

URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

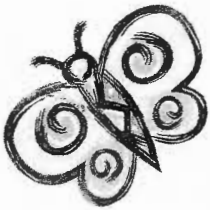
4010 70TH STREET

URBANDALE, IA 50322

(515) 270-2917

www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org

MAY 2012



Plant Sale

Don't miss the Plant Sale on Saturday, May 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the lawn of the Olmsted-Urban House.

Calling all gardeners! Invite your friends and neighbors to attend. This is one of our most popular money making events, and we depend on your support. We have been able to help many beginning gardeners get started with their landscape plans. You'll also find long time gardeners standing in line at the 9 a.m. opening, hoping to find plants they do not already have or need to replace.

The plants are definitely mature this spring due to early warm weather. Our chair for this event is very knowledgeable about plants. And she recently shared, "please don't dig or transplant mature size plants. They will suffer shock and won't sell well".

Bring your plants in plastic bags, milk jugs or whatever you want. Please label the plants as to color and approximate growth height if you know. We would like to have your plants on Friday if possible, or before 9:00 on Saturday. You can leave them on the porch at the Olmsted-Urban House any time.

If questions, call Anne Ulm, plant sale chairperson, at 276-1568. A special thanks to Anne and her plant sale volunteers!



Save the Date

What: Annual Ice Cream Social

When: Sunday, June 24 2:00 – 4:00

Where: Front Lawn of the Olmsted-Urban House

Homemade ice cream, pies and cakes will be available. Vintage automobiles will be on display and the house and barn will be open for tours.

Step into Summer . . .

"It's Tea Party Time"



The committee has begun planning for the June tea parties. The dates for the tea parties will be June 4, 6 and 8. Our 13th annual tea party will include lunch, crafts, a featured book, music, and manners matter.

Reservations are required as seating is limited to 20 each day. Call soon to save a spot for a special little girl.

Please call Kay Readinger at 276-2017 or Penny LeFevre at 360-1474 for information or reservations.

Pump Installed

An old fashioned outdoor pump painted red has been given to the Historical Society. Wayne Robbins will put it in place in the side yard where the old lilac bush had to be removed. A picture of the Olmsted House in the 1930's shows the pump location in practically that same spot near the back door.



Spring Tour

May 8th

7:00 am Departure

Creston in southwest Iowa is the destination for the Spring Bus Trip sponsored by the Historical Society to be held on Tuesday, May 8th. Although parts of the city did suffer some damage from the recent storm, city representatives assure us there are not problems with the sites we plan to visit.

First stop is the CB&Q restored depot. As we visit and have refreshments, we can learn some railroad history from the displays of railroad artifacts and miniature model railroad scenes.

A short trip uptown to the business district gives a chance to visit Quilt Nation, a well-known store in the area with all kinds of examples, materials, and supplies related to the creative hobby of quilting.

The rest of the morning will be spent at the Union county Historical village and Museum. In addition to the extensive collections in the museum, you can view a railway caboose, school house, blacksmith shop, 1881 church, and a 1896 barn. Materials in the museum highlight Creston history and information about such various former Creston residents as actress Marcia Wallace, drummer John Robinson, astronaut Walter Cunningham, and Frank Phillips, founder of petroleum giant, Phillips 66.

A hearty lunch will be served at the A and G Restaurant.

Creston has several industries. We will tour the production site of Bunn-O-Matic, an Iowa manufacturer of coffee brewing equipment used in homes, hotel rooms and restaurants across the country.

Homeward bound we will visit Three Mile Lake Resort and the lodge which has a memorial to the Mormon Trail pioneers who passed through the area in 1846.

Cost for this interesting trip is \$70 which covers transportation, lunch and other fees. A check should be made payable to the Urbandale Historical Society and sent to 4010 70th Street in Urbandale (50322). Please mark "Bus Tour" on the envelope and provide an emergency contact name and phone number with your check. If you have questions call Janice Winey, 276-2752, or Wayne Robbins, 276-1370. You do not have to be a member of the Historical Society to participate. Please spread the word and encourage your friends to join you for this interesting day.

The bus loads in the west parking lot of Welter Office Supply at 70th and Douglas. We will leave promptly at 7:00 am and plan to return about 5:30 pm.

Yearbooks

One of the collections at the Olmsted-Urban House is of Urbandale High School yearbooks. The first Urban Echo we have was published in 1954. Mary Sherer gave copies of the Echo from the years she served as a counselor at Urbandale High School.

Of the volumes published, we still need a yearbook for the years 1958, 1965, 1968, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1993, and those after 2006.

