

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 22, Issue 3

Newsletter

Fall 2014

Current Events

The Museum is scheduled to be painted by Peterson Painting from Des Moines sometime this fall. Nancy and Carla have been instrumental in obtaining three bids for the paint job. We went with the lowest bid, but also a company that had been highly recommended for their quality work. All trim will be painted including the pillars in front. Some of the storm windows glass had to be replaced due to cracks or breakage.

A decision has not been made on a new storm door for the front.

Denny Elwell sent a man to check our back door. It was determined that the door just needs some minor repairs and painting which will eliminate an unneeded cost at this time.

We anticipate the upcoming celebration for the Johnston School's Centennial. We want to set up a table near the alumni registering to advertise the Johnston Historical Society. We are in hopes of getting more members. Details still need to be worked out for that.



Gold Star Museum Tour for Members

We have scheduled a tour for our members on Thurs., September 18, 2014 at 2:00 for the Gold Star Museum in Camp Dodge. If you are interested in taking this tour, please arrive at the JHS Museum by 1:45, and we will travel to the Gold Star Museum together. Following the tour, we will return to the museum for refreshments. Hope to see many of you there.

Annual Garage Sale Results

The annual Garage Sale was held July 11 & 12 in the Simpson Barn. It was a busy three days for those of us that worked. We made a profit of \$1,284.80. This will help with the painting project scheduled for this fall.

Thank you to all members that generously donated items. Also thank you to the Board Members that gave of your time to work the sale. They were Nancy Budrevich, Carla Johns, Jan Jensen, Lois Waggoner and Deb Krambeck. A special thank you to Jerry Jensen who used his pickup to haul items for us. He also helped carry items from the basement and then again to the truck. Clean-up day brought another husband to our rescue. Jackie Johns helped with the cleanup in the Barn.

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By the time you receive this, the new Public Safety Building for Johnston will have had their open house and be in operation. This new facility which houses both the Police and Fire departments has the latest state of the art equipment and facilities to help both departments function more efficiently.

Farmers Market

We continue to set up a booth at the Johnston Farmers Market. Thanks to Lois and Nancy for their dedication to making the Historical Museum visible.

If you go to the Farmers Market, stop by the tent and say hi to whoever is working that day. The market is open from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

Current School News Johnston High School Girls Softball Team

We congratulate the Johnston High School girls' softball team for representing our town and school in the recent Class 5A state softball tournament. The top-ranked Johnston Dragons (37-3) scored nine runs in the first four innings to beat CIML rival Southeast Polk 10-2 at Rogers Sports Complex in Fort Dodge on Friday, July 25, 2014. This year they took home the first place trophy. Last year they came in second losing to Dowling Catholic.

Brooke Wilmes hit a second-inning grand slam, drove in five runs and scored four times Friday night. She was named captain of the all-tournament team. Also named to that team were Johnston's Addy Pender and Brooke Sandstone.

Johnston also won the state title in 2009.

Donations

Below are the individuals/foundations who have donated to the work of preserving the history of Johnston since the last newsletter. We would like to recognize these individuals:

Denny Elwell
Judy Christy
Deb Krambeck
Lois Waggoner

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation. The Johnston Historical Society could not survive and continue to preserve the valuable history at the museum without you.

It was suggested by a member that we begin keeping 10% of all donations for an Emergency Fund. This would be money given above and beyond the annual membership fee. The Board of Directors voted to begin this procedure and have begun the implementation.

Signage Needed for Museum

We are currently trying to get estimates for the placement of a sign near the street for the Johnston Historical Museum. We currently do not have one. It was suggested using the bricks that are currently stored in the museum basement that came from the old Merle Hay Road as a base. One sign company said that would be too costly. We are checking with some others, to get an idea of what this project might cost. We are looking at all options. We have the required specs from the city. Lois and Deb are looking into this. We know we cannot afford this expense this year, but can take this forward as a project for the future.

Three Generations of William F. Peterson Family attended Johnston Schools



Bill and Irma with Billy and Liz



Mike

As we celebrate Johnston School's Centennial this year, it seems appropriate to write an article on a family from Johnston that touched many people over the years through their involvement with the Johnston School and community.

William F. Peterson, born in 1910, was raised in Johnston, Iowa and attended Johnston School. His sister, Betty (Peterson) Fisher, born in 1912 also attended Johnston and was named salutatorian of the class of 1929. William, better known as Bill was from the class of 1928, the first class to have a school annual, then called the *Blue and Gold*. These two graduates were just the beginning of an entire family to graduate from Johnston.

William, whom I will refer to as Bill in the remainder of the story, met the love of his life, Irma Richardson who would graduate with the class of 1931. They married after Irma graduated and from this union, three children were born: William J. Peterson graduated in 1952, Elizabeth A. Peterson graduated in 1955, and Robert Michael Peterson graduated in 1971.

William J. (Billy) Peterson married Barb Wagner and they had two children, a boy named William and girl named Rebecca. Billy began his career at Western Electric and later transferred to Denver, CO where he remained the rest of his life. Billy passed away in 2009.

