

The Advocate Newsletter

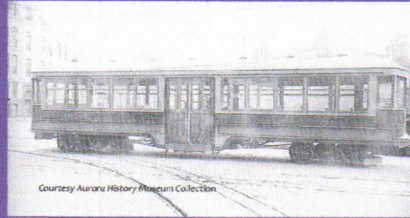
September/October 2023

Vol. 47 No. 5



Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city and its history

President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I am ready for the cooler temperatures of Fall. I am tired of pulling weeds. We are working on a great list of speakers and programs for the '23-'24 AHS meetings. Look for that information soon.

The field trip on August 19th was **awesome**. I wish more of you had been able to attend. Dr. Tucker spoke to our very small group about the archaeological sites at Horseshoe Park, Smoky Hill Trail and the Plains Conservation Center.

It was an interesting trip and well worth the time. There are pictures later in the newsletter.

Hope to see you all on September 26 at the regular AHS meeting. More about the speaker later in the newsletter.

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 you can send your dues payment for year 2024 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

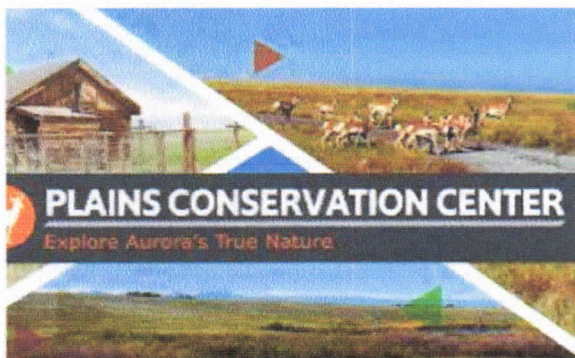


**Aurora Historical Society
26 September meeting
at the Aurora History Museum**

Our speaker topic for the evening is the Plains Conservation Center. Many of us have been to hayrides and moonlight walks. But have you ever wondered how the Center came to be? Who used to inhabit the land? What is the importance of the ecology preserved on the property?

Ms. Joy Thompson, Natural Resource Supervisor for the city of Aurora, will take us back in time to the early European settlers and indigenous people of the prairie in and around Arapahoe County. Then we will explore the history of the Plains Conservation Center and how it has evolved into the important resource it is today.

If you are interested in visiting the center prior to our presentation, check out the Regenerative Agricultural Festival on Saturday, 16 September. 10 – 4 pm. Learn how you can support healthy environments. Then engage with the farm animals and take a wagon ride. The cost is \$5.00 per vehicle and pre-registration is required.



Remember, drawing for door prizes is part of the fun at our meetings. Join us in exploring the past and understanding the importance of the Plains Conservation Center.

From our August 19, 2023 AHS regular meeting 10:00 AM various archaeological sites.

Program- Archaeological tour of Aurora
Speaker: Dr. Gordon Tucker.

Dr. Tucker started in Horseshoe Park telling us about the archaeological site where a Native American grave was found in 1982 by two boys. The grave dated back to 670 A.D. and contained an adult male and a child. We then traveled on to the Smoky Hill Trail Marker and learned about the trail which travelers took to reach the gold fields of Colorado. The trail had 3 branches when it entered Colorado. The section where the historical marker is located is on the “Starvation Trail” due to a lack of food and water along the way. It was the shortest route of the 3 so many people took it.

Our last stop was the Plains Conservation Center. This was the highlight of the trip. We were chauffeured around the Center by a staff member in a canopied truck while we learned how the Center had been part of the Lowry Bombing Range during WWII. We got to see the remains of one of the three observation towers and the target area. Did you know that two homesteaders used to live on that land, and one was a woman homesteader which was rare. Lots of pronghorn were evident. We even saw 5 baby pronghorns as well as other wildlife.



**Toll Gate Creek
Archaeological Site**
2141 S. Kittredge Way – Ward V



Smoky Hill Trail Historic Marker
23890 E. Smoky Hill Road – Ward VI





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 #40: Paul E. Tauer

- Served from 1987 – 2003
- He was born on Sep 5, 1935 in Minnesota
- He served in the Air Force
- Married to Kate Eldredge, Sep 1, 1956 in Colorado
- Children: Eugene, Roch, Paul E. Jr., Andrew, Tammie, Kathryn, Timothy, Ed
- He graduated from Regis University
- He obtained his Masters degree from the University of Northern Colorado
- He lived at 481 Oakand in Aurora
- He was a teacher with Denver Public Schools
- He came to Colorado between 1940 and 1950
- He died on August 26, 2022
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Roy Romer and Bill Owens
- While he was in office:
 - Transition of Fitzsimons to Anschutz Medical Campus
 - Resolved noise pollution from Stapleton with Denver
 - Created Aurora Pacific Partnership
 - Aurora Reservoir completed
 - Aurora Municipal Center opened
 - Children's Hospital relocates to Aurora
 - Stapleton closes

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?

