

# JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O.Box 109 Johnston, IA 5013

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President: Mary Jane Paez                      Treasurer: Robert Thomas  
Vice-President/Programs: Judy Bogaard  
Membership: Garland Seibert      Secretary/Newsletter: Marlys Seibert

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sunday, July 24, 2005

Wednesday, August 24, 2005

Sunday, September 25, 2005

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Sunday, November 20, 2005

No December meeting

The JSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization

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## President's Column:

So much has happened since the last column in May, it's hard to know where to begin. It always helps to have a party so that you have a goal. In this case, the party was Green Days and the goal was to have a functioning museum in place. We all worked fast and furiously during the first two weeks of June to put displays in appropriate rooms of the house. The downstairs room that was originally the Bauman kitchen became the "school" room. We had class pictures and old year books to display. The school district helped out along with Ferne Michael and Ray Scheih.

The original bathroom is a full fledged gift shop. Marlys Seibert worked on this to price and display donated items and crafts. Marlys also worked to put up lace curtains throughout the house. The downstairs bedroom is now the Society office. We have a computer and even an email address now.

The dining room is a meeting room with various displays about the house and barn and the process of the move and renovation. The front parlor is a "music" room with an 1870's grand piano from the Barnards and a beautiful pump organ from the 1860's that the Betz family has loaned us. Ferne Michael commissioned an oil painting of the house before we moved it and the painting is on display in the room. A walnut table that we found on the front porch was refinished by the Michaels and is also displayed.

The front foyer has special exhibits that show a commemorative coin from the incorporation of the city and a Farm Bureau sign with E. J. Garlock's name on it, just to name a few things.

Upstairs there are six rooms that have been turned into: the Camp Dodge and service organizations room; the Johnston businesses both old and new room, two rooms with displays relating to early settlers, a City of Johnston room, and a Pioneer/Hyline room. Judy Bogaard helped out to put out displays.

For Green Days, we had a steady stream of visitors to both the house and barn. In the barn, we had Vivian Zimmerman, Helen Billings, Marlys Seibert and Alma Sims working with kids to create old fashioned crafts. Everyone went away happy. It was a good opportunity to show off what has been accomplished.

Jim Thomas, who came from San Antonio, to help put the finishing touches on the house, brought a replica model of the yellow roadster that Ronald Reagan rode around town and parked at Camp Dodge. Jim also donated a porch rocker and flower baskets to pretty up the place.

About a year ago, when our final goal seemed a long time off, I asked Garland Seibert what he would do when we finally finished. Without taking a breath, he replied, "I'll celebrate my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!" He was 68 at the time. We have been blessed so much with support and assistance from surprising sources. When we put the last tack in the stair runner, we all had a "defining moment" – that we had come to the end of one phase and that we had just started another.

#### DONATIONS

***Gift in honor of Don Duvick by Sigurd & Dianne Nelson***

***Audrey Herrold Archer***

***Evelyn Temple Carlson***

***Sally Faris Konnath***

***Pat Faris***

***Jackie Reineke***

***Ronald and Hedy Garlock.***

**Ronald and Hedy Garlock**

After visiting the House and barn recently, the great grandson of John and Mary Bauman has made a generous donation of \$500 to the JSHS. Ronald's grandparents were Laura (Bauman) and E.J. Garlock. Laura Bauman was the youngest daughter of John Henry and Mary Bauman who built the house we now know as the Simpson House. Ronald's father, William, was the oldest son of Laura and E.J. With William's untimely accidental death, his widow married Henry Garlock, William's brother, and together they raised their family. Ronald and Hedy live in the Houston, Texas area. They were favorably impressed with all that has been accomplished and with the professional quality to all the work that has been done.

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**Bricks**

Carroll & Lillie Broadie  
Wayne & Ruth Sellner  
Rachael H. Seibert  
Russell W. Seibert

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**SYMPATHY TO**

- the family of Eli Orlich, JHS '36. who passed away on May 7, 2005 in Tucson, AZ. Ten of Eli's siblings have also graduated from Johnston High School. The Orlich family is one of the long-time residents of Johnston.

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*Jerry Gorden, archivist*, is scheduled to be available to accept items for donation or loan as follows: from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. Tuesdays July 26; Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30. Jerry needs people to record and number the items donated and/or loaned. This is a sit-down job, marking with a pencil. Also, people with computer knowledge can enter items on the computer record. Call Jerry at (515) 276-5677. Or, you can leave a message on the museum answering machine: (515) 331-0687.

Some items that could be used for the museum displays are composite class pictures - we need pictures for 1933, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1975, and any class after 1993; also school yearbooks (years we have on loan or on file include: 1928 - 36 - 40 - 47 - 49 - 50 - 65 - 70 - 72 - 73 - 77 for the High School) ; histories and photos of local businesses both past and present; information on local churches and clubs; family histories; any interesting stories you might like to share of memories of Johnston. Individual items are especially meaningful if there is a story along with the item.

Johnston High School's library is in need of an annual for 1982.

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WHAT: BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

WHERE: SIMPSON HOUSE AND BARN

WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2005, *BEGINNING AT NOON.*

An open house at the Simpson museum is planned during the hours of the festival.

We need volunteers between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. There will be 'jam sessions' in the forenoon. Please let us know how much time you would be able to give us. We will need to have your name in order for the persons at the "gate" to let you in. Please leave a message at (515) 331-0687. Come out and enjoy a good time listening to great acoustic music. Pass the word around and bring friends along ! THANKS.

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Anita Walker, Executive Director of the Iowa Arts Council, visited on April 19. After a brief tour of the premises, she was able to give us some good ideas for initiating a focus for the museum and for getting involvement from the community as well as members in the setting up of displays. JSHS hopes to be a repository for the history of Johnston. It is anticipated that we can make this a special place to visit for a wide variety of guests from far and near. After getting this far along in the project, we are at a very important part of the journey and hope everyone will add their support and help, and make this even more successful than hoped. Everyone counts! Looking forward to hearing from many of our members.

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*A parting thought:*

*"Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming 'WOW, What a ride!!!'"*

*Anonymous*