

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 45; Number 4

July 2021

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

July President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all safe and well! We are starting to look at meeting again. We are hoping to plan a field trip for our first outing. This would take the place of our September meeting. More information will follow soon as we lock down the details.

We are hoping that we can hold our November, January annual meeting, March, and May meetings in person. We are lining up programs now.

Exciting news, the AHS board voted to pay for the remaining \$18,684.72 to finish the Newspaper Digitization Project. We have been collecting donations for many years now and felt it was time to finish this historic project. The AHS is also considering funding some other projects connected with Centennial House and DeLaney Farm Historic District. We feel it is time to invest in our city's history before it is lost. We hope you will continue to support the AHS and historic preservation in Aurora.

The Aurora Museum Foundation would like to have the Aurora Historical Society help with a long time project their Antique Appraisal Fair. The money raised will be used for a project at the Aurora History Museum. More information will follow about this as well.

Stay tuned to hear about other projects at Centennial House and DeLaney Farm.

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/>

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: Wright & McGill



Aurora in the 1960's never was known as a place where there was much manufacturing going on. Stanley Aviation was here but their manufacturing was specialized and not something for the general public. There was, however, Wright & McGill at 1400 Yosemite (on the Aurora side of Yosemite that divides Denver and Aurora). My uncle Ralph worked there for a short time and I remember Dada and I driving by the seemingly massive building (shown above in its heyday). Wright & McGill was started in 1936 by two local Denver fishermen, Drew McGill and Stan Wright. They created the Eagle Claw fishhooks that are still sold today. The building is still standing today although Wright & McGill are no longer there and the building has seen better days as it looks a little rundown.

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.





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 #27

J. E. McWhorter

- Served from 1941 – 1943 (People's Independent Party)
- He was born 15 April 1892 in Cullman, Alabama
- Served in WWI – inducted in 1917; discharged in 1919
- Married Augusta Margaret Altfillisch on 26 September 1924 in Denver, Colorado
- He worked as a poultry farmer
- He lived at 11400 E. 18th Avenue and 11401 E. 17th Avenue
- He would have been 49 years old when he became Mayor
- He died January 4, 1949 and is buried at Fairmount Cemetery
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Ralph Carr
- While he was in office:
 - Aurora announced a reduction in electricity rate on July 18, 1941
 - Japan attacks Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941
 - Rocky Mountain Arsenal plant developed in 1942

- Lowry II (Buckley Naval Air Station) opens early in 1942
- New housing ordinances start on May 4, 1942 regulating new housing areas
- Bank of Aurora was founded by C.R. Campbell in 1943
- Aurora begins to exam annexing areas outside city limits

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. Why & when did the Denver Tramway Co. complain to the town of Fletcher?
 - a. Hunters shooting near the tracks during dove season in 1903
 - b. Livestock roaming over the tracks in 1904
 - c. There was no snow removal for the trolley tracks in 1909



2. Where was the recreational lake in Aurora in the early 1900's located?
 - a. 14th and Kingston
 - b. 13th and Kingston
 - c. 16th and Kingston



3. What was built on the site of the lake once it was drained?
 - a. Novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy
 - b. The First Presbyterian Church
 - c. Aurora Christian Church



4. Why was Dr. C.T. Gustin of Aurora arrested and fined \$500 in 1910?
 - a. Selling whiskey in anti-saloon territory
 - b. His water pipe burst and flooded the street
 - c. He removed part of his business rival's sign selling soda drinks



5. Who is the comic book artist from Aurora, Colorado that created Danger Girl?
 - a. Joe Neguse
 - b. Andy Hartnell
 - c. J. Scott Campbell



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.

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.

Aurora Parks Explored

Open through October 31, 2021

The Aurora History Museum & Historic Sites is opening its second in-person exhibit in less than a month.

Tucked into neighborhoods across the city, parks offer an oasis for recreation, relaxation and play. The city has about 100 parks, and these are considered places where childhood memories are forged and families gather. At the "Aurora Parks Explored" exhibition, visitors learn about and explore the city parks in a new way.

"The city of Aurora Parks, Recreations and Open Spaces Department has become a great resource to assist in the quality of life for all of Aurora's residents, and in this exhibit, we explore some of these special places," said Aurora Museum Director T. Scott Williams. "Whether you enjoy the playground, swimming pool, skate park or open space, Aurora's parks have a lot to offer. We invite you to share with us your favorite parks and enjoy this new exhibit."

