

# The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 46; Number 3

May 2022

## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



### Embrace your city, your past

#### May President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the lovely weather (minus the wind). Spring seems to finally be here. The trees are flowering, and I have lilacs that are budding. Centennial House's Garden is the responsibility of AHS, and so a group was hired to remove stumps and prune bushes in the back yard of Centennial House. It looks so much better. We also had a garden cleanup day and members from AHS, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a neighborhood committee group showed up and did more work weeding. The cleanup of the bushes revealed a sprinkler system that was broken in many places so that is our next concern.

The garden isn't the only place at Centennial House that got attention. New curtains were hung in the downstairs of the house. Some pictures are posted later in the newsletter.

The March meeting was enjoyed by all who attended. There is an article about the program and some pictures also posted later in the newsletter. So don't miss that information. We have a lot coming up in the next few months. On May 24<sup>th</sup> we will hold our annual potluck dinner since we had to cancel it in January. There is more information about that in the newsletter as well.

We have scheduled our Ice Cream Social Fundraiser on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-4. Tickets will be sent to all members along with this newsletter. As always, the tickets are not mandatory. If you plan to participate you can send your

money to our Treasurer, Mike Lockwood, or pay the day of the event if you attend. It is our only fundraiser, and we do appreciate your participation. We will have live music for entertainment, but we haven't found a band yet. If anyone has suggestions, please send them to me.

On July 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-2, we have the Rambler Ranch Tour in Elizabeth, CO scheduled. It really sounds like an interesting place. There is a flyer attached to the newsletter with the link to sign up. You may also email or call me at 720-560-2490, [lyeveans@comcast.net](mailto:lyeveans@comcast.net) to sign up.

Our program director, Susan Hicks, is working on some great programs to start at our September meeting. I will send out the list of speakers in the July Newsletter. If anyone has program or field Trip suggestions, please let me know.

The Melvin School, which is Aurora's 1<sup>st</sup> landmark turns 100 this year. We are hoping to have a celebration of the event, so look for information about that in upcoming newsletters.

I hope to see you all on May 24<sup>th</sup> for our potluck.

*Lynne Evans*

Aurora Historical Society President





**Our Annual Potluck Meeting & Dinner will be Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Aurora History Museum.** Elsa Wolff will portray Annie Oakley for our entertainment. So, **bring a dish to share (salad, side dish, or dessert) and come join us.** AHS will supply ham, chicken, beverages, and paper goods. Bring a friend.



**IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

It is time to send your dues payments for year 2022 to Michael Lockwood, 1100 Windflower Lane, Woodland Park, CO 80863. Our membership dues come due in January each year now and with the New Year arriving please send your dues payment. *(Note: The society changed its bylaws at the March 2022 meeting. The dues categories have changed).*

Memberships:

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
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, Karen Schwieder  
**Membership:** Michael Lockwood

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](http://www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org)

**REMEMBERING: Hatch's Bookstore**

Books and reading have always been a pleasure of mine. If there's a bookstore around, you can bet that I've been inside. Over the course of time there have been several bookstores in Aurora. Barnes & Noble is the one you'll find today but long before that there

was Walden Books and even before that the first chain bookstore that I remember was Hatch's Bookstore. It was a local chain owned by Bob



Hatch. If memory serves me, there was one located inside Buckingham Square Mall. While I certainly hung out at the Red Baron arcade during my teen years I also spent just as much time at the bookstores. In fact, to this day, I can spend hours inside a bookstore just browsing, and I always have a book that I am currently reading.

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.

**MAYOR #32**  
Allen C. Bradley

- Served from 1955 – 1959
- He was born on September 20, 1915, in Nebraska

- He was a truck driver
- Married to Elizabeth Robinson on December 30, 1936, in Holyoke, CO
- They had a daughter and a son
- Chairman of the Metropolitan Cooperative Commission
- He lived at 2211 Nome and 483 Nile
- He died in March 1983
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Edwin C. Johnson & Stephen McNichols
- While he was in office:
  - Annexation of Hoffman Heights completed (1955)
  - Cigarette tax in Aurora increased from 1 cent to 2 cents (1957)
  - Colfax islands landscaped (1957)
  - Hoffman Heights fire station acquired by Aurora (1957)
  - Elks Lodge #1921 construction started at 14<sup>th</sup> and Oswego (1959)
  - City water plant opened (1959)

## City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. When was the first traffic signal installed at Peoria & Colfax?
  - a. 1951
  - b. 1953
  - c. 1959



2. Who resigned as City Manager in the summer of 1958?
  - a. Paul Flynn
  - b. Robert Semple
  - c. Earl Sandquist



3. What motel was built in 1954 at 9100 East Colfax?
  - a. The Mon Chalet
  - b. The Riveria
  - c. The Blue Spruce



4. Why was the 450 foot tall KOA tower demolished?
  - a. It was a detriment to Buckley Air Field
  - b. It was built in 1934 and was at risk of collapsing
  - c. KOA built a new and better tower on the same spot



5. Where was the 1955 \$2 million home development by Pearlmutter builders located?
  - a. Peoria and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - b. Peoria and Montview Blvd.
  - c. Peoria and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue



## WORLD'S MOST DARING MAN

**Some of the Remarkable feats of Ivy Baldwin, who has had every bone in his body broken.**

Such is the headline from the *The Washington Post* Sunday edition of 18 July 1909. Ivy Baldwin, the celebrated aeronaut and gymnast, was the topic of our March 2022 presentation at the Aurora History Museum. Ivy performed to audiences in Europe,



Japan, and Mexico in the 1800's and early 1900's. His exhibitions of bravery included diving from a tower 150 feet into a net below, performing on a trapeze suspended underneath a hot air balloon, and tightrope walking at great heights, without a net. He lived most

of his life in Denver and performed routinely at Elich Gardens. Over a period of 21 years, Ivy walked across a cable spanning the South Boulder Canyon 86 times.

Ivy put his talents to good use in 1894. He joined the United States Army Signal Corps and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. He assisted with balloon experiments at Fort Logan. When the Spanish-American war broke out, Baldwin volunteered to pilot a balloon over enemy troops to ascertain Spanish positions on the battlefield. For his efforts he received favorable commendations from the war department.

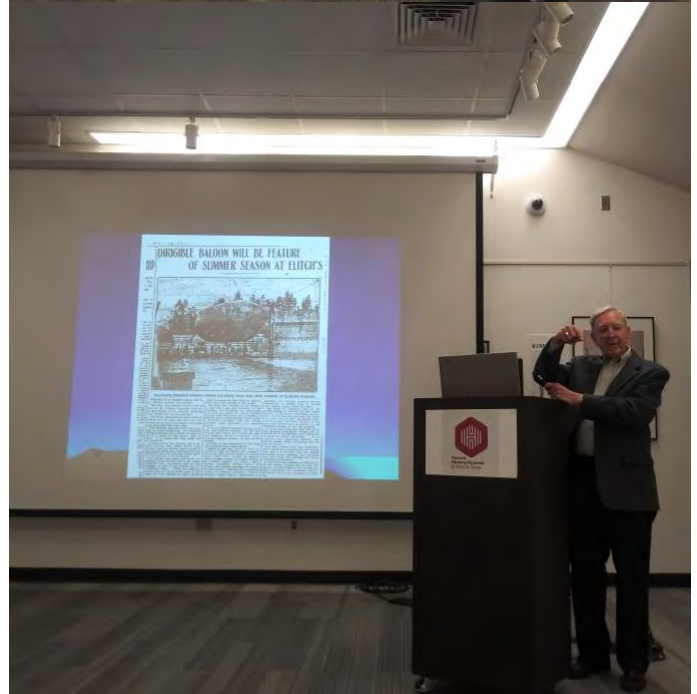
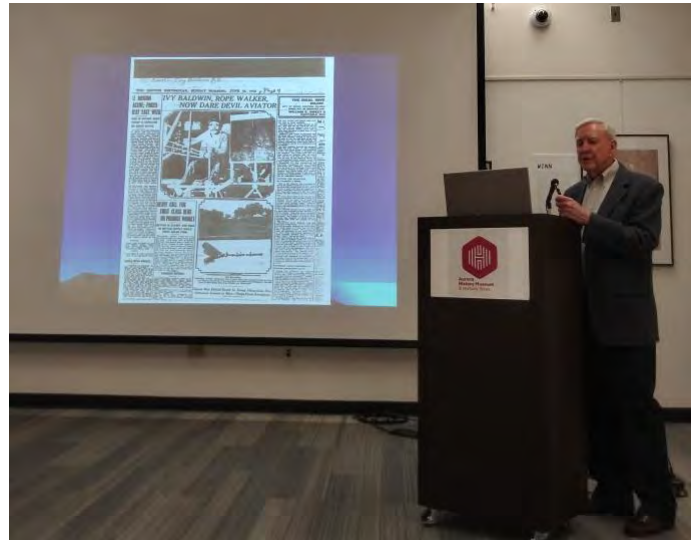
Col. Jack Stokes Ballard (USAF, Ret.) tells the story of Ivy, a diminutive daredevil from Texas. Ballard, an entertaining speaker, is also a retired high school teacher, Assistant professor of history at the Air Force Academy (1964-1969), and has been listed as a notable military historian, writer, and engineering educator by Marquis Who's Who.

