

**JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O.Box 109 Johnston, Iowa 50131**  
**6161 Northglenn Drive - in Johnston Commons Park**

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President: Mary Jane Paez      Treasurer: Robert Thomas  
Vice President/Programs: Judy Bogaard  
Membership: Garland Seibert      Secretary/Newsletter: Marlys Seibert

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**From the President -**

Ray Schleihs recently called me to express a concern that perhaps we were losing some of Johnston's history when someone passes away and their heirs don't realize the importance of some artifact as they sort through their inheritance. I agreed with his concern.

I remembered that as Josie Magonegil was battling cancer, she also sorted through her treasurers with her daughter, Jeannie, and set aside items of interest for us. We are so fortunate for her foresight.

Ferne Michael has brought in another picture from Camp Dodge and a number of post cards relating to Camp Dodge.

Ray Schleihs brought in a carved wooden sign that he has had in safekeeping. It is the sign that hung over the door at the Presbyterian Church that was located adjacent to Ridgedale Cemetery. The sign is dated 1889. We have hung the sign in the front hall and will have a picture of the church along with its history framed below the sign.

We have received two sets of wooden plan cases that the City donated to us. We also got a set of topographical maps that were no longer needed. The cases will be very helpful for displaying exhibits.

Helen Favre, a member of the 1935 girls basketball team that was in the State Tournament, stopped by and has donated some artifacts from that historical team. Helen now lives in Missouri and came to Des Moines to cheer on the 2006 girls basketball team at this year's State Tournament.

Jan Thran has donated her collection of antique irons. She also crocheted a replica of an apron that her farmwife mother wore when she hosted her CLUB.

Mert and Jeanne Hansen donated an ox yoke and numerous pictures relating to HyLine Chicks.

We continue to have the monthly open house every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00. We look forward to your visit to your museum.      Mary Jane Paez

In a message dated 2/13/2006 7:57:50 P.M. Central Standard Time, [Dicks66service@aim.com](mailto:Dicks66service@aim.com) (a.k.a. Dick Tarlton) writes that he would like to have this message sent along in this newsletter:

"Yes I would like to keep trying on the "where are they". Here is the next set but don't forget the first group either!

As Mrs. Ballou would say, "Now children, get your thinking caps on"! We need as much information as we can get on graduates listed as well as about anyone else you would like to tell us about. We can use birth date, death date and where it occurred, married names and any information that would help us locate and identify graduates. Specifically we are looking for information this newsletter on:

Jean Edinburn Owen (Class of 1935)	Arlene Horner (class of 1943)
Helen Van (class of 1943)	Evelyn Manny (class of 1945)

Here are a few terribly hard questions that you can find the answers to at the Johnston Station Historical Museum. Call, write, E-mail, or **best** way is to come and visit.

1. What were Johnston's school colors before purple and gold and when did they change?
2. What retired school teacher passed away two weeks before her 106th birthday?
3. What couple graduated, married each other, both worked for the school, had three children graduate from Johnston (one of which still lives here). Name the parents and the kids.
4. At the peak of schools in the County, how many schools were represented at the Polk County Basketball Tournaments that were held in West Des Moines? Name them.

Just a couple more thoughts before you fall asleep reading this: If you have the time and energy, do yourself a favor and come to the museum. (If nothing else but just to look at the graduation class pictures on display from 1920 on). If you don't get a lump in your throat and a tear now and then, something is wrong. Take in the rest of the displays which are fantastic and then please thank the ones that made it all possible. Some aren't with us any more so don't wait too long on the ones that are still here. Secondly, I have spent a little time researching, plus grew up here so I know a lot of the senior citizens. We all think we had the greatest graduation class ever (I hope you feel that way) but I gots to tell you, that class of 1942 sure would be tough to beat. There! I said it! "  
-----Dick Tarlton

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*Jerry Gorden is usually at the Historical site on Tuesday mornings. However, there are times when he cannot be there and if you wish to see him, please phone the house at: (515)331-0687 or call Jerry at (515)276-5671 to be certain. Thanks.*

**\*\*\*Keep Green Days dates in mind: June 15-18, 2006** There will be activities at the house and barn as well as crafts for kids.

We need help to catalogue old newspapers, items therein, and simply routine general light tasks in the museum. **JSHS Wish List: copy machine; tape recorder; I-pod, DONATIONS! VOLUNTEERS!!**

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**DEATHS:** We lose a Charter member

In early Feb. I learned that a good friend, Mary Johnson, had passed away. Mary was among the first people I met when we first moved to Johnston in 1970. It turned out that we had grown up in the same neighborhood in Minneapolis, gone to the same parochial school and graduated from college with the same degree in botany.

Mary took me under her wing and showed me the ropes in the Des Moines area. When my youngest was born, she made sure that the two older kids had special treatment too. She and her husband, Mark, had a wonderful garden that they freely shared. We looked forward particularly to their asparagus and concord grapes. We worked together on many projects in the garden club. Mary always had other pet projects that she would enlist the aid of friends to help her accomplish. I found that I wasn't the only one who sewed many bibs to help with her involvement at Broadlawns Hospital and the Children Habilitation Center.

Mark and Mary moved from Johnston in 1999 to Arizona. They moved back to Nebraska to be closer to Mark's family in 2002. Mary had many health problems. I am happy that she no longer has to suffer. I will miss her.

