

The Advocate Newsletter

Vol. 47 No. 4

July/August 2023



Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine. It has certainly been a wet few months. I appreciate not having to water and the easing of drought conditions statewide, but a little sun would be nice.

I hope you enjoyed our speaker for the May meeting. June has gone by quickly, but look for field trip announcements in July, August, and we have decided to do a field trip in September instead of our regular meeting. More information will follow soon.

There is also a survey I hope you will all fill out. It will help us refine the direction the Aurora Historical Society takes. We will also have more news about Centennial House changes soon.

On August 19th, Dr. Gordon Tucker will take us on an archaeological tour in Aurora. See you then.

Lynne Evans

Aurora Historical Society President



You can now pay your dues online at the AHS website on the join today page using PayPal.

<http://aurorahistoricalociety.org/join-today/>

Historical Society Officers

President & Website: **Lynne Evans**

Vice President: **Nadine Caldwell**

Secretary: **Gregg Chase**

Treasurer, Newsletter, Historian, Membership:

Michael Lockwood

Directors: **Susan Hicks, Karen Schwieder, Gordy Tucker**

Hospitality: **Judy Keilman**

Program Committee: **Susan Hicks**

Education: Vacant

Publicity: Vacant

If anyone is interested, please contact Lynne Evans 720-560-2490 lyevans@comcast.net

Join or Renew Membership

Our membership dues come due in January each year now so please send your dues payment for year 2023 to Michael Lockwood, 1100 Windflower Lane, Woodland Park, CO 80863. *(Note: The society changed its bylaws at the March 2022 meeting. The dues categories have changed).*

Memberships:

Individual	\$15	Family	\$20	Contributing	\$30
Business	\$200	Life	\$200	Newsletter hardcopy	\$5



On August 19th, Dr. Gordon Tucker will take us on an archaeological tour in Aurora. We will be visiting three sites which he will tell us about. There is a flyer attached to the newsletter but be aware that we will have to drive between sites for this one. So, find a few friends and enjoy the drive together.

Survey link: <https://forms.gle/4Atcz3Zcdct5oEby7>



Linsenbigler, Nancy – September 2021
Mogorit, Ginger – July 2022

Member Discounts

FOX discount

We have a discount for 20% off 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, cabarets, or rentals).

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



Got Questions?



Aurora Historical Society
mdkel@aol.com



Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 45 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 #39: Dennis M. Champine

- Served from 1979 – 1987
- He was born on March 29, 1942 in Michigan
- He served in the Marines
- Married to Joanna sometime after 1971 in Colorado
- He owned Champine Auto Sales
- Champine Auto Sales was located at 709 S. Havana
- He lived at 12496 E. Cedar Circle in Aurora
- He is an attorney in Aurora, Colorado
- He came to Colorado between 1959 and 1970
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Dick Lamm
- While he was in office:
 - The population doubled from 74,974 in 1970 to 158,588 in 1980
 - The Aurora Genealogical Society was established in 1981
 - The Aurora Historic Preservation Commission was established in 1985
 - The Aurora Public Library Central building was started in 1982
 - The Bennett family murders happened in 1984



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), 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: Aurora's Speedway



Picture of the old speedway from 2013



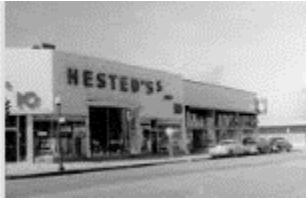
Headline from the Aurora Advocate, Vol. 24 No. 34, July 7, 1971

I was a 16 year-old teenager when the Century 21 International Speedway opened at I70 & E. Colfax between Piccadilly Street and Gun Club Road. The speedway had a ¼ mile drag strip and a 3/8 mile paved oval track. Plans for a larger oval were never completed. Just having obtained my driver's license I had dreams of racing there but my 1956 Chevy Bel Air wasn't exactly a race car but one could dream. Unfortunately the track closed in 1974 before I had a chance to go see the races. The Advocate article says there were 8,665 people at the opening along with 82 cars entered in the various races. Tickets were \$2.50 for reserved seats and \$2.00 for General Admission. And now Bandimere Speedway that opened in 1958 will close after the 2023 season. Guess I won't be able to enter my 2010 Mazda 6.

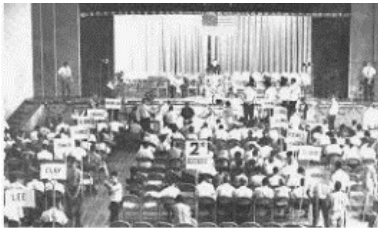
Time waits for no man and our history eventually becomes shared memories of people and places. Preservation can help keep those memories a little more tangible so that we can share with future generations.

