

URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

4010 70TH STREET
URBANDALE, IA 50322
(515) 270-2917
www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org
FALL 2012

September Meeting

Monday, September 10th

What memories do you have of the years during World War II? In 1942 President Roosevelt signed an Executive Order that decreed that thousands of people of Japanese descent living in the United States should be removed from their homes and placed in internment camps. They were usually housed in barracks and had the use of communal areas for washing, laundry, and eating. They were able to bring only a few personal possessions with them and life was hard.

The Historical Society is honored to have Jeanette Kawaguchi share her experiences as a detainee in California at our first fall meeting on Monday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come to this interesting program. Bring a friend.

For those who are interested, an informal potluck supper is planned to begin at 6:00 p.m. Bring some food to share and your own table service.



October Open House

Sunday, October 7th

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Join us on the first Sunday in October for our Autumn Open House! The fall mums, hay bales, pumpkins and gourds will brighten the outside of the house. Inside it will be tours, fall treats and drinks. It is a fun time to tour the barn and grounds. See you then!

October Meeting

Monday, October 1st

At the October 1st meeting of the Urbandale Historical Society, Sid Ramsey, spokesman for Iowa Methodist Hospital, will highlight the decades of history since the hospital was founded in the early 1900's. The hospital began from the efforts of the denomination's caregivers as an offshoot of its nursing school. In addition to a wide variety of general hospital services, strong programs in cancer and heart disease treatment have been established. In 1993 Iowa Methodist, Iowa Lutheran, and Blank Children's Hospitals merged to form Iowa Health, the largest health care system in the state. In recent years Methodist West Hospital was opened in West Des Moines.

The Program begins at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Dessert will follow the program.



Punch on the Porch

Tradition continues at the Olmsted Urban House on October 30th. Punch on the Porch will again be served on Beggar's Night from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Bring your children or grandchildren to the south porch for a cup of punch and let the friendly servers admire their costumes and listen to their jokes. This continues a tradition of when Maytie Urban hosted the children in the neighborhood.

Visitors



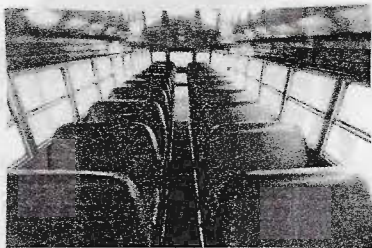
Throughout the year we encourage visitors to the Olmsted Urban House to view the improvements, check the interesting Urbandale memorabilia and examine some of the materials in our historic collection.

Thirty young people participated in the Kids Kamp sponsored by the Urbandale Parks and Recreation, toured the House and grounds on June 15th guided by Beth Haigh

The House and Barn were open during the Ice Cream Social on June 24th with hosts and hostesses on hand to answer questions. More than 50 people took time to sign the guest book in the house, and other visited with Bob Simon in the barn.

Joanne Hanson and Virginia Gee opened the house the first Sunday afternoon in July and August. Visitors who stopped by had an opportunity to ask specific questions and share information about Urbandale history.

If you are a member of a church, school, or civic group that would like to learn about Urbandale history and/or tour the house for one of your meetings, please contact Beth Haigh at 276-9654.



Fall Bus Trip to Marshalltown, Iowa

Marshalltown is the destination for the fall bus trip on Tuesday, October 9th sponsored by the Urbandale Historical Society.

First stop will be the Fisher Art Gallery for rolls and coffee. The Gallery houses an outstanding collection of Impressionist paintings and ceramic works.

From art to industry . . . and our next point of interest will be Fisher Governor Company. It was established in 1888 by William Fisher who had invented a device to maintain pump pressure. A variety of valves and regulators have been developed through the years. Fisher Controls, now a division of Emerson Process Management, is one of Marshalltown's largest employers and manufactures control valves used by many oil and chemical processors.

On Main Street we will tour the renovated RKO Orpheum Theater with its gallery featuring Iowa film makers and film stars.

After lunch there is time to tour the city's National Historic District. The Glick-Sower Heritage Homestead is a Pre-Civil War home complete with authentic furnishings from the mid to late 19th century. The Marshall County Historical Museum has special exhibits related to county history, the LeGrand fossils, military service, and famous residents. The Taylor #4 country school is maintained to its original 1913 appearance.

Before returning home there will be time to visit Marshalltown's other well known company, Lennox Industries. Its history dates back to David Lennox, a toolmaker and mechanic, who came to Marshalltown in the 1880's and invented a machine to make barbs for barbed wire. Over the years the company produced steam boilers, gas engines, fittings for water mains and its well-known gas heating furnaces

The cost of the trip is \$70.00 which includes transportation, lunch and admittance fees. Checks can be sent to the Olmsted-Urban House at 4010 70th Street in Urbandale. Please mark "Bus Tour" on the envelope and include an emergency name and phone number for Janice Winey's trip registration.

