

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 26, Issue 4

Newsletter

Winter 2018

From the President

We are rapidly approaching the end of the 2018 season for the museum. It has been another great year, which includes landscaping upgrades, air conditioning repairs, and general maintenance to the Museum. It also includes spreading the message of our museum in different formats, both locally and nationwide to make sure that we are classified as an outstanding museum and one that will stand the test of time.

We ended the year with our Community Appreciation Holiday Open House on December 1st. It was a great turn out in spite of the weather. We gave tours of the house, gave out homemade cookies and candy -- and we mustn't forget the hot chocolate. Thanks to all who came and shared our big day. It has been my pleasure serving as the President this past year and look forward to the future.

Michael B. Knight, President



2019 Annual Dues

It's dues time. All members' annual dues are to be paid by January 12, 2019, for the 2019 calendar year. The cost for a yearly membership remains at \$20 and we have enclosed an envelope to mail your dues back to us for your convenience.

If the number after your name on the mailing label is 19 or higher, your dues for 2019 are already paid. Good financial planning!

We welcome any donation over and above your membership amount. The work of preservation is not cheap and costs for the upkeep of a 100-year old house continue to rise. Your generosity has allowed us to continue the work of saving and sharing our local history. Your support and donations are appreciated!

Election 2019

Your ballot to elect 2019 board members is enclosed in your newsletter. Write-ins are welcome. Please return your ballot in the enclosed envelope by January 12, 2019.

Exercise your right to vote!

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In the Museum...



Before the invention of wrinkle-free material, mothers labored over baskets of clean laundry to smooth Tommy's favorite shirt. The old-fashioned irons were heated by a variety of methods: gas flame, stove plate, and kerosene. Despite the risk of fire, some irons used carbide gas through World War II.

Henry W. Seeley patented the "electric flatiron" in 1882. There was no way to control the temperature and it weighed nearly 15 pounds. Women of that era had great arm strength!

At the museum we have a collection of irons from Jan Thran of Johnston. It is fun to look over these household convenience items of days gone by.

* * * * *

"The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron."
Phyllis Diller

Member Benefit: Simpson House Rental

Need a space to gather your small group? The Johnston Historical Society would like to offer the use of the 1902 Simpson House as a membership benefit.

Reserve our facility for private events for free.
Call us for details!



We have been blessed with great donors and volunteers who have donated their time, money and memories. Thanks to our most recent donors:

Nancy Budrevich
Marilyn Coonley
Elaine & Larry Egan
Mike Knight
Deb Krambeck
Alan Lathrum
Thomas Rock
Lois Waggoner
Johnston Hy-Vee
JSHS Volunteers

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation of cash and items. With these gifts, we are able to preserve and share the rich history of Johnston.

Welcome new/returning members:

Kathy Sorensen French
Mary Jane Paez

Thank you to our renewing members:

Dorothy Crowell Brooks (9 years)
Beverly Christofferson (10 years)
Deb Robinette Krambeck (10 years)
Beth Watne Meyer (?)
Pat Tharp (13 years)
Lois Irving Waggoner (20 years)

Correction

Some issues of our fall newsletter were published with the incorrect name of one of our loyal supporters. If you noticed that name "Crowell" was misspelled, you were quite observant. Our sincere apologies are extended to the family for this error.

Thank you, Nancy Budrevich!

It is with great sadness for us to say goodbye to board member, Nancy Budrevich, as she resigns from her board duties at year end. Nancy joined the board in 2013, originally to fill the term of Vice President Dick Tarleton who passed away. Nancy not only became VP, but easily fulfilled the duties of tracking Johnston graduates' deaths as Dick had done. She soon changed it up a notch by tracking all Johnston deaths, not just Johnston graduates.

During Nancy's nearly six years, she has worn many hats: Vice President, Treasurer after Carla Johns left, all the time tracking & recording the deaths. And she acted as President, filling those shoes when needed. She also tracked the donations and sent thank you's when the secretary was absent. Nancy worked diligently with Keith learning the new computer system and was always there to help Lois with any task that needed done. She willingly raised her hand each time we asked for volunteers for any event, giving tours, helping at garage sales, bringing in speakers, learning the steps necessary to get grants for the historical society. She always volunteered to provide food for each event as well, retrieved the mail, cleaned the museum and organized the kitchen. Nancy, you amaze us with your big heart and willingness to take on anything. That pretty much exemplifies you, as we know you do the same at your church.

