

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

Volume XV No.4	Published bi-monthly	July 2007
Email address: JSHS6161@aol.com	Telephone: (515)331-0687	JSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization
President: Mary Jane Paez		Treasurer: Robert Thomas
	Vice President/Programs: Judy Bogaard	
Membership: Garland Seibert		Secretary/Newsletter: Marlys Seibert

President's Column

July, 2007

No sooner than the successful completion of Green Days in June, but we begin preparations for being a part of the Johnston Blue Grass Festival, Aug 4th. There has been a dizzying flurry of activity at the museum.

We had a good time in the Green Days parade with members of the Class of 1947 along with eight members of the Historical Society riding on the trailer and Marlys and Garland Seibert walking the route while meeting and greeting bystanders. The Brenda Smith Bluegrass Roundup was enjoyed in the barn on Thursday night, June 14th. The big crowds came on Saturday with kids' crafts in the barn and many visitors to the museum. The potato bracelets, balancing corks, butterfly straws, antler headbands, squawking chicks and "drop the clothes pin in the bottle" were big hits with kids and parents alike.

June 23rd, the class of 1962 had their class reunion in the barn. Dick Hyde and Seiberts represented the Society and hosted tours of the facilities. Denny Elwell attended school with this class and was very favorably impressed with what has been accomplished at the museum. He has offered to donate \$7,000 toward the completion of the siding project for the house. We are looking at all our options. We have received a number of donations from members after the last newsletter telling about

this project. We are so grateful for this support.

The Greater Des Moines Community Foundation has awarded the Society with a BRAVO grant of \$3,000. This is to be used for an intern who will assist with creation of a website, videos and displays. Funding for this grant comes from Hotel/Motel tax that is collected in the area. The grants are competitive and we are fortunate to be awarded.

On July 5th, members of the Society went to the Johnston Post Office to present a History of the Johnston Postal System to the current Post Master, Greg Chamberlin and his staff. The framed depiction of the history with pictures will be prominently displayed at the Post Office. Research by Society members found that the first Post Master in the area was J. D. McClain in 1858, which would be one year short of a sesquicentennial anniversary. The Postal employees were pleased to receive us and were proud to be noticed.

I received an email from a woman from Indiana who had attended a wedding reception in the barn. Her community had purchased parkland that came with a house and barn. The city had torn down the house and was thinking about demolishing the barn. I sent pictures and told her about some of our experiences. Hopefully, she doesn't get scared off.

I have thought of a fundraiser to help us with our many projects. What do you think of having a craft and bake sale in the barn in the fall? We would rent tables to vendors. If you know of anyone who would be interested please let us know by phone or by email. We need to get more people involved.

WANTED!! PHOTOS of old businesses, street scenes, churches, homes, people from yesteryear as well as the present. Please include a 'story' with them.

~~~~~

**New Members:** Audrey Herrold Archer, Broomfield, CO  
Susanne Tanner Brown, Hendersonville, NC  
Judith Sullivan, Colfax, IA

**Brick Orders:** *DeLores Wakefield*  
*Rachel Susan Canon for Marvel M. and Nile L. Canon*

**Contributions: up to \$25** Sharon McKinney  
Ray & Vivian Schleihs  
DeLores Wakefield

**\$26 to 50** Ruth Biddle  
Charles & Shirley Burkett  
Margaret Otto Beck  
Shirley Burkett  
Elnora Masters  
Wm & Georgye Neideffer

**\$100 -up** Don & Mildred Peitzman

*remember - we have one chance to make a first impression*

\*\*\*\*\*Ethel Conn wishes to thank all who sent her birthday cards on her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday\*\*\*\*\*

Each and every one of us has something special to share with one another. Distance is not a good excuse!! How about digging deep into your memories for something that would be of interest to the group, or to the museum collection. The load is so much easier with many to share it.

JSHS member Jim Sandegren sent this poem our way.  
Did We Tell Them?

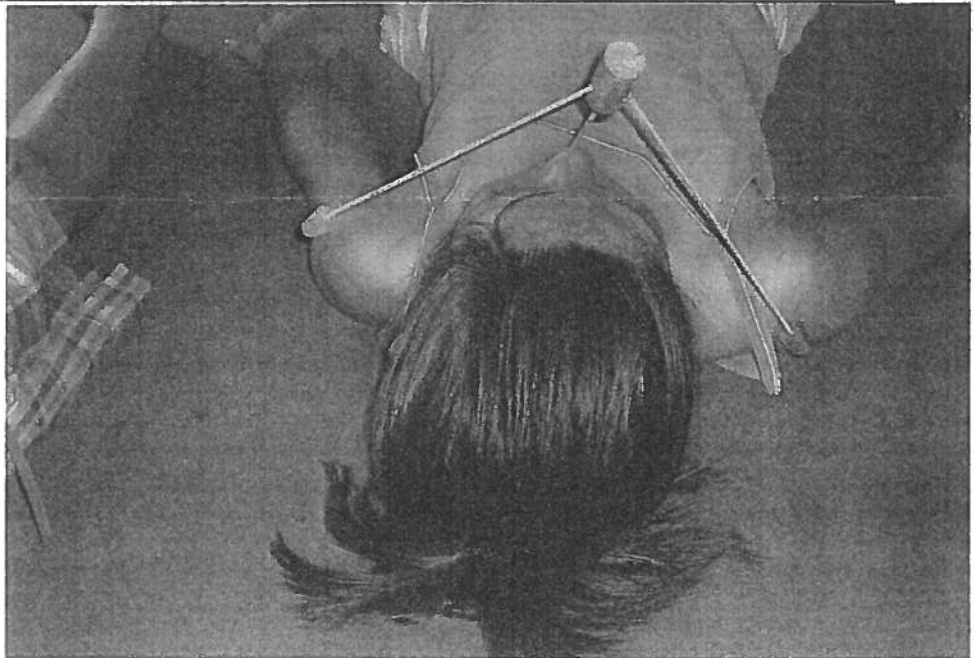
Did we tell them how their cheery smile could brighten up our day?  
Did we tell them of the void they left each time they went away?  
Did we tell them how their parting words could ease the lonely time  
That we must face as they depart for mountains they must climb.

Did we tell them of the joy we felt the times they sent us flowers  
And how their sweet remembrance warmed our hearts for hours?  
Did we let them know how much they mean within our busy day?  
Did we share our thoughts so they might see the vital role they play?

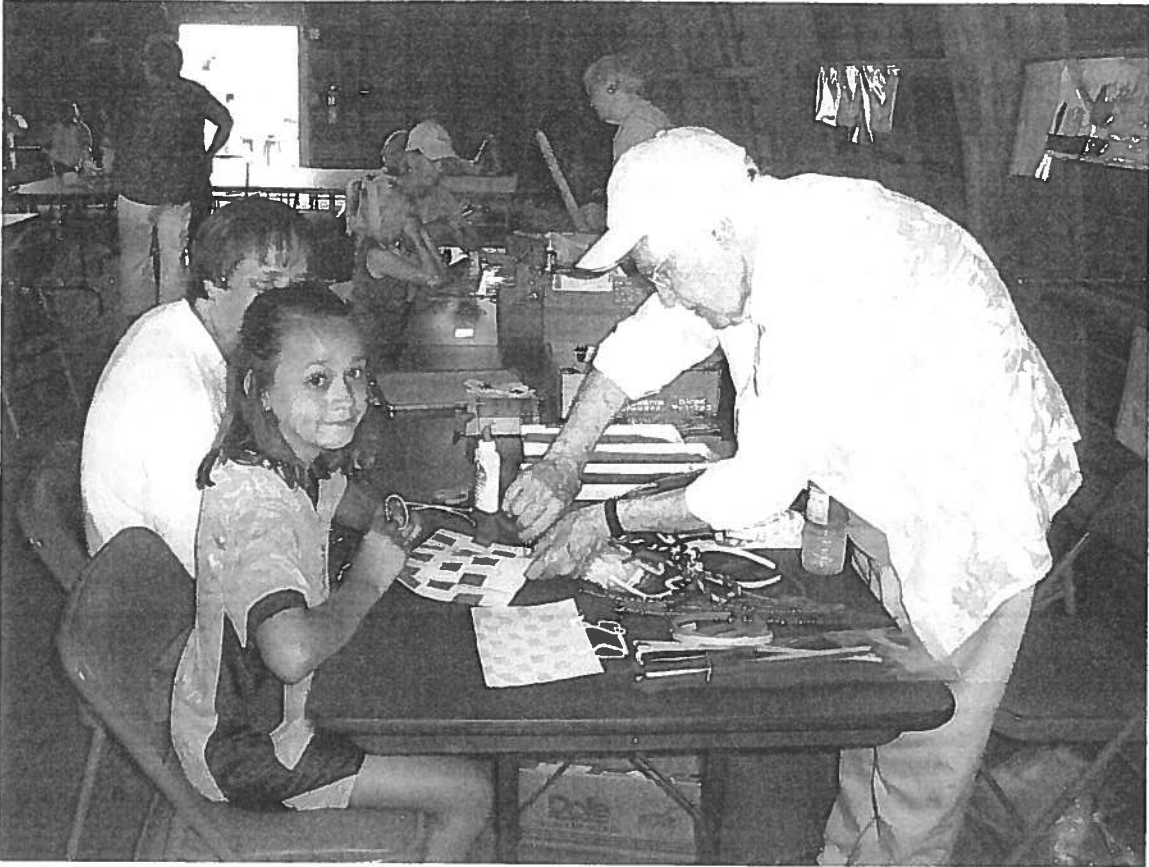
So few the times they pass our way, the fleeting moments fly  
And when they're past we scarce recall no matter how we try.  
Within the moments we must live, their blessings realize.  
For they'll be gone, before us flown, to many far flung skies.

The passing breezes hurry on to climes of fields and seas.  
And never mind the falling leaves that gather 'neath the trees.  
The fallen leaves remind us of the briefness of a life  
So we can see the timeless love that heals the bitter strife.

Remember as the days pass by the ones you hold so dear  
And tell them how their warming touch can drive away the fear.  
Do not neglect to say those words so easy to recite  
And they'll return to hold your hand against the coldest night



"Balancing Cork" - Great Fun!

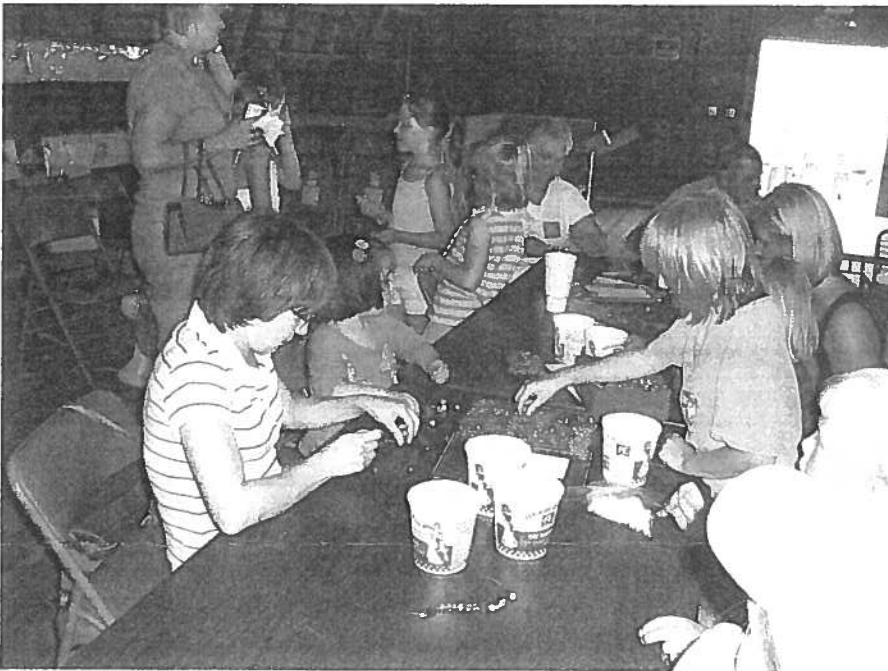


*Alma Sims helping make headbands. (Green Days crafts in the Barn)  
Special thanks to Alma for her time, talent, and supplies for her project.*

**We try to do crafts reminiscent of the earlier days when children were required to be innovative to make their toys for entertainment. In the past we have done corn cob dolls, whirling buttons on a string, and various other 'toys'. What did you do as a child for providing your own toys to play with??**

**DO WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S STORY OF LIFE IN JOHNSTON? TODAY'S STORY IS TOMORROW'S HISTORY.**

**ATTENTION:** *volunteer opportunities, some of which are listed*  
**Sort and file newspaper clippings, school photos, original photos, etc**  
**Research information for displays we place at City Hall, Crown Point, etc**  
**Organize a file for original photos; arrange and identify files**  
**Mark items in museum that have no numbers**  
**Assist with interviewing people**  
**Scan pictures on IMAC computer**  
**Sort microfiche**  
**Work on history and photos of schools**  
**Assist with fund raising – share ideas, suggestions**



Busily making bracelets with potato beads – Green Days 2007  
'beads' are made from raw potato, dried in slow oven, painted, then used with other inexpensive beads to make colorful bracelets or necklaces.



Presentation by Mary Jane Paez to Postmaster Greg Chamberlin



Postal Service Staff: Betsy Huff, Sharon Heger, Postmaster Greg Chamberlin, Shannon Frisk