The bus will leave promptly at 7:00 a.m. from the west area of the Welter Storage Equipment company parking lot at 70th and Douglas. Encourage others you know to help fill the bus and participate in this informative day.

Historic Carving Gone

Did you notice that something is missing at 4010 70th Street?

Sadly this summer, we had to bid farewell to the carving of our farmer and his dog, which has been located on the front lawn of the Olmsted Urban House since 2004.

Gary Keenan, a chainsaw artist who worked again this year at the Iowa State Fair, was getting started in his career when he volunteered to turn the old wind damaged silver maple into a sculptured art piece.

In consultation with Historical Society Board members, he chose as his design an image of a farmer in overalls and straw hat, accompanied by his dog. The base had a corn design and the words Urbandale Historical Society.

In spite of several application of sealant over the years, weather conditions were hard on what started out as a damaged tree.

In recent years there was more deterioration, the farmer lost his hat, and crevices widened. This spring it looked like it might lean, so for safety sake it was time to cut it down. Gary's Tree Service of Ankeny was on hand to do some necessary tree trimming on the property, and our farmer was soon reduced to a pile of wood chips and hauled away. We will miss this iconic symbol of rural history.

Little Girls' Tea Parties

Our 13th annual Little Girls' Tea Parties were held June 6, 8 and 10. The theme was *Step into Summer*. The feature story was Crafty Chloe by Kelly DiPucchio. Chloe was a DIY (do it yourself) girl who loved to create things.

The attendees made necklaces and cloth doily draw-string purses. A brief history of doilies was shared with the girls as well as tours of the upstairs rooms. A big "thank you" to the committee for the part you each did to make this a special time for the little girls.



Yearbooks

The Historical society over the years has acquired a collection of Urbandale High School yearbooks starting with the first Echo that was published in 1954. In last spring's newsletter it was mentioned that several of the more recent volumes had not yet been acquired. Tim Carver, assistant principal at the high school, responded and arranged to donate the volumes from 2007 – 2011. He also found a copy of the 1991 yearbook. We thank Tim for his interest and support. We are still missing yearbooks for 1958, 1965, 1968, 1987, 1990, and 1993. Check when you are cleaning your closet to see if you might have one of these yearbooks that your family no longer wants to keep and would be willing to donate.



November Meeting

Monday, November 5th



City services are an important part of the community life. Some residents remember the days in the 40's when Harry Hull's duties included grading the streets, spreading gravel, filling holes, cleaning culverts, hauling garbage, reading water meters, catching stray animals, and posting signs.

At the Historical Society meeting on November 5th at 7:00 p.m., we will meet the head of the Public Works Department, Dave McKay. As Director of Engineering and Public Works, he oversees a budget of more than seven million dollars. Among services administered are roadway maintenance, street lighting, traffic safety, engineering services, solid waste collection, sanitary sewer and wastewater, and other aspects of engineering administration.

Come and share your memories of early days and learn about plans for this department in the future. Dessert will follow the meeting.

A Big Thanks for the Ice Cream Social Volunteers

We had another wonderful ice cream social on the Urbandale Historical Society grounds on Sunday, June 24th, 2012, with hundreds of UHS friends enjoying the pleasant weather and homemade ice cream. Thanks to all the volunteers for their work. There were shift volunteers in and outside the house, pie/dessert makers, and many others contributed to the success of this special event. We even had volunteers outside of central Iowa. A special thanks to the following businesses for their generous donations: Roberts Dairy, Hy-Vee, Quik Trip, and Fareway

We raised \$1,473.99! The date is always the last Sunday in June, the 2013 Ice Cream social will be on June 30th!

Norman & Faith Huitt, Chairpersons

Membership

In order to have more consistency when memberships are due and to avoid getting dues six months into the year, we will collect 2013 UHS membership dues between October 1st and December 31st. If we have calendar year dues, it will be easier for everyone to remember to get their dues in before the next calendar year. Look for more information in the mail in late September.

Although our membership has decreased a bit in recent years, we still have over 100 members. Let's see if we can aim for 130 members (or more) for 2013! Invite your neighbors and friends to some meetings at the Olmsted-Urban House. That just might motivate them to join the Urbandale Historical Society.