Mary Jane Paez

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**NEW MEMBERS:** *Katie Hawkins of Des Moines*

*Jim and Pat Tharp of Johnston, IA*

**BRICKS:** *by Vivian Kinsey, to read: P. & V. Kinsey*

*Alan & Craig*

*Jim - Pat Tharp and Family*

**DONATIONS:** Dick and Joyce Betz  
Richard and Betty Franklin

**Meetings:** *March 26, April 26, May 24; June 28. Open House is held on the second Sunday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.*

**Of interest to some would be the Web site [www.iowaghosttowns.com](http://www.iowaghosttowns.com) where one can discover information about the thousands of once-thriving communities that have vanished from the state's landscape. Perhaps one fits into your family's genealogy.**

**PLEASE!!** *Send us your interviews, family histories, or other pertinent information for the files we are building. Better yet, come see what we have to give you ideas of what you can share with us.*

*Does anyone have any information about Waneta Major? The last good address we had for her was: 819 E. Wagener in Phoenix, AZ*

## CHARTER MEMBERS OF JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BECK, Ernest\* and Josephine\*  
BETZ, Raymond  
BETZ, Richard  
BETZ, Virginia\*  
BOGAARD, Judy  
CARLSON, Bessie\*  
DENMAN, Donald\*  
DUVICK, Selma and Don  
FREISTAD, Yvonne Gay\* and Louis Jr.\*  
GILBERT, James and Jean  
GOSS, David Jr. and Patricia  
HETH, Karl  
JOHNSON, Mark and Mary\*  
JOHNSON, Robert and Shirley  
KEVER, Shirley  
KINSEY, Orval\*  
KUEFNER, Gladys\*  
KUEFNER, Herbert\*  
MICHAEL, Ferne and Lloyd

ORLICH, Dushan\* and June  
OTTO, Robert\* and Elizabeth\*  
PAEZ, Alix and Mary Jane  
PENNINGTON, Meyer\* and Margaret  
ROBERTS, Charles\* and Mary Ann  
Rong, William "Scott" and Dawn  
SCHLEIHS, Raymond and Vivian  
SCHLENKER, Raymond  
SORENSEN, Melba\*  
TEMPLE, Lowell\*  
THOMAS, Bob and Jean  
VAN DYKE, Myrtle  
VIGNOVICH, Droga\*  
WAKEFIELD, John and Delores  
WALLERSTEDT, Patty and Ken  
WINTER, Jim and Margaret  
ZORN, Steven and Barbara

\*deceased

**\*\*Remember:** We still like to add commemorative bricks (\$85 per brick with 14 letters/spaces per line, two lines. Memberships are \$10 single and \$12 family. Lets increase our membership base\*\*

## CHEERS

The Johnston Dragons Girls' basketball team qualified for the State Tournament in Class 4-A which was held at the new Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines on March 8, 2006. Coming into the tournament they had a season record of 16-8. They were eliminated by Cedar Rapids Prairie by a score of 47-33 in the opening round. The last time a Johnston team played at the state tournament level was in 1935, when the team came to the state tourney at Drake University Field House with a record of 15-6-1. This team also was beaten in a first round game with Grundy Center, the score being 22-16. Mary Hawkins was State Basketball Queen.

In 1934 the Johnston Girls had qualified for the State Tournament winning in the sectionals over Sheldahl with a score of 55-12 and a season record of losing only 3 games. This was the last year of the three-court game, and the first time a Polk County team placed among the winners, taking third place with a win over Bondurant and a score of 19-11. It was the first time a Girls' State Tournament beauty queen was named and the winner was Johnston's Geneva Horner.

## Johnston Girls to Seek 1935 Laurels



Left to Right: Luellen Erickson, Angelyna Rastovac, Eva Rastovac, Irene Fisher, Mary Hawkins, Helen Stice, Joanne Schleihs, Winifred Brackett, Wilma Kinsey, Margaret Kinsey and Emily Newlin. Johnston had two candidates for Queen of the Iowa State Girls Basketball Tournament; Luellen Erickson and Mary Hawkins with Mary declared the winner. Other girl candidates were: Estle Scroggie, Conway; Florence Hill, Farrar; Lillian Lundquist, Stratford; and Marcella Graham, Wellsburg.

In a three court game, each team has two guards, two centers and two forwards, and the basketball floor was divided into three sections. Only forwards could shoot, and a center jump followed each basket. Guards and centers could not stray from their sections. Guards and centers threw the ball to the forwards, and after each score it went back for a center jump, which slowed the game and held down the score. Geneva Horner was the Basketball Queen. Margaret Schlenker and Geneva Horner were Des Moines Register first team; Mary Lathrum was a second team choice.

In photo on the next page the basketball team is pictured.

Front row, left to right: Mary Lathrum, Mary Hawkins, Eva Rastovac, Helen Stice, Catherine Sides, Luellen Erickson. Back row, left to right: Lavonne Carlson, Winifred Brackette, Margaret Kinsey, Margaret Schlenker, Geneva Horner, Evelyn Temple, Miss Clover VanBenthysen, Coach

*Johnston Girls to Compete Here 1934*



**The Johnston Dragons Boys' Basketball team also qualified for the state tournament in Class 4-A. They were defeated in the first quarter-final game against Pleasant Valley.**