

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 19, Issue 6

Newsletter

November/ December

President's Column:

A thank you to the VFW Post 9662 for donating a new flag to the Museum.

This issue contains a ballot to vote for new Board members. Please mark it and return it to the Museum. A thank you to retiring Board members Wanda Slauson and Jackie Reineke for their many hours of service to our organization.

In the coming year we need to continue to improve and update our displays and the overall condition of the museum. We can always use more volunteers.

Dick Hyde, Board President



The Porch is Finished!

Thanks to the porch committee, made up of Board members Carla Johns, Chris Kinsey, and Dick Hyde, the Museum now has a new porch. The old porch had rotting boards and peeling paint. It was unsafe and unsightly.

Thanks also to volunteers Dick Kinsey, Jack Johns, and Jeff Johns for their time and the expert craftsmanship they contributed to rebuilding the porch.

Another thank you to those members who contributed generously to this project and to the Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation for providing the necessary remaining funds.

The holiday open house to be held on Sunday, December 11th will provide an excellent opportunity to view this renovation.

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Unlikely Boss Rules the Fire Station

December Open House

An open house will be held at the Museum on December 11th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The house will be decorated for the holidays.

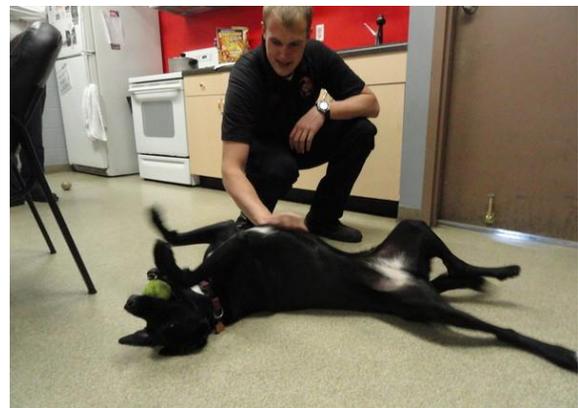
Refreshments will be served.
Please attend and bring a friend.

One day in the fall of 2009, a dog was brought into the Grimes fire station until she could be taken to the Animal Rescue League. It was in this short time that firefighters from both Johnston and Grimes fell for the pooch. Johnston firefighters felt compelled to follow-up. They found a vet who would give the needed medical attention free of cost. After some discussion and a little work, the stray dog found a home with the Johnston Fire Department. She was named Alexis. Alexis might not be the co-worker most firefighters expect to have, but she's an easy one to get along with.

Johnston History Quiz

1. Who built the house that is now home to the Johnston Historical Society Museum?
 - a. E.J. Garlock
 - b. Laverne Simpson
 - c. John H. Bauman
2. In what year was the home moved from the corner of 86th Street and 70th Avenue to its present location in the Johnston Commons?
 - a. 1986
 - b. 2002
 - c. 1998

Answers may be found at the bottom of page 5.



Firefighter/EMT Tristan Johnson and Alexis

RAMONA



Ramona at her desk in the Superintendent's office

Ramona Crowell Ward graduated from Johnston High School in May of 1947. In July of the same year Johnston Superintendent Charles Varner recommended to the Board of Education that she be hired as the school secretary. They agreed. She was the only school secretary for the Johnston Schools, grades K-12, from 1947 until Lawson Elementary opened in 1960.

Because of Ramona's many and varied duties, she touched the lives of school staff, students and parents. Her office was located at the top of the stairs coming up from the main entrance to the school. She had a good view of everyone coming and going. She welcomed visitors to the school. These visitors included the Polk County Superintendent and school board members who would stop by once in a while to check on the quality of education that was being offered in the Johnston Schools.

Ramona knew all of the school staff. She made out the payroll and delivered the checks. She gave teachers requested supplies and ran off on the ditto machine all of the worksheets that were used in the classroom. Because there was no library for elementary students, Ramona scheduled visits by the Polk County Bookmobile.

Ramona greeted students every Monday morning in front of the cafeteria where she sold weekly lunch tickets. Tickets could also be purchased before each lunch period. She was the headquarters for lost and found and many a student recovered wayward possessions placed in her care. If a student graduated from Johnston High School between 1948 and 1962, Ramona's name is on their diploma.

Ramona was the first line of communications for the school as she answered the office phone. She took calls from parents; fielding their questions or listening to their concerns.

She had a master list of students' phone numbers and called parents if a child did not report to school, was sick, or injured.

In addition to her work during the school day, Ramona was secretary to the school board. She kept minutes of all regular and special meetings and provided board members with requested information. She also sat on the school board election voting board, verifying the eligibility of those who voted.

If you were affiliated with the Johnston Schools between 1947 and 1963, you knew Ramona. She was the "go to" person and knew pretty much everything that went on in the school. Ramona stated that "she enjoyed her job and thought it was fun." When she retired in 1963, she was replaced not by just one person, but by five people. Ramona still lives in Johnston and is an active member of the Johnston Historical Society.

Deaths and Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Dick Tarlton. This is a known list of deaths that Dick could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let Dick know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: JSHS@Q.COM or phone 515-331-0687. Over 700 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum

Name	Class	Date of Death
Arthur Wallace	1932	6-20-11
Radomir (Raymond) Vignovich	1944	3-21-11
Patsy Johnson Crowell	1961	8-6-11
Mervin Davis	1963	10-5-11
Gail Bullis Scherrer	1964	7-3-11
Carolyn Grief Quam	1966	9-3-11
Kendall Belz	1977	8-13-11
Robert Harold Fulton	1929	1-6-34
Rosie Yoshida Sato	1947	6-3-03
Dorothy Mosier Nielson	1951	5-23-04
Laura Oviatt	2004	10-13-09

Election Coverage

It is time to elect Johnston Historical Society board members. This year there are 3 positions open. One member is seeking reelection and the other two will be new to the Board. You can vote for up to three people. Write-in names are welcome.

Those people running are:

Dick Tarlton is a 1950 graduate of Johnston Consolidated School and a former board member.

Dick Hyde is a 1950 graduate of Johnston Consolidated School and is the current Board president

Deb Robinette Krambeck is a 1963 graduate of Johnston High School

Have you moved?

Please notify the Historical Society of your new address if you have moved or are planning to move in the near future. We would like to keep you on our mailing list so you can continue to receive the newsletter.

Dues are Due

The 2012 membership dues are due January 1st, 2012. Because of a variety of increased costs, the Board has voted to increase the dues for 2012 to \$15. Please mail them to the Johnston Historical Society, 6161 Northglenn Drive, Johnston, IA 50131.

Museum to be Closed January and February 2012

Due to the harsh weather that usually occurs during January and February the Museum will be closed during these months. It will reopen with regular hours in March. In addition, no membership events will be held during those months.

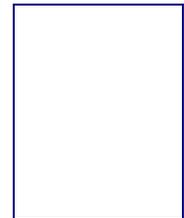
Answers to History Quiz

1. C
2. B

2012 Board Election Ballot

Dick Hyde	<input type="radio"/>
Dick Tarlton	<input type="radio"/>
Deb Krambeck	<input type="radio"/>
Write In	<input type="radio"/>
By laws yes	<input type="radio"/>
By laws no	<input type="radio"/>

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED