

# Jasper County Historical Society

# JASPER JOURNAL



Volume XXVI Number 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Award Winning 1 Display New Exhibits for 1 May 1 Opening Notes from the 2 President New Board Mem-3,4 bers Memorials & Gift 4,6 Donators POP-UP Museum 7

Special points of Interest:

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Brown Bag Lunches
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Quarterly Meeting

- Remember to select "Like" on our Facebook page
- Membership/Gift Letters
- Photographs





# **Come See Our Prize Winning Exhibit**



Jasper County Museum was awarded the prestigious OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION award from Silos and Smokestacks on April 2nd. Our team worked 2 years to bring the interpretation of the harnessing of wind power in Jasper County to fruition. Join us in congratulating Linda, Dee and

Mary Ann for their inspiration, as well as all their hard work.

We will be having a special Open House on June 29th celebrating our "Winderful Tales" exhibit, and you are all invited to attend. You can see the award winning exhibit yourself, starting May 1, in our Ag Building.

# **Our Season Opens May 1— Come See the Changes**



Our staff and volunteers are hard at work revising current exhibits, and adding new exhibits, to help us continue in our mission of interpreting the history of Jasper County. You will need to come visit to see all the changes, but a few highlights we're working on are:

We've moved all the old non-Maytag washers upstairs near the older Maytag machines to give a better snapshot of the industry in it's early days.

We're adding a wall of pictures and artifacts of other pre-1960 industry and commerce, as well as churches, organizations and schools.

Spring 2014

#### JASPER JOURNAL

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#### The Jasper County Historical Society

Ken Barthleman, Director

Newsletter Contributors

Ken Barthleman, Lelah Main, Mary Ann Nevins, Cynthia Poots, Mary Ann Iske and Dr. Dee Butler

The Museum is open every day from May 1 through Sept. 30 from 1 to 5 p.m. Last tour starts at 4 p.m. Tours for ten or more persons may be scheduled all year by contacting the office. Tours must be booked enough in advance for the Museum to arrange for guides.

Current annual memberships are \$10 for individuals and \$20 for families. Mail address changes to JCHS, Box 834, 1700 S. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Newton, IA 50208 or call us at (641) 792-9118.

Donations & memorials are vital to the Museum. Gifts of \$500 or more entitle the donor to have appropriate names engraved on a permanent bronze plaque in the Museum Memorial area. Gifts of artifacts are welcome, but do require advance approval by the Acquisitions Committee.

#### Email:

director@jaspercountymuseum.com admin@jaspercountymuseum.com www.jaspercountymuseum.com www.facebook.com/jaspercountymuseum

#### **NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

By Mary Ann Nevins

It is an exciting time for the Jasper County Museum! On our Facebook page you can see the countdown until opening day, which is May 1<sup>st</sup>! There are lots of changes this season, some of which you will notice immediately when you visit us and many behind the scenes as well. With change, there is always the "Good News, Bad News" scenario and I'd like to share some of each with you.

<u>Good News</u> – Our newly completed exhibit highlighting the importance of wind energy to Jasper County, from the early days until the present, has won the coveted Golden Silo award for excellence in interpretation. We want to thank all those involved in the planning and construction of this exhibit and congratulate them on a job well done! You are all invited to the Open House on June 29<sup>th</sup>, which will feature this exhibit.

<u>Bad News</u> – We were saddened to receive a letter of resignation from Board Member and immediate past President, Linda Wormley. She has served with great energy and creativity and her presence will be greatly missed. I remember joking with her about "having a couch in the Museum" since she seemed to be always there and involved in some project for the benefit of all of us!

It will be very difficult to fill the shoes left empty by her departure, so we are asking if any one reading this has an interest in serving on our Board of Directors to make our office aware of it. We promise to put you to work! The work is an opportunity to participate in the preservation and sharing of the rich history of this county – an important mission for the future!

<u>Good News</u> – All members of the Jasper County Historical Society enjoy the right to unlimited visits to your Museum, and the right to bring an "out of county" guest with you free of charge. We try to provide activities during the year to entertain and educate our members and the general public, and we encourage you to support those efforts by attending these events. It is always rewarding to the presenter to have an appreciative audience!

Again, we do want to thank all our members for their continuing support and hope we have received your renewal for 2014. If you have questions about your membership status, please call the office and Cynthia will have the information for you. Hope to see you soon!

These items, and hundreds more, will all be at the POP-UP Museum downtown from May 15—June 15.

We hope you can come visit us downtown for this special event honoring the advertising specialty industry and other Jasper County businesses.



