

# The Advocate Newsletter

## January/February 2024

Vol. 48 No.1



## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



## Embrace your city and its history

### President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! At the November meeting we learned about many of the historic bridges in Colorado and how CDOT deals with them. There is an article about that later in the newsletter.

We haven't nailed down who are speaker will be in January yet, so be on the lookout for that information. Possibilities are Sand Creek Regional Greenway or history of the Mile Houses.

We will be selecting a nominating committee in January. It will consist of two board members and one regular member. So let me know if you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or interested in a position on the board. We will also be making some changes to the bylaws which we will vote on during our annual meeting in May.

Stay safe and warm and I hope to see you all on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**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://aurorahistoricalociety.org/join-today/>



**November/December 2023**

- Krech, Fran – November 2023
- Mack, Carrie – November 2023 (NEW member)
- Petlon-Galligan, Linda – November 2023
- Jones, Mary F - December 2023
- Chappell, Edith – December 2023
- Karol Shupe - December 2023 (NEW member)
- Robert & Marsha Bengen – December 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 44 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 #42: Steve Hogan**

- Served from 2011 – 2018
- He was born on May 31, 1948 in Lincoln, NE
- Moved to Colorado in 1966
- He served on Aurora City Council 1979-1983; 1985-1997; 2001-2009
- Married to Barb Cleland in 1971
- They divorced in 1985
- Married to Becky
- Children/Step Children: Tim, Elizabeth, Megan, Anna, Stacie
- He went to the University of Nebraska College of Law
- He obtained his Bachelor’s degree from University of Denver
- He lived at 3053 S. Andes St. in Aurora
- He was the Executive Director of the E-470 Public Highway Authority
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was John Hickenlooper
- While he was in office:
  - Aurora population reaches 360,000
  - Revived the Sister Cities program
  - Relationship with Adama, Ethiopia established
  - Development of E-470
  - Helped make Aurora highlands neighborhood a reality
  - The Aurora movie theatre shooting
  - The Republic of El Salvador opens a consulate in Aurora



From our November 28, 2023 AHS regular meeting  
6:00 PM CDOT ongoing efforts to preserve bridges

**Aurora Historical Society  
30 January meeting  
6:00 pm at the Aurora History Museum**

Program- CDOT ongoing efforts to preserve bridges  
Speaker: Lisa Schoch

Lisa spoke about the criteria for putting bridges on the historic preservation list. These bridges include the Maroon Creek Viaduct built in 1888, several Stee Through Truss bridges built in the 1920's, the Rito Seco Creek Culvert stone and steel bridge from 1939 and the iconic Red Cliff Arch built in 1940.

Our speaker topic for the evening is still up in the air but we will have it finalized in the very near future.

A couple of strong possibilities are:

#### Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

The Sand Creek Regional Greenway is a nearly 13-mile public trail and natural area located in the northeast Denver metro area. The Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership (SCRGP) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established to protect, maintain and enhance the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

One of the major considerations is how much effort would it take to rebuild the bridge vs saving the existing structure. The Red Cliff Arch would be very expensive to reconstruct and is fair condition right now so is a candidate for preservation. We had an impromptu "photo booth" next to the impressive CDOT banner featuring the Red Cliff Arch.

CDOT has hundreds of historical photos showing road maintenance and construction projects from the early 1900's forward. Lisa is making an effort to catalog this treasure trove of Colorado's history in the hopes that someday these will be available to share with the public. Right now, the collection is not available for viewing.



#### Mile Houses

There were originally six different mile houses along Cherry Creek. Only the Four Mile House and the Seventeen Mile House still stand.

*"There can be little doubt that in many ways the story of bridge building is the story of civilization. By it we can readily measure an important part of a people's progress.", Franklin D. Roosevelt*



Remember, drawing for door prizes is part of the fun at our meetings.





**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:** Recipes from my past



As I write this article, it is early in December and the Christmas holiday is approaching. I started thinking about how much cooking my mother did as a non-working mother at the time.



We go out and buy presents these days but Mom would make several batches of fudge and then, using empty greeting card boxes lined with wax paper, she would make the fudge a gift to neighbors, church friends and to both of her single brothers. Maybe it was because my parents came through the Depression or maybe money was tight but this was how we gave Christmas presents to those outside our family



For a special treat Mom would make the Classic Cherry Delight. I can remember helping her and getting to get the last little spoonful of cherry sauce out of the cans. And then she'd serve this up for desert on Christmas Eve. Somehow the portion this 8 year-old got wasn't nearly big enough. I was always trying to figure out how I could get more without Mom knowing. You know, sneaking a small sliver from the pan in the refrigerator. I doubt it ever worked.



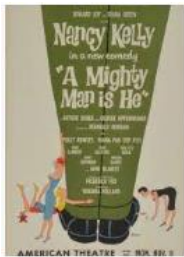
While not holiday related, I remember when we would not feel well and our stomach was unsettled, Mom knew we needed something to keep our strength up and yet something not harsh. Milk toast was the answer. When I got married and my wife wasn't feeling well I asked her if she'd like me to make some milk toast. She'd never heard of it before. Now it's a staple when She comes down with something.

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 Aurora Community Theatre play “A Mighty Man Is He” performed in January 1971
  - a. The Aurora Fox
  - b. Crawford School
  - c. The VFW building



2. What was the size of the Aurora police force in January 1950?
  - a. Twelve
  - b. Four
  - c. Nine



3. Who was recognized at Fitzsimons in 1966 for their 25<sup>th</sup> year of operation?
  - a. The Aurora Kiwanis Club
  - b. United Service Organizations
  - c. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce



4. When Mrs. Billie Joyce Singer was arrested in January 1961, what was unique about it?
  - a. She was an escapee from the Colorado Psychopathic Hospital
  - b. She used a hand grenade to rob “Harvey’s” store in Aurora
  - c. She rode a horse in her get away



5. Why did Ronald Malara win the 1956 Kiwanis “Stars of Tomorrow” talent contest?
  - a. Vocal performance
  - b. Juggling performance
  - c. Accordion performance



## Aurora Museum Exhibits

### BEYOND THE STOREFRONT



**Community Gallery:** Mar 5 – Jul 7, 2024

On June 6, 1944, in what remains history's largest seaborne invasion, 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel. Officially known as Operation Neptune, but remembered as D-Day, the Allied liberation of Normandy changed the tide of the WWII and left thousands dead. Explore D-Day stories of Aurorans and learn how technologies developed in our own backyard helped the Allies win in Europe.



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

**Nature's Beauty Captured:** Oct 10–Jan 7, 2024  
Step into a world of breathtaking beauty captured through the lens of Wayne Gallagher's camera. With over five decades of experience, Gallagher's journey as a photographer has evolved from a childhood passion to a lifelong pursuit of capturing the essence of wildlife and landscapes.

### On Display in the Theater Room

#### Trolley Trailer #610

This exhibit takes a deep dive into the history of electric streetcars in the Denver metro area and explores the story of Aurora's Landmark, Trolley Trailer #610 before it was an exhibit at the Aurora History Museum.

This exhibit was chosen to return to our museum by visitors in June and July 2023.

#### 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  
 January, 1960  
 Vol. 14 No. 7

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

1441 Elmira Street                      EMpire 6-2626  
 Adams County Office: 2356 Lima  
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# BIRTHDAY

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