

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
Post Office Box 109
Johnston, Iowa 50131

NEWSLETTER

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President: Mary Jane Paez

Vice-Pres. & Programs: Judy Bogaard

Secretaries: Marlys Seibert & Pat Wallerstedt

Treasurer: Donald Zarley

Membership: Garland Seibert

Newsletter: Selma Duvick

March Meeting:

Sunday, March 23
4:00 p.m.

Crown Point Meeting Room
Program:

A Preview by Jon Duvick of the
Des Moines Choral Society's
production of
"Battle Cry of Freedom;
Iowa in the Civil War"

We'll have Potluck Meal.
Bring your table service and
A dish to share

(If potlucks don't appeal to you, come a bit
later, have some coffee with the group, and
enjoy the program)

Mary Jane Paez and Bob Thomas gave reports on progress of the renovation of the house and barn at our February meeting.

Johnston's Green Days event, which takes place June 12, 13 & 14, will present an opportunity for the JSHS to do some fund-raising. A number of suggestions included a craft activity for children, and a giant garage sale. There will be further information in the May Newsletter.

AND

Have you checked our website recently?
www.johnstonhistoricalsociety.com

From the President:

I recently completed a grant application for our project. This exercise enabled me to think about our timeline and what we have been able to accomplish. It is awesome.

We took over the house and barn in July 2001. Preparing both structures for the move, working with an architect, a structural engineer, and a landscape architect for the site plan and the city for approval of the site took nearly a year.

We moved both structures on June 26, 2002. Nine months later, what we have accomplished is even more awesome.

January and February Meetings:

After reports on house and barn at the January Meeting, Mary Jane Paez showed a video made at the time of the house and barn move. At times, it appeared that the move could not possibly happen, but as we watched, Harold Bissell and his team skillfully maneuvered both structures out onto the road, and eventually to the Johnston Commons site.

Some bitter cold days during the winter slowed down progress a bit but spring is about here and it's time to turn up the pace again. We have the funds to complete the concrete basement floor, cellar steps, concrete patio base and ground level barn floor.

Money is on hand to pay for the barn deck. This will all happen with the warmer weather. We need money to install heating and air conditioning systems in both structures and also to wire the barn for electricity.

It was amazing to watch Garland Seibert and Bob Thomas working along with the electrician as they carefully removed floorboards in order to snake wiring in through the floor joists to accommodate light fixtures, switches, and outlets throughout the house.

To date we have spent about 70% of our total budget. Fundraising has been done by direct solicitation of members, corporations and interested individuals. We received a Department of Natural Resources grant of \$1000 toward the planting of 25 trees on the site.

We also received a grant of \$34,979 from the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau that was used to put in all the rough plumbing lines (sewer and water) from the street to house and barn.

We have had garage sales, silent auctions, a book sale and a raffle. We have sold bricks for the patio to be inscribed with names. We continue to accept applications for these bricks to commemorate people, events or places.

In June, for the annual Green Days event we will be showcasing the house and barn and have another garage sale planned.

All in all, the Johnston (Station) Historical Society has worked wonders. We are close to reaching our dream.

Mary Jane Paez



Looking Ahead.....

The Annual Meeting of the JSHS will be on Wednesday, April 23, at the Crown Point Meeting Room.



Kinsey-Lawson Cemetery Pines

The city of Johnston has designated the red pine trees in Kinsey-Lawson Cemetery as Heritage Trees. Red pines are not native to this state, and the trees appear to have been brought to Iowa from Ohio in 1848 by the Snodgrass family. Twelve Snodgrass children are buried in the cemetery, testifying to the hazards of childhood in those times.

The Johnston Historical Society has received a certificate from the City naming the trees as a Snodgrass Memorial.



Jeanne Hansen: Citizen of the Year

The Johnston Chamber of Commerce recently honored Jeanne Hansen, and

named her Johnston Citizen of the year.

