

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 18, Issue 1

Newsletter

January 2010

## President's Column:

The November and December meetings were well attended. In November we toured the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge. It was a nasty night but those who attended were impressed with the displays and the new expansion. The bell from the ship USS Des Moines is on display at the entrance. Inside you will find a 40 ft. periscope from which you can view the surrounding area. In December the Museum was decorated and visitors were treated to hot chocolate and cookies.

I am pleased to report that since April we have had over 300 visitors tour the museum. In November there were two Cub Scout troops that visited the museum and found it interesting to see Johnston as a small

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## Garlock Orchard

Ephraim and Laura (Bauman) Garlock moved into a home in 1928 along Beaver Drive where they had a large apple orchard with many varieties of apples. In 1941 the orchard was damaged by an early freeze. They again planted a large apple orchard on the Bauman homestead along NW 86<sup>th</sup> Street and 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This area was inherited from Laura's parents John and Mary (Friar) Bauman at their passing. Mary's parents started the Friar School that closed along with three other schools to start the Johnston Consolidated School System. Laura and Ephraim had four sons: William, Henry, Donald and Robert. The house that was on the property located at NW 86<sup>th</sup> Street and NW 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. is now used as the Johnston Historical Museum.

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unincorporated town and how the school has gone from around 20 in a class to 800 in the 2009 kindergarten class.

The election is over and the ballots counted. Jan Jenson and Carla Johns were elected by majority vote to three year terms on the Board of Directors.

In 2010 we are planning to update our existing exhibits and add some new ones. The research room is being used to check on family and business history.

Dick Hyde  
Board President

## **Johnston History Quiz**

### **1. Russia's Nikita Khrushchev came through Johnston in....**

- A. July 1957
- B. September 1959
- C. December 1990

### **2. Tiny's Food House reopened as The Jewel Café in....**

- A. October 1958
- B. June 1970
- C. January 1957

Answers are on the bottom of page 7

## **New Business Membership**

### **Hyde Mowing is First Business Membership**

Hyde Mowing is our first business membership. Hyde Mowing is owned and operated by Skyler Hyde a 16 year old junior at Johnston High School. He has been mowing residential and commercial businesses since he was 11 years old. This year Hyde Mowing became Hyde Mowing and Snow Removal. Skyler is an active member of the Johnston Historical Society and performs various tasks at the museum. He is one of the major contributors in getting the newsletter out. Thanks to Skyler and Hyde Mowing for being our first business member.



Owner Skyler Hyde next to his newest equipment

## **About the Board**

We have one board member who did not run for reelection. Dick Tarlton has served on the Board for the last three years and was the treasurer for the past year. He has been a leader to the Board and the Society and has been at the front of the line in getting things changed or done. He will be missed as part of the Board. Dick has been tireless in digging up obituaries of Johnston graduates and prominent Johnston citizens. He has devoted many hours and resources to benefit the Society and will continue to be an active member. Thanks for all your service to the Society and the Museum.

A short biography of our two new board members, Carla Johns and Jan Jensen, will appear in the March newsletter.

## **We Can Use Your Help**

Volunteers are needed at the museum to help with maintenance, give tours or work on displays. We also have a number of committees that could use more members. Call or email the museum to get more information about volunteering or being a committee member. [JSHS@Q.com](mailto:JSHS@Q.com) or 515-331-0687

## **The Johnston Public Library**

On February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM the Johnston Public Library will hold a seminar on how to properly identify, preserve, and share your neglected family photos for future generations. Participants will learn how to identify and care for images dating from the dawn of photography to the digital age.

## **Your Dues Are Important**

Your annual dues help maintain the museum and preserve the history of Johnston. Please pay your 2010 dues by mailing a check for \$12.00 to the Johnston Historical Society, 6161 Northglenn Drive, Johnston, IA 50131.

## Paint the Plow



A city snow plow was delivered to each of the Johnston schools for the students to paint. Students were to incorporate winter, plowing or homecoming in the painting. The plow on the left, from Wallace Elementary School, was the winner of the contest. On the right is the plow from Beaver Creek Elementary School which was the runner up.

## Coffee with Clay

In early December, at the Johnston Public Library, Johnston School Superintendent Clay Guthmiller held an open forum with community members called “Coffee with Clay”. They discussed upcoming decisions for the school board and also voiced concerns and asked questions. One major concern was the population growth of the district which could lead to a new school in the next few years.