Museum Open by Appointment

The museum is closed for the winter. It will reopen on the 2nd Saturday in April, 2019.

Tours of the museum will be available by appointment. Call the museum at 515-331-0687 and leave a message. Your Board of Directors will continue to meet during the winter months to carry out the work of the museum.



LIFETIME AMOUNT RAISED

\$10.64

Goodsearch.org helps non-profits raise funds by donating a penny for each Yahoo search done through their website.

Sign up and designate the Johnston Station Historical Society as your charity.



FUNDRAISER

Eating pizza and supporting history! We have 10 cards left. These cards never expire so get one today!

Each card has 10 punches valid for one FREE medium pizza with the purchase of any large specialty pizza. That's 10 FREE medium pizzas for only \$15.00. Punch cards are redeemable for in-store purchases only and they will not expire.

Contact board member Liz Van Zomeren at 515-745-0118 or email her at evanzomeren@mchsi.com to get your cards.

Digital Newsletter

Thank you to all who have signed up for our digital newsletter. It costs \$3.45 to publish and mail each newsletter so kudos to those who have signed up for on-line receipt. This month everyone receives a paper copy so you can get your ballot. **Email us** at jshs@q.com with your name and email address and you will be added to our digital distribution list.

Celebrating 50!

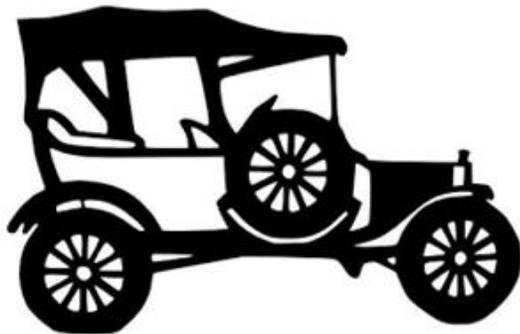
“SERVICE” to the COMMUNITY

See the USA in your CHEVROLET

As we look forward to celebrating Johnston’s 50th anniversary we begin to think about the people, organizations, and businesses that formed our community. Our first look is at those pioneers who saw the possibilities in that technological marvel, the automobile.

Although there were few paved roads in the early days of the twentieth century and travel was adventurous at best and treacherous at worst, the automobile captured the imagination of the American people. Local businesses were quick to recognize that those automobiles would need service.

The first service station in the area was **Hummels** which was established in 1915. What a leap of faith this must have been – 58th street (later called Merle Hay Road) would not be paved for another two years!



Soon Hummels was joined by **Arlie Otto’s** business which opened at Merle Hay and 59th Court on Thanksgiving Day in 1922. The family lived in a house behind the station.

Otto’s sold Deep Rock products for 34 years. Arlie’s son, **Don Otto**, took over the business in 1937. The switch was made to Conoco in 1956. The business closed in October 1980.



A. J. Hummel stands in front of his service station with grandson, **Ed Engel**. The station was located on NW Beaver Drive.



Otto's Deep Rock Service Station on opening day 1922



Paul Alley, Alfred Houseright, and Houston Robinette stand in front of the Johnston Garage



Houston Robinette stands in front of his garage circa 1950.

Thank you to the following for providing input to this article:

- Kathy Sorenson French
- Chris Hamiton
- Jeanne Hansen – Northern Polk County News
- Carla Kinsey Johns
- Deb Robinette Krambeck
- Ray Schleih's Collection

Paul Alley erected a Pontiac sales and service garage in 1928 on Merle Hay Road between the Iltis Lumber Yard and the Johnston Barber shop, but quickly outgrew it. His new building at 5800 Merle Hay Road, was big enough to hold dances on Saturday nights.

Alley's employee, **Houston Robinette**, took over the business in 1934 and it became a Chevrolet dealership until Robinette retired and sold the building to Pioneer Hi-Bred International in 1957.

Pioneer leased the building to **Bob Anderson's** D-X station for several years. The building later served as a maintenance facility for Pioneer before being demolished in 1980.



It was Chevrolet new model announcement day in 1952 when **Houston Robinette** showed off the new car.

Other gas stations of note:

- *George Witt (1940-1975) on west side of Merle Hay and south of NW 62nd Avenue (north of Iltis Lumber)
- *Dunn's Service Station (dates unknown) on NW 59th Ct.



Sellner Oil was located on the east side of Merle Hay north of NW 60th Avenue (picture pre-1950).



D. L. Miller's Service (on the left) was originally started by the Barkers in 1935. **Al Aulich** bought that station (pictured on the right) in the late 1950's and added an ice cream shop. It was a big deal for students to leave high school and hang out there during lunch.



If you have information or personal stories about any of these businesses, please share with us at jshs@q.com.

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Johnston Historical Society held the fall membership meeting on October 25 at the Simpson Barn. The meal was catered by our local Johnston Hy-Vee and members enjoyed a meal of sandwiches, soup, cole slaw, and potato salad. The room was decorated in a fall motif thanks to our board members.

President **Mike Knight** gave an overview of the year's events and thanked all those who helped make them successful. We also heard from **John Brown** on the status of our strategic planning efforts and from **Liz Van Zomeren** about our Casey's Pizza Card fundraiser. **Nancy Budrevich** also provided details of our financial status. Johnston City Manager **Jim Sanders** presented the city's plan for its 50th anniversary celebration in 2019. Mike introduced guest speaker **Teresa Holmgren** who talked about her book "Country Boy, City Girl" and the importance of documenting your own family history.



Mary Jane Paez, Alix Paez, Keith Westbrook, Nancy Budrevich



Teresa Holmgren spoke about writing her new book.



Mike Knight



Lois Waggoner



John Roskam, Ruth Roskam, Rose Busby and Linda Zeiger

←Liz Van Zomeren, Rianna O'Keefe, Bev Christofferson, Carla Johns, Pat Tharp

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE RECAP

The Johnston Historical Society held a holiday open house on Saturday, December 1. Friends braved the rainy, cold weather to share in some warm conversation and free tours of the museum. Special thanks to our volunteers who provided goodies and manpower: **Marilyn Coonley, Matthew Ding, Larry & Elaine Egan, Jan Jensen, Mike Knight, Lois Waggoner, and Liz Van Zomeren.** We would also like to thank **John Brown** who organized the event.



Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. If anyone knows of others, please let Nancy know. Nancy can be contacted

- by mail: 6161 Northglenn Dr., Johnston, IA, 50131
- by email: jshs@q.com
- by phone: 515-331-0687

Over 1,000 Johnston related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Relationship to Johnston	Date of Death
Doris Clark Emerson	Class of 1941	6/8/2018
DeLores Wakefield	Former Resident	11/6/2018
Mary E. Dugan	Resident	11/7/2018
Minnie Krogen Mill	Former Resident	11/8/2018
Richard Nihart	Resident	11/10/2018
Doris Wilhelm	Resident	11/13/2018
Raymond Craig	Resident	11/16/2018
Rev. Charles Rinkel, Jr.	Resident	11/18/2018
Charles Plumb	Resident	11/23/2018

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6161 Northglenn Dr.
Johnston, IA 50131

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society is to bring people together who are interested in the history and preservation of the Johnston area, which includes the early settlements of Johnston Station, Beaver Creek Settlement, Ridgedale, Huntsville, Herrold and Dodge City.

To this goal, we work to get the community engaged and involved in Johnston's rich history by providing a museum and events to the public.

Johnston Historical Board Members

Michael Knight, President

Elaine Egan, Secretary

Jan Jensen, Archivist

Marilyn Coonley, Membership

John Brown, Vice President

Nancy Budrevich, Treasurer

Liz Van Zomeren, Associate Archivist

Alan Lathrum, Membership

The museum is open by appointment. Leave a message at 515-331-0687 if you are interested in a tour.

Website: www.johnstoniowahistorical.org

**Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to our members from
the Johnston Historical Society Board of Directors.**