

NEWSLETTER

Volume XII No. 1

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January 2005

President: Mary Jane Pacz
Vice President: Judy Bogaard
Secretary, Newsletter: Marlys Seibert

Treasurer: Robert Thomas
Membership: Garland Seibert

**January meeting
Jan. 23, 2005
4:00 p.m.
Simpson House**

LOOKING AHEAD

Meetings: February 23 Wednesday
March 30 Sunday

From the president.....

First of all, I hope you will all join me in welcoming our new newsletter editor, Marlys Seibert. I also hope that you will send her news items or tidbits about the history of Johnston. You can send anything in to our post office address, P.O. Box 109, Johnston, IA 50131 or directly to her email address: gws50021@aol.com

Once again, a tremendous amount of work has been accomplished on our project. The roofs and gutters on the house and barn were finished. The barn was turned over to the city on January 3rd and rental reservations are being taken at (515) 251-3707. The "Johnston School All-Class Reunion" that will take place during Green Days (June 17-19) will use the barn as a gathering place. There will also be a movie shown in the loft on the 17th. I'll keep you posted as more plans are made.

We made arrangements for prisoners from the Newton Correctional Facility to come work on the house before Christmas. Eleven skilled men came and worked wonders. Three men worked

with Russ Slauson and finished all the ductwork and cold air returns on the furnace that serves the basement and first floor of the house. The second floor furnace was installed. Two men took over the task of redoing the floors. After days of scraping, using paint remover, more scraping and using a floor sander, then six rooms on the first floor were prepared for finishing. The men stained the floors and started the process of applying coats of polyurethane. We had three men who were painters who finished all the rooms in the house. Three more men worked on woodwork throughout the house. Guards, who came with the men, worked along side of all of us. They also enjoyed the chance to do something different. We closed down for the holidays and regrouped our forces.

Garland Seibert has applied more coats of polyurethane on the floors. Bob Thomas and I prepared a punch list room by room to check on supplies and our next steps. Dick Tarlton has been working on sand blasting antique registers that will be used as cold air return vents.

Prison Industries donated porch railings to us and Bob Metcalf has worked with Garland and Bob Thomas to install the railing. Bob Metcalf is also creating the hand rail and columns for the outdoor front staircase. Kevin Moran, the same Johnston landscape architect who created the original site plan for us, has helped us again with a plan for steps,

ramp and sidewalks around the house.
This will be done in the spring.

Prison Industries is also helping us with the salvaged barn windows. We will use them on the ground level of the barn to reflect what the barn looked like before the move. Prisoners at Anamosa will sand blast the frames and paint them for us. In the spring when the cultured stone facade is put in place, the windows will be attached to the poured concrete wall.

We have been preparing for the return of the prisoners to help us finish the house inside. I don't know what we would have done without them. They have as much pride in what they have accomplished as we do.

Welcome to new members

Mr. And Mrs. Godfred Manteaw of Johnston

Contributions

Caretakers: (\$1 -99)

Margaret Beck

Richard Betz

Randa Duvick and David Grosnick

Judith Bogaard

Myrtle VanDyke

Vivian Zimmerman

Jon Duvick and Carol Hendrick

Scout (\$100-199)

Mary Jane and Alex Paez

Bricks

Tim and Wendy Haight

Dan Haight JHS 2007

Molly Haight JHS 2001

Emily Haight JHS 1999

Lori and Mark McAllister

We remember

Katy Koll (sister to Robert and Jim Thomas) passed away in December 2004.

Marie Schlenker, wife of Raymond, passed away Jan 1,2005.

CITY of JOHNSTON takes over the SIMPSON BARN

On January 3, the City accepted the barn as a community events center. The City will manage the facility and schedule events and rentals. The Johnston Historical Society will be able to use it for any of its events at any time, as long as no one else has scheduled an event.

After studying the rates and regulations at other venues, a committee comprised of three Society members, three Johnston Park Board members and one City Council member, recommended that the barn be rented for \$150 for the ground level or \$450 for the entire barn. Rental reservations can be made 12 months in advance. The capacity for the entire building was estimated at 200.

As per our original agreement with the City, they have been paying all the utilities for both the house and barn. That will continue. The City has taken over the insuring of the barn.

New Display at City Hall

Fern Michael, Society Charter Member, has assembled a display for City Hall about the Otto family.

It would be nice to get feedback about the possibility of "building" files of families for use in later years by those that come after us. Pocket files of family names could be gathered with families entering what they wish up to a limit of an inch or two of file space. Photos, letters, memorabilia, and other items could be saved in this manner.

We always welcome new members. Please encourage friends and neighbors to become a part of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society, and to join us on meeting days as well as at the House to put your touch into the restoration of this community project.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO SELMA DUVICK FOR GETTING THE NEWSLETTER TO OUR MEMBERS FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS. THANK YOU, SUNNY, FOR A JOB WELL DONE!



Yes, I can help with creating a museum in the Simpson House!

I have skills in: _____
(sorting, typing, phoning, hauling, displaying, cleaning, other.)

I have no specific skills, but would like to help where I can _____.

I have time during the week _____

I have time on week-ends _____

Name: _____

Address, phone _____

Send to: Johnston Historical Society, P.O. Box 109, Johnston, IA 50131

Or

Call Bob Thomas, 491 2521



Commemorative Brick Order Form:

= Engraved Brick (\$85 each)

Please fill in the name (s) to be engraved (a maximum of 14 characters per line for 2 lines)

Name & Address _____

Check payable to Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Mail to the Johnston Historical Society, P.O. Box 109, Johnston, IA 50131