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. How much money was taken in the January 1996 robbery of Hested's (33 bags of cash)?
 - a. \$5,000
 - b. \$1,000
 - c. \$10,000



2. What convention did Aurora host in February 1966?
 - a. World Science Fiction Convention
 - b. American University of Women
 - c. Colo. Democratic State Convention



3. Who won the Miss Aurora-Universe contest in March 1966 (Beverly Williams)?
 - a. Miss Board of Realtors
 - b. Miss Rocky Mt. Typewriters
 - c. Miss People's Bank



4. Which shopping center was home to the Red Owl supermarket located in Aurora?

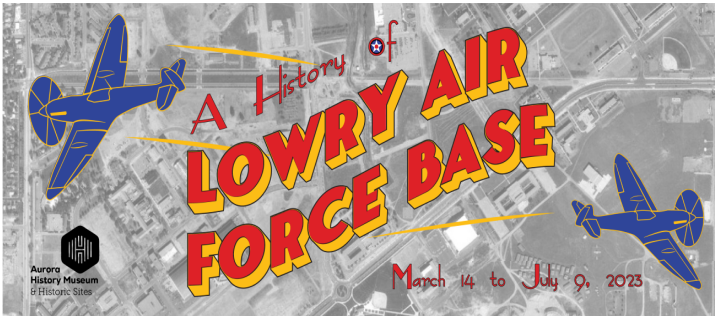


- a. Arlan's Shopping Center
 - b. Hoffman Heights Shopping Center
 - c. Buckingham Square
5. When was the ground breaking for the Aurora Post Office at 16th & Dayton?
 - a. 1958
 - b. 1961
 - c. 1966



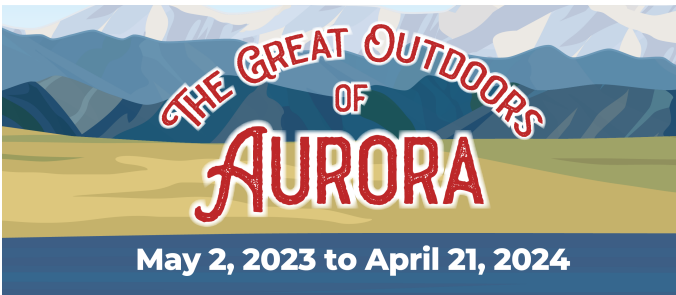
Aurora Museum Exhibits

A HISTORY OF LOWRY



Community Gallery: March 14 to July 9, 2023

Lowry opened in 1938 along the far western border of Aurora. The base focused on technical training, including aerial photography in its early days, and for a time, was home to the United States Air Force Academy. The exhibit will chronicle the story of Lowry and the people who served there.



Have you ever wondered when and why the Aurora Reservoir was built? Are you curious about the history behind your favorite city park? The Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites will open a new exhibit on May 2, 2023, “The Great Outdoors of Aurora.” The new display will celebrate Aurora’s vibrant outdoor opportunities and dive deep into the history behind the activities we love. Discover the stories behind our reservoirs, city parks, nature centers, the High Line Canal, swimming pools, golf courses and more all within the city of Aurora.

Accompanying the history of Aurora’s outdoor spaces, the exhibit will profile local businesses and organizations supporting recreation. From golf shops, bait and tackle, bike shops and outfitters – many local entrepreneurs cater to the outdoors community. The services they provide support Aurorans wanting to

explore their city, and the history of these businesses is part of the history of Aurora.

On display in the East Hallway

Aurora Historic Photos

Photos have a way of connecting the current generation with their past. The photos in our East Hallway Gallery are just a small sample of the over 30,000 images archived at the Aurora History Museum.

On Display in the Theater Room

First 50 Years of Aurora

What was Aurora like in its first years? Learn about water, transportation, politics, city services, and education in Aurora's formative years. Visitors voted to return this favorite previously displayed exhibit to our Theater Room in July 2022.

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



Armstrong, William
Baker, Susan
Barnes, Mildred
Bartholomew, Randy & Barbara
Beach, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.
Beach, Robert
Benedict, Sally
Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. Don
Bottoms, Jack & Ruth
Brown, Dick & Kay
Caldwell, Nadine
Caron, Dean & Theresa
Chase, Gregg & Mary
Crawford, Judi & Jessica
Creager, Jo
Daniels, Kimberly & William
Drollinger, Don & Carol
Dunning, Annabelle
Elwell, Tom & Dottie
Essex, Joyce Brown
Fanning, James
Fletcher, Robert & Cindy
Fugler, Carl & Gloria
Gehler, Robert & Terri
Gigikos, John & Lila
Haag, Col. (Ret) George
Harding, Julie
Heckman, Dorothy
Hensler, Bill & Sue
Hogan, Becky & Stephen
Hood, Shirley
Jordan, Ralph & Sharon
Keller, Chris & John
Kerns, Peggy
LeGare, Bob
Letofsky, Jane Anne

