

# The Advocate Newsletter

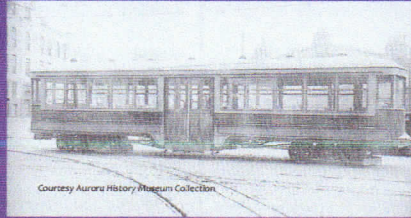
## March/April 2024

Vol. 48 No.2



## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city and its history

### President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

The weather has been cold and snow one day and sunny and warm the next. Some days I feel like a yo-yo.

If you didn't join us for the January meeting you missed a good program. Chuck Stout, from Wings over the Rockies Museum talked about the history of Lowry.

We have great speakers for March and May. Jane Watkins of Watkins-stained glass will be talking to us for our March 26th meeting. I saw them take the stained-glass windows out of the Molly Brown House for restoration a few years ago. It is truly an art form.

For our Annual Potluck dinner meeting on May 28th, we have a special treat. The Legendary Ladies will be joining us. Guests are welcome, but make sure they bring a dish to share for the Potluck dinner.

The dead tree in the backyard of Centennial House has been removed along with the large dead branch on the tree in the side yard. There's work to do in the flower gardens this spring. I hope some of you will join us for a day of cleanup and planting. The date to be announced.

We are also planning some possible field trips and some great speakers for next year. If anyone has suggestions, please let me know.

If you haven't already paid your dues, please do so soon. If you have friends who would like to join, let us know or bring them to the next event.

Hope to see you all in March and May!

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

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

**January/February 2024**

**January** – Kathy Tedrick, Bill Gondrez, Karen Sear, Gary & Sherie Wolf, Bruce & Marcy Leonard, Andrew & Karen Schwieder, Nancy Brigham, Ann Lacy, Lynne Evans, Gordie Tucker

**February** – Kathleen Hely, Yvonne & Stephen Dodge, Richard & Norma Ziegler

**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 #43: Bob LeGare

- Served from 2018 – 2019
- He was born on Feb 3, 1956 in Villa Park, IL
- Moved to Colorado in 1974
- He served on Aurora City Council 1995-2003; 2011-2018
- Married to his wife Teresa
- Two daughters
- He obtained his Associates Degree from the Community College of Aurora
- He obtained his BS degree from University of Phoenix
- He lived at 25093 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. in Aurora
- He has served on numerous organizations including the Sand Creek Regional Gateway, the Aurora Police Old Hire Pension and the Community College of Aurora Foundation
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was John Hickenlooper
- Finished out the mayoral term of Steve Hogan
- While he was in office:
  - Aurora population reaches 380,000
  - Working on the Korean War Memorial on the Fitzsimons campus
  - Approved the taxation on marijuana
  - Closing of the Denver Meadow Mobile Home Park and allocating \$300,00 to the remaining residents
  - The tragic death of Elijah McClain





From our January 30, 2024 AHS regular meeting  
History of Lowry Air Force Base

Program- History of Lowry Air Force Base and  
Wings Over The Rockies Museum

Speaker: Chuck Stout, Curator of Wings Over The  
Rockies Museum

**Aurora Historical Society  
26 March meeting  
6:00 pm at the Aurora History Museum**

Our speaker topic for the evening is Jane Watkins of  
Watkins Stained Glass Studio. Jane Watkins has a degree  
in Art History and operates the business facet of the  
studio.



Watkins Stained Glass has operated in Denver since 1868  
and before that, operated in England as early as 1761.  
They provide historical stained glass restoration and  
preservation.

There have been 4 generations of Watkins men running  
Watkins Stained Glass in America beginning with  
Clarence who arrived in Denver in 1868 coming from St.  
Joseph, Missouri in a covered wagon. After Clarence  
came his son Frank, then Phil and now Phil Jr.

Since 1960 they had made windows for over 380  
churches and 4,000 houses and businesses. They have a  
huge inventory of European and antique glass.



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



Once again we had a great speaker and a  
disappointing turnout to hear him with only 15  
people including the Board members. We'd like to  
hear from the members as to what are the problems  
that make attending the meetings difficult. That way  
we can try and address your concerns and perhaps  
make adjustments. We want to see your smiling  
faces.

Topics that Chuck covered:

- Lowry's namesake – Francis B. Lowry the  
only Colorado pilot killed in combat in WWI
- The first Lowry Field located at 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. &  
Dahlia St. in northeast Denver in 1926
- Moved in 1935 to where we knew Lowry
- Boeing B-29 Superfortress training began in  
1943
- Operation Hayride in December 1948  
providing emergency response for people and  
livestock impacted by snowstorms
- Home to the first Air Force Academy. 306  
cadets sworn in on July 11, 1955
- The first Titan missile base in 1946 at the  
Lowry bombing and gunnery range
- Lowry decommissioned on September 30,  
1994





### 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: School Band



Ever have those thoughts of becoming rock and roll star? Well, when I was around 9 years old and the Beatles were just starting to become the hit sensation, I told my parents that I wanted to play an instrument. I had thoughts of being a drummer or maybe even playing a trumpet. Vaughn Elementary School had a

band class so there I went with high hopes. I was with some other kids in the cafeteria gathered around Byron Gillett (yes, that's a picture of him).



He had me practice blowing into the mouth piece of a trumpet and blowing into the opening of a flute (a flute? There aren't any flute rock stars) and then into a clarinet. I think the band needed some clarinet players because somehow he decided that was a perfect fit for me. How disappointing.



But of course, since my parents had laid out money and I had begged to be part of the band, I was stuck with the clarinet. I played through my first year of high school and actually enjoyed playing but somehow I drifted away from it. I dabbled with playing the guitar but I'll always remember Mr. Gillett and how much fun he made band practice and how he'd lecture me that I didn't practice hard enough (He was right, I didn't)

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. About how many students were attending Aurora schools in 1951?
- 1,300
  - 500
  - 900



2. What was the name of the shopping center at 6<sup>th</sup> & Havana in 1961?
- Heather Gardens
  - Aurora Hills
  - Eastland



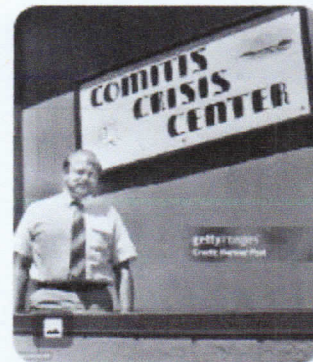
3. Who was the Democrat State Representative from Aurora district 36 in 1966?
- Norma Walker
  - Donald Strait
  - Dennis Champine



4. Where was a Denver man accidentally electrocuted in March 1971?
- Buckingham Square
  - Highline Canal
  - Aurora Central High School



5. In 1971, how long was Comitis Crisis Center permitted to house a minor (they were exempt from an Aurora law that forbid the harboring of minors)?
- 72 hours
  - 24 hours
  - 48 hours





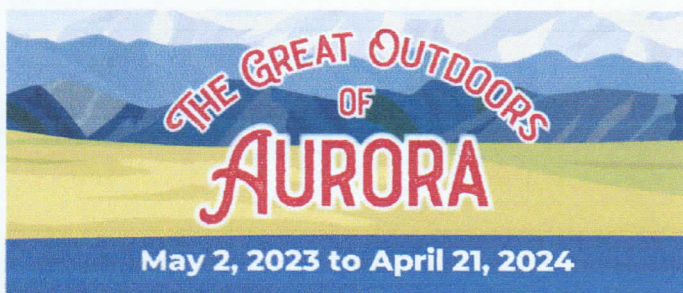
## Aurora Museum Exhibits

### 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**

**Wildlife in Focus: A Journey of Conservation, from Global to Local:** Jan 10 – Mar 31, 2024

This exhibit highlights the work of Aurora resident and volunteer Open Space trail steward, Victoria "Vicky" Samuel. Come see images she has collected around the world and right here in our own community.

