For 44 years, April meant AUCTION at RMPBS. From 1966-2009, the Rocky Mountain PBS televised Auctions were major annual spring community events raising millions of dollars through the generous donations of businesses and artists throughout Colorado. The donations were sold “live” on the air as viewers eagerly watched TV at home submitting bids on items as they appeared on the air. Hundreds of volunteers worked along with RMPBS staff before, during and after each auction week. But, that’s another story!

Did you know that between 1979-1998, NINETEEN homes were donated and sold to benefit Rocky Mountain PBS? It’s true! Funds raised from the sale of each of the beautiful auction homes ranged from $72,000 up to $168,000. Proceeds for the sale of the homes helped purchase evening and weekend programming.

The very first Auction home was donated to the 14th annual KRMA-TV Channel Six Auction in 1979 by US Home. The inaugural Auction home, known as a “Sun Home,” was located in Aurora at 3557 S. Waco Way and was the largest valued item ever donated to KRMA’s public television auction at the value of $110,000.

Auction volunteers handled a great deal of the project organization working very closely with donors to oversee the home’s construction. Most often, the land was donated as well as the construction costs with hundreds of subcontractors donating their time, materials and service (see pages 4-5).

Can you imagine the amount of organization it took to coordinate the donations from over 100 subcontractors and suppliers that generously donated doors, roofs, countertops, appliances, carpet, excavation, electric layouts, carpentry, brick, paint and so much more! Without the generosity of the subcontractors and suppliers, Channel 6 (now Rocky Mountain PBS) would have been obliged to deduct the non-donated construction costs from the proceeds of the sale. It was truly a remarkable community endeavor that was admired by public broadcasting stations across the country.

Many community supporters of public broadcasting donated services or items related to the auction homes. Local banks donated financial services, landscape companies donated their talent, time and materials, and furniture stores donated home furnishings and décor items.
that were sold separately during the course of the televised auction.

Promoting the house was another auction component with volunteers and staff working jointly to procure free publicity from all possible resources. Denver’s commercial stations (both radio and TV) frequently donated FREE on-air spots and interviews to promote the sale of the auction homes.

Prior to broadcasting the daily auction, invitation-only “House Parties” were hosted at the auction homes allowing realtors, house donors, subcontractors and suppliers to be feted by Rocky Mountain PBS. In addition, multi-day community open houses were hosted welcoming the community to view the homes and consider submitting a bid.

Auction Homes’ “Open Houses” attracted 100’s of guests that were enticed by various entertainment venues which made the grand openings fun for all ages. The Channel Six mascot, Mrs. Bird, was a hugely popular attraction at open houses as were musicians, popcorn machines, bounce houses, clowns, face painters, refreshments and much more!
Methods of bidding for the auction homes varied. For the very first auction home in 1979, bidders were asked to pick up a bid sheet at the auction home or at the Channel Six studios on Glenarm -- no internet or email was available back then, of course. Bidders could submit a written bid prior to the televised auction. During the weeklong televised auction, a special auction phone number was available allowing bidders to ask questions or place their bids throughout the 1979 auction week. The sale of some of the homes was quite a fanfare! Some homes were actually celebrated and sold on the air with the lucky bidders being treated to a “live” fanfare. The studio came alive when the highest bidder of the 1979 home was introduced!!

As you can imagine, the entire process of procuring, building, decorating, marketing and selling Auction homes was a huge endeavor. As a result of the combined efforts of the RMPBS staff and an vast volunteer corps, millions of dollars were raised over the years for Rocky Mountain PBS.

See online article about Auction years: http://www.rmpbs.org/volunteer/sam/our-annual-auction/ or contact the SAM Office 303-620-5734 or SAM@rmpbs.org

Station’s Archived Memories (SAM) serves the past, present, and future of Rocky Mountain PBS by assuring that the history of the station and its importance to the Colorado community will survive for generations to come. SAM is a volunteer-driven project preserving the history of Rocky Mountain PBS. To learn more about the station’s history and how to volunteer or donate items to the archives, please visit www.RMPBS.org/SAM, contact the SAM office at Rocky Mountain PBS 303-620-5734 or email SAM@rmpbs.org
DONORS TO THE 1979 AUCTION HOME

The Channel 6 Sun Home is the gift of many.

Peterson Concrete
Concrete flatwork
Plasticsrafts, Inc.
Sky lights
Richlawn Turf Farms, Inc.
Sod and ground preparation
Steel T Heating, Inc.
Installation of heating and air-conditioning equipment
Studio 40 Video-Audio Productions
Promotional copy writing and voice talent
Triple A Wholesale, Inc.
Roof shingles
Trujillo Drywall
Drywall labor
Woodman Brothers Landscape & Nursery, Inc.
Landscape plants, labor

Bill Boom Service
Lifting of roof trusses in place
City of Aurora
Inspection fees
Claitie Concrete Products, Inc.
Cinderblocks and steel lintels
Communicographics, Inc.
Printing of Sun Home brochure
Cooley Sand & Gravel Co.
Sand and gravel for landscaping
Crescent Star Sign Company
Sun Home sign
Ray Cyeczak
Framing labor
D & H Builders
Backup framing labor
Denver Brick & Pipe Co.
Bricks
Dixon Paper Company
Paper for Sun Home brochure
Do-It-Yourself Plumbing & Heating
Plumbing supplies
Frank Edwards Plumbing
Rough plumbing
Elco Drilling Co., Inc.
Caisson drilling
Francis J. Fisher, Inc.
Masonry
Frontier Title Co.
Title insurance
Guy's Floor Service
Installation of parquet floors
Hamden Press
Brochure folding
Hofflund Graphics
Typesetting
Hotpoint
Range, hood, and dishwasher
Home Owners Warranty
HOW insurance policy
Ideal Basic Industries, Inc.
Cement
Ideal Ceramic & Marble
Window sills
Charles Inagaki
Appraisal
Brenda Isbell
Wallpaper hanging
J & K Cleaning
Final house cleaning
Gary Jacobsen
Wallpaper hanging
Jim's Draining
Sewer and water lines to the house
Lester E. Jones Sand & Gravel Company
Sand for masonry work
Kathmar Plumbing
Finish plumbing
Kompac
Wallpaper paste
Koppers Co., Inc.
Western Wood Products Division
Landscape ties
Kroonenberg Lumber Co.
Sheetrock delivery
Kwil Paints
Paint and wallpaper
Kwik-Kopy
Printing of promotional brochure
LDB Draining
Sewer and water lines in the street
Laughlin Excavation
Excavation and rough grade
Lomheim Construction
Installation of retaining wall
Malibu Lighting by Dynamic Electrical Sales
Low voltage exterior lighting
Mary's Komac Decorating Center
Wallpaper
Masonry, Inc.
Masonry work
Merrick & Co.
Survey, staking of house

VIP donors

A-1 Stone & Oriental Landscaping Co.
Decorative landscaping stone
Carl Ainsworth, Inc.
Trucking, landscaping sand and gravel.
Ankmar Door
Garage door
Armstrong Cork Company
Kitchen and bath flooring
Bee Jay Iron
Wrought iron
Bell Shower Doors
Medicine cabinets, mirrors, shower doors
Berta Brothers
Freight charge for sheet rock
Big Three Supply Company
Plumbing supplies

Broyles, Allebaugh & Davis, Inc.
Advertising consultants
Carpenters Service, Inc.
Interior trim
Central Electric
Electrical supplies
City of Aurora-Dpt. of Parks, Recreation & Public Properties
Landscaping plans
Colorado Building Specialists
Windows, patio doors and majestic fireplace
Earl A. Dixon Co.
Linoleum, tile and carpet installation
Elsco Fence & Supply Co.
Supplied and installed cedar shake fence
Equipment Distributors, Inc.
Registers, vents, furnace unit, air-conditioner unit
Evans & Blackby Armstrong
Carpet
Gardineer Drywall
Inside and outside painting
Gibson Electric Company, Inc.
Electrical work
Hoff's Turf Irrigation, Inc.
Sprinkler system
Jessen Construction
Framing labor
Laradon Tile Works
Handcrafted tile
Masonite Corporation
Prefinished siding
Metz Lumber
Framing and finish lumber
Mobile Pre-Mix
Supplied concrete additives, labor, and truck
Pak-N Pak (American Lantern, Becker, Coronet, Del Bali, EJS, Juno, Lavery, Mobilite, M.J.W., Vigon)
Light fixtures