Jeanne, a journalist by profession, has been keeping the community informed since the 1960's when she first put out a mimeographed newsletter for the school community. Later she became reporter, editor and writer for a local newspaper, the Northern Polk County News.

More recently, she has been one of the driving forces behind the financing and construction of the new Johnston Library.

Jeanne and her husband Merton, both Charter members of the Johnston Historical Society, have been residents of Johnston since 1949; Merton was named Johnston Citizen of the Year in 1986.
Congratulations to the Hansens!



BRICKS FOR THE BARN PATIO

The first order for bricks has been sent to the inscriber; we hope to have the patio base poured later this spring, and to be able to put the bricks in place.

It is still possible to order bricks. Remember that these are century-old bricks from the Simpson house foundation. For an order form, send a request to the Johnston Historical Society, PO Box 109, Johnston, Iowa 50131. Or make your own form as follows:

Two lines, fourteen letters each, and spaces and punctuation count as letters.

Recent Brick Orders:

Jack Hauser:
Owen and Beulah Hauser
Jerry and Jack Hauser

Ferne Michael
Bert & Veronica McGrane

Garland & Marlys Seibert

Richard Tarlton
Jo & Ernie Beck
The Tarlton Family

Elnora Masters
Elnora Masters
Ron & Susan

Marilyn & Bob Finney
Carl & Cecile Bauman

The Betz Family
Robert H. Betz
Virginia S. Betz

New Members

W elcome to new members:
Harold & Kris Bullington
Des Moines, Iowa

Contributions:

Mary Jane & Alix Paez

Ferne Michael
In memory of Jo Beck



EVENTS CENTER KIOSK

P lanners for the Event Center now under construction in Des Moines have asked the Johnston Historical Society for suggestions for events in Johnston's history

to be displayed in a Johnston kiosk in the Hall of Pride.

A list of Johnston-related events, places and people was developed for use on the clay tiles now to be seen on the stone monuments on the corners at NW 86th Street and NW 62nd Avenue. (See September 2001 issue of the Newsletter.)

If readers have suggestions for events, people, etc. which might be suitable for such a display, let us know.

Thirty Years Ago in Johnston

Basketball

In March of 1973, the Johnston Boys Basketball team went to the State Tournament in Des Moines; a first for a boys' team although girls' teams had gone in 1934 and 1935.

At that time there were two classes; Johnston had to win seven playoff games to get to the tournament in Class A.

The team was defeated, first by HMV-Victor, and then by Solon, and came home with the 4th Place Trophy. They were escorted back to Johnston by fire trucks and police cars, with sirens and flashing lights.

Blizzard!!

A snowstorm that began with a few flakes on Sunday, April 8 turned into a raging blizzard that dumped more than 12 inches of snow in Johnston. It was a heavy snow that drifted badly in strong winds, and the community was at a standstill for several days.

Your editor remembers it well, for our trusty plowman, Dick Dunn, not anticipating that he might be needed at this late date, had removed the plow from his truck and gone off to guard camp. We shoveled much of our long driveway by hand.

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In Memoriam

Joanne S. Eppich

Joanne S. Eppich of Farmington, NM died on January 21, 2003. She grew up in Johnston, and graduated from Johnston High School and from Iowa State University in 1942.

In 1943 she moved to New Mexico, where she taught home economics. She was a member of the Johnston Historical Society.

The JSHS extends sympathy to her husband, her children and grandchildren, and to her brother, Raymond Schleihs of Johnston, and sister, Shirley Adams of Des Moines.

Josephine Beck

Josephine (Jo) Tarlton Beck, longtime Johnston resident, died on February 11, 2003. She had been employed at Camp Dodge, at the Ankeny ordinance plant during WW II and later at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, from where she retired.

She was a Charter member of the Johnston Historical Society.

The Johnston Historical Society sends sympathy to her son, Richard Tarlton, her foster sister Beulah Bettony, and to the rest of her family.

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