

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 19, Issue 3

Newsletter

July/ August 2011

## President's Column:

The Historical Society hosted the Johnston Station Jazz Band in the Barn on Thursday, June 16th during Green Days. The weather was warm but those in attendance enjoyed the big band sound of the program. Thanks to the band for their performance.

On July 13th members enjoyed a cookout in the Barn. Hamburgers and bratwursts were served along with some outstanding desserts.

The Marine uniform worn by Lloyd Michael and the WAVE uniform worn by Fern Michael are on display in the Museum. Both Lloyd and Fern served their country during WWII.



## Good-bye to Ray Schleih

Long time Johnston citizen Ray Schleih peacefully passed away on May 25, 2011. Ray was on the founding committee of the Johnston Historical Society.

The Johnston Historical Society Museum houses many articles and artifacts that he donated, including a model replica of the B17 bomber he flew during World War II.

Our condolences to his family and to his many friends in the Johnston community.

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The information signs located along Northglenn and outside the Museum have been refurbished. They should look good for a long time.

A new carousel has been purchased to display additional class pictures. It is located in the school room of the museum.

I would like to thank the members for their support of the Johnston Historical Society and their attendance at the meetings.

Dick Hyde  
Board President

## **Jump Ball!**

Thanks to Gerry Glass, Johnston High School Class of 1970, for donating the center circle from the gymnasium floor of the old Johnston High School.

The wood is polished with the black center line running through the middle, a red circle on the perimeter and the "J" in the middle. It is located just inside the front entrance to the Museum and makes an interesting conversation piece.

Many alumni can remember situating themselves for a jump ball from that center circle, whether in P.E. class or while playing on a junior high or high school basketball team.

## **Johnston History Quiz**

Answers are on the bottom of page 5

1. In what year did Johnston become a city?

- a. 1969
- b. 1972
- c. 1958

2. Who was the first mayor of Johnston?

- a. Mary Ann Roberts
- b. Al Aulich
- c. Harold Southerwick

## Beaver Heights Grocery

This article was contributed by Judy Sullivan  
Johnston High School Class of 1962

In 1950 my parents, Opal and Gerald Sullivan, purchased the Beaver Heights Grocery Store in Piekenbrock (locally known as Dog Patch) at the corner of 53rd and Meridith Drive. In addition to the grocery store there was a feed store, barber shop, gas station, and an apartment. Obe Herrick and his wife Marilyn lived in the apartment for a time and their first child was born while they lived there.

It was common for each neighborhood to have their own small grocery store. My father was in charge of cutting the meat. Most orders were cut and weighed at the customer's request and wrapped in white paper. My mother ran the cash register and did the bookkeeping.

The store came with a cat, Susie Cat, and she had several litters every year. Customers always had a favorite picked out before they were weaned.

My sisters, Pat and Sue, and I always had jobs to do in the store. Many orders were phoned in and we would help deliver the groceries. If the order was small, we put the groceries in our bike basket. If the order was medium sized, we delivered them by wagon. If the order was large, Dad delivered them by car and sometimes one of us would go along to help unload them. I liked delivering groceries to the Meredith mansion. Mrs. Meredith liked children and would play her monkey band which she had purchased from a Younker's window display.

A lot of people charged groceries, especially if they were out of work. When they resumed work, they would come in and settle up their bill. My parents said they never abused the system and only charged the basic necessities.

In 1956 a Meadow Gold Ice Cream neon sign (which was always left on at night) exploded and started a fire which destroyed the store. My parents didn't have enough insurance to rebuild so the store was closed. Later my dad said if the fire hadn't put him out of business the supermarkets would have. It wasn't too long

after that when the Hinkey Dinkey store opened at the corner of Douglas and Beaver.

For years after the fire our family ate the canned goods from the store. Most of the labels were burnt or missing. Mother would send one of us to the basement to get two cans for supper. Thus, our mystery meals began. Whatever was in the cans determined what our meal was that night. We sure had some weird combination of foods!

Aren't memories a wonderful gift. Hopefully, some of your memories have surfaced by reading this article.

Judy Sullivan



Sullivan sisters Pat, Judy, and Sue in the Beaver Heights Grocery Store with a neighborhood friend who picked out Snowball

## 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
Glenna Ashby Zaleskas	1938	5-24-2011
Kenneth W. Palmer	1956	6-29-2011
Ronald Allen Flug	1963	7-13-2011

## City News

Johnston residents overwhelmingly approved a \$13.2 million bond issue for public safety improvements. The improvements will include a 42 thousand square foot new facility north of city hall to be used for both the police and fire headquarters. A new 5 thousand square foot fire annex near the intersection of Northwest 62nd Ave. and northwest 100th St.

## Answers to History Quiz

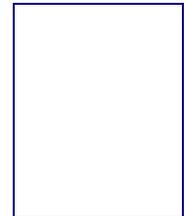
1. a. 1969
2. c. Harold Southerwick

## Mark Your Calendars

August: Sunday, August 14th an Ice Cream Social will be held at the Museum from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Visitors will have an opportunity to view the new displays. A free will donation will be accepted.

September: Wednesday, September 14th members and guests are invited to enjoy a spaghetti feed in the Barn from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Come to enjoy the meal and spend an evening with friends. A free will donation will be accepted.

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



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