# We are now OVER 1,248 likes on Facebook!



check us out@

jaspercountymuseum.com

facebook.com/jaspercountymuseum

#### Ken's Quiz #1

F.L. Maytag spoke by nationwide radio on March 9, 1930 to introduce the new Model A series washers. Whose speech, scheduled at the same time, had to be delayed 30 minutes?

"History is strewn thick with evidence that a truth is not hard to kill, but a lie, well told, is immortal"

Mark Twain

#### **Membership Status**

Please note that Memberships run from January thru December. If your 2014 dues aren't paid, we will not be able to send you the next issue of the Jasper Journal. Contact Cynthia if you have any questions.

## **CONTINUING OUR INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW MEMEBERS**

#### **OF THE BOARD OR DIRECTORS**



### <u>SUE ELDRED –</u>

We are pleased to introduce Sue Eldred, who joined our Board of Directors last October. She is a lifelong resident of Jasper County, and proud to be an active partner with her husband, Robert W. Eldred, in a Jasper County farming operation. She and Bob have been married for 55 years and have 2 children

and 4 grandchildren.

Sue has worn many hats in her career life after graduating from Newton High School in 1958 and attending DMACC and the University of Iowa. She retired in 2012 as Director of the Red Rock Community Action Program. Her other activities have included serving as President of Jasper County Farm Bureau Women, and serving on many state and local Farm Bureau committees. She is a 50+ year member of First United Methodist Church and Newton Chapter 100 of Order of Eastern Star. She has held offices in each of those organizations, in addition to being a 4-H leader and Sunday School teacher for many years.

When asked why she said "yes" when being invited to serve on our board, she replied that her family has deep roots in Jasper County, and she has been researching their genealogy. She feels it is important to preserve the past, so future generations can learn about and enjoy their heritage. Her goals for the Museum include working to improve the exhibits, and help make the citizens aware of the presence of the "jewel" we have for them to enjoy.

She names her personal goals as Faith, Family, Friends and Farming.

#### Emigration, NAFTA, and the origins of corn in southern Mexico.

Presentation by Board Member Brent Parker for April 27th Quarterly Meeting (2:00 PM)

Last summer, Brent traveled to Oaxaca in southern Mexico with the Witness for Peace organization. The object was to become familiar with the agricultural and related emigration issues the Mexican ethnic Indians face. He will discuss some of his experiences visiting with ethnic Indians and their way of life and impacts of agricultural technology and trade policies.

Brent Parker graduated with BS and MS Degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Iowa State University. He spent two years in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, South America. After returning to the US, he worked at Iowa State University designing livestock research facilities until moving to Newton in the late 70's to build and operate a farrow-to-finish swine confinement operation. In 1983, he started as the Jasper County Sanitarian and spent 25 years working as a regulator of private sewage disposal systems and private water wells first at the county office and then as the state regulatory engineer with DNR for septic systems and private wells. Brent has extensive experience in South and Central America returning to Ecuador twice, visiting Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, especially significant time working on various projects in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

#### **INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBER**

#### **DENNIS "DENNY" HAMMER**



We made the call to Denny Hammer on the day he retired from Fisher Company in Marshalltown, where he worked after retiring from the Maytag Company in Newton. When we promised he could play with our steam engine if he agreed to serve on our Board of Directors, he said "YES!" and we are so glad he did! So he is adding this service to his "retirement" project of remodeling the kitchen in their home using native cherry wood, cut from trees in his father's pasture, to build

the cabinets.

Denny is a native of Jasper County, and a 1969 graduate of Newton High School. He has been married to his wife, Bobbi, for 43 years and they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. He is a 9 year veteran of active duty with the U.S. Air Force, serving during the Viet Nam era.

He is a member and past president of the Mid-Iowa Antique Power Association and is also a current Board member and past president of the International Harvester Collectors Club. His interest in conservation and hunting involved him in the Isaac Walton League of which he is a past board member and officer. He also gave 13 years of service as an instructor for the Hunter Safety courses.

His favorite thing about the museum is the steam engine and the agricultural areas. He will be invaluable in caring for and using our equipment to educate and promote our agricultural heritage. He says "serving on this board is a natural step for him, given his interests in both areas".

His goal for the Museum is to change the perception of the Museum being the "best kept secret" in Jasper County. We are looking forward to helping him achieve that goal.

# ARTIFACT DONATION WISH LIST

As we build our new exhibits, we can use our members assistance in finding pre-1960's artifacts for business, industry, churches, schools, organizations, unions, etc. We are looking for donated items we can display, and not things such as membership lists, books, etc. because we have very limited storage, and they are very difficult to properly display.