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

Wings to Satellites Online Exhibit

Published on Oct 2, 2020

Buckley Air Force Base has established itself as one of the most prominent economic and physical landmarks in the history of Aurora. From its early days as a bombing range for Lowry Field, to its current role in providing the nation with strategic missile warning defense as well as serving as a home for the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Wing, Buckley Air Force Base has been a ubiquitous, if sometimes mysterious, feature of the city's past.

https://issuu.com/bwilberd/docs/combined_panels_small

The Battle for the Ballot Exhibit

Published on Nov 17, 2020

The Passage of the 19th Amendment was the culmination of a struggle that took decades of persistence. "Battle for the Ballot: Women's Suffrage in Colorado," explores the events leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment and its importance today. Learn about key Colorado women who were instrumental in Colorado's 1893 suffrage referendum and some of Aurora's modern voters. https://issuu.com/aurorahistoricsites/docs/battle_for_the_ballot_exhibit

US 40 and the American Road Trip Exhibit

Published on Nov 17, 2020

Grab a bite to eat, fill your tank and take a trip through the history of motels, restaurants and gas stations that lined Colfax Avenue during the road trip age. The end of World War II offered adventurous American the freedom to travel, and the neon signs along Route 40 here in Aurora welcomed the tourists on their way to the Rockies https://issuu.com/aurorahistoricsites/docs/01_us_40_and_the_american_road_trip

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/>

Teacher Appreciation Event

Date And Time

03 August, 2021 4:00PM - 7:00PM

Location

Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Parkway

Description

The Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites is hosting an Aurora teacher appreciation and outreach night and we want you to save the date for August 3rd! We hope you will join us and some of our partners as we say thank you with food, prizes, goody bags, and previews of programs that we offer for your classrooms. Whether you teach at an Aurora school or are a teacher living in Aurora, we want to say thank you.

Here are two ads from the **Aurora Democrat July 1, 1921**

To Aurora House-wives:

Are you buying milk from a licensed and inspected dairy?

Thompson Farm Dairy is under Denver and state milk inspection, and is carrying pure clarified milk, cream, whipping cream and buttermilk. All bottles and milk utensils are sterilized under modern methods. The Dairy is open for inspection at all times.

QUALITY SERVICE PRICE

Thompson Farm Dairy

11th and Yosemite Phone Aurora 40-J

Envelopes to Match

Use envelopes to match the color of your stationery.

We can supply you with fine letterheads printed on Hammermill Bond and furnish envelopes to match in any of the twelve colors or white.

Remember we are letterhead specialists. You will find the quality of our printing and the paper we give you very high and our prices very low.

Let Us Show You What We Can Do

The next page is from **July 1981 Volume 6 No. 4**

STORIES WITH PICTURES OF RECENT



"Old Aurora"



Billie Preston

CONTACT: AURORA WINNERS

Grand prize winner of Contact: Aurora Art Contest was Richard Schafer's painting of his home, which he entitled, "Old Aurora". Most popular with the presentation audience was Jean Rider's photographic picture of Billie Preston, who, for many years, rode her horse "Patches" through the streets of Aurora. These two winners are pictured above.

Others who received prizes were: Ed Nichols for best carrying out the contest theme, "Before Aurora"; Jeri Van Deusen, "Aurora's First Residents"; Rhoda Solomon, for her silk screen of 1638 Galena Street, "Aurora History Preserved"; Floyd Van Deusen, "William: Lifelong Resident of Aurora" and Melanie Solomon, a collage.

The grand prize of \$100.00 was contributed by the Aurora Historical Society and the Council on Arts and Humanities, who jointly sponsored the contest; Bill Geiswein, owner of the Antique clock shop, gave the antique watch valued at about \$125.00; and Aurora National Bank, two \$25.00 prizes; Tom Jaques, House of Flowers, \$25.00; Joseph Lincoln, \$25.00 and Lois Martin, Aurora Sun, \$25.00.



Carrie Herring

"STEP RIGHT OVER HERE TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN"

Society members became "hawkers" for a few hours on May 2 at the Spring a Fair held at the Aurora Mall when they suggested that those who were walking by our booth stop to have their picture taken in an old-fashioned costume. The Society had 23 take advantage of the \$2.00 price for a colored polaroid picture. The donations covered the expense of the booth and gave the Society great publicity.

Carrie Herring (picture above) lent not only that skirt and blouse but also a lovely, black, 150-year-old cape for display. Others who lent clothes were **Mary Brown**, a 1959 Rush-to-the-Rockies costume with matching bonnet; and Ted and Penny Fillas, two Prince Edward coats and beaver hats and a rhinestone evening dress of the '50's with large picture hat. **Darrah Kermit** brought a beautiful wood rack on which the clothes were displayed. Brooks Camera Shop lent the polaroid camera and tripod.

