

NEWSLETTER

Volume IX No 4

Published Bi-Monthly

July 2002

President: Mary Jane Paez
Vice-Pres. & Programs: Judy Bogaard
Secretaries: Marlys Seibert, Pat Wallerstedt

Treasurer: Donald Zarley
Membership:
Newsletter: Selma Duvick

July Meeting:

Sunday, July 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Crown Point Meeting Room

Speaker: Gerald LeBlanc
On the History of Woodland Cemetery

Mr. LeBlanc has researched the history of this Des Moines cemetery, and conducts tours of the grounds

No Potluck this month.
Bring snack food to share

LOOKING AHEAD:

(Mark your calendars)

August Meeting: Wednesday, August 28th.
4:00 p.m.

We will meet for the first time at our House/Museum in the Johnston Commons. Bring your own chair!!

September Meeting: Sunday, September 22nd. Program: to be announced.

October Meeting: Wednesday, October 23rd

November Meeting: Sunday, November 24th.

No meeting in December.

From the President.....

We made a spectacle of ourselves! The only thing missing was a marching band and some dancing girls. Some of us were prancing, but I don't know if that counts.

On June 25th the house and barn were moved! We had a parade with all the bells and whistles. We had lights (that had to be lowered), cameras (everywhere) and action. Utilities crews were everywhere lowering wires, raising wires and keeping the parade moving.

The Simpsons sat in their front yard with friends and neighbors to bid farewell to their beautiful house and barn. The Chief of Police rerouted traffic, since NW 70th had to be closed during the move. All totaled, the move took about two and a half hours.

A welcoming committee of Society members were seated at the receiving site and watched the towering behemoths daintily climb over the final curb. After a quick lunch, Bissell House Movers were back at it, positioning the house into its final place. The barn was left to the side until the foundation footings could be poured

Harold Bissell suggested that we should take a look inside and so Bob Thomas and I shimmied up inside through the basement door and toured the place. It was amazing! We had inadvertently left a loose light bulb on the kitchen counter. It was still in the same place it had been. Looking out the windows at its new setting was a bit like Dorothy and Toto ending up in Kansas. The house was the same but the landscape wasn't.

We had coverage from the Johnston Press Citizen, The Bullseye and the Des Moines Register. Channels 8 and 5 had their cameras there and Channel 13 flew its Chopper 13 over the final scene. Harold Bissell has told us that family and friends read the story as far away as Omaha.

Since the move, we have been getting the basement poured and the walls of the barn done. We will be getting utilities roughed in so that we can see what we can finish with volunteers. We also found that the century-old bricks from the original basement will work nicely for our inscribed brick patio. We have plenty of bricks and plenty of room to lay them after they are inscribed.

Our press coverage had a common theme that ran through. We don't have enough money to finish the project, but we will continue the effort, no matter what!

Mary Jane Paez



WORK DAYS

Bob Thomas has been scheduling workdays on Saturdays at the old house site on 86th street. Volunteers have been removing mortar from old bricks so that we can use

them for our patio. This is an on-going project; bring gloves and a screwdriver, chisel or similar tool to scrape the mortar from the bricks. If you can work at any other time, contact Bob Thomas (277-3882) or Mary Jane Paez (278-1170).

If you find you can help in further clean-up and renovation, and especially if you have skills in home construction, do contact Bob or Mary Jane



✎ We do continue to need help from members and friends ✎



AFGHAN WINNER



Fran (Longo) Melas, of Poway, California was the winner of our prize-winning afghan. Her name was drawn at the conclusion of the Johnston Green Days Event. She has received the afghan, and we have received her note of thanks.

We made \$1135 on the raffle.

Marlys Seibert, who made the prize-winning afghan, has taken a first prize for her afghans at the Iowa State Fair for the past seven years. She plans to enter again this year, and fairgoers may want to go the Textiles Exhibit Hall (under the grandstand) to view her most recent creation. We are confident that she will win another Blue Ribbon!

RENEW-RENEW-RENEW-RENEW-RENEW

Membership Renewals:

Of 204 Newsletters being mailed to members this month, 67 are going to folks who have not renewed their membership in the JSHS for 2002. That's a lot of members lost, for they will go off the roll next month. Each of those 67 will find a Membership leaflet in their envelope. We hope to receive lots of renewals in the next few weeks, for the Society need the support of all!!!



