

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 46; Number 4

JULY 2022

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

July President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I am sorry that we had to cancel the Ice Cream Social on June 25th, but with the weather forecast for rain and the unseasonable cool weather, the board felt we would not get many people to come out for ice cream. The Ice Cream Social has been rescheduled for July 30th. We will have Elsa Wolff for entertainment from 2 to 3:30 that day. For those who saw her perform as Annie Oakley at our Potluck you know we will be in for a treat for this event as well. More information appears about Elsa later in the newsletter. I hope many of you can attend the event since it is our only fundraiser of the year.

We also have the Rambler Ranch Tour scheduled for July 16th. It sounds like an interesting tour and a fun event. The Rambler Ranch is in Elizabeth, CO. The flyer is attached. If you have not signed up, please do. I don't think anyone will be disappointed. You may also email or call me at 720-560-2490, lyeveans@comcast.net to sign up.

Now for some serious business. The Aurora Historical Society membership has declined throughout the pandemic. We need really need some new members and people who are willing to volunteer to be involved on the board. In the past few years, we have lost board members because of death, illness, as well as some moving out of town or the state. I am concerned about the future of this organization if we don't get new people involved. Financially we are ok, but the lack of people coming to our meetings and volunteering for events has dwindled. I would appreciate it if a few people would consider

stepping up to be a part of the board. It is not a time intensive job, but decisions about the future of this organization need to be made, and we could seriously use some new members. Please think about it if you want the Aurora Historical Society to continue to exist. Anyone who is interested, please call or email me. lyeveans@comcast.net 720-560-2490. If anyone has ideas about how to attract new members, please let me know that as well. Bring your friends to the programs and field trips so they can see what we are about. We need to turn this around before it is too late.

Lynne Evans

Aurora Historical Society President



Rambler Ranch Tour July 16th 10 - 1
Ice Cream Social July 30th 1 - 4



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

720-560-2490 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

Publicity: 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: Comic Book Racks

Until the early 1970's there was no such thing as a comic bookstore. I remember being inside Skaggs Drug Store and seeing the comic book rack. There was a little something to entertain a young boy. There were the detective comics, the superhero comics, Archie & Veronica, Teenage Romance, MAD Magazine, Richie Rich and westerns. And did I mention superhero comics. Those comics took me to places in my imagination that I still visit to this day. Of course, my reading has become a bit more sophisticated as I now love reading Louise Penny murder mysteries, but the effect is still the same. Thanks comic book writers and illustrators for the adventures.



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 #33

Henry W. Allard

- Served from 1959 – 1963
- He was born on May 15, 1907 in Colorado
- He was a Lt. Colonel in the Army
- Married to Ruth McCleery
- They had a daughter, Julia and two sons, Raymond and Mitchell
- Associated with Wedgwood Realtors
- He lived at 1080 Kingston
- He died in July 1985 in Harlingen, Texas
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Stephen McNichols & John Love
- While he was in office:
 - The United States Air Force Academy moved from Aurora to Colorado Springs
 - Titan Missile Site No. 1 construction begins at Lowry in September 1958
 - Interstate 70 construction begins
 - Aurora approves Home Rule Charter June 27, 1961
 - Population growth continues from 11,421 in 1950 to 48,548 in 1960
 - Aurora is now the 4th largest city in Colorado

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. When was the last flight from Lowry AFB and runways closed?
 - a. March 31, 1972
 - b. June 30, 1969
 - c. September 30, 1971



2. Who, from Aurora, won the 1997 Olympic gold medal in volleyball?
 - a. Tiffany Vise
 - b. Kacey White
 - c. Jordyn Poulter



3. What did the baby (Brenda Lynn Johnson) receive that was born June 6, 1972 marking Aurora's population at 100,000 ?
 - a. Honorary title of Miss Aurora
 - b. 100,000 pennies
 - c. The key to the city



4. Why was “Operation Babylift” at Fitzsimons important?
 - a. It was a mass evacuation of children from South Viet Nam
 - b. It was a mass evacuation of children from England in World War II
 - c. It was a mass evacuation of children from South Korea



5. Where is the Colorado Freedom Memorial located?
 - a. Outside the Rocky Mountain Arsenal
 - b. Outside the Wings Over The Rockies Museum
 - c. Outside the Paul C. Beck Recreation Center



ICE CREAM SOCIAL – MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

The entertainment for our Ice Cream Social will be provided by Ms. Elsa Wolff. Known as “The Guitar Lady”, Elsa has been entertaining audiences for over 20 years. This award winning artist will sing a mix of country and folk using her steel string guitar for