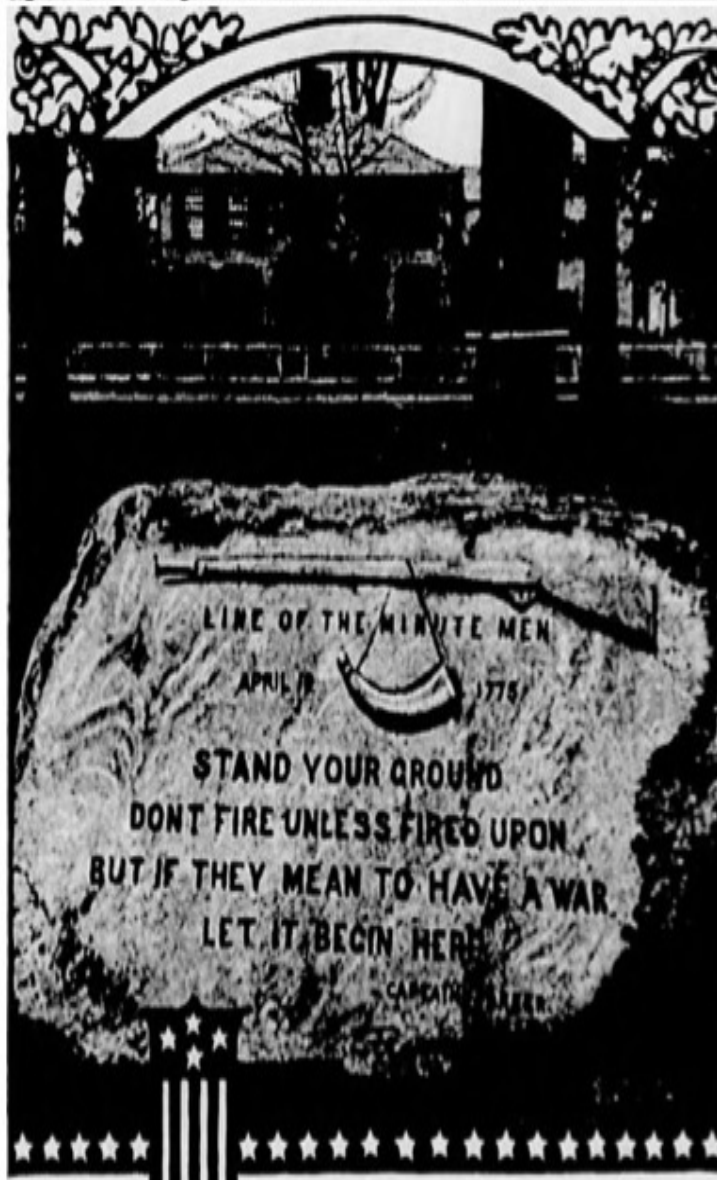
Members creating the necessary props were **Bob and Florence Staadt**, who built the background board and wall-papered it (Florence ran all over the metro area to find suitable paper that the Society could afford); and **Dave Holzapel**, who made the black cloth cover for the camera. Hauling the heavy background stand were **Les and Don Staadt**. Helping to set up and take down the booth were Bob and Florence Staadt, Les and Don Staadt and **Kermit Darrah**. **Judi Crawford** made the poster.

Those who worked in the booth were Florence Staadt and her grand-children, **Leslie and Kaye Staadt** (all day), **Mary Brown, Caroline Braun, Annabelle Dunning, Bob and Margaret Goolsby, Tom and Dottie Elwell, Elizabeth Johnson, Juanita Sparks and Barbara Christopherson**.

In honor of the 4th of July here is an article that appeared in the *Aurora Democrat* on July 1, 1921, about the beginning of the American Revolution.

LIBERTY'S DEADLINE

In the spring of 1775 General Gage was informed that the Colonists had deposited a large quantity of munitions of war at Concord, a village some miles outside of Boston, and he planned a secret expedition to seize them. The alert and wary Colonists heard of his plan, however, and through the immortal ride of Paul Revere the whole countryside was alarmed. When Major Pitcairn, with some 800 men, (the advance guard of the British) arrived at Lexington on their way to Concord, they were met on the village green about seventy determined men under Capt. Jonas Parker. The British ordered them to disperse, and when they refused to do so, fired upon them, killing eight and wounding a number of others. This began the Revolutionary war.



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

Newspaper Digitization Project

The Aurora Historical Society has supported the Aurora Newspaper Digitization Project for many years! We feel that this project is a legacy to leave to the citizens of Aurora to help preserve our history for future generations and allow access to anyone who has internet access to view these newspapers. Therefore, the Aurora Historical Society voted unanimously to pay the remaining \$18,684.72 to finish this project. We are thrilled to be able to do this for Aurora's History. I

am sure as time passes more rolls will need to be processed as they become available so the project may need more funds in the future, but for now all available rolls will be processed and available online sometime this fall!

We Can't Thank You Enough for all your support for this project!



One of our AHS members is running for political office. While AHS is a nonpolitical group, I agreed to give you the information if you are interested. AHS member Bill Gondrez is running for a City Council Seat in Ward ! You can find out more information if you are interested at: <https://strongertogetheraurora.com/>



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



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