

hogs, and buy from local farmers en route. See John C. Hudson: Making the Corn Belt. Indiana Univ. Press, 1994)

Subsequent to this, John Johnston appears as a freight superintendent, according to one source, and/or livestock superintendent, according to Mr. McClure, for the Interurban Railroad station at what is now Johnston. This line which ran from Des Moines to Perry. began service in about 1907. It did carry livestock for there were corrals and loading chutes at that station..

Research into railroad records and guidebooks yields no agent listed by this name, however. He may have served in some other capacity.

John Johnston is buried in the cemetery in St. Charles, Iowa.

Whatever his connection with the railroad, he has left his name as his legacy in Polk County and Iowa.

Business: Discussion of the need for committee chairmen.

Ferne Michael will be Genealogy Chair.

Still needed: Publicity, Phone, Audit, Membership, and Acquisitions.

Ray Schleih will investigate costs of a flag pole for the Kinsey-Lawson Cemetery, flag to be flown on holidays only.

List of people to act as local resources for Johnston History is in process of being compiled.

No action on the House/Museum search.

Bessie Carlson read from minutes of a meeting, in 1876, of the Rock Creek School district (Crocker Township).

Please Note:

We have scheduled our September meeting for a Sunday afternoon.

Note on your calendar:

Sunday, September 27, 1998 at 4:00 P.M.

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Thank You!

Madilyn and Harry Allender will fund the purchase of a flag-pole for the Kinsey-Lawson Cemetery. The city will install the flag-pole.

The Allender's interest in the cemetery stems from the fact that it adjoins their property, and over the years they have seen it neglected and deteriorating, then take on a new look since city take-over and clean-up.

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New Members

The JSHS welcomes the following new members:

Jackie W. Reineke
Lincoln, NE

Martha W. Stevenson
Edgartown, MA

Margaret Weatherspoon
Ames, IA

Fran Melas
Poway, CA

Jack Carter
Orange, CA

Shirley Miller
Des Moines, IA

Dolores I Summy
Grimes, IA

And Many Thanks to the following members who have made contributions to the JSHS over and above membership dues.

Martha W. Stevenson
Nick Orlich
Margaret Weatherspoon
Fran Melas

Thanks to all !!!

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From the President

If trees could talk, what stories they could tell. After the mesocyclone that came through Johnston last month, there are thousands of trees that will never be able to tell their tale.

Perhaps some of the stately oaks and hickories could have told about providing food and shade for the Indians that were here first. The walnuts that were uprooted could have been seedlings of the trees that were cut to make the homes of the first settlers.

The maples on Merle Hay Road saw troop movements during the Wars, including "Desert Storm". They had seen a presidential cavalcade when President Bush was campaigning and gave a speech at the present library.

These trees had seen homecoming parades, funeral processions, new babies coming home from the hospital, and even Premier Nikita Krushchev when he came to visit Pioneer.

The uprooted and twisted pines, cedars, crabapples and other ornamental trees have shorter stories to tell, with lots of action. A number of the old trees are the ones that Aunt Nellie asked Uncle Ned to cut out of the fence row, but Uncle Ned never got around to it!

All totaled, millions of dollars worth of trees have been lost in Johnston forever. The last few years have not been very easy for these trees, what with floods, ice storms, early snowstorms and now this.

Trees have played an important part of our lives in Johnston. They have given us shade, fruit, habitat, beauty and greenery. At our next meeting I would like suggestions and thoughts of how we as a Society could help the citizens of Johnston to replant and start new chapters of the stories trees can tell.

Mary Jane Paez

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In less than 1/2 hour, on Monday, June 29, at about 1:30 p.m. the community of Johnston experienced radical changes which will be

with us for many years, and for those of our members who do not live in the area, and do not correspond regularly with someone who does, we report on this disaster.

A violent storm, described as a "mesocyclone" went through our locality, and uprooted large trees from rain-soaked soil, snapped the trunks of trees above ground, and shredded the tops of many others.

In addition there was damage to roofs, and siding on homes and other buildings. Power and phone service were interrupted, and roads were blocked with fallen trees and power lines.

