

Newsletter

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Secretary: Beulah Darling

Treasurer: Don Denman
Newsletter: Selma Duvick
Ray Schleibs

September Meeting

Sunday, September 26, 1999
4:00 p.m.
Crown Point Meeting Room

Speaker: Donald Zarley

Don grew up in Johnston, and will talk about the Zarley Family and growing up in Johnston

We'll have a Pot-luck Meal
Bring your table service
and a dish to share.

Guests are welcome!

July Meeting Report

Members met at Crown point for a potluck, and to visit with Irene Aulich, who with her husband Al is leaving the community. Unfortunately, Al was unable to be present.

End-Of-The-Century Fund-Raising Event!!

On Saturday, October 2, from 9 am to 5 p.m. JSHS Ways and Means Committee will sponsor a **SALE** at the Village Square Parking Lot, 5800 Merle Hay Road, in Johnston. (Same location as the Farmer's Market, courtesy of Denny Elwell).

The Society will have its own tables where you can donate things to be sold for our benefit. Price them yourself.

We are renting spaces for those of you who have items you would like to sell for yourself, such as CRAFTS, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES. Rent is \$5 per parking space. Provide your own tables, etc. for display.

For more information, or to rent a space, call Margaret Pennington, at 279-5321

¹ The Johnston (Station) Historical Society is an IRS 501 (c) (3) organization

Start Looking through closets and drawers for those items you'll never use-- and bring them to the sale to benefit JSHS!



August Meeting Report

Connie Maxwell, who is the new facilities coordinator for the city of Johnston, attended our meeting, and described the plans for improvements of Crown Point some of which are in progress, as well as activities which will take place there.

She is in charge of scheduling and planning for use of Crown Point which will meet community needs. A play school is planned, as well as classes for Community Education. And Crown Point is available for private groups as well.

The city is still looking for historic photographs of Johnston such as early buildings, scenes, school buildings and groups. These will be enlarged and used to decorate the rooms and hallways.

The JSHS will continue to meet at Crown Point. In addition, space has been made available for the Society to store artifacts and historical materials which we have acquired thus far. (It is hoped that some day we will have permanent quarters of our own in a house/museum.)

Bob Thomas announced that Don Denman has resigned as treasurer due to illness. We hope to have a new treasurer by the September meeting.

Judy Bogaard and Bob Johnson will begin plans to archive and catalog materials we have acquired thus far.

Ray Schleihs will investigate possibilities for organizations to fund replacement of the flagpole at Ridgedale Cemetery



From the President.....

I would be willing to bet that most of us (if we look back far enough) have had an agricultural background. I know that both of my parents were born on their family farm. Until the generation of both sets of grandparents, all ancestors before that had been farmers.

My dad's parents left the farm and turned it over to my uncle. My mom's parents left the farm and went out to North Dakota to start a business. Of my parents' siblings (16 in all), two on my dad's side and one on my mom's side became farmers.

This was fortunate for me. As a child I got to spend summer vacations riding horses, milking cows, slopping the pigs, plucking chickens and swinging on long ropes up in the barn at my uncles' farms.

Out of 26 grandchildren on my dad's side, one granddaughter married a farmer. Out of 6 grandchildren on my mom's side, one granddaughter married a farmer. The possibilities for visiting a farm are dwindling.

The bright side of this is that my brother, a city guy, became a farmer about ten years ago. Of course he's kept his city job. He

couldn't get by with just farming. Our childhood visits to the farm instilled a love of farming that his mid-life crisis turned into a reality. He and my sister-in-law have taken the hard route of raising animals, with a 300 ewe herd and about 100 head of Angus. They even raise 25 chickens just so their grandchildren can enjoy feeding them and collecting eggs.

Last month we had a family reunion and I was able to show my visiting granddaughters the wonders of the farm. They were thrilled to see the chicken pecking at their cast-off watermelon rind. They were horrified when they saw grandma offer a finger for an orphaned calf to suck.

As the farm, crisis gets more serious, we might find that the only place that children can enjoy a glimpse of farm life is at a dude ranch or at a petting zoo.

Mary Jane Paez



Homecoming

The JSHS will participate in the Johnston Schools homecoming festivities and parade on Thursday, September 30 at 6 p.m.

Thanks to Judy Bogaard for the use of her convertible!



A REMINDER

A teacher used to say, "A word to the wise is sufficient". Here is a Word to the Wise:

Last spring the Society voted to increase dues as of January 2000 to \$10 for an individual membership, \$12 for a family, and \$25 for a business.

If you renew your membership now for 1 or 2 or even 3 years, you'll save those dollars. Current dues are \$5.00 individual and \$6.00 family. Plus, early renewal makes it easier for us to keep our records up-to-date.

Renew Now! Send your check to Johnston (Station) Historical Society, P.O. Box 109, Johnston, Iowa 50131. (Be sure to note if a part of your check is a donation). Such a deal!!!



LOOKING AHEAD

Our October meeting on Wednesday, October 27, will feature a tour of the STARC (State Area Command) Armory, which has been arranged by Bob Thomas.

We will meet at the Armory at 3:00 p.m.

Directions: Go north on Merle Hay Road to N.W. Beaver Drive, turn left on N.W. Beaver Drive, go to the watertower opposite the entrance to Camp Dodge Pool, turn right and go down the hill until you see the Armory entrance.

This is an impressive complex, and the tour should be very interesting. Guests are welcome. Put this on your calendar.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Community Education Department of the Johnston Schools is promoting the formation of a formally organized Alumni Association for alums and former students of the Johnston Schools

They are looking for people willing to serve on the governing board of this association; if you are interested, call Nancy Buryanek at 278-0552.



In Memoriam

During the past summer JSHS and the community have lost descendants of early Johnston pioneer families in the deaths of Lowell Temple, (descendant of John Temple, who came to this area in 1865) , and Herbert Kuefner (son of Diedrich Kuefner , who came to Des Moines in 1856, and moved to Johnston in 1877).



Lowell Temple

Lowell Temple was born in Grimes, and lived in Johnston most of his life. He attended Johnston schools, and graduated in 1942. He was employed by Bridgestone-Firestone Tire Co. and was a Marine veteran of World War II. Lowell was interested in the history of this area, and was one of the original group who gathered to form the Johnston (Station) Historical Society. He was a charter member; he will be missed.

Lowell died on July 31, 1999. The JSHS sends its sympathy to his wife Mildred and to the rest of his family.

Herbert Kuefner

Herbert Kuefner was born in Polk County, and lived in this area all of his life. He attended the Friar country school, and graduated from Johnston High School in 1921. He was employed as a U.S. postal service clerk.

Herbert was a charter member of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society, and was interested in the history of this area. He could be counted on to remember details of events and places long past. We will miss him.

Herbert died on August 22, 1999. The JSHS extends sympathy to his family and friends.



Where did they come from ?

The pioneer settlers who came to the Johnston area in the middle of the 19th century came from many communities to make one community here.

Ezekiel Hunt and his family migrated to this area from Kentucky in 1846. The family was originally from England.

John Betz came to America from Germany in 1850, and to Polk County in 1853.

Edward Kinsey was born in Wales, and came to America in 1855.

John Temple came to this country from England in 1865.

Deidrich & Julius Kuefner were born in Cincinnati; their father came from Bavaria in Germany.