

Newsletter

Volume VII Number 5

September, 2000

President: Mary Jane Paez
Vice- Pres. & Programs: Judy Bogaard
Secretary: Madilyn Allender

Treasurer: Donald Zarley
Membership: Ferne Michael
Newsletter: Selma Duvick

September Meeting
Sunday, September 24, 2000
4:00 p.m.
Crown Point Meeting Room

Program: Connie Maxwell
Facilities Coordinator for the City of
Johnston
She will tell us about
**THE 24 HOUR CHALLENGE
RELAY**

**This is a project that will involve
the whole community. Come and
hear Connie tell about it.**

**And come and share a potluck meal. Bring
your table service and a dish to share!.**

Jim Sanders, Johnston City
Administrator, or Margaret Sharp,
City Finance Director will speak on
“What’s Ahead for the City of
Johnston”.

Put this on your calendar; there will
be no newsletter to remind you in
October!!

Our November meeting will be
Sunday, November 26th at 4:00 p.m.
Show and Tell: Bring your items of
historical or family interest:
documents, photos, genealogical
information, etc. to share. Let’s have
some fun with this!! (no pot-luck)



Homecoming.....

The JSHS will take part in the annual
Johnston Schools Homecoming on
September 22. This gives us the
opportunity to increase our visibility
in the community.

Looking Ahead.....

October Meeting:
Wednesday, October 25th, 4:00 p.m.
Crown Point Meeting Room.

August Meeting.....

Kathy Gourley, who is with the Iowa State Historical Society, spoke to our meeting on the recent discoveries, in downtown Des Moines, of the remnants of the old Fort Des Moines. Look for a further report on this in our next Newsletter.

From the President...

Sometimes when I hear about all the planning and preparation for the big Johnston school reunion, I get kind of wistful. Since I am not a Johnston alumna, I'm on the outside looking in. I've never attended a reunion. My own high school days were interesting. When I was entering my sophomore year my dad was transferred from Minneapolis to St. Petersburg, Florida. The school was huge (my graduating class was 440), the customs were strange, and the accent was indecipherable. As an outsider, I got into a group of science and math "geeks and nerds". In the '50s Southern belles didn't take courses like organic chemistry, physics and algebra III. I was the only girl in the group.

The Internet has made it much easier to find long-lost acquaintances. Last week, via e-mail, one of the "nerds" contacted me. I had introduced him to his wife, a fellow lab assistant in college. We have exchanged family histories and brought each other up to date. After a career in the Air Force and the another career in industry, he is getting ready to retire and to start traveling and enjoying life. They have suggested that Alix and I join them on a cruise sometime. Could you imagine a high school reunion of two on a cruise for a week, exchanging forty-year-

old "geek and nerd" stories? I don't know if the two spouses could stand it!

Mary Jane Paez



Class Photos

Ferne Michael has prepared a list of the Johnston High School class photos that are still needed to make the collection complete for display at the All-Class Reunion next year at this time. Check the following list. . Ferne makes copies (11" x 14") and returns the original to you.

Send to: Ferne Michael
7214 Reite Ave.
Windsor Heights, IA 50311-1304

STILL NEEDED:

1921	1943	1960	1977	1988
1922	1944	1963	1978	1989
1924	1945	1964	1979	1990
1925	1946	1965	1980	1991
1928	1948	1966	1981	1993
1929	1951	1969	1982	1995
1931	1952	1970	1983	1996
1936	1953	1971	1984	1997
1937	1957	1973	1985	1998
1939	1958	1975	1986	1999
	1959	1976	1987	



Welcome to New Members

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

Jerry and Andrea (Gardner) Meyers
Des Moines, Iowa

We are approaching the end of 2000, and some of you may want to think about renewing your membership before the end of the year. Look at your mailing label to see when your membership expires. Dues are \$10 for a single, \$12 for a family membership. Send to the JSHS at P.O. box 109, Johnston, IA 50131.



JULY MEETING

Our speakers were Dorothy Temple Mosier, and her sister Evelyn Temple Carlson.

Dorothy Mosier has researched and written a history of the community of Herrold, and Evelyn Carlson has written a memoir of her years at the Herrold School. Their remarks follow:

HERROLD HISTORY

Introduction

I was in the 8th grade when we came back from Idaho. I attended Herrold School in 1931- 1935. I taught the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades when my daughter attended Herrold School in the '50's and was active in P.T.A. and school events. Jim, my husband, was Secretary to the School board for years so I have ties with the Herrold School.

In preparing this report, I have visited with many people – former students, neighbors, and acquaintances. I enjoyed talking to all of them whether they could give me information or not. I also contacted the

Library, the Historical Building and Heartland Agency.

I have been in touch with Frances Sandegren, whom I had in 3rd and 4th grades. She sent me a letter and a book she has written, "No Bed of Roses", in which she reminisces about Herrold School. This is a teacher's reward!

And I hear from Marjory Herrold Fitzgerald, daughter of Arthur and Clara Herrold. I had her in 3rd and 4th grades also.

Herrold History

Herrold in Jefferson Township, once a sleepy little village, and then a busy bustling city, is now extinct. Herrold, a triangle-shaped settlement, was platted in 1907 with an inter-urban depot, elevator, warehouse, tool house, stockyard, post office and a store. The village was named for the Herrold families, who owned a horse-powered sorghum mill.

Several country schools: Frazier, Lincoln, Northern Lights, Pleasant Valley, and McClain served the students in Jefferson Township. I think there was one north of Herrold but have been unable to find the name. The schools were two miles apart.

The first high school for Jefferson Township was started at Lincoln. The students from K through 8th grade remained in their own country schools. From the first, it was realized a new building must be built. After a lot of discussion it was finally decided that it would be built in Herrold. In September 1912 the High School was opened. It was a small group of students at first but represented a wide territory. In addition to Jefferson Township, there were students from Urbandale, Johnston and McDivitts Grove. The first two years there was only

one teacher. The third year another teacher was added and in 1915-17 there were 3 teachers. The attendance was still small with only 17 at the end of 1917; nine would graduate with two of the graduated from Granger, as they had only a three-year program.

In order to meet accreditation laws, added subjects were offered and three teachers required. The Board decided that the costs were too prohibitive to maintain a high school any longer but voted to consolidate the rural schools instead. In April 1917 the district voted for consolidation.

One of the country schoolhouses was moved to Herrold, placed next to the building already there, and held the 1st and 2nd grades. Grades 3, 4 and 5 met in one of the rooms in the original building, and 6th, 7th and 8th met in the other room. Usually the teacher in the 7th and 8th grades was the Principal. The high school students could attend the nearest high school of their choice, and the Herrold District would pay the tuition. But each family had to furnish its own transportation.

On June 29, 1930, the small schoolhouse burned to the ground. For the remainder of the school year, classes were held in an old store building. Following this fire, a west room and a stairway were added to the original building at a cost of \$3,875.

A P.T.A. was organized and was active throughout the years, and a hot lunch program was begun in 1939. The responsibility for meal planning and labor was given to the P.T.A., though the first cooks were provided by the W.P.A. The W.P.A. was a government agency during the Roosevelt administration; it provided government jobs for the unemployed, during those depression years. Later the school assumed the expenses.

About 1957 it was decided that it would be cheaper to pay for the tuition and transportation to the Johnston schools.

During the following years there was much talk about consolidating with the Granger schools. There was one meeting, with heated discussion, but nothing came of it, or of the suggestion that the district consolidate with Grimes. But eventually, in about 1966, the Jefferson Township District (the official name of the Herrold Schools) did consolidate with the Johnston Consolidated district. The old Herrold school was closed.

The school building was eventually converted into apartments, and today it is used as a classroom and briefing room for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy..

Herrold became the busy bustling city at the outbreak of World War I. While the government was taking the farmland for Camp Dodge, Herrold hastily incorporated, thus saving the town and school from being taken. Immediately, Herrold became busy too. Tiny one-room stores were crowded along the street. A hospital and a theater were built. The railroad, stockyards, a soft-drink operation, and a hotel were constructed in addition to the elevator, blacksmith shop and store that were already there. Even a Minnesota firm leased some space in the community. Farming, mining and the Inter-urban railway contributed to the prosperity of Herrold. The Inter-urban ran from Des Moines to Perry. Besides carrying passengers, it also had freight cars, as farmers shipped their milk to Des Moines.

At the end of WWI in 1918 everything changed again. The small stores were converted into homes, and businesses closed their doors. The blacksmith shop, elevator, a store and post office remained.

Rufus Stewart owned the first store we have a record of in Herrold, in 1905. Others who had stores at various times were John Rittgers, Walter Hewitt, Everett Murray, Haifleys, and Stifels. Jess Rickman had a garage in the late 40's.

Major and Rose Bowen (see photo of the "Fullerton's Western Serenaders in the July 2000 Newsletter, ed.) bought the blacksmith shop and the Andrews residence. The shop was converted into living quarters and was occupied by two of the Bowen's daughters at various times.

After the government bought Herrold in 1989 the long-time residents were forced to move and Herrold became a part of Camp Dodge. The roads were closed to the public; Herrold is no more except in memories.

Dorothy (Temple) Mosier



Herrold: the Town and the School A Memoir

Dorothy has given you the history of Herrold, and now I want to add some personal experiences which I had during my 7 years of learning at Herrold School. As I look back 77 years memories fill my mind - - some good and some not so good.

Our family of 5 kids and twins on the way moved back from Idaho in October of 1923 and lived in Herrold in an old abandoned store for about 5 months until our farm on the ridge was available. Our farm home now is Walnut Ridge, part of the Saylorville Lake recreation area.

I was in the second grade and no one would play with me, so I borrowed 10 cents every day from an older sister (unknown to her) from her Sunday School box and bought candy to buy my playmates and IT WORKED! To this day Geneva Horner has been a lifelong friend.

Our teacher, Miss DaVides, made sure all her students could write well. I spent many times after school to practice the "Palmer" method. A student would receive a slap on the wrist with a ruler in those days for passing notes or whispering. Our feelings were hurt more than the slap. I KNOW!

Our teacher always played games with us at recess. We would have foot races and other contests and all of the familiar games: Black man, Honey Over, Hide'n Seek.

Our playground equipment was swings, teeter-totter, and giant strides, which were long, heavy chains with handles fastened to a center pole. We would all go around at once, which would be dangerous by today's standards. It was fun and we did survive.

Our favorite teacher in the 7th and 8th grades was Clover Van, from Johnston, whose father was Superintendent at Johnston. We learned so much more than just from books. Our recess and noon were spent waving each other's hair and our instructor was Clover; something we used the rest of our lives.

Basketball was our game and when we graduated from Herrold with all glory, we were ready for Johnston basketball. We Herrold girls taught the Johnston girls how to play - and in 1934 we went to the Sate and brought home a 3rd place trophy and a Sportsman trophy. Clover Van was our coach.

We had to furnish our own transportation when we went to Johnston High School. During my four years, we rode the Herrold bus to Herrold and took the Inter-urban to Johnston, getting there exactly at 9:00 a.m. and leaving at 3:30 p.m. You didn't dare get ready to leave before that time or that little bell on Mrs. Scott's (Principal) desk would ring loud and clear and we would be in TROUBLE!

We had an African-American girl in 4th grade who was from Des Moines and taught us so many things, such as tolerance and friendship with someone of a different color. But mainly she taught the CHARLESTON – the dance that was the “in thing” in the '20's. Every week a new step was added after she had visited her Des Moines cousins on the weekend. This was another lesson not taught in the books.

The buses at Herrold were a far cry from today's big yellow buses. One was a 7 passenger Buick that made the rounds; kids on top of kids. Another one was a flatbed truck with sides and a kerosene stove in the middle to help keep the feet warm. Not even a sign on them to warn other drivers that kids were aboard. I know from experience that a sign should have been on that truck. I got off the bus and ran down in front to walk down the lane, just as a car came whizzing by and missed me by inches. There was much shouting and swearing from the car driver. There was a crude sign made the next day.

I can still hear the creaking of the snow that the runners of the bobsled made. That was a signal for me to hurry and sharpen my pencil so I could wave at my Dad as he was delivering a load of props harvested from our woods to Coal Mine #8 which was west and south of Herrold. This coal mine employed many men from Herrold. They

would walk home past the school with the lights on top of their caps. They were always covered with coal dust from head to toe.

There was crime in Herrold in that period. We kids used to hang out the window late at night and listen to the “Cock Fights”. They were illegal and were held in an old boxcar; we could hear the men shouting and the cries of the roosters. The fight would be over when one of the cocks would die. It was a hush-hush affair; we never heard of arrests. It was exciting to us Temple kids.

The foresight of so many citizens made Herrold school possible; it was a big improvement over the one-room schools. I am amazed at the progress that education has made in my life span.

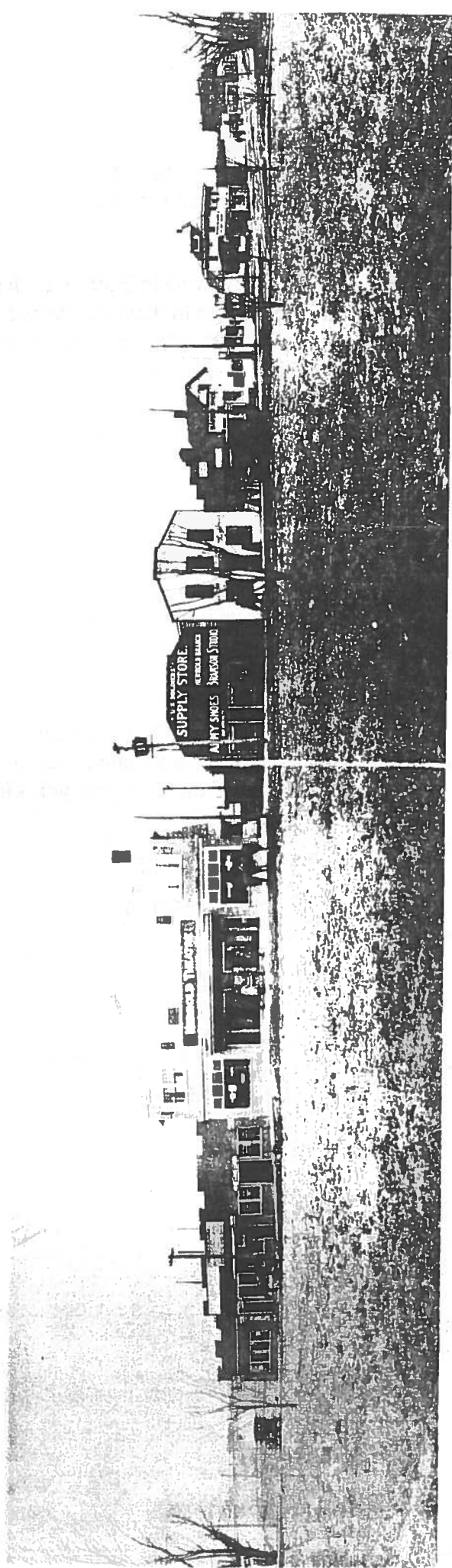
Only a few can share my memories of Herrold, but I hope that these memories have jogged those of your years in grade school.

Evelyn (Temple) Carlson

Editor's note: John Temple, the pioneer in this area came from England in 1865 as an 11-year old, and the family settled on land along what is now N.W. Beaver Drive, where the Walnut Ridge recreation area of Saylorville Lake is located. John had 11 children, one of whom, Carl, was the father of Evelyn and Dorothy.

During World War I Carl Temple sold the farm and took his family to Idaho, to escape the problems of living next to Camp Dodge. The buyer of the farm defaulted on the contract, the Temple family returned to Iowa and resumed their life on the farm.

On September 10, 2000 the Temple family had their 91st Reunion at the Walnut Ridge picnic area.



This panoramic photograph of the main street of Herrold was taken in about 1917 or 1918. Note the Herrold Theater, the U.S. Soldiers Supply Store, among other businesses. In front of the theater stands a horse, and to the far left of the photo is an auto -- probably a model T Ford.

Photo courtesy of Berkley Fletcher and Bob Thomas. The original is at the Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge

JSHS Asked to Help With Design of Panels

Members of the JSHS recently met with the clay artist who has been commissioned by the city to design decorative clay panels depicting important events or places in the history of Johnston.

The City of Johnston has plans to enhance the intersection corners of N.W. 86th Street and N.W. 62nd Avenue (formerly Johnston Road) with the construction of limestone monuments. Embedded in these monuments would be large clay panels with various representations, in low relief, of these events, or places important in the history of Johnston.

The meeting was very productive, and the following are some of the suggestions given to the artist:

Merle Hay,
The Inter-urban Railroad
Original prairie landscape of Johnston
Ft. Dodge Road (the stagecoach route, now
N,W. Beaver Drive
Camp Dodge, and Camp Dodge events
Pioneer Hi-Bred Intern'l, the Wallace
Family
Johnston's incorporation as a city -1969
Pottawattamie Indians, Sauk and Mesquakie
The Robinson Ranch
Johnston Road
Carter Grocery Store
Johnston Consolidated School,
"The Beacon", early transportation
Previous names: Huntsville, Ridgedale,
Johnston Station
Ezekiel and Mary Hunt- arrived Sept. 1846
Dragoon Trail

Old Churches,
"Home of the Hybrids"
Floods of 1954 and 1993
Clive Road
The Waterbury Windmill.

The group will meet again to see what the artist , David Dahlquist, has done with some of these suggestions.



CITY HALL DISPLAY

Another veteran has been added to the display in the hallway cases at City Hall. Lloyd Busby, (deceased member of the JSHS), now represents the U.S. Coast Guard.

Other members of the Society whose photos and a brief description of their service are on display are:

U.S. Army: Donald Gerdorn, Carroll Broadie, Donald Duvick, Meyer Pennington, Donald Peitzman, Marvin Straker, Joseph Shore, Robert Thomas, William Byers.

U.S. Army Air Corps: Raymond Scheihs, Donald Denman, James E. Thomas Jr. Vern Simpson.

U.S. Navy: Ferne Michael

U.S. Marine Corps: Lloyd Michael, Shirley Simpson, U.S. Marine Air Corps: Merton Hansen.