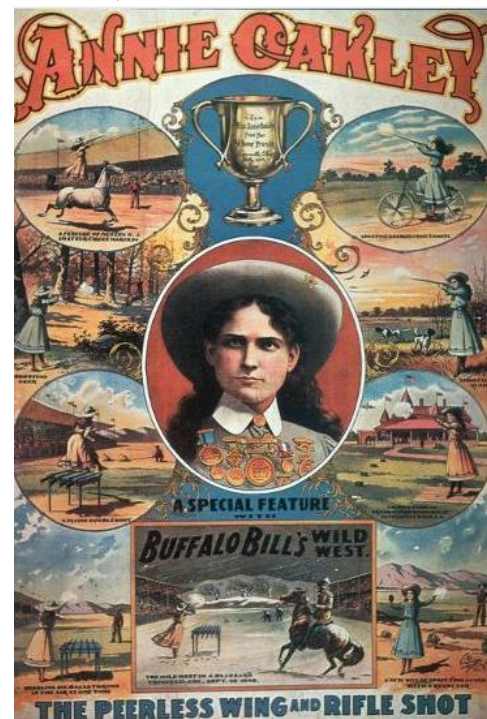


accompaniment. Elsa is trained as a Chautauqua storyteller and singer. Her motto is “Music lifts the heart . . . Stories spark the imagination.” We recently experienced Elsa’s joy of storytelling through her performance as Annie Oakley this past May at our PotLuck. Now we welcome her to sing at our summer fund raiser. Please join us for Elsa’s performance from 2 – 3:30 during our Ice Cream Social. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Ice Cream Sundae included.

AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTED MISS ANNIE OAKLEY ON THE 22ND OF MAY 2022.

An evening of great eats (potluck), visiting, and entertainment was enjoyed by our membership at our last meeting of the season. Our speaker was none-other than Miss Annie Oakley who took us on a journey through her life and times. Annie, born Phoebe Anne Moses on August 13, 1860, in Darke County, Ohio, grew up to be one of the most admired women of her era.

Reenacted by Ms. Elsa Wolff, Annie told us the story of firing her fist shot from her father’s rifle at age 8. She mischievously teetered on a chair to reach the rifle that was high on the wall. A scene perfectly reenacted by Ms. Wolff. Annie’s childhood changed when her father died suddenly. Her family could not stay together. Acknowledging that time, Annie

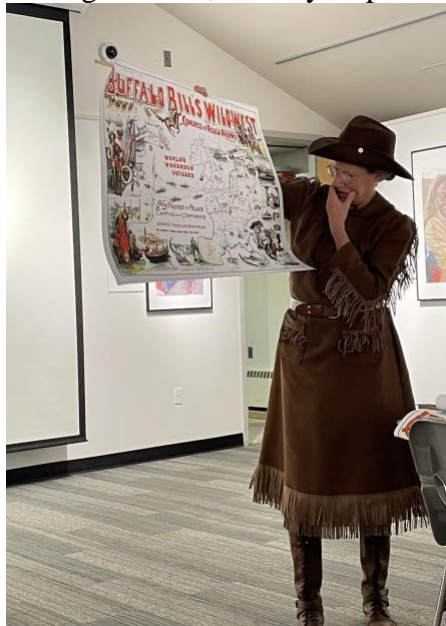


says “It almost broke my heart.” Annie determined to enjoy her life from that point on.

Back home in Ohio, she perfected her shooting skills by hunting game. Annie provided food for her family and sold the excess meat. With her earnings she paid off the mortgage on the family farm and discovered a means of independent support available to only a small number of women in the late Victorian Era.

In 1876, at 16, she met an Irishman named Frank Butler, himself a professional sharpshooter. They married that same year and remained happily married for fifty years. Oakley joined Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show in 1885 and performed until 1901. The lady nicknamed “Little Sure Shot” met European royalty and traveled the world during the many tours of Buffalo Bill’s show. One of her favorite passions was teaching women and girls how to shoot.

Oakley died in 1926 having witnessed a major transition in the lives of American woman. In 1869 Wyoming granted women the right to vote, to own property, and to have guardianship over minor children. By 1919 the 19th amendment enshrined women’s right to vote throughout the country. During her life, Oakley kept out of the politics of



women’s rights. She competed in a man’s sport but was demure and always a lady. A point stressed frequently in Elsa Wolff’s reenactment.

Wolff’s portrayal of Annie is by turns poignant, joyful, and always energetic. When demonstrating Oakley’s method

of shooting glass bottles during a Wild West Show, Wolff as Oakley, lays down an imaginary rifle on the ground, steps back a few paces, calls ‘PULL’, dashes

up to the rifle, and lifts it to fire expertly at the bottles. Direct hit every time.

Elsa Wolff is a singer, storyteller and speaker who has a talent for brining history to life. She has a love of the art of historical reenactments and has developed several historical subjects including Amelia Earhart, Maria Von Trapp, and Minnie Pearl.

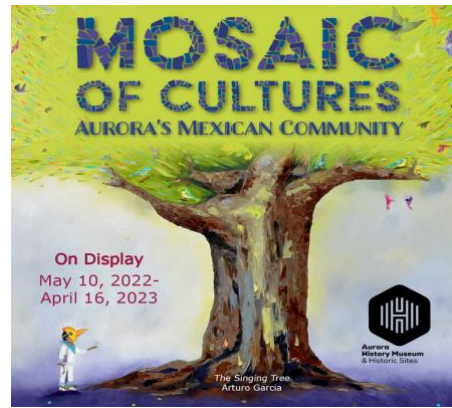
We enjoyed hosting Ms. Wolff. All of the Aurora Historical Society members who attended were treated to an engaging and fun evening.

Photo Credit: *Elsa Wolff as Annie Oakley courtesy of Ashland Chautauqua Facebook page, Ashland Ohio*





Aurora History Museum Exhibits



The Aurora History Museum and the city of Aurora Office of International and Immigrant Affairs celebrate Aurora’s Mexican population with a new exhibition, “Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora’s Mexican Community,” set to run through April 16, 2023.

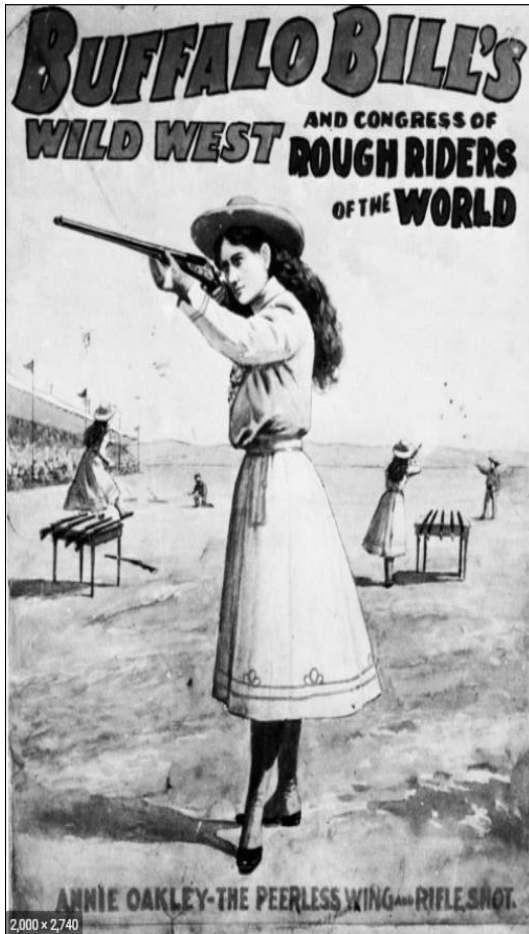
The people of Mexican descent who call Aurora home come from all walks of life and have their own individual stories of immigration or a long family history that predates Colorado statehood.” Today, Aurora is a true mosaic of cultures. One in five Aurorans are foreign-born. According to the 2020 census, 20.24% of the city of Aurora’s population has family origins in Mexico.

“Mosaic of Cultures” is a series of exhibitions that promote understanding of the increasing cultural diversity in the city and incorporate the voices of local communities into Aurora’s History Museum. The new exhibit aims to increase awareness of the Mexican community’s contributions to the overall history of the city, including highlighting individuals, business owners, cultural traditions and history.

Admission to the Aurora History Museum is always free. 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. For more information and to stay up to date on related programming, visit AuroraMuseum.org.

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

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/>



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 events, cabaret's, or rentals).

Remember AHS members also get in free to the "Lunchtime Lectures" at the Aurora History Museum.

The Good Ole' Summertime

Hats and Parasols encouraged



Please join us

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser

July 30, 2022

1:00 to 4:00 PM

in the Centennial House Garden

1671 Galena Street

Tours of Centennial House available

Musical entertainment from 2-3:30

Aurora Historical Society

Tickets \$5.00

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 2nd 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 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>