APRIL 2017: This Month In The History of Rocky Mountain PBS
By Laura Sampson | Founder | Station’s Archived Memories
VIP Donors Continued

Modern Plastics
Formica® kitchen counter tops and Du Pont Corian® bath counters

Moen
Faucets, kitchen sink

Monarch Tile Mfg., Inc.
Tile

Mountain States Distributing Corp. (Bruce Hardwood Floors)
Parquet floors

Mural Stone Industries, Inc.
Firebox, damper, flue liner, steel lintels

Original Rock Replicas
Rock for family room fireplace

Owens Corning
Bathtubs

Pine Ridge Roofing
Roofing labor

Premier Construction
Framing labor

Prints Valiant
Printing of furniture brochure

Pyle Surveying Company
Improvement survey

R.G. Insulation
Supplied and installed insulation

Ralph’s Top Service
Installation of Du Pont Corian® bath counters

Rocky Mountain Seed Co.
Seed for ground cover

Royal Metal Products
Heating ducts

Fred Sexton
Floor plans and artist's rendering

Austin Siegfried
Architectural plans

Southeast Denver
Graphics
Typesetting for Sun Home brochure

Stairs, Inc.
Stairs

Tippetts Engineers
Foundation plans

Titan Sand & Gravel
Grading

Tommy’s Waterproofing
Waterproofing

Truss Joist Co.
Floor joists

United Foam Corp.
Carpet pad

Universal Plumbing
Plumbing supplies

Hugh M. Woods
Parquet floors

St. Vrain Block Co.
Paving Stones

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The KRMA-TV, Channel 6 Auction

KRMA-TV, Channel 6, has been serving Denver and the Rocky Mountain West with quality non-commercial television for more than 20 years. It receives the major portion of its nationally-distributed programs from PBS (the Public Broadcasting Service) via Westar I satellite, now orbiting 22,300 miles above the earth. Channel 6 programs are available to approximately 2,500,000 men, women and children living in Colorado, and portions of Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas.

Though its instructional programs are made possible by its licensee, the Denver Public Schools, evening and weekend programming must be paid for with funds KRMA is able to raise on its own. That is one of the major reasons why the annual Channel 6 Auction was first created in 1966. Each year since its inception, the Auction has helped provide the funds necessary for Channel 6’s needs in such areas as program research and development, production of local specials and series, the purchase of national shows, and the operation of the station at night and on weekends.

With this, the station’s 14th Annual Auction, we at Channel 6 are indeed proud to be involved with U.S. Home, Summer Valley Ranch, and its associates in the donation of the magnificent Sun Home. We owe a great debt of gratitude to everyone who has had a part in making the Sun Home possible.

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How to bid on the Channel 6 Sun Home.

All initial bids must be in writing using bid forms and applications available at the Channel 6 Sun Home. Anyone who has submitted a written bid may increase their bid by telephone anytime during the Auction week, March 30 to April 6. All written bids must be submitted either at the Sun Home or to Channel 6 no later than 12:00 noon, Friday, April 6, 1979.

All bidders will be contacted by telephone and invited to attend the final bidding which will take place on Friday evening, April 6, in the studios of Channel 6, 1261 Glenarm Place, Denver.

For more information, ask a hostess at the Sun Home or call the Channel 6 Auction line, 623-1829.
AUCTION HOMES 1979-1985

Auction Home 1979
Donor: US Home
Location: Aurora

Auction Home 1980
Donor: US Home
Location: Littleton, CO

Auction Home 1981
Donor: US Home
Location: Aurora, CO

Auction Home 1982
Donor: Alpert
Location: Aurora, CO

Auction Home 1983
Donor: Medema
Location: Aurora, CO

Auction Home 1984
Donor: Medema
Location: Littleton, CO

Auction Home 1985
Donor: Continental
Location: Littleton, CO
As of the publication date of this article (April 1, 2017), no photographs have been archived of Rocky Mountain PBS Auction homes sold after 1998.