

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

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Email address: <a href="mailto:JSHS6161@aol.com">JSHS6161@aol.com</a>	Telephone: (515)331-0687	<b>JSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization</b>
President: Mary Jane Paez		Treasurer: Robert Thomas
	Vice President/Programs: Judy Bogaard	
Membership: Garland Seibert		Secretary/Newsletter: Marlys Seibert

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President's Column for March, 2007

We are continuing to make good progress at the museum! So many people are involved with making our exhibits better.

Garland and Mariys Seibert, along with Bob Thomas and Dick Hyde are finishing up the refurbishment of the carousel of class pictures dating back to the first class of 1920. The clearly labeled pictures are now protected for the future. Dick Tarlton has also had a hand in this project.

Shirley Adams and Virginia McGinn have been working to create more displays. New pictures are in the display cases at Crown Point and in the Simpson Barn. The pictures show scenes of places or events in the history of Johnston.

The History of Johnston power point presentation has been updated and expanded as more information and pictures become available. The Fruitland Brennan Improvement League (residents around the area of NW 55<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues) and the McAuley Terrace residents enjoyed the history presentation. The Johnston Lions Club wants the presentation to be viewed at their annual pancake breakfast on May 12<sup>th</sup>. We'll also have it going during Johnston Green Days, June 14-16, as well as April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Martina Place and April 12<sup>th</sup> at Crown Point.

A \$500 grant has been received from Pioneer Hi-Bred International. We have been using Bob Thomas' laptop computer to give the presentations. With the grant from Pioneer, we will be looking for a laptop that will allow us to have "portability" of our various programs.

Ray Schleihs did the research about Post Offices in the area dating back to 1888. His sister, Shirley, contacted the current Postal officials to update the data. We found a picture of the Post Office when it was located at the north end of the strip mall on Merle Hay Rd. and Murray Circle. Since the Grimes Post Office was involved in our history of the postal system, when they had Rural Free Delivery (RFD) routes in Johnston, they are interested in our research. We are preparing three displays: one for our use, one for Grimes Post Office and one for the Johnston Post Office.

The next display to be finished by Shirley and Virginia will be about the Inter-Urban. It will feature a large map, photos and even train tracks. Polk County has a program of court sentenced community service. For a number of years, the county has carefully selected people who could help us the most with their skills. We have had skilled carpenters, drywallers, painters, and other craftsmen who have applied their expertise to our project. We have now graduated to a different level of skills that are needed. We are now assisted by people with computer skills, such as data entry or video editing. We are always in need of volunteers to assist with accession lists, sorting of pictures and files, and creating scrapbooks of their finds. Let's not have the court sentenced people know more about our history than our own members. Give Bob Thomas a call @ 491 2521 and volunteer a few hours to sorting and listing. You will learn a lot!

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**A Memorial gift** in memory of James C. Seibert by the Tarlton Family - \$25

**BRICKS:** Waneta & Wanda McDowell  
Dale & George McDowell

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***?DOES ANYONE HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING:***

Harvey and Clyde Hull - brothers who rented land (to others ?) as well as farmed in the Camp Dodge area

Information regarding stage lines and coal mines in Johnston

Did Albert and Eleanor Sellner build their house across from Hyperion?  
If a structure was already at that location, was it the old post office that had an addition put on to accommodate family living?

Stories relating to the stage lines and coal mines in Johnston

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**WANTED:** *Written histories of local groups such as the churches; The Fruitland/Brennan Improvement League; Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, or a story about your family whether a long-time or more recent resident of the community. -You get the idea! Everything and everyone is a part of the history of the Johnston. That includes you and your story.*

## **Johnston Community School Foundation Announces 2007 Hall of Fame Inductees**

The Johnston Community School Foundation is proud to announce the fourth class of inductees into the "Alumni Hall of Fame" and "Educator Hall of Fame." In addition, the 2007 Foundation Award recipients for Student, Educator and "Friend of the District" have also been selected. All will be honored at a Hall of Fame Banquet on Friday evening, April 13 at Johnston High School.

Three individuals will be inducted into the "Alumni Hall of Fame." Those being honored are Garland Seibert (Class of 1954), Ron Clarkson (Class of 1974), and John Arthur (Class of 1978). All three individuals are alumni who have given back to their community and profession in an exemplary manner.

An individual being inducted into the "Educator Hall of Fame," who touched the lives of many students, is Anne Koth. Her years of service were from 1986 to 2001.

Six additional individuals will also be honored during the banquet. The 2007 Student(s) of the Year awards will be given to Scott Cronin, Emily Kuster, and Grace Meiners.

Educators being honored as 2007 Educator(s) of the Year are Nancy Schwartz and Deb Wych. Mary Miller is being honored as "Friend of the District" for her contributions to the school district.