We are also seeking artifacts from the Korean and Vietnam wars for our new exhibits in the Military Room.

#### MEMORIALS

Since February 24, 2014

RUTH CLEVERLY: Lelah Main

JOSEPH STREET: Marjorie Tiedje

CYNTHIA KELLY: Linda Wormley

KATHRYN GRIMES: Dean & llene Grimes

HELEN OSBORN HILLS: Chuck & Rachael Osborn

**BOB BURNS: Jeff & Vickie Farver** 

ROBERT F. OSBORN: Catherine Osborn

MIRIAM HAMMERLY SLINGS: Verle & Helen Kooistra

MARGARET HARRINGTON HAR-MON: Verle & Helen Kooistra

LELAND SMITH: Herb & Sybil Scott, Bev Cross, Newton Alumni Assoc., Herman & Pat Deaton

DON RUSELL: Herb & Sybil Scott

We sincerely thank all those who have chosen to help the Historical Society by remembering family and friends in this meaningful way.

#### Thanks Jean

Special thanks to Jean Smith for all the volunteer time she devoted to contacting our volunteer Docents and setting up the calendar with Cynthia.

The tour guides are in place, all we're waiting on is your visit from 1:00—5:00 7 days a week, starting May 1. Remember, no appointment is needed and the last tour starts at 4:00





We are a Partner in the Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. Find out more at:

www.silosandsmokestacks.org

#### Ken's Quiz #1 Answer

President Hoover delayed his nationwide speech by 30 minutes so F.L. could make his announcement.

#### TOP 5 REASONS TO VISIT US TWICE THIS SUMMER

5. It's included in your membership.

4. You can visit or revisit the Ag Building

3. You can pay even more attention to the over 8,500 artifacts on display.

2. You can take the tour with different Docents, who each have their special areas of interest and expertise.

1. YOU CAN SEE IF WE'RE ACCOM-PLISHING THE CHANGES WE SET OUT TO MAKE.

#### **Jasper County Authors**

We honor authors with a Jasper County connection by displaying their works in our lobby. If you know of one we don't have, ask him or her if they would like to donate their book to our display.

# Scouts Clean Up When Board Mer



When Board Member Denny Hammer said he would rally the troops for a clean-up day at the Museum, he brought in members of Boy Scout Troop #346, whose members come from Baxter, Newton, Ira, Colfax and Mingo. A HUGE "thank you" to these boys for their day of work! They are shown here with some of the many bags of trash gathered along the North property line. Pictured from left to right: JR Hammer, Sean Callahan, Brandon Hammer, Logan Barker, Nathan Miller, Michael Hodnett and Denny Hammer.



## April 16

The speaker for the noon Brown Bag Luncheon at the Jasper County Museum Wednesday April 16 will be Jim Kessler. He taught Biology at Newton High School from 1972 – 2005. The Kesslers were Newton residents for 31 years. Currently he teaches Environmental Biology and Introductory Biology at Iowa Valley Community College – Grinnell. Kessler is a 1968 graduate of William Penn University and has a Master's Degree in Biology from the University of Northern Iowa.

Jim has been active in native plant gardening, prairie restoration, and native planting management for 40 years. He and his wife, Kathy, live on 30 acres of reconstructed prairies, oak savannas, wetlands, and woodland south of Grinnell.

His talk, "Why Native Plants Matter to Songbirds, Pollinators, and Gardeners" will focus on how native wildflower gardens can attract beneficial insects and bring beauty to both vegetable and flower gardens. He will also explain how native plantings reduce soil erosion and flooding, increase habitat, increase songbird populations, and can reverse the decline in pollinators, including honeybees and our struggling Monarchs. His presentation will be illustrated with photographs taken on the Kessler property.

# May 21

Jerry Sawin will present a program on being left-handed (a subject of great interest to southpaws like our Executive Director). Check in early May for more information at www.facebook.com/jaspercountymuseum. Gifts Donations Since August, 2013

#### VISIONARY - \$10,000 OR MORE

LEGACY - \$5,000 THROUGH \$9,999

HERITAGE - \$1,000 THROUGH \$4,999 Marvin Koeper

<u>PIONEER - \$500.00 THROUGH \$999</u> Maxine Peterson Brad & Mary Manatt

VANGUARD - \$200 THROUGH \$499 Donna Parker

<u>CENTURY - \$100 THROUGH \$199</u> Jim & Edna Farland David B. Dahlquist of RDG Maurice & Gerry Phillips Fred Chabot Don & Sharon Black Doug & Lori Korte Ralph & Shirley McGregor

Charlotte A. Smith Clare & Patricia Patterson Ed & Mary Rozendaal Dale Benskin



We wish to give a Special Thank You to you who have made extra donations and memorial contributions throughout the years. You have kept us going! Your gifts made it possible for our museum to be as great as it is. Friends and family members will see your generosity of \$500.00 or more on a plaque displayed in our Memorial Room.

