

Vol. 47 No.6

# The Advocate Newsletter

## November/December 2023



## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city and its history

### President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are enjoying you're the cooler nights and fall colors. They seem especially lovely this year.

At our September meeting, Joy Thompson, Natural Resources Supervisor for the City of Aurora, told us about the early European settlers and indigenous people of the prairie around Arapahoe County. One of the settlers with a homestead was a woman.

On Oct 14th, the Toll Gate Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution painted the shed at Centennial House as part of their Day of Service. Bulbs were also planted in the garden.

Festival of the Wreaths begins at the Aurora History Museum on Nov 7th through Dec 10th. AHS has a wreath so please check it out and bid if you can. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Aurora History Museum.

**Lynne Evans**

Aurora Historical Society President

### 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](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)



Got Questions?

# Ask a Historian

Aurora Historical Society  
[mdlkel@aol.com](mailto:mdlkel@aol.com)

E-mail your question to [mdlkel@aol.com](mailto:mdlkel@aol.com)

**Join or Renew Membership**



Our membership dues come due in January each year now so you can send your 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 membership categories have changed).*

**Memberships:**

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

You can now pay your dues online at the AHS website on the join today page using PayPal.  
<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/join-today/>

**THANK YOU  
NEW & RE-NEWING  
MEMBERS**

**September/October 2023**

Linsenbigler, Nancy – September 2023  
 Hicks, Susan – September 2023  
 Sandy Sweeney – October 2023

**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.

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 #41: Ed Tauer

- Served from 2003 – 2011
- He was born on Sep 9, 1959
- He graduated from Mullen High School
- He served on Aurora City Council 1997-2003
- Married to Elizabeth Thompson, Aug 15, 1987
- Children: a son and a daughter
- He obtained his Masters degree in Business Administration from CU
- He obtained his Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from CSU
- He lived at 1681 S. Lansing in Aurora
- He worked in the Telecommunications industry
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Bill Owens and Bill Ritter
- While he was in office:
  - Aurora population reaches 325,078
  - Masonry fence replacement program
  - New V.A. hospital agreement at Fitz.
  - Univ. of Colorado hospital relocates to Aurora
  - Buckingham Square Mall redeveloped as The Gardens on Havana
  - General Electric starts a solar-panel manufacturing plant
  - Aurora Prairie Waters Purification and Recycling system
  - South Metro Water agreement
  - Gaylord hotel complex in Aurora is a possible site



**Aurora Historical Society  
28 November meeting  
6:00 pm at the Aurora History Museum**

Our speaker topic for the evening is the CDOT's ongoing efforts to preserve historic bridges and to get bridges listed on the "Most Endangered Places" list to help with funding and restoration.

Lisa Schoch, Cultural Resources Program Manager, Senior Historian from CDOT, will explain why Colorado's bridges are more than just functional infrastructure, many are also historic resources that tell the story of transportation in Colorado. Preserving and maintaining these historic structures, while also meeting modern traffic demands and safety standards, is a constant challenge. To aid in that endeavor, CDOT recently nominated a select group of historic bridges to Colorado Preservation Incorporated's Most Endangered Places Program, with the goal of building awareness for all historic bridges in the state. Bridge preservation provides an opportunity to tangibly connect the past to the present.



Lisa has over 18 years of experience working in historic preservation and cultural resource management. She has managed multiple statewide historic context studies for bridges and highways.

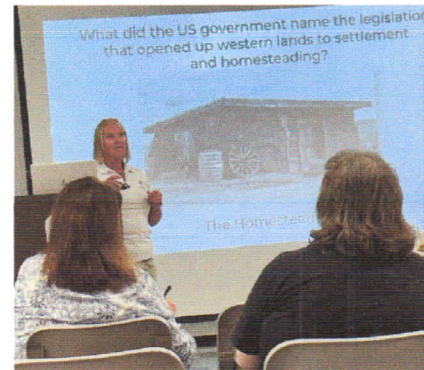
Remember, drawing for door prizes is part of the fun at our meetings. Join us in exploring the past and understanding the importance of preserving historic bridges.

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

Program- Plains Conservation Center  
Speaker: Joy Thompson

Joy Thompson, Natural Resources Supervisor for the City of Aurora since 2005, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Colorado State University, and also has an AAS in Zookeeping Technology and a Master's degree in Teaching and Learning. Joy has been honored as an Outstanding Educator by Community Resources by the cities of Denver and Aurora, and her team has been nominated for the Outstanding Customer Service award.

Joy told us about the early European settlers and indigenous people of the prairie in and around Arapahoe County. Did you know that one of the settlers with a homestead located on part of what is now the Plains Conservation Center was a woman?





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

**REMEMBERING:** How Mom, Dad, and I got to see a Hollywood stage and screen legend by Susan Hicks



In March of 1975, I was a senior at Aurora Central High School. Dad, had retired from the Air Force, Mom held a job at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center (FAMC) in the base housing office.

One Friday late in March Mom came home with exciting news. A big celebrity was going to entertain at the post theater. The show was the next day. Retired personnel and their families were invited on a space available basis.

The movie theater at FAMC held about 300 people. The show was to start at 7:00 pm and we arrived at the theater at 5:00 pm. The entertainment was primarily for the military patients of the hospital. The doctors, nurses, and hospital staff had second pick of the seats. Many of the front row seats were removed to accommodate wheelchairs and hospital beds. About thirty of us were in line for available seating.

On a military base, before the sun sets completely, there is a formal ceremony to lower the United States flag. All traffic stops, and all pedestrians face in the direction of the flag. Protocol is that military in uniform salute and civilians stand quietly with hand over heart while the retreat music plays.

With the first strains of Taps, the entire line stood straight and looked towards the flag. Hands over hearts we stood in silence. Just at that moment, the base commander and the Hollywood star walked from the theater to a waiting staff car. Imagine seeing one of the most famous men in the world, Mr. Bob Hope, walking three feet away. It felt like time had held its breath as Mr. Hope walked by.

We found our seats in the theater. Nestled between Mom and Dad, I remember laughing and having a wonderful time.

For further recollections of Mr. Hope's two visits to Fitzsimons, you can read an account from [David G. Potts, Public Affairs Officer, FAMC.](#)

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.

# TRIVIA

## City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. Where was the NEW Aurora dump site located to in 1953?
  - a. Havana & Mississippi
  - b. 17<sup>th</sup> and Paris
  - c. 3500 S. Gun Club Road



2. What was amendment 5 asking to legalize in the Aurora general election of 1958?
  - a. Selling alcohol to 18 year olds
  - b. Driving a black car on Sunday
  - c. Bingo

## Amendment 5

3. Who was heavy weight boxing champion that made an appearance at the Aurora Booster Club 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Boxing Night?
  - a. Floyd Patterson
  - b. Sonny Liston
  - c. Cassius Clay



4. When was the library at 1298 Peoria dedicated?
  - a. July 12, 1964
  - b. July 12, 1968
  - c. July 12, 1961

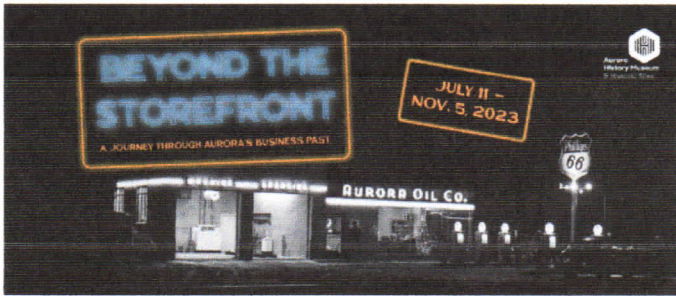


5. Why in 1953 did they move the dump site?
  - a. It had reached capacity
  - b. Complaints from the neighbors
  - c. Stanley Aviation purchased the land



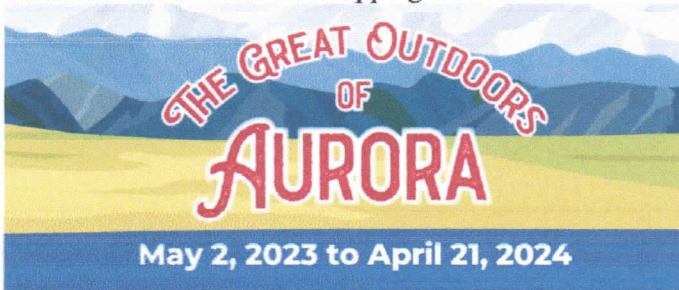
## Aurora Museum Exhibits

### 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

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Dunning, Anabelle (1976-1979)  
Metcalf, Gladys (1980-1981)  
Staad, Florence (1982)  
Elwell, Dottie (1983-1984)  
Johnson, Elizabeth (1985-1986)  
Pierce, Mary (1987-1988)  
Creager, Jo (1989-1990)  
Sanders, Kathy (1991-1992)  
Creager, Jo (1993)  
Hood, Shirley (1994-1995)  
Brown, Connie (1996-1998)  
Betka, Charyn (1999-2000)  
Fountain, Ruth (2001-2009)  
Sweeney, Sandy (2010-2018)  
Evans, Lynne (2019-present)



Baker, Susan  
Barnes, Mildred  
Bartholomew, Randy & Barbara  
Beach, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.  
Beach, Robert  
Benedict, Sally & Van I.  
Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. Don  
Bottoms, Jack & Ruth  
Brown, Dick & Kay  
Caldwell, Nadine  
Caron, Dean & Theresa  
Chase, Gregg & Mary  
Crawford, Judi & Jessica  
Daniels, Kimberly & William  
Drollinger, Don & Carol  
Elwell, Tom & Dottie  
Essex, Joyce Brown  
Fanning, James  
Fletcher, Robert & Cindy  
Fugler, Carl & Gloria  
Gehler, Robert & Terri  
Gigikos, John & Lila  
Harding, Julie  
Heckman, Dorothy  
Heflin, David & Mary  
Hensler, Bill & Sue  
Hogan, Becky  
Jordan, Ralph & Sharon  
Keller, Chris & John  
LeGare, Bob  
Letofsky, Jane Anne  
Lindemann, Ingrid  
Lockwood, Michael & Kathryn

Lord, Pat  
Lusche, Jim & Pat  
McClure, Kirby & Roberta  
McFadden, Joyce  
McGrath, Jane & Isaacson, Thomas  
Metcalf Jr., Traver  
Monroe, Vernon & Helen  
Morey, Bill & Teresa  
Murray, June  
Nicholls, Edwin  
O'Brien, Joe & Betsy  
Perkins, Steve & Jan  
Peters, Charlie  
Reynolds, Mr. & Mrs. Walter  
Sala, John & Elizabeth  
Sanders, Dr. & Mrs. Randall  
Scherling, Richard & Beverly  
Severson, Carl  
Sherfick, Donald & Charline  
Spencer, Vernon  
Steele, Laurence & Virginia  
Ulmer, Keith & Mary  
Vickers, Mary  
Wiggins, William & Lori  
Wilterdink, Larry & Carol

## In Memoriam

*In remembrance of Society members who are no longer with us.*

Armstrong, William  
Creager, Jo  
Dunning, Annabelle  
Haag, Col. (Ret) George  
Harding, Dexter  
Hogan, Stephen  
Hood, Shirley  
Kerns, Peggy  
Lincoln, Joseph & Jeannine  
Lindemann, Donald  
McClure, Janice  
Moore, David  
Murray, Bev  
Murray, William Jr  
O'Brien, Mr. & Mrs. John  
Penn, Ruth  
Preston, Mary  
Sparks, Juanita  
Staad, Florence  
Travis, E.A.  
Tupps, Edythe  
Watson, Elizabeth  
Weddig, Frank & Pat  
Wiley, Robert  
Woodbury, Ruth

Advertisements in the Aurora Advocate  
 December 22, 1960  
 Vol. 14 No. 7

**AURORA**  
**ADVOCATE**  
 "YOUR HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER"

1441 Elmira Street      Empire 6-2606  
 Adams County Office: 2856 Lima  
 A Photo-Offset Newspaper Published Every Thursday  
 in Aurora, Colorado

Legal Newspaper for Adams and Arapahoe Counties  
 Circulation Figure or Advertising Rates on Request

*Greetings*

We hear the wonderful music of Christmas carols and our holiday joy grows and deepens. We want to share it with all our friends, and to wish them a truly happy season.

**Famous**

MEN'S AND BOYS' SHOP  
 10208 E. Colfax  
 "WHERE WOMEN LOVE TO SHOP"

**STARTS WEDNESDAY-ALL DISNEY SHOW**

WALT DISNEY'S **Jungle Cat**  
 PLUS DISNEY'S "Noah's Ark"  
 In Color

WALT DISNEY'S **THE HOUND AND THE RACCOON**  
 THE HOUND AND THE RACCOON  
 ... BY NEIL ALLEN

FROM ALL OF US-TO ALL OF YOU  
**Merry Christmas**

**FOX THEATRE**  
 9000 E. Colfax - EM 6-2941

Everything's Special for Christmas at Miller's

**Christmas Sale**

**TURKEYS**  
 45¢  
 49¢  
 59¢

**Fully COOKED HAMS** 55¢  
**ROASTING CHICKENS** 39¢

**Grapefruit** 2 LBS 27¢

**SUNKIST NAVAL ORANGES** 2 lbs 27¢  
 35 lb. Carton \$4.69

**Brown 'n Serve Rolls** 12 for 19¢

**FRUIT COCKTAIL** 29¢  
**EGG NOG** 39¢

**Strawberries** 5 10 oz PKGS.

**INDIAN GEM CORN** 2 29¢  
**FRESH FROZEN PEAS** 15¢  
**HI-Q FRUIT CAKE** .79¢ - 1.49 - 3.49

**MILLER'S SUPER MARKETS**  
 Friend of the Family  
 NATIONAL

Aurora Store      Hoffman Heights Store  
 E. Colfax & Florence      656 Pacific

The newly painted shed at the Centennial House  
 Thank you to the Daughters of the American  
 Revolution Toll Gate Chapter



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