Worst hit areas seemed to be the Hyperion Field Club, which lost about 70% of its trees, Camp Dodge, where there was tree and some building damage, with estimate of cost of loss and cleanup \$6.5 million dollars; and the older residential areas of town, east of Merle Hay Road.

The schools, notably the high school gymnasium and Lawson school were damaged also. Tree loss was estimated at \$1.5 million dollars.

Clean-up of littered yards and streets is still going on, but it will be many years before the gaps now seen in the landscape are filled with new trees.

Stories of "where I was when the storm hit"; and "what happened on our street--"; or "how long it took us to clean up" -- will become a part of our folk-lore, just as stories of the flood of '93 have done.

(See the President's Column, above)

A Memoir of Herrold School

Frances Sandegren Badgley

My family purchased a farm in Jefferson Township in 1928, when I was in first grade. This is Herrold School as I remember it at that time.

The school had become a part of a consolidated district and consisted of two buildings; the original one-room school housed the first and second grades with a newer building for the other six grades. Three teachers made up the instructional staff.

The old original one-room school house located on the site was typical of all the old white clapboard buildings that dotted the countryside in Iowa. They were usually surrounded by cornfields. The large bell in the belfry could be heard by the farmers as they worked their fields. The schools were a source of pride to them.

The interior was wainscoting with windows on each side. The students' desks were in rows facing the teacher's desk which was on a raised platform. Behind the teacher's desk was a slate blackboard the length of the entire wall. Above the blackboard stretched the alphabet in capitals and lower case.

At the bottom was a tray which held chalk and erasers. Also above the board were the flag, pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and a map box. This was the focal point of the classroom. It was the place for students to demonstrate their knowledge-- or lack of it. It was the place for recitation, special programs-- and the "dunce corner".

Standing at the board in front of the class, it was impossible to hide the

fact that you didn't know your multiplication tables!

The teacher was responsible for starting the fire in the large iron heating stove and keeping the stoneware drinking fountain filled with water from the well.

In each corner of the schoolyard was an outdoor toilet-- with seats of different heights to accommodate children of different sizes!

In 1929 the original one-room schoolhouse burned to the ground. The larger building was saved. The first and second graders were housed temporarily in the old Flatiron building in Herrold, and later in an old vacant store building near the blacksmith shop.

The existing building, was remodeled with an addition for the primary grades and a multi-purpose room in the basement. A central heating system was installed, as well as a small utility kitchen in the basement of the existing building.

Consolidated schools provided transportation for the students. In 1928 Carl Temple, a prominent farmer in the area, transported children in his large Cadillac with jump seats. In stormy weather the

bus driver would use farm wagons with straw on the bottom and canvas on top; in deep snow they would put sled runners on the wagons. By the mid-thirties the district had purchased yellow school buses.

Teachers boarded in homes in the community. Miss Kate Herrold lived on the family farm adjacent to the school. This was a favorite place for teachers to board. From all reports, she was a wonderful cook providing breakfast, a lunch packed for school, and a dinner in the evening.

Only credentialed teachers were hired, those who had at least two years of college with teacher training. Parents were very involved with P.T.A., special programs, carnivals and school picnics.

The county superintendent visited the school periodically, as did the county health nurse.

At the end of the eighth grade students took tests given by the county office of education, and those who qualified could elect to go the Grimes, Granger or Johnston.

(Many thanks to Frances Badgley for her contribution to our local history).



Grades 3, 4 and 5, Herrold School 1931

Front row, L to R: Freddie Horner, Leland Andrews, Marjorie Herrold, Margaret Bowen, Juanita Leonard, Betty Carter, Walter Soneberg.

Middle row: Billie Sharon, Phillip Wright, Beulah Baker, Bert Kueffner, Beryl _____.

Top row: Betty Woods, Mildred Beck, Virginia Horner, Frances Sandegren, Dorothy Poulton, Willie Reese.

Upper left, Dorothy Temple, Teacher; Upper right, Billie Carter

(photo courtesy of Frances Badgley)