

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 22, Issue 1

Newsletter

Spring 2014

Looking Ahead in 2014

Although the museum has been closed for the winter, the board members have been working on improvements. The floors in the entry, parlor and dining room have been refurbished. We've rearranged the dining room and added chairs to the table. Jan upholstered the chair pads. It's a work in progress.

We will be rearranging the room that houses the school history items.

Our first board meeting will be Tues., April 8 when the board members will do some cleaning while we are at the museum for our meeting.

We are anticipating our second Garage Sale July 11 & 12. Our hope is that this will become our large annual fund raiser. See article regarding Garage Sale for more detail.

We will be setting up a table at the Johnston Farmers Market in order to become more visible and hopefully take in new members.



2014 Annual Dues

If you have not paid your dues for 2014, please send \$20 in the envelope that is included with the newsletter. If there is a number 14 after your name on the mailing label, your dues are current.

We welcome any additional money you might want to send as a donation to the Johnston Historical Society. A receipt for the donation will be sent to you for income tax purposes.

Garage Sale Fund Raiser

This year's Garage (Barn) Sale has been scheduled for July 11 & 12, 2014.

Begin collecting items to contribute to our annual garage sale this year. As you know, we are non-profit, so we will provide a receipt for all items donated.

Items can be brought to the museum after April 1 during open hours or call Nancy Budrevich at 255-4030 to schedule a delivery time.

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Meet the New Board Members



Lois (Irving) Waggoner grew up and attended grade school in the town of Herrold, Iowa. She then went to middle school and high school at Johnston, where she graduated with the class of 1969.

She worked at Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa for 36 years and retired in 2012.

Lois has been a member of the Johnston Historical Society since October, 1999. She hopes with her interest in genealogy and photography that she can help continue to preserve the history of Johnston for all generation to enjoy.

Lois and her son Jay reside in Urbandale, IA.

Alan Lathrum grew up in Johnston on Allen Ave. now known as NW 63 Place. He was the youngest child of 5 and only son of Bernal and Elsie Lathrum.

Alan started school at Johnston at the age of four. Mrs. Bybee was his kindergarten teacher and the classroom was in the southwest corner of the bottom floor of the school. He spent his whole school career in the same building, graduating in May 1964.

He attended Universal Trades School, Omaha, NE and his field of study was auto mechanics. He graduated in June, 1965.

Prior to graduation he was offered employment at Camp Dodge, with the caveat that he enlist in the National Guard. He enlisted in the Guard on June 16, 1965. This enlistment lasted until September 9, 1992, when he retired.

In April, 1983, he moved out of Johnston and settled on an acreage in western Dallas County, where his wife Shirley and he reside yet today. Between them, they have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

Donations

Below are 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:

Jackie Reineke	Charles Burkett
Dave Goss	Roger Wigton
Scott Temple	Don Heldenbrand
Janet Schuessler	Vivian Zimmerman
Denny Elwell	Mark Putney
Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation	

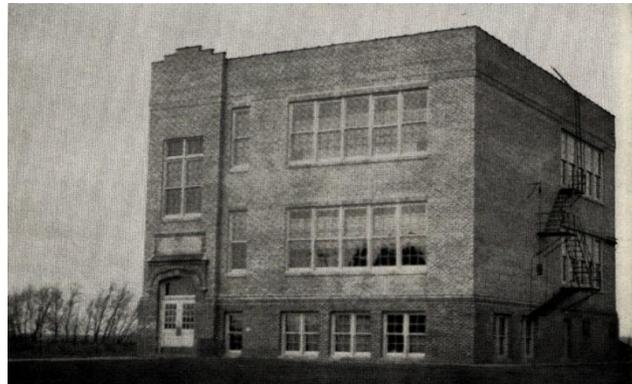
The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation. The Johnston Historical Society could not survive and continue to preserve the valuable history at the museum without you.

The board has designated \$5,000 of this money along with the balance of the porch fund to be a maintenance fund. \$1,526.40 has been spent to refinish some of the floors on the main level of the museum. The board is currently trying to determine the cost of all the work that needs done.

Celebrating 100 Years

In 1914, pioneers in the area gathered together to establish the Consolidated School District of Webster and Jefferson Townships, which eventually became the Johnston Community School District, as we know it today.

The rural schools that were consolidated were: Valley Independent (located east of current Lawson Elementary along NW Beaver Drive and 60th Ave); Friars Grade School (located one quarter mile west of the present high school along 62nd Ave); Ridgedale Grade School (located across from Hyperion Golf and Country Club); Woodlawn Independent (located along Beaver Drive in the Des Moines section of the district); and McDivitt School (located at 70th and Meredith).



In 1915 a new K-8 building was built on land just west of where the fire station now sits on NW 62nd Avenue and housed 100 students. In 1917 the district was expanded and was then "the Consolidated District of Johnston, Iowa."



The school became a K-12 building in 1919 when an addition was made to the building. Tenth grade had been added in 1918 and eleventh in 1919. The newly accredited school received the first State and Federal aid totaling about \$1,800. The cost per pupil was estimated to be \$9.64. Six horse drawn buses carried the students to school each day.

Celebrating 100 Years cont.

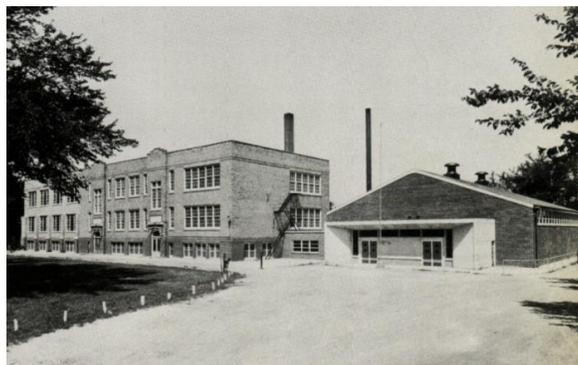
A 12 foot Studebaker school wagon (not motorized vehicle) equipped with brakes and lamps was purchased for \$305. In 1951 a new bus cost \$4,329.24 and in 2013 a new bus cost \$83,589.

The first high school graduation was held on May 14, 1920 and the school was certified as an accredited high school. First graduates were Elmer Betz, Harry Betz, Greta Ivers, Nellie Otto, Agnes Kuefner, and Marie Wilson. There were 238 K-12 student in the district that year.

In 1935 school colors changed from blue and gold to purple and gold.

In 1946 a contest was held to adopt a school name/mascot. The football team on 1946 was the first "Dragon" team. The name was suggested by Adriana Ansley, then a junior at JHS.

Due to growth and lack of space, some students attended classes at the barracks at Camp Dodge until 1968.



During the 1950's several additions were made to the school. In 1958 the first additional school, Johnston Elementary, was built at 5450 NW 62nd Ave. In 1974 the high school was built at the current location of 6501 NW 62nd Avenue. The class of 1974 was the last class of seniors to graduate from the "old" original high school. In 1985 the original school house was demolished and Johnston Middle School was built at the current location of 6207 NW 62nd Avenue.

What started as a one building district is now comprised of five elementary schools, two middle schools, a high school, an administrative resource center and a transportation/building grounds facility. An all-class reunion will be held in September on homecoming weekend. Additional information about the district and plans for the 100th anniversary celebration is available on the schools website: johnston.k12.ia.us.

A Life Remembered....



Harold Schuler, a longtime teacher and coach at Johnston Schools, passed away on January 16, 2014 at the age of 94. Harold retired from the district in 1983 after 38 years of service. Many of us also remember his wife Marjorie who was the school nurse for several years when their sons were young. Their sons, Fred and Jon, are both Johnston alum.

Harold was born January 22, 1919 in Armstrong, Iowa. After college, Harold joined the Army Air Force in September of 1941. While piloting in WWII, he was awarded the American Defense Ribbon, the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the European Theater Ribbon with three battle stars and immediately before leaving England, Harold had been recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Before he went overseas, Harold attended several flight schools, meeting and marrying his wife, Marjorie, while in Advanced Flying School in Moody Field in Georgia. After his service, Harold, Marjorie, and their two sons settled in Johnston.

He will be missed.

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 related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Relationship to Johnston/Johnston School	Date of Death
Rolland Graham	1938 Graduate	9/24/13
Wanda Sellner Wray	1956 Graduate	11/17/13
Judith Martin Blaser	1959 Graduate	1/19/14
Gloria Miller Anderberg	1968 Graduate	1/13/14
Beverly Bowen McClain	1951 Classmate	10/28/13
Harold Schuler	Teacher/Coach	1/16/14
Lewis Clarkson	Former Resident	11/23/13
Jack Fogelson	Resident	1/26/14
Dale McDowell	Resident	12/3/13
Ann Williams	Resident	11/20/13
James Kloberdanz	Resident	11/15/13
Edward Ruhnke	Resident	11/28/13
Lisa Gill	Resident	12/8/13
John Jenkins	Owner J&J Cafe	8/10/13
James Tiernan	Owned Escape Lounge	12/25/13

Johnston Historical Board Members

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

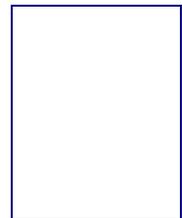
Nancy Budrevich, Vice-President
Carla Johns, Treasurer
Lois Waggoner, Membership

Mark Your Calendars:

July 11 & 12, 2014 Garage Sale. to be held in the Simpson Barn

Reminder: The museum will be opening in April and will be open from 2 to 4 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED