

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 18 , Issue 4

Newsletter

July 2010

## President's Column:

The Johnston Historical Society participated in the Johnston Green Days parade. The Museum was open on Friday June 18th and Saturday June 19th. The Johnston Station Jazz Band gave a performance on the south lawn of the house. Everyone in attendance had a great time listening to the big band sound.

Jan Jensen and Carla Johns are working on the preservation of our documents, pictures and other artifacts using funds from the Community Betterment Grant.

Thanks to everyone that has contributed to the porch fund. We are still a long way from our goal so keep the donations coming in.

*Continued on page 2*



## Camp Dodge Roundup

In August 1931, eighty horses escaped from Camp Dodge and one hundred soldiers, aided by police, were sent to recover them. The horses fled after a blaze broke out in the stable used by Troop E and quickly spread to the stable used by Troop F. Every cavalryman in the camp was called out and a bucket brigade was formed. Before the Des Moines fire department could arrive the fire was under control.

When the fire was first discovered, 411 horses were placed in a corral near the stables. While the men were busy fighting the fire 150 of these horses escaped the corral and 80 actually left the camp. Phone calls came in from all of the city the next morning reporting the stray horses. Nine horses were found at 21st and Prospect Road, three more were picked up on the Drake University

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A thank you to Ferne Michael for donating three volumes of the history and genealogy of the Hunt family. This information is located in the research room in a space entitled "Collection of Ferne Michael - History of Johnston". A special thank you to Ferne for the many donations she has given the museum as well as an untold amount of her time. Thanks again Ferne.

*Dick Hyde, Board President*

### **Johnston History Quiz**

How many people were in Johnston High School's first graduating in 1920?

- A. 6
- B. 15
- C. 81

Camp Dodge was built "almost overnight" in what year?

- A. 1988
- B. 1877
- C. 1917

What year did the Hunt family settle in the Johnston area?

- A. 1846, B. 1811, C. 1912

Answers are on the bottom of page 5

### **Thank You**

Thanks to Piney Ridge Green House for their generous donation to the Museum of 5 flats of annuals and 23 perennials. Thanks also to Jack and Carla Johns for planting them. If you are in the vicinity, please stop by to view the gardens. Photographs of the gardens may be viewed on our web site at [johnstonhistoricalsociety.org](http://johnstonhistoricalsociety.org).



### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Millie and Don Peitzman who have been "Sweethearts for 63 years".

Congratulations to Ferne and Lloyd Michael who recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

campus and four were located in east Des Moines in the area of East 14th and Morton. As soon as calls were received, soldiers were driven in police cars to places where the horses had been reported. The soldiers then captured them and rode them back to Camp Dodge.

## Otto's Conoco

A Johnston Landmark for Over 50 Years

Otto's Conoco gas station was opened on Thanksgiving Day in 1922 by Arlie Otto. The station was originally a Deep Rock station but switched to Conoco in 1956.

The station opened on Merle Hay Road just five years after the road was built in 1917. At that time there was only one other gas station between Camp Dodge and Des Moines.

In 1937 Arlie Otto's son, Don, took over running the station. The original station was remodeled and enlarged several times. The number of service bays was expanded to three and the number of pumps to six.

The Conoco station was closed in October, 1980 and was purchased by Pioneer Seed Corn Company. The Bishop Drumm Care Center now stands on its former location.



Photo:  
Otto's station  
before 1950

## **Johnston Schools**

### **Students Give Presentation on Henry Wallace at National History Day**

Three Johnston High School students presented a documentary about the impact of Henry A. Wallace and his development of hybrid corn at the National History Day contest held in College Park, Md., June 13th through June 17, 2010.

Sophomores Taylor Mithelman, Helen Lagerblade and Brandi Jansen earned a trip to the nationals by placing as one of the top two projects at both the District and State competitions.

Two other students, Kaitlyn Aldrich and Sam Sparland, also represented Johnston High School at this event by creating a website explaining the work of Norman Borlaug and his impact on world hunger.

Congratulations to these students!

### **Membership Drive**

September 15th we will have a pot luck dinner at 6:30 P.M. This meeting will be used for a membership drive. Bring a friend. Anyone that joins at the meeting will receive a 2011 membership. The Johnston Station Jazz Band will entertain us starting at 5 P.M. The society will furnish a meat dish. There will be free will donation at the door.

## 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](mailto: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
JOHN LUTZ	1960	7-21-10
MARGARET SWANSON PENNINGTON	1934	6-15-10

## City News

The Johnston Police Department announced that it will continue its "Get Busted in a Good Way" bicycle safety incentive program. The program is operated in partnership with Van Dee's Ice Cream Shoppe. It awards Young Bikers with an ice cream treat when they are "busted" for demonstrating safe riding skills. The Johnston Police say it is a great way to promote safe riding habits and to meet the youth in our community. The youth will receive a "ticket" or coupon to Van Dee's.



Carol VanderLinden,  
Owner of Van Dee's  
Ice Cream Shoppe  
and Johnston Police  
Officer Rich Kirkeby

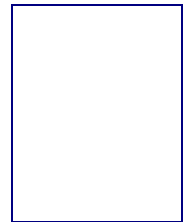
## Answers to History Quiz

1. A
2. C
3. A

## Mark Your Calendars

**August 18th:** We will have a sweet corn feed at 5p.m. come and eat corn until it comes out your ears. The meal will consist of hot dogs and sweet corn. Hope you can make it. There will be a free will donation at the door.

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



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