Our Roll of Contributions To House and Barn Project

Thanks to so many who have helped to make this effort go:

Dragoon: (\$10,000 - \$24,000)
Harold Bissell House Moving
Waukee, Iowa (in kind)

Wagonmaster: (\$1,000 - \$4,999)
VGI Design, Engineering and Graphics
Des Moines, Iowa (in-kind)

MidAmerican Energy

Des Moines, Iowa

Scout: (\$100 - \$999)
Hugh T. & Maureen Myers
Johnston, Iowa
Elizabeth Otto
Johnston, Iowa

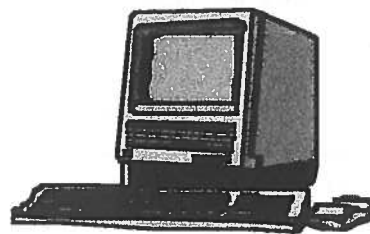
Caretaker: (\$1 - \$99)
Ruth Bilz Dougherty
Santa Maria, CA
Connie Maxwell
Johnston, Iowa

Bricks:
Ruth Bilz Dougherty
In memory of Elaine Bilz Berry
Elizabeth Otto
In memory of Robert C. Otto

NEW MEMBERS

W elcome to:
James Sandegren
Dayton Ohio

VISIT OUR WEB-SITE !



www.johnstonhistoricalsociety.org
Webmaster Kathy Wallerstedt is adding photos of the house and barn move!

In Memoriam

Elaine Bilz Berry

We received word of the death of Elaine Bilz Berry, on 2 April 2002 at Troutdale, OR. She grew up in Johnston, and graduated from JHS in 1936. We send sympathy to her son Richard, a member of the Johnston Historical Society, and to all her friends and family.

Dorothy Temple Mosier

Dorothy Temple Mosier died on 10 June, 2002 in Des Moines. A former teacher she was a member of a pioneer Herrold and Johnston family; she researched a history of the Herrold Community which she presented as a program to the JSHS a few years ago. We send our sympathy to her family and her friends.

Donald R. Denman

Donald Denman died on the 13th of July 2002, in Des Moines, Iowa. Don attended and graduated from Johnston High School in 1941. He was a leader in his class, and on the high school sports teams. After serving in the Air Force, flying C-47's in the Pacific during WWII, Don returned to Des Moines, graduated from Drake University, and in 1951 opened his own CPA practice, Denman & Co.

Don was active in community affairs, volunteering in a number of organizations, and receiving awards and recognition for his services. He was a charter member of the Johnston Historical Society, and served as Treasurer from March 1998 to October 1999 when he resigned due to health problems. Don will be missed; the JSHS send sympathy to his wife Jerilynn, his children, family and friends.

THE HISTORY OF THE BARN

The Barn given to the JSHS by the Simpsons is not the original barn built by John Henry Bauman (see March 2002 Newsletter). When he built his house at the turn of the last century, he also built a traditional gabled dairy barn.

After John Henry's daughter Laura Bauman Garlock and her husband E.J. Garlock assumed ownership of the property and planted their orchard at the farm, they continued to keep a dairy herd.

One autumn day in the late 1930's, as Charles Harding, a cousin of the Baumans, was shelling corn at his home just down the road, he saw flames coming from the barn. The Grimes fire department was called; they had a tank truck, but the fire was too far-gone to extinguish, and the barn burned to the ground. It was thought that the fire originated from combustion of hay that had been stored in the mow while too wet.

The Garlock sons probably helped to rebuild the barn. Charles Harding recalls that it was a good way to keep the three energetic Garlock boys busy. They put fresh concrete flooring over the old site, and built up a larger barn with red clay tiles and a hipped roof.

Again, the barn was built for a dairy herd. There was a horse stall in the southeast corner for the draft horses. Milk was sold to the Jim Scott Dairy, later known as the Morrison Dairy.

The barn loft, when empty, was used as a place for neighborhood dances, and hoe-downs. The musicians were local, and local folks brought refreshments. Some recall that perhaps dances were sponsored by

organizations. In any case, it was considered a good dance floor. A number of local old-timers remember attending dances in the barn. How did they get up to the loft? Raymond Schlenker says there was a ramp, or stairs, leading to the haymow from the south end of the barn.

Other barns in the neighborhood were also places for dances and gatherings. Garland Seibert recalls that there was a moveable floor, which could be taken from farm to farm as the occasion warranted.

We hope that soon the barn will see a revival of those lively dances of years ago.

Boards for the Barn

The JSHS is looking for salvage lumber boards from a corn crib or barn..

The old boards will be used to cover the interior walls of the ground floor room of the Barn. They will cover the insulation between studs, and give a rustic, barn-like appearance to the room

If you have information about such lumber, call Mary Jane Paez, (515) 278-1170

We have received a number of inquiries lately from those who wish to order an inscribed brick for the patio at the Barn. Many have lost or mislaid the form sent out last fall, so for your convenience, we are including a form in this newsletter..

✂✂✂✂✂-----
Commemorative Brick Order Form:

Engraved Brick (s) (\$85 each)

Please fill in the name(s) to be engraved (a maximum of 14 characters per line for two lines)
Make a copy of this form if you are ordering more than one brick

Make checks payable to the Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Mail to the Johnston (Station) Historical Society at P.O. Box 109, Johnston, Iowa 50131

page 6
is
Blank



**Mission accomplished! House and Barn on the site at Johnston Commons
June 25, 2002**



**Verne and Shirley Simpson watch as their former home, the Simpson-Garlock House, is moved
from its site and on the way to Johnston Commons. June 25, 2002**

**Johnston (Station) Historical Society
Newsletter: Vol .IX No.4**