

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 22, Issue 4

Newsletter

Winter 2014

Current Happenings

We have contracted with Peterson Painting to paint the museum windows as announced in the last newsletter. However, we just received word that due to the cold weather setting in, they will not be able to do the museum until next spring.

Nancy received two estimates for the replacement of the rotting sills on two of the north windows. The work has now been completed. They replaced the rotting boards and primed the new wood.

Al Lathrum announced that the Johnston class of 1964 wants to donate money to buy a new storm door to be installed on the front door. Al has ordered the door. We thank those members of the class of 1964 and thank Al for organizing that.

Al also worked on the back door sanding it down so that it will not stick. We are waiting for the pins to be placed in the hinges for safety measures.

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2015 Annual Dues

It is that time of year to remind all members that your membership dues are due for the calendar year 2015. We have enclosed an envelope to make that easier for you.

If the number after your name on the mailing label is 15 or higher, your dues for 2015 are already paid.

We welcome any additional money or donations you might wish to send. We will send a receipt for donations over and above the membership dues. We could not remain open and continue the work here, if it were not for your membership fees and donations. We thank you in advance for your continued support.

Ballot Enclosed

It is time to elect board members. There are two positions open. Deb Robinette Krambeck and Marilyn Law Coonley have agreed to run for the board. The ballot is enclosed. You may vote for two. A write-in name is welcome.

Please mark your enclosed ballot and mail in the envelope provided by January 15, 2015.

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We toured the Gold Star Museum in Camp Dodge on Sept. 18. It was unfortunate that more members didn't join us, but it was a beautiful fall day and all that went on the tour were pleased with what they saw. They continually make additions and improvements to their displays. If you have not been there, I encourage you to visit it. All you need is a picture ID to get into Camp Dodge and the guards will direct you to the museum. I don't think you will be disappointed. After our tour, we returned to the Historical Museum for refreshments

Chili Supper Results

November 6, 2014 was the Chili Supper. The 32 of us that attended enjoyed chili made by three different board members: Nancy, Dick, and Jan & Jerry Jensen. The board provided chili and the trimmings along with dessert. If you did not attend this year, consider doing so next year when we hold our third annual chili supper.

Farmers Market

As you know the Farmers Market has closed for the season. We thank Lois Waggoner and Nancy Budrevich for their faithful dedication to setting up a stand each and every week during the summer. Their goal was to advertise the Johnston Historical museum's existence and hopefully get some new members.

New Members

We welcome the following individuals who have joined the Johnston Historical Society:

Marilyn Law Coonley
Jerry and Carol Hoots
Cathline Johnson
Judy Anderson & Ted Leffler
Liz McCarl

Donations

Below are the individuals/foundations who have donated to the work of preserving the history of Johnston since the last newsletter. We would like to recognize these individuals:

The Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation
Deb Krambeck

In Memory of Mert and Jeanne Hansen:
Jackie Reineke

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation. The Johnston Historical Society could not survive and continue to preserve the valuable history at the museum without you.

The board voted to set aside 10% of all donated funds to be used for unforeseen expenses that arise. Carla has named this our Emergency Fund and it has grown to \$686.58.

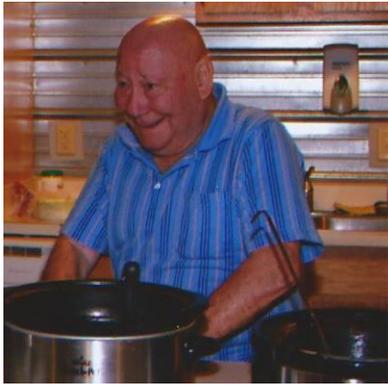
Signage for Museum

We have placed the signage on hold while we try to determine what we want. We will be working with the sign company to design an attractive permanent sign. We would like to use the brick from the old Merle Hay Road as the foundation. The brick is currently stored in the basement of the museum. We know that it will be costly, but won't be able to determine what we might need in the way of funds until we know just what we would be doing. We want to look at the possibility of getting a grant to help with the cost.

Terra Lake

The City of Johnston is building a lake from a decommissioned retention lagoon and turning it into a beautiful eight-acre fishing lake that will contain a lawn for concerts, an open-air civic shelter, a picnic pavilion, small shelters, and children's play area. The work began in May and will be built in phases for the next 3 years. It is located west of Merle Hay in the Green Meadows development.

Farewell to Board President, Dick Hyde



As I type the last newsletter for 2014, it seems timely that I would feature our board president, Dick Hyde, since he will be saying good-bye to his responsibilities on the Board of Directors and position of President for the Johnston Historical Society.

Dick moved with his family from Des Moines to Johnston in 1947 but continued attending Des Moines schools until 1949 when he transferred to Johnston in his senior year. He began attending Johnston School as a sophomore, graduating in 1950. The family members that moved here were his mother, Sara Baker; brother, Harry Hyde (graduated in 1952); sister, Sarah Jane Baker, (graduated in 1957); and Earl Baker. All of those family members have since deceased.

While Dick was a junior in high school, he joined the Iowa National Guard. That would begin a lifelong career with the military.

Dick met and married a 1953 Johnston graduate, Linda Danielson in 1954. Together, they had six children: Julie, Stan, Brenda, Steven, Sharon and Janet. Sadly, they lost their daughter, Julie, in 2009 to cancer. All children still live in the Des Moines area, three of them in Johnston. Dick has three grandsons, one of those, Skylar, also graduated from Johnston, thus we have another three generation family who graduated from Johnston Schools.

When asked what he remembers about Johnston at the time he moved here, Dick answered, "There was only one paved road in town. All the others were gravel. Merle Hay Road was all brick and was laid during WWI for the truck traffic and soldiers who were stationed at Camp Dodge. The city was not incorporated, so much of everything revolved around the school. Basically the school was the town."

Dick retired from the Iowa National Guard in January 1992 with 42 years, 10 months service. He retired as a WO4 Maintenance Manager. He was second in command for the state of Iowa in Maintenance, often traveling to inspect various locations in the state. Because of extensive travel and with his executive position, it was difficult to take time off, therefore, he usually didn't use all his annual leave. He once gave several weeks of his accrued leave to another soldier who needed the time off because he was dealing with leukemia.

His community involvement was on the Board of Directors with the National Guard Credit Union for 15 years; President of the Warrant Officer Association and he once ran for the Johnston City Council in 1969 when Johnston was incorporated. In the mid-60's, he was president of the Girls' Softball League in Johnston.

Dick claims that he and Bill Riley, yes the Bill Riley from KRNT TV, were instrumental in bringing cable to Johnston. They jointly went before the city council to present the idea of bringing it to Johnston and it was approved.

He joined the Johnston Historical Society in 1996. In 2002 the Simpson house was moved in, which serves as the museum today. He got involved in 2004, working at the museum, helping Dick Tarlton and others to build the storm windows and doing other maintenance jobs. The

Simpson Barn that was also moved in, required a lot of work. The bottom portion had to be built to accommodate the barn and, well, as they say, the rest is history. The Historical Society spent a great deal of money on the barn in order for the city to take it as their responsibility.

Dick and others were responsible for refurbishing the Johnston School Class composite pictures that were being housed at city hall. That includes pictures from 1920 to current time. Those are all in the museum today. This is a continuing work in progress as we work to restore them in archival material to preserve them.

Dick built the wooden screen door on the front of the museum and the lattice work trim on the attic windows. He and Dick Tarlton worked to redo the floors in the museum. I'm sure he has been instrumental in many other improvements to the museum, but too modest to mention.

As Dick completes his time on the board as President of the Board of Directors, we say thank you. We will miss your quick dry sense of humor, your talent for cooking the Thanksgiving dinners that you have done in the past, and maybe even your soapbox lectures. Well, maybe we won't miss those. Seriously, you have put in many hours, probably many we do not know about. As in any non-profit organization, it is difficult to find people to serve in this capacity, so we are most grateful for your time spent to the dedication of the work of preserving the rich history of Johnston.

