

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 24, Issue 2

Newsletter

Summer 2016

From the President

Summertime has arrived in Iowa bringing with it many beautiful flowers of varying color.

Carla has been quite busy weeding the flower beds, applying new mulch and in general preparing them for new plantings. Deb and Terri helped to plant this year's addition of flowers, some perennials, some annuals to add beauty to our attractive landscaping.

Once again the flowers were donated by Piney Ridge in Johnston. They are so generous to give us flowers every year.

Many people enjoy walking around the museum, looking at the beautiful flowers, many taking pictures.

Our museum was open again this year on Saturday, June 18, during Johnston's Green Days.

Our new sign has been installed in front of the museum. Drive by and take a look. I think you will be as pleased as we are. Hopefully, now

Cont. on pg. 2



New Sign

The new sign was installed in May in front of the museum. Thanks to the generous donors that designated their donations for the sign, we were able to purchase it earlier than expected. The brick base still needs to be installed, and Al is working with the city to determine the specs required to do that.

We hope you will take time to drive past and check it out. Stop in and see the changes that have occurred inside the museum at the same time. We thank each of you who donated for this long awaited sign.



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President's message from pg. 1

people will know what this house is and it will encourage them to stop.

I will once again be setting up a tent at the Johnston Farmers Market when weather permits. Our hope is that by being more visible, we might bring in more members.

Thank you for your support,
Lois Waggoner, President

New Members

We have two new members since last reported: Tom & Rocky Hoke. Tom is from Johnston's class of 1966. We welcome you and thank you for joining the Historical Society.

Donations

Below are the individuals/foundations who have donated to the work of preserving the history of Johnston since the last newsletter. We would like to recognize these individuals:

Joseph V. Miller
Mr. & Mrs Richard Rock
Vivian Kinsey
Lois Waggoner
Elizabeth Van Zomeren
Questers Daisy & Button Chap 637
Johnston Class of 1964
Terri Holmgren
Howard Hunt
Frederick Schuler
Steven Noble
Piney Ridge Greenhouse

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation. Without your donations of money and/or items, we would not be able to maintain this vast history.

Donation of Flowers

Each year, Piney Ridge Greenhouse generously donates flowers for our flower beds. They allow us to come to the greenhouses any time after Memorial Day and select what we want to plant. Carla Johns and Deb Krambeck shop for flowers based on the need that year. We mix annuals with new perennials. This year Terri Holmgren joined Deb and Carla with planting. Carla works tirelessly in maintaining the flower beds, weeding, deadheading and watering them through the summer.

A big thank you to Piney Ridge, our good neighbor, and and even bigger thank you to Carla for her dedication to caring for them.

Museum Hours for the Johnston Station Historical Society

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
and the second Sunday of each month
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Please call the museum to schedule a time other than the times listed above. Museum phone 515-331-0687

Flagpole Update

Mike Knight is gathering information on flagpoles and will be bringing that knowledge to the board so we can determine the right flagpole for the museum. He is checking with the American Legion for recommendations of places to purchase. A flagpole with an internal lanyard would be best for our location. The class of 1964 has generously donated money towards this project but more funds are needed. This is a work in progress and we will keep you updated.

Green Days

The museum was open on Saturday, June 18 during Johnston's Green Days. We thank the board members, that gave of their time that afternoon to work the museum.

The New Cast Iron Range

The following story was found in our archives and was written in by Mrs. Eunice Heard. We hope you will enjoy going back in time and reading this:

It was an exciting morning, Father was home from a trip to Chicago. While there, he had gone to the World's Fair. In the exhibit building, he had seen a cast-iron cooking stove, called a range. He thought it was the finest thing at the 1893 Fair, and ordered one sent to us, and it would soon be here.

Mother had heard a little about these new-fangled stoves, and was not too impressed. Would it bake all right? Would it take too much fuel? She would see.

The stove arrived - a monstrous thing in Mother's eyes. Father showed her first a roll of oil cloth to make a rug to set the stove. Rolled it out, it looked just like the oil cloth on the kitchen table, but much prettier, and was such a pretty pattern, and it was free. The label called it "linoleum."

We children were scooted out on errands, to be out of the way while the stove was set in place and the stove pipe fitted. The girls were to take baskets to fill with wood-chips and corn cobs for kindling. The boys to fill the wood box with plenty of soft wood like ash and cottonwood for a quick fire. The hard-wood sticks of oak were to be stacked on the back porch. It would burn slowly. Then the boys could bring in water to fill the reservoir. This was a tank on the back end of the stove. They soon learned it would take four buckets of water to fill it. Later, they would be expected to do this every evening before going to bed.