## Officer Spotlight with Lt. Lynn Aswegan

Lt. Aswegan became a police officer in 1986 for the Dike, Rienbeck, and Readlyn Police Department while attending college for criminology. He joined the Johnston police in 1988. Lt. Aswegan became a police officer because he wanted to be able to interact with people and have the ongoing opportunity to make a positive impact on those he comes in contact with. Lt. Aswegan likes to work on home improvement projects and take short weekend trips with his wife when not on duty.

## Blizzard of 2009

A record December snowfall brought the total for the month in Johnston to 28.52 inches. This amount breaks the all time Johnston record for December snowfall which was previously 26.9 inches set in 2000. The 28.52 inch total is the second highest calendar month snowfall on record for Johnston, behind only January 1886 with 37.0 inches. The most snow received in one day was on December 8<sup>th</sup> with 16 inches.

(Below)  
Three Johnston city plows,  
plowing north on Merle Hay Road  
on 12-8-09



(Above)  
Johnston city loader pulling a stuck city  
plow in Johnston 12-9-09



(Right)  
Johnston Historical Museum on 12-  
9-09 with wind gusts at around  
50mph` to 70mph

## Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Dick Tarlton. This is a known list of deaths that Dick could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let Dick know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: [JSHS@Q.COM](mailto:JSHS@Q.COM) or phone 515-331-0687. Over 700 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Class	Date-of-Death
Virginia Ann Lester Riverie	1954	7-16-09
Cheri Orr Pollock	1965	12-4-09
Julie Hyde Ketch	1973	12-7-09
Alexander M Fulmer	1989	11-12-09
Sidney Leland Stocker	1960	10-15-09
Dale Elmer McDonnell Jr.	1966	9-01-09
Kenneth C. Cummings	1971	10-05-09

## Johnston City News

The Johnston Fire Department is now a combination department. The department has both paid on call and full time staffing. Current staffing consists of a fulltime chief and 6 fulltime firefighter/ EMT's. Fulltime crews work 12 hour shifts 7 days a week. Paid on call members respond to calls in the evenings. A sleep in program has been established, putting 3 part time firefighters, EMT's, and paramedics in house throughout the night. With the projected city growth the Johnston Fire Department may add more full time positions.

## Johnston's New Police Chief Bill Vaughn

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve as the City of Johnston's police chief where the department and its staff are dedicated professionals. Chief Nichols has done an excellent job of managing the department and leaves a wonderful foundation for me to build on," states Bill Vaughn, who was recently named the police chief for the City of Johnston. As he steps into his position as chief, he has set some priorities for the upcoming months; getting to know the staff and community, and building upon the department's community policing initiatives. As Vaughn takes over the reins as chief, he will be working to increase police presence as merited by the needs of the community.

## Human Statue of Liberty

Eighteen thousand soldiers of the Camp Dodge 163<sup>rd</sup> Depot Brigade formed the silhouette of the Statue of Liberty for the renowned photograph shot by Chicago, photographers Mole and Thomas on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1918. The design for the living picture was laid out on the drill ground of Camp Dodge west of current building S34 and Maintenance Road.

In Preparation for the photograph the ground was marked out by blocks in the shape of the statue. This facilitated getting soldiers into the correct formation. The various folds of the gown, the Bible, the left hand, and the crown were properly outlined by soldiers wearing white shirts.

Beginning at 1:00 p.m. companies were assembled and by 2:30 p.m. the proper formation was completed and the photograph taken. The picture was taken from a tower forty feet high, constructed for the occasion, using an 11" by 14" view camera. On account of the mass formation and the heat twelve men fainted and were carried from the field. The high temperature reported for the day was 92 degrees.

The photograph was made into a poster. A copy of this poster is on display in the Johnson Historical Society Museum as well as the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge.



### Answers to history quiz

1. B
2. C

## Mark Your Calendars

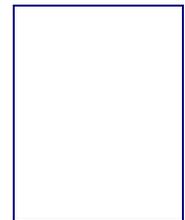
### February: 17<sup>th</sup>

The February meeting will be a chili meeting (after all it is February). The meeting will start at 5:00 P.M. in the barn. Everyone is invited and bring a guest.

### March: 17<sup>th</sup>

The March meeting falls on St. Patrick's day we will have corned beef and cabbage and a pot luck. Please bring a vegetable, dessert, or bread dish. The time is 5:00 P.M. in the barn. Bring a guest and lets have a big turnout for this meeting.

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



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