SPONSOR - \$50 THROUGH \$99 Marilyn Deutsch Denis & Linda Wilcox Bill Harrison Dotty Mittelstadt Fred Matthias Ella Hendershot Tom & Jan Turk William & Barbara Ponder

Laverne & Joann Nida Rose Evans John & Sara Conde Mary Parsons Mr. & Mrs. John Wickenkamp Tom & Susan Weeks

**Brent Parker** 

SUPPORTER – UP TO \$25

BUILDER - \$25 THROUGH \$49 Robert & Doris Fisher Fred Swank Margaret Synhorst Curtis & Wanda Lamb Jeff & Vicki Farver Ruth Jones Bill & Nancy Shields Jane McDaniel Robert Wickett Gene & Linda Bryant Patricia Beckham Gilbert & Jeanne Caldwell Colleen Spain

### Jasper County Loses a Leader

The Jasper County Historical Society lost a friend and loyal supporter when Leland Smith passed away on April 7th. Leland had been a board member for 21 years and served as president from 1997 to 2000. He had been chairman of many committees and his favorite accomplishment was directing the fund raising campaign for the Ag Building.

Under his direction, the Jasper County Historical Society Foundation was started to help stabilize museum finances and he served as president until he resigned due to ill health. We will greatly miss his counsel and guidance.

We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

# 2014 Calendar Of Events

Board Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month and are open to the public.

## April

- **16** Brown Bag Lunch with Jim Kessler, "Why Native Plants Matter to Songbirds, Pollinators and Gardeners"
- 22 Board of Directors meeting, 7:00
- 27 Quarterly Membership Meeting 2:00, including presentation by Brent Parker

#### May

- 1 OPENING DAY
- **15** Pop-Up Museum downtown May15—June15
- 27 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00

#### June

- 17 Newton Community FAM Tour
- 21 Steam School (and 22nd)
- 24 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 28 Cemetery Walk (with Prairie City Museum)
- **29** Open House for "Winderful Tales": Exhibit

#### July

- 4 Steam Engine in 4th of July Parade (Museum closed)
- **11** Garage Sale (and 12th)
- 22 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00

# **Check the Newton Daily**

facebook.com/jaspercountymuseum

#### **Please note our new email addresses:**

director@jaspercountymuseum.com admin@jaspercountymuseum.com

## Come see the Changes (from page 1)

We're are expanding our Military Room to include displays for Korea and Vietnam.

We've placed 3 key washers in a special case because of their importance in the county's development. They include the first commercially built washer in Newton, the only known complete Maytag Pastime washer and the Maytag Gyrofoam that propelled Maytag to #1 in the world.

It would be worth a May visit just to see how much of this we were able to get completed by Opening Day!

Thius summer, we offer non-members a free re-entry pass so they can come back later in the year and see any exhibits they didn't have time for during their visit. It's a great opportunity for them to take their time, and still be able to see everything, including the Ag Building.

Members, of course, can visit us as many times as you wish.

# We're Going to POP-UP in Downtown Newton

We're going to have a special exhibition downtown in the Pappy's building from May 15—June 15. We will be exhibiting our Executive Director's extensive collection of advertising specialties and other items related to Jasper County. The space has been donated by Deb and Danny Cupples and, for that, we are very grateful.

Among the items on display will be:

Over 100 advertising mirrors

1902 and 1907 Farmers Record Books

Vernon Blackout Kit from WW2

Advertising Novelty Mfg. Jig Saw Puzzle from the 1930's

Newton Manufacturing haversack from 1942

**Dun-Lap Mirrorettes Christmas Ornaments** 

Vernon Windicator & Newton Manufacturing Aero Circus

Flour sifters, matchstick holders, string dispensers, and much more



Jasper County Historical Society P.O. Box 834 Newton, IA 50208-0834

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#### Visit us on the Web

jaspercountymuseum.com jaspercountymuseum.net View our photos and like us on Facebook facebook.com.jaspercountymuseum

#### E-Mail:

admin@jaspercountymuseum.com **Phone**: 641-792-9118

Our past, our heritage and our treasures, rich in tradition, retained for future generations to graft into their own culture.

Your gifts and donations are always welcome



Biger Contry Diger Contry

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#### **Returned Service Requested**

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Newton, IA Permit No. 489

#### **Business Sponsors - continued**

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