

JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O.Box 109 Johnston, Iowa 50131  
6161 Northglenn Drive – at Johnston Commons Park

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Email address: [JSHS6161@aol.com](mailto:JSHS6161@aol.com) Telephone: (515)331-0687 JHS is a 501(c) (3) organization  
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President: Mary Jane Paez

Treasurer: Robert Thomas

Vice President/Programs: Judy Bogaard

Membership: Garland Seibert

Secretary/Newsletter: Mariys Seibert

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**President's Column July, 2006**

**So many things have been happening at the museum, I don't know where to begin. Our list of accessions for the museum continues to grow. After 35 years of service to the school district, Gary Busby is resigning. He donated many, many beautifully finished scrapbooks with memorabilia of his time as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, assistant principal and principal. This is a great addition to our "school" room. We were also the recipients of a couple of vintage Johnston band uniforms and a "JHS" curtain from the stage of the old gym, donated by Jerry Glass.**

**I've been amused when we have had young visitors come. The most frequent observation is "Where did you get all this stuff?" We have been most fortunate to have a number of pack rats (Oh, excuse me – historical preservationists) among us.**

**During Green Days, the historical society was well represented. The concert by the Barn Owl Band was wonderful. There is something magical about the barn loft at night with the lights glowing. The band had as much fun as the audience.**

**We had a number of members on the trailer pulled by Judy Bogaard's tractor during the parade. Garland and Mariys Seibert worked the crowd and passed out notes with invitations to the museum and to the craft workshop. This worked very well because both the museum and the barn were filled with enthusiastic visitors.**

**On Saturday night of Green Days, the barn was the place to be to watch 8 middle school and high school rock bands play. When I stopped by, the place was alive with kids enjoying their music.**

**August 5<sup>th</sup>, the barn and museum will also be used for jam sessions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Johnston Blue Grass Festival. Another opportunity to showcase Johnston history.**

*Items that would complement the laundry stove recently donated, such as a washboard or a copper-bottom boiler, would be greatly appreciated.*

### The Seven Wonders of Johnston

During the second semester of the school year, Mrs. McGill brought seven 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to the museum to investigate the wonders of Johnston. The students had read about the 7 wonders of the ancient world and had read a book about finding 7 wonders in their own community. The students ohhhed and ahhhhed with each fascinating fact they learned about Johnston. Some returned to do more research; some continued their quest at the library and online. Sarah Henry researched about the Camp Dodge Pool.

Rachel Li was interested in Henry Wallace and Pioneer Hi-Bred.

Kyle Haney found that the story of the Saylorville Dam was exciting.

Anna Toot thought that the Simpson House and Barn was amazing.

Kathryn Paszkiewicz did research about the human Statue of Liberty at Camp Dodge in 1918. She even found out about the photographer.

Thomas Jackson did his study on the Indians of Iowa.

Joshua Yang dug into the files to learn more about the Red Pine Cemetery-Kinsey/Lawson Cemetery.

Mrs. McGill compiled their results and put it into a Power Point with brief biographies of each student. She made a copy for our records. She hopes to continue the study with more students next year.

### *- Our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of these members*

Donald Duvick - Wife, Sunny; daughter Randa; sons Daniel and Jon, and their families.

Oscar "LeRoy" Bachman - husband Evelyn Herrold Bachman, (JHS'34)

Elsie Sellner - brother Wayne Sellner; sisters Alice Sellner Hinkley & Gladys Sellner Grothe

**NEW MEMBERS:** Clive & Peggy Johnston of Johnston, IA  
Kelley & Tracey Orman of Des Moines, IA

**BRICKS:** McClure Engineering Company  
Larry & Linda Land

\*bricks will be ordered as soon as there are a few more to include

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** Carolyn Christensen \$15.00  
Frances Longo Melas \$100  
Ray and Doris Pugh \$8

**MEMORIALS:** *Rilma Leeper Rice (Member & JHS '41*  
By: Lloyd & Fern Michael  
*Mildred "Mid" Johnson*  
By: Bob & Jean Thomas  
*Barbara Schuessler Dowd JHS 1956*  
By Dick Tarlton

