

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 20, Issue 2

Newsletter

March/April

## President's Column:

The past months have been busy at the museum. Carla has been working on the flower gardens and Jan has been working on and preserving the displays. We had a good time and an excellent meal at the annual corned beef and cabbage dinner. Everyone enjoyed the social hour prior to the meal.

On May 12th at 10:30am we plan to work on the cemeteries so they will look good for Memorial Day. Sharon has obtained a grant for presentation equipment so we can give presentations at the museum and in the community about Johnston history. We also are conducting an inventory of our real property for insurance purposes. If anyone is

*Continued on page 2*



## Displays

Jan Jensen is well versed on preservation of artifacts and is continually upgrading our displays. Jan's latest project is preserving the class pictures and placing them in two carrousel. She is doing an outstanding job and we commend her for her dedication and hard work in preserving the old displays and creating new ones. Come out and see how she has improved the displays.

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interested in helping in any of these areas contact the Museum at 515-331-0687 or Dick Hyde at 515-276-4614.

Dick Hyde

## Johnston Cemeteries

The Johnston Historical Society is sponsoring a day to refurbish the cemeteries in Johnston prior to Memorial Day. The past winter, mowing, and vandalism have left some of the stones turned over or moved off their base. At 10:30am Saturday, May 12th the Historical Society will be going to the cemeteries and working on cleaning, moving stones back on their base, and setting up the stones that have been knocked over. We can use all the help we can get. If you can help with this project contact the Museum at 515-331-0687 or Dick Hyde at 515-276-4614. Thanks in advance for this worthwhile project that needs to be done.

## Johnston History Quiz

### 1. In what year did H.A. Wallace die?

- A. November 1965
- B. September 1950
- C. July 1985

### 2. When did Merle Hay Road close for widening

- A. July 1982
- B. May 1956
- C. April 1947

Answers are on the bottom of page 5

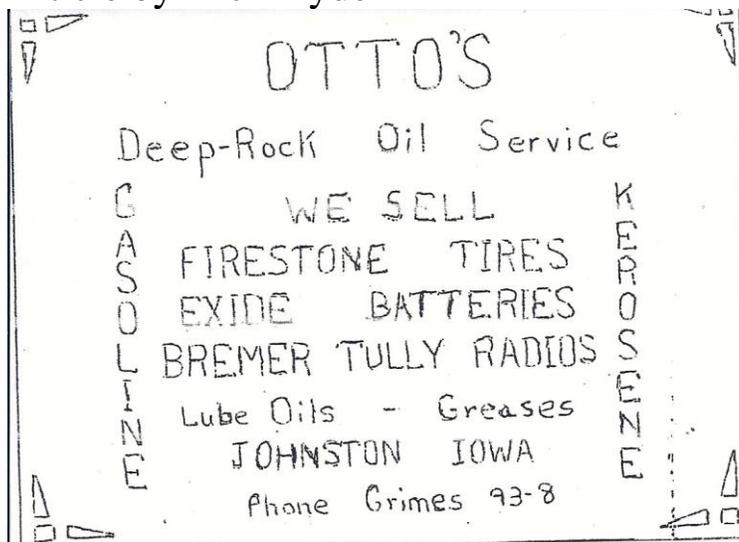
## Flower Gardens

The flower gardens around the Museum are in full bloom and in excellent condition thanks to Carla Johns. Carla spends a great deal of time and effort in order for us to have a beautiful flower garden around the Museum. She is to be commended on her dedication to this project.

## A Johnston Icon Otto's Service Station

Arlie V. Otto built Otto's Service Station and opened for business on Thanksgiving day 1922. The building was a one pump stucco gas station. Arlie expanded his station by adding a second pump in 1929, and a third in 1930. The first service stall was built in 1939, the second in 1947, and a third in 1957. Arlie operated the station selling Deep Rock gasoline, oil, and lubricants and Firestone tires. His son Don, started operating the station in 1937 and operated it for 34 years until he retired in 1980 when the station was sold to Pioneer Hi-Bred and torn down. Otto's Station was located where the Bishop Drum Care Center is today. In 1956, they changed from Deep Rock to Conoco products. In the 59 years that Otto's Station lasted it saw many changes in the small rural town known as Johnston Station to one of the fastest growing cities in Iowa. During this time Johnston Station was incorporated and named Johnston. The old name of Johnston Station (which we all hated when someone called) it that is gone along with Otto's station but is not forgotten as long as some of us remember. Many of us either worked there for done or just hung around the station. When I worked for Don in the 1950's we sold gas for \$.17 a gallon and one of the most popular sales was one dollar's worth which at that time was 6.4 gallons. Thanks to Otto's Station for all the happy memories.

Article by Dick Hyde



## Johnston Schools

Tuesday March 25th was a very eventful day for the students and staff at Johnston's Summit Middle School. At around 9AM after fire crews from 8 metro cities were called to the building for a reported explosion in part of the building under construction. It was determined that sparks from a grinder had ignited the adhesive fumes in the wall. Johnston Fire Department Captain Tim Nemmers said that the students were never in an any danger but were evacuated as a precaution until the area was declared safe.

## 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
Alice G Sellner Hinckley	1932	3-16-12
Marlon J Stone	1935	12-9-11
Richard R Seibert	1941	1-12-12
William Neideffer	1946	1-23-12
Alice Irene Boyer Putney	1947	12-27-11
Opal R Boyer Gorden	1949	5-16-11
Beverly J Schuessler Horton	1955	2-4-12
Thomas Patrick Warren	1957	3-19-12
Lynda E Lewis South Detrick	1960	9-21-01
Dennis L Foshe	1964	1-30-12
Gregory Alan Krueger	1970	1-18-12
Sean O'Shea Smith	1987	2-1-11
Neil Wecker II	1988	12-21-11
Anthony Gelormino	1989	1-25-12
Jennifer L Petersen	2006	11-15-07

## **Public Safety Building project update**

The city is expected to break ground on the 2nd fire station annex at NW 62nd and 103rd St sometime in June. The design for the Public Safety Building at Merle Hay Rd and NW 64th Place is moving along and is expected to have a final design this summer. Stay tuned for more on this project.

## **Visitors**

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society Museum will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2PM till 4PM. Come out to the Museum and enjoy the various exhibits depicting the history of Johnston. We have a room dedicated to the school system with class pictures from the first graduating class through the 90's and other memorabilia from the past. There is a room dedicated to the military with a history of Camp Dodge and tributes to the other armed forces. We now have mannequins dressed in the uniforms of the main services. There is a room dedicated to research of the families and businesses of Johnston both past and present. It also includes the churches, cemeteries, and service organizations. There is a room dedicated to Johnston businesses with emphasis on Pioneer and other early businesses. These are just some of the interesting rooms located in the Museum. There are hundreds of other items of interest. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum in near future.

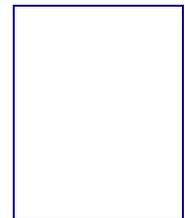
### **Answers to history quiz**

1. November 1965
2. May 1956

## Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, May 12th at 10:30AM the historical society will be working on refurbishing Ridgedale Cemetery

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6161 Northglenn Dr  
Johnston, IA 50131



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