Father said he saw one range at the Fair with a big water tank standing by the stove with the water pipes going in and out of the stove box to heat the water. He was sure Mother would find that tank a nuisance.

Mother opened the oven. Would it bake any better than the brick oven? A friend said she heard that you could test the new oven by throwing a teaspoon of flour on the oven floor, or laying a piece of butcher paper on the oven shelf, with a bit of dough on it. If it browned in 15 minutes, the oven was ready. She was sure she would like it better her old way. You held your hand in the oven and counted. If your hand was too hot by 30, the bread would burn. She liked to put her bread in on 25 count.

They all explored the fire box and liked it. The old stove had such a small grate it had to be fired constantly. Father watched Mother study the new warming oven, with the stove pipe right up the middle, and a nice hinged cover coming down over the door.

Now, won't that be a fine idea when we men come in late for supper? Father coaxed her, but she was not convinced. Probably they would never come in on time now, but she went to the cupboard for a box of broom straws we girls had made for her when the broom was new. She used them for cake testing. She also brought over her feathered turkey wing she used for dusting the stove, and placed them both in the warming oven shelf, where they stayed permanently.

We children clamored "Let's try it out right now," as Father carefully laid kindling for the fire. As it began to warm the stove, and the room, we chorused, "Let's get supper on it," and so we did.

New Cast Iron Range story cont.

Mother made a big pan of biscuits, and Father brought in a length of fresh sausage from the recent butchering, to be sliced and fried to make good gravy. Father and the boys hurried through the last chores and we girls set the table. What a feast it was!

Later, Mother sat in her rocking chair alone in the quiet kitchen. I think it will do, she told herself, but I must throw away all those old chipped enamel cooking pans and get new ones to go with it. And this linoleum, how nice it will be when we can set the wash tub right by the reservoir, and on the new linoleum when we bathe the children.

She carefully turned one of the stove lids upside down, brought a spoonful of cream from the pantry and poured it onto the soot collected there stirring it to a paste, then with a woolen rag, she rubbed it all over the top of the range, and polished it to perfection. Humming a little to herself, she blew out the lamp on the kitchen table and went to bed.

Johnston Station May be Renamed "Merle"

Big Dehydrated Plant and Post Office Result of Boom

Johnston Station, Merle Hay Road, suburb is booming. A \$25,000 dehydrated plant is to be built there this summer, and steps are being taken to change the name of the town to "Merle" in honor of Merle Hay, first Iowa soldier to die in the world war.

If the name is changed, which seems likely, a post office will be located there.

The Merle Hay Dehydrated Products company will erect the dehydrated plant.

It's officers are: Walter Simpson, president; W. H. Barnard, vice president; C. J. Hall, secretary and general manager; Sam Lee, director.

The Johnston station plant will be the second of its kind in the state. A similar plant was erected at Norwalk last year.

Copied from an article in the newspaper dated April 6, 1923

Johnston's Population Grows

Well, obviously the name change of our town did not occur, but I was thinking about the previous article and comparing it to the recent article in the Des Moines Register and other publications regarding the growth of Johnston at this time in 2016. A recent census was taken in Johnston and the results were announced that the town is now over 20,460 people, a more than 3,000 person increase since the 2010 census.

The article goes on to say that Johnston has had a boom in multi-housing development, with 85 building permits issued in 2010 and 395 permits issued in 2015. For single-family homes, 130 permits were issued in 2010 and 124 were issued in 2015. These huge multi-family housing units have changed the skyline as we know it in Johnston.

Population Growth continued...

* An assisted living home, Edencrest at Green Meadows opened May 25, 2016 at 6750 Corporate Drive. It is a 35,700 square foot facility and contains a Memory Care Unit also.

* Recently opened was The Garden Apartments, a 3 story, 72-unit multi-family housing development located at 5705 NW 57th Avenue. Once known as Fruitland Drive for many of us.

* Other new multi-housing developments in the works are the Cadence Apartments at 6300 Merle Hay Road. This is a three-story, 90 unit multi-family housing complex being built by Hubbell Realty Company. The location is on the west side of Merle Hay Road, directly across from the new senior apartments, named Cornerstone Commons.

* An even larger multi-family apartment building named The Residences at 6000 NW 62nd Avenue is in the construction phase at the moment. It boasts 137 unit multi-family apartments. This project is being built by PMR Realty Group. This replaced the once beautiful Stillwell home and nearby houses.