*Donald Duvick*

By: Lloyd & Fern Michael  
Garland & Marlys Seibert  
Bob & Jean Thomas  
Daniel & Gretta Wilkinson  
Gregory VanWyngarden  
David & Sue Knapik  
Robert & Norma Seifert  
Arthur Lischer  
Truman & Delores Lewis  
Raymond & Vivian Schleihs  
Robert & Dee Rosenbrook  
Peter & Karen Coaldrake  
Barbara Fleener  
Iona Ansorge  
Dave & Diane Bubeck  
Peter & Nancy Flynn

*Elsie Sellner*

By: Richard Tarlton  
Garland & Marlys Seibert

A MEMBER WRITES: *"I am a member of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society and enjoy the newsletters so much. They bring back so many old memories. In the latest (May) letter in the "Old Timers Tidbit) the "watermelon hunting" was mentioned. My fathers watermelon patch, just off Merle Hay Road was the biggest in Johnston. He had 48 acres in melons and had to hire a guard at night to keep the "hunters" away. I was the one to lead the kids into the area the guard couldn't see. My folks had greenhouses in Johnston for many years and sold flower and vegetable plants to everyone in the area. I was born and raised in Johnston at 6217 Merle Hay Rd. My sisters (Marie '23; Susie '34 and Josephine '35) all graduated from Johnston. I haven't been back since the museum has been created. I still hope to make it some day but in the meantime I hope this check will help in some way. Keep up the good work.*

*Sincerely, Frances "Fran" Longo Melas"*

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*We appreciate your comments, Fran. Thank you.*

Many Thanks to Dick Hyde for donating a computer with desk, a table saw; and his time and talents. We always are in need of volunteers to help catalogue items, sort and set up displays, and a variety of small tasks that, when added together, made a hugh difference!! Please consider being involved.

**ANOTHER MEMBER WRITES:**

*"I recall that during the early part of WWII my brother Johnny and occasionally my Dad worked at a machine shop on the road immediately east of Merle Hay in what we called the acreages. The owner of the shop was Gus Edmunds and his wife Leona - they had a toddler son but I forget his name. This could relate to a persistent story that has been running in the Dayton Daily News. The latest was "Local Manhattan project must start itself", 6-2-06, by Martin Gottlieb ( 937-225-2288 or [mgottlieb@DaytonDailyNews.com](mailto:mgottlieb@DaytonDailyNews.com) The story refers also to Los Alamos, NM; Oak Ridge, TN and Hanford, WA. The object of Mr. Gottlieb's article was pertaining to the establishment of a National Park and of course Dayton was an early player in the project to build an atomic bomb. I had a conversation with an individual who had actually worked on the top secret project here in Dayton. I confess to a mild interest in this matter. Is there any body of information on a Johnston connection???*

*(You can see that I copied Marc Hansen on this note.) We shall see what we shall see.*

*I thought of another piece of Johnston history. There use to be a tire swing in the timber behind what we called Cruikshank's pasture Northeast of the Y-Boy's Home, It hung on a cable from a large tree and the ride was breath-taking. It swung out over a deep ravine and you could look down att the stream and ditch 30-40 feet below. One day I was at Hyperion supposedly to caddy and when I mentioned this swing no one believed me so I offered to show them. A group of us walked into that pasture and at first no one wanted to try it. I took a ride on it and one kid didn't want to admit that he was afraid but his reaction was priceless at least to me. I learned later that it had broken down but that no one was hurt when it occurred. I have no idea how long it was there. Only that my family used to go up to cut firewood and it was an outing for us all. My mother made it a picnic and she would look for asparagus or mushrooms in their seasons. We used the wood in our wood burning water heater which my dad would fire up for our bathes. I don't know who besides me knew of the swing, but I understood it to have been put there by Clyde Hunt or his relatives."*

*Best wishes from Jim Sandegren of Dayton, Ohio*

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"In June of this year, Anna Zibert Willoughby (class of 1931) passed away. Anna was the last of the Johnston Zibert family who were raised here. As I was placing her obituary in our museum books, it dawned on me that the remaining family members of the "Old Country" immigrants such as the Ziberts, Orlichs, Rastovacs, Vignovichs, Sjeklochas and others whose parents chose to settle and live in the Johnston Community, deserve a much belated "thank you". The contributions that your families gave certainly made this a better place with their presence." Dick Tarlton '50

**DIG INTO THE PAST: some trivia from Dick**

1. The first set of twins to graduate from Johnston were who and what year?

While we are on the subject of twins, there was a set of identical twins in 1949. They were so hard to tell apart that you could only go by who they were with - Russ Slauson or Jack Rothwell! Who were they? (this should be easy).

