the State Health Department. They have four children: Dr. Christopher John of Phoenix, Arizona; Kirkland Thomas, a lawyer; Alfred Dalton, who will

also be a doctor; and William Francis, who is taking business administration.

Because Amos Roberts came to Fitzsimons for his health, several countries of the World, the United States and Colorado are richer for the schooling and training service-

men received on and off Lowry Air Force Base. Education meant great differences in the lives of the men and their families. Many of those men have even come back to make Aurora their home.



Lowry Air Force Base, 1960. Left side of picture is south; right side, north; top, west; and bottom, east.

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