The Cadence Apartments



The Residences

In Loving Memory...

Lloyd Eugene Michael of Windsor Heights died at Methodist Hospital on May 12, 2016. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness and generosity and gentleness. He was always eager to help a neighbor and embrace his community. As a longtime member of Epworth Methodist Church, Lloyd taught Sunday School to high school students. He also drove the Grace Methodist church bus to pick up elderly members who needed transportation. Lloyd also served the community via the Johnston Historical Society and the American Legion.

Lloyd was born to Jerry and Nellie Michael on December 17, 1924. He was the second son in what would become a family of twelve children. He graduated from North High School in 1943 before enlisting in the U. S. Marine Corps. During WW II, Lloyd fought in the Battle of Tarawa and was part of the liberation of Guam. During one landing, his group had to swim to shore. Lloyd was able to help another Marine make it to shore when he struggled to swim.

Lloyd was a devoted family man who never hesitated to show pictures of or brag about his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. When the children were younger, he logged hundreds of hours playing card games, taking them swimming and having ice cream eating races on the way home. He was always eager to have a slice of pie and a good conversation.

Lloyd's legacy will be honored by his wife Ferne Bice Michaels of Windsor Heights, IA; his daughter, Kathrine Lauer (Eric) of Camano Island, WA; and a son Lloyd II (Ann) of Urbandale, IA; and daughter Marcia McPherrin of Johnston. He left 6 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Lloyd Michael with his wife Ferne were early pioneers helping to formalize the Johnston (Station) Historical Society. Ferne graduated from Johnston in the class of 1942. We owe much to both of them for their dedicated work in helping set up the Society in the early 1990's. Both of their military uniforms have been donated to the museum, and are displayed in our military room. Lloyd was in the Marines, Ferne in the Navy, both serving in World War II. They are both lifetime members of the Johnston Historical Society.

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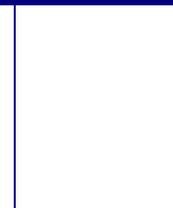
Worth Kenneth "Ken" Wallerstedt, another former JSHS member passed, from this life at the age of 91. Ken and wife, Pat Wallerstedt were members of the Johnston Historical Society and were very involved in the Historical Society at the time the Simpson House and Barn were moved to Northglenn Drive. Ken worked on the house and barn after the move for many weeks to help restore it. They also were both very interested in genealogy and came to meetings faithfully.

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. If anyone knows of others, please let Nancy know. Nancy can be contacted by mail: 6161 Northglenn Dr., Johnston, IA, 50131; by email: jshs@q.com; or by phone: 515-331-0687. Over 1,000 Johnston related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Relationship to Johnston	Date of Death
Richard Garland	Class of 1955	3-19-16
John J. Lint	Class of 1970	4-6-16
Michael E. Stocker	Class of 1969	5-9-16
C. Robert "Bob" Langebehn	Teacher	3-30-16
Lloyd Michael	Member JSHS	5-12-16
Worth Kenneth Wallerstedt	Past Member JSHS	6-2-16
Joseph Shore	Past Member JSHS	6-13-16
Ruth Cooper	Resident	2-29-16
Joann Wygle	Resident	3-1-16
Pamela Mithelman	Resident	3-5-16
Nicholas Anderson	Resident	3-7-16
Mary Davis	Resident	3-10-16
Donald Dory	Resident	3-12-16
Sister Darlene Schwarte	Resident	3-17-16
Dr. Anthony Sciorrotta	Resident	3-20-16
Bernard Coop	Resident	3-22-16
Phyllis Hall	Resident	3-30-16
Dale Erickson	Resident	4-25-16
John Isaacson	Resident	5-3-16
Janet Nissly	Resident	5-19-16
Marilyn Herrick	Resident	5-30-16
Irene Main Emerson	Former Resident	6-20-16

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Dr
Johnston, IA 50131



Johnston Historical Board Members

Lois Waggoner, President
Deb Krambeck, Secretary
Terri Holmgren, Archivist
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Michael Knight, Vice President
Nancy Budrevich, Treasurer
Marilyn Coonley, Membership

Museum phone: 515-331-0687
Website: www.johnstoniowahistorical.org

Mark Your Calendars

Society Events

November 3, 2016

Annual Chili Supper 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the lower level of the barn

City Events

May 24, 2016 -October 4,
2016

Johnston Farmers Market each Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in
City Hall parking lot