Several individuals have visited the Olmsted-Urban House to check some details in these old yearbooks and it would be nice to have a complete collection.



History of Bus Trips

The bus trips sponsored by the Urbandale Historical Society have quite a history. Beginning in 1993, day-long trips have been sponsored twice a year to interesting spots around Iowa. The first trips to Walnut and Kalona, and south to Allerton and Lamoni were organized by Janice Winey and her husband, Del. They would make several trips to scout the area and plan the schedule and transportation details.

Through the years, 38 trips have been taken to various parts of the state – to Ames and Nevada, Stanhope, Harcourt, Clear Lake, Iowa City, Albia, Fort Dodge, Waterloo, Fairfield, Clarinda, Red Oak, Charles City, etc.

Bob Simon and Wayne Robbins do much to plan destinations to appeal to varied interests; not only to county historical museums and antique stores, but places of state and local significance and small town industries. By working with local community representatives, they are able to plan unique trip experiences. Janice continues to handle the registration.

They welcome ideas of places you think would be interesting to visit that are within about a two hour drive. The trips are not limited to Historical society members. Anyone who pays the registration is welcome to participate. Many of our registrants look forward to making this a regular outing with their friends. After the bus charter fees and other expenses are paid, any extra profit is used for Historical Society projects.

Many thanks to Janice, Bob, and Wayne for all the time and planning they have devoted to these educational and fun-filled trips that so many of us look forward to and have been able to enjoy through the years.

New Website

It is just a year ago that work was being done with the Leadership Urbandale Class of 2011 to develop computer services for the Urbandale Historical Society.

The new website has been developed by Amanda Arthur-Struss of Rainbow Lizard Design. To view the website go to www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org

When you see the home page with the view of Olmsted-Urban House, you can click on the areas you have interest: About us, Memorials, City History, Pictures, and videos.

Videos and interviews will be added by Joe Struss of New Renaissance Video.

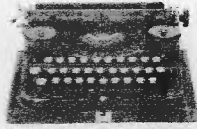
To contact the Historical Society by email, use info@urbandalehistoricalsociety.org



Visit from Bravo

Representatives of Bravo Greater Des Moines visited the Olmsted-Urban House on April 2nd. Historical Society Board Members were present to provide background information about the goals and purposes of the Historical Society, and the varied uses of the Olmsted-Urban House for the community. They toured the house and could see how the \$5,000 grant from Bravo was being used for planned improvements for the house and grounds.

Acquisitions



A number of interesting items have been acquired by the Historical Society in recent months. Look for these additions the next time you visit the Olmsted-Urban House and Barn.

Joe Lamb donated a wooden scale model of the horse-drawn delivery wagon used by his father Robert Lamb for Lamb's Dairy.

To add to our collection of old sports equipment, Cynthia Dabrieo gave some old-style steel ice skates.

A beautiful white luncheon cloth with hand crocheted edging was given by Jan Lawson.

Furniture for the dollhouse in the children's room was provided by Virginia Gee.

A Kwik Kook pressure cooker came from Luella Olmsted.

Charles Fleming gave a small section of rail track from the inside of the Urbandale Coal Company Mine that was located in the south part of Urbandale.

Richard and Ruth Carey have shared a number of items from their collection: a unique Oliver office typewriter, an early R.C.A. Victor table model radio in a wooden case, and several vintage cast iron baking pans for special molded cakes, muffins, and corn bread. Of special interest is a Victorian style wooden child's sled with seat and handle for pushing.

Diane Meek generously shared juice glasses, Ball canning jars, a pink and white china pitcher, recipe booklets, and a "Gone With the Wind" style lamp. She

enjoyed a tour of the house when dropping off the items.

Thanks to all these individuals who shared these items with us. If you have something you think we might want to add to our collection that helps tell the story of life years ago, contact Beth Haigh at 276-9654 or Wayne Robbins at 276-1370.

Papers, documents, or photographs related to the city of Urbandale, local businesses, or residents, that would be of interest for the local history collection – contact Virginia Gee at 276-0222. Materials do not have to be donated permanently. If you can just give us an opportunity to copy or scan the items, we do not need to keep the originals. Check particularly if you are cleaning out the attic or sorting through some relative's collection, so these historical items can be preserved.

Urbandale Historical Society
Membership Application / Renewal
4010 70th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322

- Supporting Membership (\$25)
- Sustaining Membership (\$50)
- Patron Membership (\$100)
- Benefactor Membership (\$500 and up)
- Name on Permanent Plaque (\$1,000)
- Other _____



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____
