

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 19, Issue 1

Newsletter

January 2011

President's Column:

2010 was a good year for the Johnston Historical Society. We updated all of our displays and created others. Some displays are now on digital photo frames.

The outside flower gardens were beautiful and well cared for by Carla Johns, Jackie Reineke, and Jan Jensen. They spent a lot of time planting, cultivating and weeding the gardens.

Carla Johns developed a system for maintaining the fiscal reporting of the Society and preparing the treasurer's reports.



New Board

We welcome Chris Kinsey to the Board of Directors. Sharon Hyde will be serving her first full term on the Board. She previously filled a short term vacancy.

Dick Hyde, President

Wanda Slauson, Vice President

Jackie Reineke, Secretary

Carla Johns, Treasurer

Sharon Hyde, Board Member

Jan Jensen, Board Member

Chris Kinsey, Board Member

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Jan worked diligently on the proper preservation of our artifacts, pictures and documents. She is also working with Dick Tarlton on obituaries.

Jackie has been organizing the family history books, the business history books, and everything else that needed organizing. She is also instrumental along with Skyler Hyde in publishing the newsletter.

Sharon has worked on getting grants for the museum. In 2010 she obtained two grants. One for \$2700 for the preserving of artifacts. The other one for \$4000 to upgrade existing displays and creating new ones.

We have also had the advice and wise council of Board members Wanda and Marilyn who along with the rest of the Board have supported our monthly meetings.

We have had over 300 visitor's tour the Museum in the last year by being open Tuesday through Thursday and the second Sunday of each month.

It is our hope to have a better year in 2011 with the help of more volunteers. There is more work to be done; including redoing the front porch, getting items ready for display, and getting the basement cleaned up and organized. We have an old ice box and a wringer washing machine that need to be cleaned up and painted. It is our hope that with everyone working together we can accomplish these things in 2011.

We are currently working on getting a room on the 2nd floor set up for display of Johnston Public Safety items.

Johnston History Quiz

1. For many years which Johnston civic organization supplied Christmas trees and candy to every Johnston School classroom?
2. Early Johnston had how many blacksmith shops?

Answers on page 7

Good News 2010

The following are some good news items as highlighted in the Johnston section of the Des Moines Register:

- Johnston High School teacher Sarah Brown Wessling was awarded National Teacher of the Year.
- Construction began on a \$40 million, 200,000 sq.ft. Expansion to Pioneer Hi Bred's research facilities which will employ an additional 400 new employees.
- The Johnston Public Library welcomed its one-millionth patron in the fall.
- Ceremonies were held at Camp Dodge to send off nearly 3000 Iowa National Guard soldiers to serve our country in Afghanistan.

Class of 1949 8th grade photo



The following students in the photo started kindergarten and graduated from Johnston: Marilyn Baumen, Beverly Betz, Dolores Christenson, Wanda McDowell, Waneta McDowell, Margaret Otto, Wesley Eaton, Gene Foshe, Robert Shiffer, and Roger Wigton.

The Panora Speedway

Located in the Museum is a booklet entitled “Huebinger’s Map and Guide for the Panora Speedway. The Speedway Where You Can Speed.” It was published by Iowa Publishing Co., copyright date 1912.

The Speedway went from Des Moines to Guthrie Center by way of the Hyperion Club, Grimes, Dallas Center, and Panora. The term speedway was used because there was no speed limit on that stretch of road. The following is a quotation from this publication:

The Panora Speedway is destined to be one of the most traveled short roads in the State of Iowa, having its terminals the City of Des Moines and Guthrie Center.

Leaving the City of Des Moines, the motorist has five miles of brick paving along Beaver Road; eleven miles out he can linger for rest and refreshment at the Hyperion Club, the beautiful home of Des Moines’ best known and most popular field and motor organization, and then a straight shot west of 36 miles, over a road without a jog or turn and for the most part well graveled into the hospitable and enterprising town of Panora, for which the speedway was named.

The booklet contains maps, photographs and descriptions of each town along the speedway as well as a description of the Hyperion Club. It also contains many advertisements, an expense record page, and several pages of memoranda for the traveler to jot down notes.

Today speeding is no longer permitted on this stretch of road, but it still remains almost a straight shot from Des Moines to Panora. Stop by the Museum to view this interesting piece of history.

Heard Gardens Ltd.

Heard Gardens Ltd. can trace its roots back to 1928 when Clyde Heard started a nursery and landscaping business on Beaver Drive. In the mid 1930's Clyde established a mail order service for rare and unusual lilacs and flowering crabapples. In 1984 Clyde bred a lilac which bears his name.



Clyde Heard with Lilacs

In 1958, Bill Heard, Clyde's son, established Heard Gardens Ltd. On Merle Hay Road. His focus was on landscape architecture and landscape construction. This business grew rapidly and undertook numerous premier landscape projects throughout the Midwest. In 2001 Heard Gardens moved to its new location on Racoon River Drive in West Des Moines.

The Johnston Historical Society Museum is the recipient of Bill Heard's slide collection. A project is underway to put some of these slides on a digital picture frame for easy viewing.

Johnston Schools

Congratulations to the Johnston High School boys cross country team for their accomplishments. The team finished 8th in the state meet. This is the highest finish in school history. The team had three members that made the all conference team.

Johnston High School and Central Academy students Leah Bowman and Kyle Naig were named finalists in the Iowa State Bar Association's "Know Your Constitution" project. They are among 100 students selected from more than 1,500 entries across Iowa. All of the finalists were honored Friday at a luncheon held in West Des Moines. Five students and their teachers will be chosen in a random drawing to attend an all-expense paid, five-day educational trip to Washington, D.C., in February. It is not known at this time if either Johnston student was selected.

Johnston Bids Farewell to Long Time Police Officer

Johnston Police Sgt. Mike Martin retired after 21 years on the force. An open house was held at the Johnston City Hall on December 30th. The position left open by Sgt. Martin was filled by Jason Gudenkauf. The Johnston Historical Society would like to thank Sgt. Martin for his years of service to Johnston.



Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Dick Tarlton. This is a known list of deaths that Dick could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let Dick know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: JSHS@Q.COM or phone 515-331-0687. Over 700 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Reminders

The Johnston Historical Society is still in need of donations to refinish the front porch.

It is time to pay 2011 dues. They are \$12.00. Donations and dues may be sent to 6161 Northglenn Drive, Johnston, IA 50131.

If you would like the newsletter sent by e-mail, please email us at JSHS@Q.COM

Answers to History Quiz

1. Johnston Lion's Club
2. Two – Sam Hunt on 70th Avenue and Clyde Hunt on Merle Hay

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, February 13th

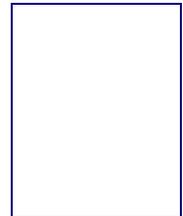
A History Show and Tell will be held at the Museum from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Members are asked to bring an artifact, photo, or story from their family history or the history of Johnston. Beverages and cookies will be served.

Wednesday, March 16th

Dick Hyde has once again agreed to prepare his famous corned beef and cabbage dinner in honor of St. Patty's Day. The dinner will be held in the Barn from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Guests are welcome. A free will donation will be accepted.

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