Elizabeth (Liz), married Richard McCarl and from that union a son was born, Richard V. McCarl. He would become the third generation to graduate from Johnston in 1975. Liz and Richard currently live in Johnston.

The youngest of Bill and Irma's children, was Robert Michael Peterson, known as Mike, was married and had a daughter Christen. Mike lived in Johnston before passing away in April, 2014.

Bill was popular in high school, and was quoted in his senior high school annual as saying his favorite pastime was taking freshman girls out in his Ford. One of those freshman girls, must have been the pretty Irma Richardson.

Bill was found in a picture of students that represented Johnston at the Dairy Congress in Waterloo, he was captain of his football team playing the quarterback position, played baseball and basketball. Irma was in the Home Making class and played basketball.

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Bill was in the National Guard while in high school. After school, he went to work for the Johnston School, but quit to join the Army, where he would serve in WWII, serving overseas for 23 months, much of that time in Germany. He became the first soldier to ever receive two purple hearts for the same injury. Bill spent a year in the hospital in England and was not expected to live, so the Army sent the first purple heart to his wife Irma. Private Bill Peterson also received two stars for his injuries sustained in battle. Fortunately he did survive and received another purple heart when he was honorably discharged from the Army.

Upon his return to civilian life, Mr. Charles Varner, Superintendent of Johnston School asked him to come back to his job as custodian of the school. In those days, Bill would become the person maintaining the boiler system, electrical work, and plumbing plus general custodian duties. He also worked as a bus driver with a regular route plus drove for special trips such as music and athletic events.

He became an integral part of the school system. At that time there was one building so all staff and teachers interacted and were a close-knit community in itself. Bill had a unique dry sense of humor that was enjoyed by all who knew him. In an article written about Bill in the 1969 annual, it said, "He was the type of person who, when the occasion called for action, would discipline students, supply an endless stream of stories, rescue a kitten from the building rooftop, threaten to lock the boiler room if students and teachers did not behave and offered kindness and understanding to everyone who needed it."

In his spare time he enjoyed hunting and fishing and in later years became involved in Little League, coaching the team that no one else wanted. He had multiple crafts and even helped with the concrete work when the Johnston Federated Church was built. At one time, he was a Johnston Constable for the Sheriff's office. This was long before Johnston became a city so we were under the Polk County Sheriff's jurisdiction for law enforcement. His daughter, Liz, said he was known for his soft heart and was unable to enforce the reason for stopping those individuals, as he was everyone's friend. Bill passed away in 1969 at the age of 59.

Irma raised three children, worked in the kitchen at the school and later worked and retired as a secretary for Pioneer Hi-Bred Co. Irma passed away in 1992 at the age of 79.

It has been my pleasure and joy to write about this Johnston family that I knew personally growing up in Johnston. Although they are not the only family that has graduated three generations, it is unique.

As I mentioned earlier, 1928, the year Bill graduated was the first year for an annual, named the *Blue and Gold*, so it is quite significant in the school's history. The Peterson family has donated an original copy of this historical book. We thank them for this treasured piece of school history that we have placed in the Johnston Historical Museum.

Information provided by Liz (Peterson) McCarl and written by Deborah (Robinette) Krambeck

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. This is a known list of deaths that Nancy could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let her know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: JSHS@Q.COM or phone 515-331-0687. Over 1000 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum. Up to this time, we have listed only names of Johnston graduates. We are now printing names of Johnston residents, or those individuals that have been a part of the community. They will be listed as Resident under the class column.

Name	Class	Date of Death
Pauline Gilligan Schuessler	1953	8-7-14
Stephen C. Findley	1966	8-30-14
Teresa Bullis Owen	1969	7-5-14
Martin "Marty" Boeckholt	1982	7-18-14
Melissa Reese Coffey	1982	7-17-14
Nile M. Iles	Johnston Res	6-20-14
Ralph Leonard, Jr.	Johnston Res	7-8-14
Ricee' Spence	Johnston Res	7-11-14
Kenneth "Mike" Heatherton	Johnston Res	7-15-14
William Spikes, Jr.	Johnston Res	7-11-14
Karen Christianson	Johnston Res	7-24-14

Johnston School's Centennial Celebration

Centennial All-Class Reunion

September 25-27, 2014

Plans are being made for the weekend which includes a Hospitality Room for Registered Alumni, a Parade, Football Game, Alumni Reception and After Reunion Gatherings. According to the School Website, there will also be a Golf Outing-Four Person Best Ball. For more detail, see the school's website: www.johnston.k12.ia.us/Centennial.

Johnston Historical Board Members

Dick Hyde, President
Deb Krambeck, Secretary
Jan Jensen, Archivist
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Nancy Budrevich, Vice President
Carla Johns, Treasurer
Lois Waggoner, Membership

Mark Your Calendars

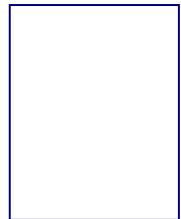
Thurs., September 18, 2014, 1:45 p.m.

Member Tour Gold Star Museum

September 25-27, 2014

Centennial All-Class Reunion

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Dr
Johnston, IA 50131



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED