

JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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President's Column

July 2008

Since our last newsletter, we have had some horrendous weather here in central Iowa. The museum has come through with flying colors. A dehumidifier in the basement has been working the way it is supposed to. Other historic sites in Iowa have not fared as well. We can't begin to know how it feels to lose everything.

On June 17th, the Society hosted a day at the Johnston Post Office commemorating the 150th anniversary of the beginning of postal service in the Johnston area. Society members furnished home-made cookies to postal patrons for the day. We were fortunate to find the notation in our research that on June 17, 1858, John McClain started the first post office in the area across from Hyperion Field Club. Of course, the area was then known as Ridgedale.

Johnston Green Days was held this year from the 19th through the 22nd of June. The museum was open to visitors on the Thursday evening during "Taste of Johnston" for a couple of hours. We were happy with the turnout. The Society also had an entry in the parade on Saturday with the Betz family furnishing the tractor and trailer. Society members exercised their pitching arms while throwing candy to the crowds. Johnston alumni also rode on the trailer.

Saturday afternoon, we presented crafting opportunities for kids in the loft of the barn. Youngsters created lunch bag scrapbooks, printers' caps, jumping spiders and the ever-popular balancing corks. Kits, created to make belly button brushes, clothes pin dolls and potato bead bracelets, were sold on a separate table.

Meanwhile, inside the museum, more people were touring the historical displays and getting acquainted with Johnston history. After a long day, it felt good to pack up and put your feet up.

Matt Hoehamer, our summer intern who has been funded with a BRAVO grant, has been a wonderful asset for us. Matt has taken a picture of every item that we have and matched each picture with our database of accessions. His work has been invaluable and will enable us to access our records more easily. We give him our best wishes for graduate school in the fall.

NEW MEMBERS: Alice Nielsen Johnston, IA
Marjorie Betz Austin Vacaville, CA

BRICK: Theisen (family)

GIFT OF \$1000 from Wesley D. and Lynne M. Jordan, Urbandale, IA

A heartfelt 'Thank You' to them for their generosity to the JSHS as well as to the community of Johnston.

THE DONOR BOARD list is at the printers' and will be on display as soon as these are placed in frames – one will be in the Barn, the other at The Simpson House

Memorials: John Theisen, JR: \$500 sent by JoAnn Theisen
\$25 from Florence I. Hartman, John's mother-in law.

Thank you for the renewals we have been receiving along with those of you who have sent an additional contribution. It is greatly appreciated. DUES ARE TO BE PAID BY JULY 1 2008 – PLEASE RENEW IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO. AND, THANK YOU!

As regards the newsletter you receive because of a \$10 or \$12 renewal: You receive six newsletters during the year at a cost of \$3.60 per membership per year including cost for (postage included, that does not include the cost for envelopes)

NICK AND DOROTHY ORLICH write: "We enjoy the newsletters when they arrive. You folks have done an admirable job in developing the home and barn and all that goes with it. The spirit of the town shines through all the things everyone has done, which has contributed to the success of your activities. I was truly impressed with the library which you now enjoy. The changes that have occurred since my graduation in 1943 are remarkable. The fact that the school system in Johnston is now a model for the whole state is truly amazing. The people in the Pioneer organization have been real benefactors and deserve many thanks for the good they have done. ---- Good Luck in all future ventures.. You make us all proud!"

Also, this note from a member: "Gentlemen and Ladies, ----Even though I am 1500 miles away I admire what you all are doing to preserve the history of Johnston. Hope all goes well with you personally and with your project. Wish I could be around to help. Sincerely, Vincent J. Tully, MD of Honesdale, PA. (Dr. Tully is the person who made the replacement wooden newel post for the grand staircase early on in the restoration of the Simpson House Museum. His craftsmanship has been admired by all visitors and members who have visited the site.)

Our sympathy to Barton and Virginia Fitzsimmons Schlenker and family at the death of Donald Herrold Fitzsimmons. "Fitz" passed away on July 4th, 2008, from cancer. He was born July 12, 1918, to Leslie and Edith Fitzsimmons, married Betty Stoner (deceased). Don served in WWII, worked for Pioneer Hybrid Corn Company for 45 years and was a member of St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Johnston. He is survived by daughters Doris (Larry Elings) of Central City, IA and Diane Suby of Littleton, Colorado... all graduates of Johnston High School; also by four grandsons.

OPEN HOUSE CONTINUES: SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 2-4 p.m. Bring your family and/or guests for a visit to show off the Museum.

PROGRAM LIST: regular meetings begin at 4:00 P.M.

Sunday: July 27 4:00 P.M.: Early Pioneer families of Johnston Station

Wednesday: August 20: Pioneer International and City of Johnston room

Sunday: September 28: Business of 'Johnston Station' and Johnston

Marilyn Finney's shares memories of the Simpson House/Museum

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME AT ANY TIME – WE NEED MORE PEOPLE INTERESTED IN KEEPING THIS PROJECT MOVING ALONG

I noted in the newsletter of last May a story about the McClure family being related to our John Johnston. This was indeed a "story". Yes, the McClure family did have a 'John Johnston' in their family , but he was not our John Johnston. There was much skepticism on the part of some of our members at that time, the story was in the newsletter ten years ago. This was corrected in a later issue and a copy of the John Johnston obituary was included at that time. It was later thought they wanted publicity because the McClure's were opening a business in Johnston - I believe what is now the Johnston Charter Bank. I was picking out something from ten years ago just for the 'heck of it' and not aware of this error. Please overlook my mistake! I should have read the July 1998 Issue of the Newsletter too. I apologize and "Sorry!" about the error. MYS

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Between the 1930's and early 1980's, S&H Green stamps (also called Green Shield Stamps) were a form of trading stamps popular in the United States. They were a rewards program operated by the Sperry and Hutchinson Company, found in 1896 by Thomas Sperry and Shelly Hutchinson. During the 1960's, the rewards catalog printed by the company was the largest publication in the United States and the company issued three times as many stamps as the U.S. Postal Service. Customers would receive stamps at the checkout counter of grocery stores, departments, and gas stations among other retailers, which could be redeemed for products in the catalog.

Sperry & Hutchinson began offering stamps to U.S. retailers in 1896. The retail organizations bought the stamps from S&H and gave them as bonuses with every purchase. Shoppers were given stamps based on the dollar amount of their purchase. Collect enough of them and face licking them and sticking them into collectors books (a pastime often given to children), and the shopper could claim valuable prizes from the local Green Shield shop or catalogue. Currently the company operates as S&H Solutions and offers S&H Greenpoints, a digital version of Green Stamps, which can be earned online and in participating grocery location. December 7, 2006, the announcement was made that S&H Solutions was purchased by San Francisco based Pay-By-Touch. The purchase price was in excess of \$100 million in cash and stock!

It's that time of year and in THE COMMUNITY REVIEW September 1923, first issue, this column appeared:

"The Ever Ready Canning Club of Johnston are just a little bit proud of the work at the fair this year. Their exhibit consisted of three budgets of twenty-seven pints each (enough to last one person one month) and three well balanced meals, cold packed. One of the budgets took one first prize, \$25; another second prize, \$20; and the third one took seventh prize, \$7. Two of the well balanced meals took second, \$6.00, and fourth, \$5.00. The total amount in prizes was \$63. The canning team, whose members were Mildred Wilson and Marjorie Cowgill placed fourth in the state demonstrations.

Dorothy Wilson and Mary McPherson took first in the state in "preparation and packing a picnic lunch for four" demonstration, thereby winning a trip to the International Live Stock Show at Chicago, December 1 to 8. Miss Florence Forbes picked out twenty pints of the canned products to take with her to the Interstate fair at Sioux City. She also took one budget which will be shown in the Iowa booth."

Also: THRESHING

The Bauman-Betz Threshing company had a slow run this season. They began threshing on July 28th and finished on September 11th. Rainy weather checked their progress. The oat and wheat crops were fairly good, the highest wheat yield being thirty-four bushels per acre, raised by Mr. P.H.Bauman, and the highest oat yield being forty-five bushels per acre, raised by M. P.J.Sweeny.

Lastly, this item: "The pavement has been fixed where the interurban track crosses Merle Hay road. A double track formerly crossed it, but one track has been removed. It has been paved and makes a smooth crossing. The county and the interurban company co-operated in fixing it. The interurban company has furnished the electricity to run the mixer and some help, and the county has furnished the bricks, the cement, the mixer and help."

ONCE AGAIN - PLEASE REMEMBER TO RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES SO YOU WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER. DELINQUENT DUES PAYMENT WILL RESULT IN YOUR NAME BEING REMOVED FROM THE ACTIVE LIST.

THANK YOU. GARLAND AND MARLYS SEIBERT
*Hope your summer has been a pleasant one -
we notice the days getting shorter already!!*



The first child to make a craft on Green Days, 2008. A balancing cork. What a delight to enjoy those youngsters and oldsters alike as they participated.



View of the Barn and some of the perennial flowers. Site of weddings, receptions, meetings, and enjoyed by many in the surrounding area as a relaxing place to walk, sit a bit, and enjoy the view and the quiet from this busy world we live and work and play in. JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY is the place to be.



Thank you to The Betz Family for all they did to make Green Days a success for the Historical Society: Judy made arrangements for our position in the parade. Bob pulled a flatbed with his antique Farmall tractor with members of the Society as well as some members of the Class of 1958 and our 'special' 12 yr old helper for crafts, Shandy Amsden of Ankeny. Virginia helped all afternoon from noon to five with the Kids' Crafts. Mary Jane, Bob Thomas and myself completed 'the crew' for crafts. Dick shared his 1936 John Deere tractor and a two-bottom plow on display for the four-day event – pictured above.

A PHILOSOPHY FOR SUCCESS

Keep Your Beliefs Positive

Because...

Your Beliefs Become Your Thoughts

Your Thoughts Become Your Words

Your Words Become Your Actions

Your Actions Become Your Habits

Your Habits Become Your Values

Your Values Become Your Destiny

Mahatma Gandhi