Lincoln, Joseph & Jeannine
Lindemann, Donald & Ingrid
Lockwood, Michael & Kathryn
Lord, Pat
Lusche, Jim & Pat
McClure, Janice
McClure, Kirby & Roberta
McFadden, Joyce
McGrath, Jane & Isaacson, Thomas
Metcalf Jr., Traver
Monroe, Vernon & Helen
Moore, David
Morey, Bill & Teresa
Murray, Bev
Murray, William Jr. & June
Nicholls, Edwin
O'Brien, Joe & Betsy
O'Brien, Mr. & Mrs. John
Penn, Ruth
Perkins, Steve & Jan
Peters, Charlie
Preston, Mary
Reynolds, Mr. & Mrs. Walter
Sala, John & Elizabeth
Sanders, Dr. & Mrs. Randall
Scherling, Richard & Beverly
Severson, Carl
Sherfick, Donald & Charline
Sparks, Juanita
Spencer, Vernon
Stadt, Florence
Steele, Laurence & Virginia
Travis, E.A.
Tupps, Edythe
Ulmer, Keith & Mary
Vickers, Mary
Watson, Elizabeth
Weddig, Frank & Pat
Wiggins, William & Lori
Wiley, Robert
Wilterdink, Larry & Carol
Woodbury, Ruth

From our May 30, 2023 AHS regular meeting 6:00 PM Aurora History Museum.

Program- History of Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department 1855 to 1903

Speaker: Kenneth C. McKlem, Arapahoe County Sheriff and Historian.

Starting in the early 1800's, Ken painted a picture of law enforcement's beginnings when Colorado was still a Kansas territory. Arapahoe County was established in 1855 and three years later the Sheriff's Department was founded, making it the first sheriff's office in Colorado. At the time deputies made their badges out of tin can lids.

Captain McKlem delighted AHS members with stories about the early west. He talked about hanging offenses (stealing a horse was a major crime), gunfights, and the civilizing influence of women in the west.

Ken has over twenty years with the Sheriff's department and is keenly interested in the history of law enforcement in the West. Ken finds artifacts for the ACS history exhibit in unlikely places such as old file rooms and offices of retiring officers. He has made it his mission to document each sheriff starting with E.W. Wynkoop, first sheriff of Arapahoe Co.

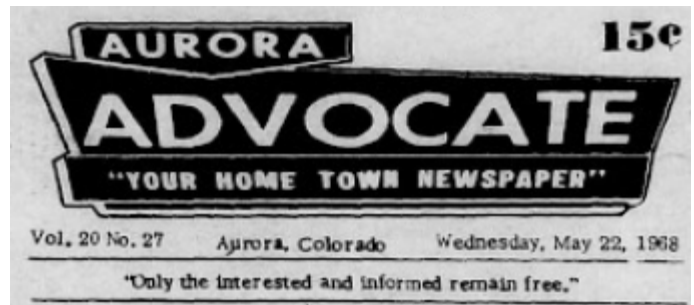
You can see Ken's work at:

<https://www.arapahoegov.com/2053/ACSO-History>

Original Sheriff and deputies and 1st jail



Photo's courtesy of Arapahoe Sheriff's Department website.



Advertisement in the Aurora Advocate

May 22, 1968

Vol. 20 No. 27 Page 35



FREE RIDES!

in the Aurora National Bank
"GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES"
STAGECOACH

See the coach that helped settle the West, in Aurora's fabulous "Gateway to the Rockies" parade, starting 10 a.m. on May 25. After the parade, come to Aurora National Bank for free stagecoach rides for the children. It's first come, first served, so don't be late. The free rides will continue until late afternoon when the horses have to head back to the corral.

Old West even while serving the financial needs of today and tomorrow for the New West. Aurora National Bank, the only full-service bank in Aurora, is the bank where friendliness and personal service combine with modern equipment and procedures to serve you better. Checking and savings accounts, installment loans, drive-in banking, business loans, safe deposit boxes, even free parking. . .you'll find all of these services, and many, many more, at Aurora National Bank for you to use and enjoy. Stop in soon and get acquainted!

The folks at Aurora National Bank salute the heritage and traditions of the

Aurora National Bank
EAST COLFAX & IRONTON • Phone 364-7671
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION • MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Trivia Question Answers:

1. b
- 2) c
- 3) b
- 4) a
- 5) c