**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)  
Staatd, 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 (past president)  
Dunning, Annabelle (past president)  
Fountain, Ruth (past president)  
Haag, Col. (Ret) George  
Harding, Dexter  
Hogan, Stephen  
Hood, Shirley (past president)  
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  
Staatd, Florence (past president)  
Travis, E.A.  
Tupps, Edythe  
Watson, Elizabeth  
Weddig, Frank & Pat  
Wiley, Robert  
Woodbury, Ruth



Advertisements in the Aurora Advocate  
 March, 1956  
 Vol. 9 No. 20

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

1441 Elmira Street      EMptce 6-2626  
 Adams County Office: 2356 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

DICK RACKETT SAYS:

"WE'VE GOT YOU  
 SURROUNDED"

"We're only a few blocks in any  
 direction--and maybe just across  
 the street from you with our. . .



5 NEW STATIONS  
 TO SERVE YOU--SO DROP IN!!



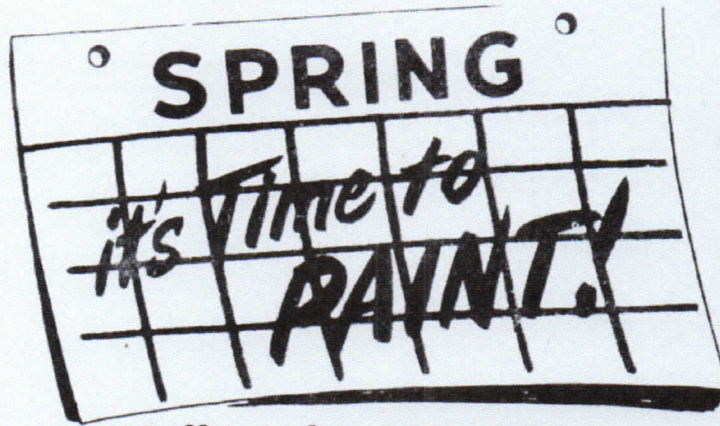
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 COLFAX AT JOLIET -- COLFAX AT BOSTON  
 COLFAX AT CHAMBERS RD.--11th at YOSEMITE  
 HOFFMAN HEIGHTS

**ATTENTION!!!**

Man wanted to make insurance  
 career. Guaranteed salary of  
 \$325 per month. One year train-  
 ing. See Mike Stroud, 1480 Iola.

"'56 . . . THE YEAR TO FIX"



Call on this **QUARTET**  
 FOR A NEW NOTE IN HOME DECORATING

MOORE'S WALL SATIN—rubber-  
 ized, quick drying, washable in-  
 terior finish for walls and trim.  
 GAL 5.10

MOORE'S PORCH & DECK PAINT—  
 tough, waterproof film for  
 porches, steps, decks.  
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MOORE'S 100 EXTERIOR WHITE  
 —durable, high-hiding, self-  
 cleansing house paint.  
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BETTY MOORE'S DECORATING SER-  
 VICE—Helpful advice . . . Free  
 color scheme suggestions from  
 experienced decorators.

Spring is time to paint—Come see us NOW!

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 COMPANY**

EM. 6-1564      9301 E. Colfax Ave.

Trivia Question Answers:

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



# Come Join the Aurora Historical Society on March 26<sup>th</sup> as we hear about the wonderful world of Stained Glass and the Watkins-Stained Glass Studio from Jane Watkins

Phil and Jane Watkins operate the Watkins Stained Glass Studio. Stained glass has been a Watkins family tradition since 1761. In Colorado since 1868, the Watkins family is proud to be the State's premier stained glass studio, as well as the finest and most respected stain glass company in the Rocky Mountain area.

As well as Colorado's Premier Stained Glass Studio, it is also one of the oldest, and most internationally recognized families in the world creating leaded stained glass windows and providing historical stained glass restoration and preservation.



**Aurora Historical Society**  
Meeting: March 26, 2024  
Location: Aurora History Museum  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Bring your friends and neighbors  
and join us!

Questions? Call Lynne Evans 720-  
560-2490 [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)





Come join the Aurora Historical Society for our Annual Potluck Dinner and a performance from the “Legendary Ladies”



Bring your friends and neighbors, and remember, this is a potluck dinner. The Aurora Historical Society will provide a beverage, chicken, ham, and paperware. Attendees bring the salads, side dishes, and desserts to share.



When: May 28, 2024  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Aurora History Museum

Please RSVP to Lynne Evans  
720-560-2490 or 720-560-2490 We want to make sure we have enough food for all. Space is limited!