Ask a Historian

Aurora Historical Society
mdlkel@aol.com

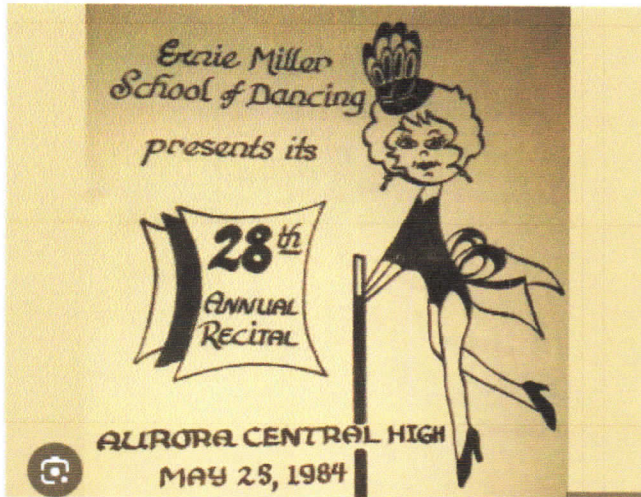


Remembering Aurora

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: Ernie Miller's School of Dancing



My wife and I were married in 1978 and in 1979 our only daughter, Jessica, was born. Being the only girl growing up with 3 brothers there came a time when she wanted to do some extracurricular activities.

Baseball and the other activities her brothers were participating in didn't interest her but dancing, well, that put a smile on her face. So at the early age of 5 we enrolled her in the Ernie Miller School of Dancing. Ernie Miller's studio was in the basement of his home at 1395 Revere (which just happened to be down the street from where I grew up). Our daughter was taught jazz, tap and ballet. The picture is from one of the recitals she was in and was held at Aurora Central High School.

We still dig out pictures of her in her various costumes including a yellow and red costume which makes her cringe. As she got a little older her interests shifted and the fantasy of her being a dancer on Broadway evaporated. Ernie Miller's is still in operation as Miller's Dance Studio and they are located at Smoky Hill Road and E470 and still run by the Miller family.

By the way, as she got older she ended up playing softball, volleyball, swimming, soccer and basketball.

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 many teachers were in the Aurora Public School system in 1960?
 - a. 652
 - b. 480
 - c. 519



2. What annexation of Aurora's was reviewed by the State Supreme Court in 1955?
 - a. Jewell Heights
 - b. Morris Heights
 - c. Hoffman Heights



3. Who was the Greeley band that played at the Aurora Central dance on September 1965?
 - a. The Shaggs
 - b. The Monocles
 - c. The Fly-Bi-Nites



4. Where was the newest Aurora Elementary School in 1970 located in Aurora?
 - a. 1433 S. Oakland (Village East Elem.)
 - b. 17301 E. Arkansas (Arkansas Elem.)
 - c. 3050 S. Laredo (Dartmouth Elem.)

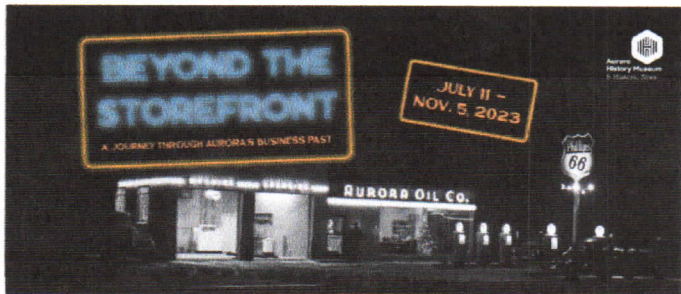


5. When was the Kiwanis Youth Center of Aurora opened?
 - a. September 1952
 - b. September 1956
 - c. September 1950



Aurora Museum Exhibits

BEYOND THE STOREFRONT



Community Gallery: July 11 to November 5, 2023

In the 1890s, Aurora's business district consisted of a few shops near the Colfax Avenue trolley line. As cars replaced the trolley, business owners gained the flexibility to open stores in other areas of the city. By the 1950s, developers began planning large-scale neighborhoods with nearby commercial centers in mind. As Aurora expanded south and east, its businesses shifted to areas like Hoffman Heights, the Aurora Mall, Havana Street and the Southlands Shopping Center.



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
Heflin, David & Mary
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

AURORA
ADVOCATE
 "YOUR HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER"

A Legal Newspaper for Adams and Arapahoe Counties

1441 ELMIRA STREET 366-2625

Entered as Second Class matter at Aurora, Colorado
 under Act of March 3, 1879

Bob McDaniel General Manager
 Mary Bell Co-Publisher
 Otis L. Bell Publisher
 Jim Sutherland Editor
 Earl Thompson Production Supt.
 Ruth Moeller Circulation Manager

Advertisement in the Aurora Advocate
 September 14, 1966
 Vol. 18 No. 43 Page 4

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Trivia Question Answers:
 1. b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c