2. Where was Rock-A-Way Beach and what Johnston graduate owned it?

3. Do you remember the fox farm (no guys I'm not referring to St. Josephs Academy!)? Where was it and who owned it?

4. Name the five gas stations (as known then, & yes there were five)& name the operators

### **Johnston graduates and their nicknames.**

*"Believe me folks, those nicknames were used in the most affectionate manner, and in no way to degrade anyone. Dick Tarlton "*

#### **NICKNAME**

1. "Babe"

2. "Beener"

3. "Tubby"

4. "Red"

5. "Seldom"

6. "Spitwad"

7. "Chuckles"

8. "Doc"

9. "Cowboy"

10. "Buster"

11. "Chubb"

12. "Bud"

13. "Archie"

#### **MATCH THESE NAMES WITH A NICKNAME**

1. Harold Taylor; Robert Otto; Philip Reese;

Richard Fischer

2. Vernon Schuessler

3. Patty McCoy

4. Lester Moss

5. James Stanley

6. Mary Jane Rastovac

7. Leslie Miller

8. Wayne Sellner

9. Orval Kinsey

10. Warren Gilbert

11. Eldon Good

12. MaryAnn Rittgers; Robert Harvey;  
DonStanders; Dorothy Mosier

13. Charles Haifley

*This is the fellow who spends long hours finding out information about our Johnston graduates. And he adds to the newsletter these tidbits of the graduates. The volume of information he has gathered about Johnston's grads is immeasurable. Dick has said more than once that he wishes he had begun to actively do something for the Johnston (Station) Historical Society sooner because he is "having a ball!"; and adds "I enjoy every minute of it!" Thanks, Dick. editor's note*

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*" A friend is like an old sweet song grown sweeter with the years.*

*A friend is one who shares our joy and wipes away our tears.*

*A friend will look for goodness in everything we do.*

*A friend is one who knows our faults, yet finds our virtues too.*

*A friend will share a cruse of bread or help to lift a load. \_\_\_*

*Happy are we who find a few good friends along the road."*

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### **SECOND ANNUAL JOHNSTON BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from noon to 7 p.m.**

**'Jamming' sessions at the House --- Festival at the barn.**

**Come along and enjoy the fun.**

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**\*Open House held the second Sunday of each Month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**\*\*NEXT REGULAR MEETINGS: 4:00 p.m.**

**ON JULY 23 AND AUGUST 23**

**Please mark your calendars.**

Answers to trivia:

1. Lois Cook (Case) and Louise Cook (Skain) in 1923.

Wanda McDowell (Slauson) and Waneta McDowell Major were the 1949 twins.

2. Almost due north from the intersection of Beaver and Kempton Dr., all the way to the river. Theodore Rittgers owned the land.

3. South of the Beaver Creek bridge on Beaver to the top of the hill on the east side. Who did actually own it? I would like to know myself!

4. Robinette and Hunt (D-X), Otto's Deep Rock (Don Otto), Shell (George and Mary Witt) Texaco (Dave Miller and later Al. Aulich ) last and certainly not least Phillips 66 (Walt Dunn) - the station was not there very long.

Answers to nickname/name(s) combinations:

Nickname is actual name

1	6
2	8
3	10
4	12
5	11
6	3
7	13
8	2
9	4
10	7
11	9
12	1
13	5

Don't hurry, don't worry, and don't forget to smell the flowers.

Good old days start with good new days like today.

Happiness is doing with a smile what you have to do anyway.

SHALOM: (health, well being, prosperity, happiness, cessation of enmity/strife)