

The Advocate Newsletter

July/August 2024

Vol. 48 No.4



Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city and its history

President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

It was great to see so many of you at the May Potluck. I hope you enjoyed the Legendary Ladies perform Molly Brown, Augustus Tabor, and Baby Doe as much as I did.

We are working on a field trip or two, but probably not until fall. Stay tuned for more information about that. The museum has some tours planned for this summer so you might check some of those out.

Watkins-Stained Glass will be our Speaker in September since we had to cancel in March when the museum had plumbing issues. I am really looking forward to hearing Mrs. Watkins speak, as I saw the stained-glass window at the Molly Brown house before and after they restored it. It was amazing. I have seen other many other pieces they have done both old and new and their work is incredible.

I should be able to tell you who are speakers are for the coming year by the September newsletter. I am also hoping we have more members attend our meetings so spread the word and if you have friends who might be interested in joining bring them along.

Enjoy your summer!

Lynne Evans

Aurora Historical Society President

Historical Society Officers

President & Website: **Lynne Evans**

Vice President: **Nadine Caldwell**

Secretary: **Gregg Chase**

Treasurer: **Michael Lockwood**

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

Historical Society Committees

Education: Vacant

Historian: **Michael Lockwood**

Hospitality: **Judy Keilman**

Membership: **Michael Lockwood**

Newsletter: **Michael Lockwood**

Program: **Susan Hicks**

Publicity: Vacant

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



Got Questions?

Ask a Historian

Aurora Historical Society
mdlkel@aol.com

E-mail your question to mdlkel@aol.com

**Join or Renew
Membership**

**TAKE ME
TO YOUR
LEADER**

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**

May/June 2024

March – Anne Bell

May – Bonnie Rader, Brad Pierce, Gordon Tucker

June – none

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? We’ve covered all 44 individually over the last 44 issues. Here they are again in order.

Harry Milliken 1891-1894; Albert Davies 1894-1895; Paul Chambers 1895-1898; W.A. Cundy 1898-1899; W.H. Murphy 1899-1901; Jonas Washburn 1901-1903; Harry Class 1903-1904; Louis Strauss 1904-1905; Wilmer Parker 1905-1906; Andrew Thompson 1906-1907; Edwin Smith 1907-1908; Allington Kramer 1908-1910; Vincent O’Donald 1910-1911; Gershom Jones 1911-1914; Herbert Thompson 1914-1917; George Smith 1917-1917; Harry Ketherman 1917-1918; John McMillan 1918-1919; Jacob Trompen 1919-1920; Jasper Parrish 1920-1921; John McMillan (again) 1921-1926; Fred Harrison 1926-1927; Edward Murphy 1927-1929; Brown Nevius 1929-1931; Charles Holzer 1931-1937; Jasper Parrish (again) 1937-1941; J.E. McWhorter 1941-1943; Alpha Hill 1943-1945; Bert Howard 1945-1948; Chester Tuppss 1948-1953; William Mansfield 1953-1955; Allen Bradley 1955-1959; Henry Allard 1959-1963; Robert Fennig 1963-1965; Norma Walker 1965-1967; Paul Beck 1967-1974; William Dominguez 1974-1975; Fred Hood 1975-1979; Dennis Champine 1979-1987; Paul Tauer 1987-2003; Ed Tauer 2003-2011; Steve Hogan 2011-2018; Bob LeGare 2018-2019; Mike Coffman 2019-present



From our May 28, 2024 AHS regular meeting
Legendary Ladies

**Aurora Historical Society
24 September 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 have 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.



The Legendary Ladies were founded in 1992 over a mutual love of women’s history, costumes, and performance. In 2005, the ladies moved towards focusing specifically on their signature performance, Unconventional Women of the West. For the evening of history, we were joined by local legends Molly Brown, Baby Doe Tabor and Augusta Tabor. Each character told us about her life, her accomplishments, and her struggles. The evening concluded with a Q and A with the women.

This was also our annual potluck dinner.



As you can see there was plenty of fabulous food and no one left hungry. We somehow managed to conduct a little Aurora Historical Society business as well with all current officers elected to remain in their positions for the 2024 calendar year.



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: A Bicycle Accident

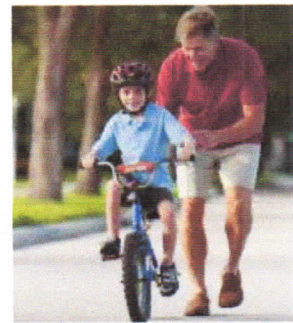


Watching a young child learning to ride a bike brought back a few memories. First off, let me apologize to my father. I had received as a birthday present my first bicycle, similar to the one above. Obviously I was anxious to learn to ride it. My father took me out in the backyard to the short but manageable driveway. It was probably two car

lengths long before it sloped down to the street. It seemed like a huge steep hill at the time.



Of course, you have to start learning with training wheels but it took no time at all before that was mastered and we were ready to move on to the balancing act. Once on the bike with my father holding it steady he told me to start peddling and that he was keep the bike steady by holding onto the back.



Some time elapsed and I grew more and more confident. Unbeknownst to me, my father had also sensed my growing confidence and he had released his grip on the bike. Suddenly the bike and myself tumbled over sideways. As I picked myself up I hollered at my Dad, who had come up to make sure I was okay, "Why did you push me over"? He explained that he hadn't pushed me over but I was sure he did it on purpose. The good news is I forgave him.

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. What did the EM stand for in Aurora's phone number exchange in 1954?
 - a. Emerald
 - b. Empire
 - c. Emporium



2. Who was awarded the Trailer Coach Manufacturer's Assn 100% Honor in 1954?
 - a. Friendly Village of Aurora
 - b. Sable Altura Chambers Mobile Home
 - c. Jacona Trailer Park



3. What was on the ballot in 1959 costing tax payers around \$2.25 million to construct?
 - a. A new elementary school
 - b. A hospital
 - c. A new public swimming pool



4. What was the 2nd annual Hi-Nabor Daze parade route in 1954, starting at Colfax and ...?
 - a. Ironton to Clinton to City Park
 - b. Havana to Peoria to Del Mar Park
 - c. Havana to 6th Ave. to Del Mar Park

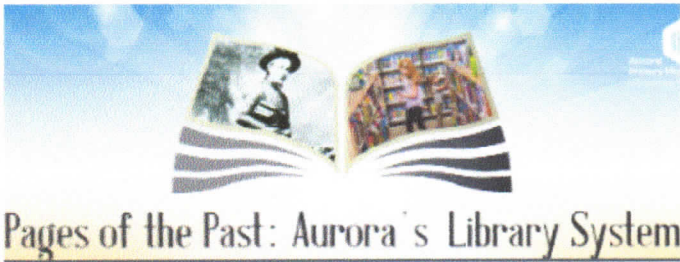


5. How many employees in 1964 transferred from out of state to the newly opened Western Electric Mountain Northwest Regional Engineering HQ located at 111 Havana?
 - a. 250+
 - b. 700+
 - c. 400+



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.



Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Nepali Community May 7, 2024 to April 6, 2025

Aurora's Nepali community will be celebrated in a new exhibit, "Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Nepali Community," opening on May 7, 2024, at the Aurora History Museum. This exhibit is part of a museum and Office of International and Immigrant Affairs series that aims to promote understanding of our culturally diverse city. It will showcase vibrant aspects of the Nepali community, including music, art, dance, religion and food. Through this exhibit, the Nepali community's contributions to the city's history will be highlighted, along with stories of individuals and businesses.

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
 July, 1949 – Vol. 2 No. 35
 August 1954 – Vol. 7 No. 40
 September 1959 - Vol. 12 No. 43

AURORA
ADVOCATE
 "YOUR HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER"

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BACON HORMEL	lb	47c
FRYERS CUT UP	lb	45c
GROUND BEEF LEAN	lb	19c
STOCK UP YOUR FREEZER		
SIRLOIN STEAK	lb	43c
ROUND STEAK	lb	53c
T BONE STEAK	lb	63c
HIND QUARTERS	lb	37c
HALF BEEF cut and wrapped free	lb	30c

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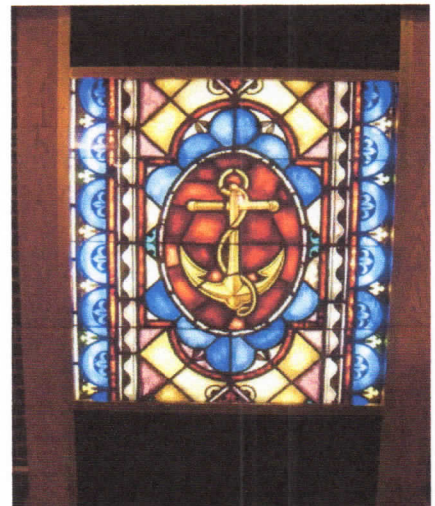
Trivia Question Answers:
 1) b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c

Come Join the Aurora Historical Society on September 24 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: September 24, 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