Col. Ballard's passion for Ivy's adventures is evident as he retells the exploits of the performer. The material is thoroughly researched owing to Ballard's training in history. In fact, several stories were left out of the presentation for lack of supporting evidence.

Our audience enjoyed the evening. We had a few computer issues to begin with but Kenneth Ballard, who accompanied his dad, was of great assistance. Our Aurora History Museum staff was marvelous and won the day. A good time was had by all, thanks to the lively and breathtaking life of Mr. Baldwin himself who is still keeping audiences on the edge of

their seats. We raffled off two of Col. Ballard's books and a Charles Wysocki jigsaw puzzle – with a balloonist theme.

Credits: Photograph from History Colorado, Buckwalter collection. Col. Ballard's book, *Colorado's Daring Ivy Baldwin: Aviator, Aerialist, and Aeronaut*, is available on amazon.com and at Barnes and Noble.



**May- Annual AHS Potluck** at the Aurora History Museum. Our speaker will be Annie Oakely.

Annie Oakley as portrayed by Elsa Wolff, "America's Shooting Star" Living History Program. Annie Oakley, born Phoebe Ann Moses, was the most famous American woman of her day. Now in her late 50's, Annie speaks of her life and experiences from her humble roots in rural Ohio, to taking center stage as



champion shooter and star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West. You'll hear stories of challenges she faced in and out of the arena. Annie made her mark while competing in a sport and world dominated by men, all the while

maintaining her reputation as a dignified lady. Although many think they know Annie's story through the stage, television or motion pictures, this Living History program aims to shoot down any misconceptions giving a clear and personable glimpse of the real woman behind the legend, revealing that *truth* is even more profound than fiction.

**Elsa Wolff:** Storyteller, singer and speaker for 18 years, Elsa has recently added *Annie Oakley* to her Living History repertoire. Elsa captivates the audience with her touching performance as Annie. She is also known for her portrayals of Amelia Earhart, Minnie Pearl and Maria von Trapp.

## Aurora History Museum Exhibits

### Without a Home in Aurora

**Open December 14, 2021 - May 29, 2022**

Housing insecurity is a key issue facing Aurora, and to build a wider understanding of people who are often overlooked, misunderstood or unheard, staff at the Aurora History Museum engaged in an oral history project on the streets of the city. The stories collected are being presented in the museum's newest exhibit, "Without a Home in Aurora."

The personal challenges, trials, and resilience of these Aurorans are a part of the everchanging fabric of Aurora's narrative. The people profiled in this exhibition shared intimate details of their lives with the Aurora History Museum. They described how housing insecurity affects them personally and reflected on the broader issue of homelessness.

The goal of the exhibit is to shed light on a very complex and complicated social demographic.

"I really hope this exhibit brings a humane insight into the lives of some of our most vulnerable Aurorans. I hope through their interviews, our guests can see people for people and bring more awareness to a very complicated issue in our city," Museum Director T. Scott Williams said. "Further, my desire is to connect people with the resources available, as there are a lot of city programs and organizations trying to assist our housing insecure."

The conversations and connections made in the testimonials are central to the exhibit. Patrons will be able to meet over 20 Aurorans experiencing housing insecurity. Accompanying these testimonials are portraits and photography reflecting the nature of life on Aurora's streets. Much of the photography is being provided by local street photographer Amy Forestieri.

For more information, call 303.739.6660 or [reserve your visit time to see the exhibit](#).

### **Lunchtime Lecture: The Rebel Maid of Denver**

Wed, May 18, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM MDT

Jane Little Botkin visits the Aurora History Museum to discuss her new book "The Girl Who

Dared to Defy: Jane Street and the Rebel Maids of Denver." The book touches on gender, labor, and local history through the Denver housemaid's union strike of 1916. Botkin is a teacher turned multiple-award winning author whose nonfiction work explores the nature of life in the American West.

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

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lecture-the-rebel-maids-of-denver-tickets-321759610657>

### **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://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](https://www.auroragov.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_1881137/Image/Things%20to%20Do/Aurora%20History%20Museum/Exhibits/Aurora's%20Historic%20Growth/Timeline_Small.pdf)

### **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](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/>

**The Ice Cream Social will take place at Centennial House 1671 N. Galena Street on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-4. Tickets are included in this newsletter. If you can't attend pass them on to someone else. As always it is up to you if you want**

to participate in this yearly fundraiser. You can send a check for the tickets to our treasurer, Mike Lockwood at 1100 Windflower Lane, Woodland Park, CO 80863 or pay at the event. We hope to see you there!

Here are a few pictures of the new curtains at Centennial House.



**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**



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.



## Rambler Ranch Tour



**July 16th from 10am to 2pm**  
**36370 Forest Trail**  
**Elizabeth, CO**

<https://www.rambleranch.com/features-attractions>

Aurora Historical Society has been invited to join the Aurora Museum Foundation, AIPP, Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Commission, Fox Theater and Library Boards for a tour of Rambler Ranch on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am to 1pm. The cost of the tour is \$20 a person. **Please bring cash or check as they don't accept Credit cards.** Food is not available except for ice cream (so bring some cash for ice cream). Bring a picnic lunch with you if you like there are picnic tables at the ranch.

Hidden in the rolling hills of the Black Forest, Colorado, sits one of Colorado's best kept secrets—Terry Gale's Rambler Ranch—the largest collection of AMC vehicles in the world.

Terry's ultimate goal is to have a complete 1917 to 1988 Nash/Rambler/AMC history showcased, and not just of the commonly known automobiles, but also of the appliances, tractors, commercial & military vehicles; a goal which is now certainly within reach.

In more recent years, The Rambler Ranch Collection has expanded to include an additional 60 other vehicle manufacturers; both the well-known and some far more obscure.

As the sayings go, The Rambler Ranch is both “well worth the price of admission” and “an absolute must-see”, as it is the single most comprehensive assemblage of Nash, Rambler, AMC, Jeep, Eagle vehicles, Kelvinator appliances and various associated products, advertising, promotional materials, toys, collectibles, and ephemera anywhere in the world.

AHS members can RSVP to Lynne Evans [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net) or 720-560-2490 or sign up with this link. Here is the signup genius link that you can share, for the 07/16/22 Rambler Ranch Fieldtrip:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4EA9A6238-aurora1>

# *The Good Ole' Summertime*

*Hats and Parasols encouraged*



Please join us

## **Ice Cream Social Fundraiser**

June 25, 2022

1:00 to 4:00 PM

in the Centennial House Garden

1671 Galena Street

Tours of Centennial House available  
*entertainment will be provided*

## **Aurora Historical Society**

*Tickets \$5.00*



**Aurora Historical Society**

The Good Ole Summer  
Time Ice Cream Social  
Fundraiser  
1671 Galena Street



\$5.00 admit one

#

For Information  
contact

Lynne Evans  
[lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)  
303-671-0874

Sat. June 25 - 1:00 to 4:00  
p.m. entertainment



**Aurora Historical Society**

The Good Ole Summer  
Time Ice Cream Social  
Fundraiser  
1671 Galena Street



\$5.00 admit one

#

For Information  
contact

Lynne Evans  
[lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)  
303-671-0874

Sat. June 25 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
entertainment



**Aurora Historical Society**

The Good Ole Summer  
Time Ice Cream Social  
Fundraiser  
1671 Galena Street



\$5.00 admit one

#

For Information  
Contact

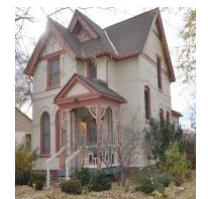
Lynne Evans  
[lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)  
303-671-0874

Sat. June 25 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
entertainment



**Aurora Historical Society**

The Good Ole Summer  
Time Ice Cream Social  
Fundraiser  
1671 Galena Street



\$5.00 admit one

#

For Information  
contact

Lynne Evans  
[lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)  
303-671-0874

Sat. June 25 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
entertainment



**Aurora Historical Society**

The Good Ole Summer  
Time Ice Cream Social  
Fundraiser  
1671 Galena Street



\$5.00 admit one

#

For Information  
contact

Lynne Evans  
[lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)  
303-671-0874

Sat. June 25 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
entertainment



**Aurora Historical Society**

The Good Ole Summer  
Time Ice Cream Social  
Fundraiser  
1671 Galena Street



\$5.00 admit one

#

For Information  
contact

Lynne Evans  
[lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)  
303-671-0874

Sat. June 25 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
entertainment