Norman & Faith Huitt, Chairpersons

Howard Nelson

In July the Historical Society lost one of its most faithful members, Howard Nelson. Howard was 95 years old and had been a resident of Calvin Manor for many years. Health conditions had kept him from actively participating in recent years. His wife, Mae, had died in 2004.

The Nelsons moved to Urbandale in 1953 and built a new home on 72nd Street. Cecil and Mary Looney were longtime neighbors. Howard worked for American Mutual Life Insurance Company and was also an active member of the community. He spent 32 years as a volunteer fireman, 10 year on the Planning and Zoning commission and two years on the Board of Adjustment. He was named Citizen of the Year in 1978.

Howard and Mae were charter members of the Historical Society and spent countless hours at the Olmsted Urban House working on clean-up and restoration projects. We are certainly appreciative of what they contributed to the house and other projects.

Chamber of Commerce

The Urbandale Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 50th Anniversary in August with an event at Chamber headquarters, located at 2900 Justin Drive. The Chamber currently has more than 600 members. Susan Bonnicksen is the current president.

Information compiled by Les Hamilton in his book, *Around Home Urbandale*, gave this account of the history of business activities that preceded the Chamber. It is interesting to note that several Historical Society members played an important role.

"The Urbandale Businessmen had an association of sorts for short periods of time through the 1940's, meeting mostly to discuss mutual problems and to plan a little decoration for the Christmas season. In 1956, the meetings came a little more regularly as a few men attempted to do some cooperative "trade-in-Urbandale" projects. Dave Hartsook served as president. Several promotions were sponsored: the July 4th celebration, an Easter egg hunt, annual Christmas lighting, and sponsorship of a basketball team."

"Bob Lamb did some welcoming on the part of the city starting in 1955, whenever he found a newcomer. He was able to get some names from the Water Department when new residents signed for the service. Lyleen Lemon and Madeline Kaloides began calls to newcomers as a city hostess under the sponsorship of the Women's Club. In the 1960's the Industrial Development Commission, a Chamber-like organization under the leadership of Lawrence Hindert, worked actively and successfully toward bringing industry to Urbandale."

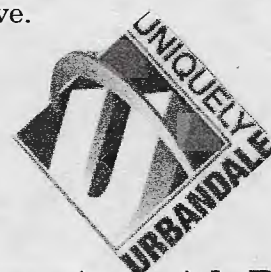
According to Chamber records, the group was officially organized in 1962 with 19 members. In addition to supporting local events, the

group started an annual citizen award in 1965. Barney Wilder, pharmacist, was the first honoree. Paul Milligan, volunteer fire chief, was the second awardee, followed by Howard Hanson, city clerk. More than 40 additional citizens have been honored for their service to the community. In recent years at the annual dinner the chamber members have also named the Business of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, Educator of the Year, and a honoree to the Hall of Fame. This year's Hall of Fame recipients were Don and Kathryn Brush

The Chamber first had an office in the basement of the First American Bank at 7011 Douglas, and later in the City Hall building at 3600 86th Street. The first Executive Director, Daphne Myers, was hired in 1998. Other Chamber leaders have been David Schooff, Sheryl Woodman, and Kirstin Stoffer. Tiffany Menke, current director, was hired in 2004. Jeana Schultz is the program director. The chamber office was moved to the Justin Drive location in December 2008.

Tiffany Menke believes the goal of the chamber is to promote economic development, business growth, and quality of life with the primary focus on the business community.

The Historical society is a member of the Chamber with Gene Haigh as our representative.



Cooperation with DUNA

Downtown Neighborhood Association (DUNA) and the Urbandale Historical Society again joined to make the July 4th celebration more enjoyable for parade watchers along 70th Street. A large popcorn popper was hooked up at the Olmsted Urban House so DUNA could provide free sacks of popcorn. DUNA also paid to have a KYBO located on the parking lot for the holiday.



Urbandale Historical Society
Website



www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org

Have you had an opportunity to check the website developed for the Urbandale Historical Society?

Six interviews with Urbandale residents recorded a year ago in April have been added. From the home page go in on the pictures and video section.

Watch 1992 citizen of the Year, Bill Lawson, speak about changes in the community and DUNA.

Marilyn Kollmorgen talks about the importance of community volunteerism.

Virginia Olmsted Campbell grew up in Urbandale and shares experiences of high school and the first July 4th celebrations.

Mark Nagel, who has retired from the Urbandale Police force, also has memories of growing up in Urbandale.

Lois Smith gave a parents view of some of the changes in Urbandale Schools.

Ron Hall tells of community service activities with Lions club and his interest in sporting activities, especially youth hockey. Ron passed away in July 2012 and will be missed.



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