

URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

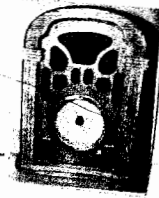
4010 70TH STREET

URBANDALE, IA 50322

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WINTER 2015



January Meeting

The program on the restoration of the old MacRae farm house at 72nd and Douglas scheduled for November had to be postponed. Kevin Conroy will now present information about the historic property and his plans for the house at the meeting on Monday, January 5th at 7:00 pm.

We invite all to a traditional soup supper/potluck that will begin at 6:00 pm. Joanne Hanson will prepare the soup base. Please bring a can of vegetables to add to the soup and an appetizer, salad or dessert to share for our meal.

Coming to the meeting will also give you an opportunity to see how the Olmsted-Urban House is decorated for the holidays and look at the display of vintage Christmas cards and postcards.

You do not have to be a member of the Historical Society to participate in our activities. Please invite your friends.



February Meeting – Up, Up & Away

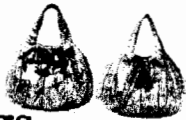
Des Moines historian, John Zeller, will present a program for the meeting on February 2nd at 7:00 pm. John is known for his many interests, especially architecture, but is expected to tell us about one of his other interests – the history of ballooning in Iowa. Some balloon owners even compete and there is a National Balloon Museum in Indianola.

March Meeting – Slogans

Who used this slogan to advertise?
“Thirst asks nothing more”

Bob Simon is coordinating a program for March 2nd about popular advertising slogans starting before the days of television and moving into the early televised slogans. He will challenge our memories and show some favorite examples from old time magazines. Vintage radio commercials were filled with catchy jingles, great products, and outrageous claims. This should be an entertaining program that will begin at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will follow.

Answer: Coca Cola



April Meeting – Handbags through the Years

Beth Haigh will highlight the history of hand bags through the decades for the program on April 6th. She has led the restoration and displays in the clothing room at the Olmsted-Urban House and will show some of the purses and beaded bags from our collection. Information about men's old wallets and billfolds will also be given. The program will begin at 7:00 pm. Plan to stay for refreshments.

Meeting Cancellation

Iowa's unpredictable weather sometimes causes a meeting to be cancelled. If it announced that local schools are closing and other community events are being cancelled, you can assume that the Historical Society will not be meeting. The answering machine message at the Olmsted-Urban House may not have been changed. Call Virginia Gee's home phone at 276-0222 if you are wondering whether the meeting is going to be held.

Holiday Open House

The Holiday Open House proved to be especially festive this year with visitors from a group calling themselves the Brass Gears Adventurers Society. Dressed in Victorian period costumes they even joined in an impromptu singing of Christmas carols. More than 35 visitors signed our guest book including two representatives of the Johnston Historical Society.

The house was beautifully decorated in and out using traditional items. Initial planning was done by Ginny Campbell and Beth Haigh, assisted by Cynthia Dabrieo, Kathryn Brush, Pat Nawrocki, Kay Readinger, and Virginia Gee. Carol Lee Riekenberg again was responsible for the children's room and shared treasured old toys to put under the tree.

Norm Huitt prepared a special display about the history of Christmas cards. His collection of vintage Santa postcards was very impressive. Norm and Wayne Robbins put up the outdoor wreaths and the lights around the porch.

Serving refreshments Sunday afternoon were Joanne Hanson, Janice Clements, Marie Long, and Delores Van Horn. A delicious assortment of decorated cookies was provided by Jo Henry, Joyce Cretors, and Carol Lee Riekenberg. Several members served as greeters and Jean Swift came to play the piano.

It was definitely a Happy Holiday event.



Board Meeting Announcement

After 14 years as President of the Urbandale Historical Society, Wayne Robbins announced that he would be stepping down effective January 1, 2015. Wayne will continue to serve on the board, help with buildings and grounds projects, and the annual Ice Cream Social.

Wayne became involved with the Historical Society when the Olmsted-Urban House was purchased in 1986. He was a motivating force in its restoration, serving as a go-between with Urbandale City Council, architects, and contractors. He contacted corporations and individuals for funds, materials, and volunteer labor. He has given hundreds of hours of his time, talent, and participated in many carpentry, woodworking, and electrical projects inside and on the grounds. He was instrumental in getting the barn built and donated many farm tools and antiques for display.

Wayne is also known for starting the tradition of the ice cream social, an important fund raiser for the Historical Society. He and his family have generously prepared dozens of freezers of homemade ice cream. Wayne would contact businesses for donations and made many calls for members and friends of the Historical Society to donate the cakes and pies needed for this community event.

In 1988 Wayne was named the Urbandale Citizen of the Year for his work not only with the Historical Society, but also UGRA, J-Hawk Booster Club, Parks and Recreation Board, and many other civic groups. In 1994 his was deservedly named the "State Volunteer of the Year".

In 2001, Wayne, after serving on the Board for many years, succeeded Madeline Kaloides as President and has served for the last 14 years. Wayne has provided leadership for many of the Historical Society improvements on Olmsted-Urban House and grounds as well as the construction of the Barn in 2001. He has helped the Historical Society receive grants and worked on projects related to the trees, cave, special sidewalks, parking lot, wooden fence, and outdoor lighting.

Wayne's love for this old house shows in all he has done! The Historical Society members thank Wayne for his many contributions and hours of volunteering.

Webster School

Virginia Gee represented the Historical Society with a visit to the third grade class at Webster Elementary School in December. She was able to answer the questions students had about the history of the community.

How quickly the years go by . . . Webster, the newest of Urbandale's elementary schools is located to the west at 12955 Aurora. It was dedicated in 2006, the year when many of these students were born.

The building is located on the site where an early one-room rural school was established in the early days of Webster Township. Through the efforts of Eva Day and Pauline Wipperman, Webster was the name chosen by the Urbandale School Board for the new sprawling brick complex that now serves nearly 600 students. Webster has 20 classrooms and there are currently 468 students in kindergarten through 5th grade. There are also six classrooms for 118 pre-school students.

This is quite a change from the first Webster School.

Clip and Save Important Dates



- January 5 Soup Supper 6:00 pm
Meeting - 7:00 pm
- January 19 Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- February 1 Olmsted-Urban Open
House 2:00-4:00
- February 2 Program Meeting 7:00 pm
- February 16 Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- March 1 Olmsted-Urban Open
House 2:00-4:00 pm
- March 2 Program Meeting 7:00 pm
- April 5 Olmsted-Urban Open
House 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- April 6 Program Meeting 7:00 pm
- April 20 Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Election of Officers
- May 2 Plant Sale 9:00 am
- Mid May Historical Society Bus Trip

2015 - Membership Renewal

Recently a reminder letter was sent out by Membership Chairpersons, Norm and Faith Huitt regarding membership dues for the year 2015. If you have not yet responded, please send a check so all memberships can be received as soon as possible. We need your support!

URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Renewal

Membership is on a calendar year: Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

Contributions are tax deductible.

- Supporting\$25.
- Patron\$100.
- Name on permanent plaque.....\$1,000. and up
- Sustaining\$50.
- Benefactor\$500. and up
- Other

SPECIAL GIFTS - Bequests and Memorials are appreciated.

Name _____ Spouse _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please indicate your interests on the reverse side.

Have Urbandale information, photographs or memorabilia to donate or lend for copying.