

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 45; Number 5

September 2021

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

September President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to Fall. The Aurora Historical Society has been busy. As stated in the last newspaper, the Aurora Historical Society agreed to pay to digitize the rest of Aurora's historic newspapers. The newspapers are being digitized and the check for the final cost of \$17,606.00 has been mailed. We are proud to have left this legacy so that all Aurorans have access to the city's history.

We also paid \$1,200 for an educational assistant at the museum to create a walking tour of Anschutz Medical Campus.

We are also looking into some repairs at Centennial House. I will update you on those as things progress.

We have scheduled our first in-person event since March 2020. We have a tour of the Melvin School House and the Melvin Lewis Cemetery on September 25, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Garry O'Hara will give us a tour of the schoolhouse and tell us about its history. Then at 2:00 p.m. we will drive over to the Melvin Lewis Cemetery where we will get to go into the cemetery and hear some of its history. I hope to see many of you there.

COVID protocols- wear masks, and we will allow space, so we aren't too crowded.

We are working on programs for the rest of 2021-2022. A list will be out soon as we try to get back to some normalcy. If anyone has ideas for programs or field trips, please let me know.

Best wishes,

Lynne Evans

Aurora Historical Society President



September 25th from 1-3 p.m. Melvin School & Melvin Lewis Cemetery Tours. We will meet at the Melvin Lewis School 4950 S. Laredo St. located on the grounds of Smoky Hill High School. Garry O'Hara will give a history of the building and then we will return to our cars and travel to the Melvin-Lewis Cemetery 5600 S. Parker Rd. where we will be able to enter and hear about the history of the cemetery.



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





Seems like you can't have a growing city without having a few bars. Looking through the 1930 Aurora City Directory there isn't a single bar listed although I'm sure one could get a drink at the Aurora Pool Hall (9647 E. Colfax). Two of the bars that I remember were the Plainsman Bar and the Zephyr Lounge and Motel. Both of them transformed their early appearances as you can see by the before and after pictures above. By the time I was old enough to go into either of them, they did have the atmosphere a 21 year-old was looking for. I would have been more likely to be at The Rusty Nail on Chambers Road. Both of the bars above are no longer there as progress continues to reinvent the space they occupied.

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 #28 **Alpha Omega Hill**

Read more at
<https://politicalstrangenames.blogspot.com/2020/01/alpha-omega-hill-1894-1952.html>

- Served from 1943 – 1945
- He was born 25 October 1894 in Effingham, South Carolina
- Served in WWI – served with the 116th Engineer Corps; hospitalized for years from wounds
- Married Kathryn J. Fox on June 1921 in Silver City, New Mexico; they had no children
- He came to Colorado in 1923; recuperating from tuberculosis at Fitzsimons General Hospital
- Served as Justice of the Peace, police magistrate & Colorado House of Representatives
- He lived at 1236 Chester
- He would have been 49 years old when he became Mayor
- He died July 28, 1952 and is buried at Fairmount Cemetery
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was John Charles Vivian
- While he was in office:

- A new sewer district developed
- Improved water main system built
- Developed a planning commission
- The first building code was prepared in 1944
- Local juvenile system created to give Aurora children legal protection in June 1943
- Aurora continues to exam annexing areas outside city limits with WWII end approaching



City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. When was Aurora split into the two counties, Arapahoe, and Adams?
 - a. November 18, 1904
 - b. November 2, 1902
 - c. January 25, 1903



2. Who was Adams County named after?
 - a. Samuel Adams, Founding father of the United States
 - b. Charlie Adams, Colorado Indian Agent
 - c. Alva Adams, Colorado Governor

3. What was the name of the dairy owned by the Purse family of Aurora?
 - a. The Local Dairy
 - b. The Aurora Creamery
 - c. Phoebus Dairy



4. Why was Mrs. Bryce Preston known as “The Patches Lady” (she donated the land for the Morehead Park expansion)?
 - a. That was the name of her horse she rode around Aurora in the 1950’s
 - b. Her clothes were so worn that she had patches all over them

- c. She had several watermelon patches on her two acres at Havana & 26th



5. Where was the Western Electric Regional Headquarters located in Aurora?
- 9611 East Colfax Avenue
 - 1400 Yosemite Street
 - 111 Havana Street



Here are two ads from the Aurora Democrat 9-9-1921

Children Cry For
Fitcher's
CASTORIA

Special Care of Baby.

That Baby should have a bed of its own all are agreed. Yet it is more reasonable for an infant to sleep with grown-ups than to use a man's medicine in an attempt to regulate the delicate organism of that same infant. Either practice is to be shunned. Neither would be tolerated by specialists in children's diseases.

Your Physicians will tell you that Baby's medicine must be prepared with even greater care than Baby's food.

A Baby's stomach when in good health is too often disarranged by improper food. Could you for a moment, then, think of giving to your *aid's* child anything but a medicine especially prepared for Infants and Children? Don't be deceived.

Make a mental note of this--It is important, Mothers, that you should remember that to function well, the digestive organs of your Baby must receive special care. No Baby is so abnormal that the desired results may be had from the use of medicine primarily prepared for grown-ups.

BOTTLES SHOULD BEAD THE BOTTLET THAT IS AROUND EVERY BOTTLE OF FITCHER'S CASTORIA

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS
Bears the Signature of
Chas. H. Fitcher.

A Happy Message from the
Blue Bird Theatre
Colfax at Adams The Home of Happiness

Denver's most comfortable, sanitary and home-like theater. ONLY the cream of the Photoplays shown, as we are in a position to pick only the best.

<p>Friday, Sept. 9th Gloria Swanson and Milton Sills in "THE GREAT MOMENT" It's a Paramount Play, and one of the BIG ones of the new season. Sunday-Thru Show 2:30 to 11:00 P. M. Constance Talmadge in "GOOD REFERENCES" Larry Simon in "The Bakery" and Pathe Review.</p> <p>Wednesday WILL ROGERS in "The Guile of Women" Also a News Reel, a Snub Pollard Comedy and "The Yellow Arms," a mystery story.</p>	<p>Saturday Matinee only 10c to all 2:30 to 5 Jack Pickford in "Just out of College" "Son of Tarzan" and Edgar Comedy Evening - 7:30 and 9 "TOO WISE WIVES" A Paramount play GOOD for every person, whether married or expect to be married. Monday and Tuesday - Sept. 12-13 Priscilla Dean-Lon Chaney in "Outside the Law" Thursday and Friday, Sept. 15-16 Norma Talmadge in "The Passion Flower"</p>
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Such a program is proof of our assertions.

AHS Advocate article on Melvin School

MELVIN SCHOOL RESTORATION
— A COMMUNITY PROJECT —

ON NEW SITE AND READY FOR RESTORATION TO ORIGINAL APPEARANCE . . .

. . . AS IT WAS IN 1922

The Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society has moved the Melvin School to the grounds of Smokey Hill High School. The school is located at Quincy and Smokey Hill Road inside the city of Aurora. Funds of \$1200 are needed to match a grant from the State Historical Society for restoration of the Melvin School. The school is of value to all persons, but Aurorans should be pleased with these efforts. If you would like to make a contribution, in any amount, send it to Clarice Crowell, Melvin Restoration Project, 16815 East Costilla, Denver 80232.

Since it is BACK TO SCHOOL time, I thought an article about schools in

Aurora was appropriate. From the *Aurora Democrat* September 9, 1921

BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR SCHOOL YEAR NEW COURSES OFFERED

The Aurora school opened this week with a record-breaking enrollment, two hundred and thirty students having registered during the first two days. New seats were placed in the assembly room in order to accommodate the seventy students registered in the high school and eighth grade. The building had been put in first-class order and every room was decorated with flowers, each teacher having been presented with a beautiful bouquet by the Parent-Teacher Association.

After registration Tuesday morning, Professor Bell met with the teachers to discuss plans for the year's work. The outlook is the most favorable one in the history of the school. Many new subjects have been added to the curriculum. Shorthand is now offered to commercial students. A need for a course in domestic science has long been felt and this work is now being introduced under the efficient direction of Mrs. Metz, an experienced domestic science teacher. The school is also extremely fortunate in being able to offer a splendid course in manual training, which will be taught by Mr. Gisier, who has specialized in this work for several years. Outlines for the year's work in these two branches are given below.

THE MANUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Woodworking will be taught in the 7th and 8th grades by the group plan. That is, starting with the 7th and through the 8th grade, each student will be required to make nine projects, each one involving a progressive number of tool operations. At the end of the 8th grade the most essential tool operations will have been taught.

The high school students will first be required to show ability by making a few of the simpler projects, after which an election of the general type of work may be made and followed out. This election may be house carpentry, involving the use of the square in rafter cuts and work on small buildings, if possible, making of built-in-furniture, etc. Cabinet making or furniture construction may also be selected. In any case the student will be expected to gather a mass of information apart from the actual work done on the pieces of woodworking made in the shop.

Mechanical drawing will be taught as an advance high school subject either in connection with the manual arts or fine arts department. This subject, as a general cultural subject, has few equals—it trains the mind to accuracy and develops the power of visualization. It is practical for every one inasmuch as blue prints and drawings are coming more and more into use. As a vocational subject, it should be taken by every student who has a life of mechanical, engineering, scientific or industrial work in mind.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE

"Cookery and Caring for a Home," will be taught to high school, 8th and 7th grade girls, requiring four periods a week. Each girl will have to know what foods to select from the stand point of economy, nutriment and flavor; to relate or associate one class of foods with another; to select and prepare foods for sick and convalescent; home serving, canning, preserving and jelly making; the making of cakes, pastry and dessert dishes; economical cookery; table service; food requirements; diet for children; dining room service; dining room courtesy; measurements of the fuel value of foods; foods for a lunch box and how to pack same; energy-giving or fuel foods; energy-giving and body-building foods.

Each girl will serve one luncheon to class of her own selection, giving talk on food value of same. Two examinations will be required in dietetics. There will be three luncheons served by girls during the year, one for parents and school board to see the work done by class and judge for themselves of the class' work.

Aurora History Museum Exhibits

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/>

NFL History

Online Lecture Series

September 15th noon -1 p.m.

Free

Virtual or in person

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nfl-history-tickets-166719214659?aff=erelpanelorg>

Local author, Scott Perry provides an overview of NFL Highlights since the AFL/NFL merger 50 years ago. Bronco fans relive the victories and defeats of past seasons.

You can attend this lecture in-person at the museum or online. The lecture is free, but you just register to receive the link to the online Webex Meeting. More than one person can attend using the same computer.

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



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.

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