The Johnston Community School Foundation will honor these individuals during the Hall of Fame Banquet held at Johnston High School on Friday, April 13. A reception begins at 6 p.m. and a buffet-style dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the program to follow.

Banquet tickets may be purchased at the Johnston Administrative Resource Center, Johnston Charter Bank, Johnston Hy-Vee, Johnston Public Library, and Polk County Bank. Banquet tickets may also be reserved with a Visa or MasterCard by calling 278-0470. The tickets are \$25 per person. Tables for 8 can also be reserved.

A raffle will also be held to help raise funds to continue the efforts of the foundation. Raffle tickets can be purchased through the school offices after April 2.

The Johnston Community School Foundation supports programs that offer opportunities for students reaching beyond the scope of our school system's regular funding limits. In addition, the foundation is more than a booster club or scholarship organization in that it provides a framework for both one-time gifts and long-term giving from local businesses, community residents and alumni.

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**YEARBOOKS:** *The JSHS currently **HAS** these copies of annuals/yearbooks:*

1928    1936    1940    1947    1947-48    1949 through 1959

1962 through 1967    1969 through 1977    1979    1986    1987    1988

1992 through 2006    *We would like to complete this collection and would gladly accept your contribution of any annuals, especially for those missing years.*

*Duplicates will be shared with The Johnston School Library which also has a partial collection. Thank you for any help in this endeavor.*

***REGULAR MEETING:*** Sunday, March 25, 2007, 4:00 P.M. at the Simpson House

***Annual Meeting:*** Wednesday, April 25, 4:00 P.M.

***Regular meeting:*** Wednesday, May 23, 4:00 P.M.

***OPEN HOUSES:*** 2:00 TO 4:00 P.M. the second Sunday of each month.

## A LOOK BACK --

JSHS - Ten years ago: The new gate and entrance sign had just been erected at Ridgedale Cemetery on Beaver Drive. A similar gate and sign were in the planning stage for Valley View Cemetery. In working with the city on gravesites at the Ridgedale Cemetery, Ferne Michael and Bob Thomas had discovered that there were many recorded burials which could not be located on site. Over the years, markers had been broken, damaged or removed.

JSHS - Five years ago: The Society had just come to an agreement with the City of Johnston, whose main concern was that the structures would be moved to the park and the project abandoned. That certainly did not happen!! Madilyn Allender was named 'Johnston Citizen of the Year'. Wes Jordan was named 'Johnston Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year'. Bessie Lundstrom Carlson and Robert Otto died in January and February, respectively, in 2002. Both were Charter Members of the JSHS and Bob Otto was, in a real sense, the "founding father" of the Historical Society.

In the next five years we hope to have increased our membership base, as well as raised the necessary funds to put new siding and windows on the house (which is a high priority), and to have made an even greater impact on the community and schools. This is a great resource for information that can be utilized by all.

We have need of helpers - It might be just an hour every once in awhile that can make a great deal of difference. Like all houses, we do get a little dust here and there (!) Perhaps just dropping by to share what expertise you might have in labeling, sorting, 'clipping', or just to visit - bringing friends, relatives and neighbors to see what you are a part of. Everyone should be proud of what we have. And it is going to get better!

*"It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." Kahlil Gibran*

**"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." Ralph Waldo Emerson**

### JUST A BIT OF HUMOR:

There was a not-too-bright city fellow who decided to become a counterfeiter. He hired an engraver of equal intelligence, and they proceeded to produce some counterfeit money. By some mix-up, the money turned out to be \$11 bills. Not wanting to waste the effort, the crook decided to head to an isolated town, where he figured he could cash them. He went into the small country store and asked the clerk, "Got change for an \$11 bill?" "Sure do," the clerk said. "Would an 8 and a 3 be okay?"

A deer and antelope were out playing on the range. The antelope stuck up his head suddenly. "What's wrong?", the deer asked. The antelope answered - "I thought I just heard a discouraging word."

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A manufacturing plant had outgrown its facility and was going to construct a new building at another location. The person in charge of the groundbreaking ordered a floral arrangement for the occasion. When the crowd gathered for the event, they saw that the ribbon on the arrangement read "Rest in Peace". Everyone got a laugh out of the mistake. The florist was called and told how everybody had gotten a chuckle out of what happened. The embarrassed florist apologized and said the people at the funeral, for which that arrangement was intended, didn't take the mistake quite so well. The ribbon on those flowers read "Congratulations on Your New Location".

ENJOY SPRING \*\* HAPPY EASTER

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**Membership renewals are now due:  
YES, renew my (our) membership to the Johnston Historical Society.  
Single membership \$10\_\_\_\_ Family Membership \$12**

**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Engraved Brick orders are always available: two lines of fourteen spaces each line.  
\$85 per brick**

**Please Mail all payments and correspondence to:  
Johnston Historical Society P.O.Box 109 Johnston, IA 50131**

**A big THANK YOU to those of you who have already renewed for the  
current year of 2007**