Information provided by Dick Hyde and written by Deb (Robinette) Krambeck

A Johnston Couple Remembered



Dorothy "Jeanne" Hansen passed away on Monday, September 1, 2014. Jeanne was born July 26, 1923 in Austin, MN to Frances and Irving Mack. She grew up in Blooming Prairie, MN and in 1945 graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in journalism. She was a reporter for the Redding California Searchlight and editor of the St. Louis Park Dispatch and Johnston News. She had lived in Johnston since 1949 where she was active in many community functions such as 4H leader, PTA president, charter member of St. Paul Presbyterian Church, an elder and Clerk of Session, co-leader for sr. high youth

and a table parent at Logos. She served on the first Johnston Library Board, was a volunteer, member of the Johnston Library Foundation, and fund raiser for the new library. In 2002 she was named Citizen of the Year by the Johnston Chamber of Commerce.

Merton Hansen, Jeanne's husband of 69 years, died on October 12, 2014. Merton was born on June 2, 1921 in Steele County, MN to Benjamin A. Hansen and Amanda O. Munck. He was the 4th of 6 children. Mert was a University of Minnesota graduate and worked for forty years at Hy Line Poultry Farms as a poultry geneticist.

Mert served his country in the Marine Corp during World War II as a forward observation pilot. He served on Iwo Jima and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He retired as a Major in the USMC Reserves.

cont. Hansen Remembered

Mert was a founding member of St. Paul Presbyterian Church. He served as a member of the Johnston City Council, Johnston School Board, Johnston Lions Club, and as a 4-H leader, Boy Scout leader, Little League baseball coach, Sunday school teacher, and Logos table parent. He too was selected as Johnston Citizen of the Year in 1986.

How remarkable that these two who married on August 26, 1945 and each in their own right, became so dedicated to their community that they each received the Citizen of Year award. They could be seen at many Johnston activities, volunteering in various capacities. Those that knew them well, know they were nature lovers, even had cameras in their backyard to capture the birds and various wildlife as they grazed at the many feeders.

Johnston will surely miss both of you. Thank you for your devotion to our community.

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. This is a known list of deaths that Nancy could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let her know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: JSHS@Q.COM or phone 515-331-0687. Over 1000 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum. Up to this time, we have listed only names of Johnston graduates. We are now printing names of Johnston residents, or those individuals that have been a part of the community. They will be listed as Resident under the class column.

Name	Class	Date of Death
Betty Otto Gandy	1945	09-09-14
David Shiffer	1964	08-23-14
Robert J. Jensen	1987	10-11-14
David J. Billings	1974	10-17-14
Jason Paul Capps	1994	11-20-14
Charlie Dakan	School Bus Driver	09-10-14
Ron Anthony	Johnston Res	08-11-14
Leonarda Rozycki	Johnston Res	08-20-14
Dorothy "Jeanne" Hansen	Johnston Res	09-01-14
Kevin Hodson	Johnston Res	09-14-14
Robert Underwood	Johnston Res	09-15-14
Louise Fuller	Johnston Res	09-18-14
Dolores "Jo" Dunkerson	Johnston Res	09-19-14
Lillian Flug	Johnston Res	09-20-14
Marjorie Hardistry	Johnston Res	09-23-14
Jack Crouch	Johnston Res	09-28-14
Bill Brown	Johnston Res	10-05-14

Johnston Historical Board Members

Museum phone 515 331-0687

Dick Hyde, President
Deb Krambeck, Secretary
Jan Jensen, Archivist
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Nancy Budrevich, Vice President
Carla Johns, Treasurer
Lois Waggoner, Membership

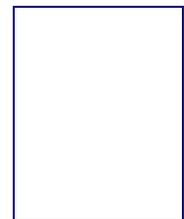
Mark Your Calendars

January 21, 2015 2:00 p.m. Board Meeting at the museum
July 16-18, 2015 Garage Sale.

Begin collecting items to contribute to our annual garage sale for 2015. As you know, we are non-profit, so a receipt will be provided for all donations. More details will be published in the spring newsletter.

**Reminder: The museum will be closed for the winter months between
December 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015.**

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Dr
Johnston, IA 50131



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED