

ALTOONA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

August 15, 2007

Number Thirteen

PRESERVING HISTORY IN ALTOONA

Work has begun at the new Altoona Area Historical Center! In June the building was inspected by a representative from the state of Iowa's Technical Advisory Network (TAN). A preliminary report on the site visit was received on August 9. The report divides work to be done on the building into two categories: Building Stabilization and/or Building Rehabilitation. Currently, Society volunteers and city workers are working to clean and organize the main floor. A large number of donated items have been moved into the building where they will be organized and prepared for display.

The AAHS has applied for a Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant to help with restoration expenses at the Historical Center. We expect notification on whether our grant has been approved in late December 2007.

We have received numerous inquiries from people who have donations for the AAHS collection. Plans are being made to have the Historical Center open two hours each Saturday to receive donations. Volunteers are also available to pick up items in the Altoona area. If you know someone who has an item to donate, please call 967-4815 to make arrangements.

If you know someone who is interested in attending one of our meetings or programs, please encourage them to attend. Membership in the Society is open to anyone in the Altoona area interested in preserving local history. Benefits of membership include a quarterly newsletter, a calendar of events and information about historical tours.

Join the State Historical Society of Iowa!

Help safeguard the history of Iowa by joining the State Historical Society of Iowa. Receive information about museums, libraries, archives, publications and many other programs and activities. Also included in membership are discounts at museum stores and restaurants along with invitations to member-only events.

Download a membership form at www.iowahistory.org or contact the State Historical Society of Iowa, Attn: Membership, 600 E. Locust, Des Moines, IA 50319.

Southeast Polk Homecoming Parade

The Altoona Area Historical Society has been invited to participate in the Southeast Polk High School Homecoming parade in Altoona on Thursday, September 27, 2007. Parade participants will line up at 5:30 p.m., and the parade will begin at 6:00 p.m.

If you have ideas for a parade entry, or if you would like to ride in the parade wearing your AAHS t-shirt, please call Diane at 967-4815.

8th Annual Taste of Altoona 2007

Thursday, October 11, 2007

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**The Meadows Conference Center
Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino**

The AAHS has again been asked to participate in the Taste of Altoona. If you would like to help at our booth that night, or have an idea about food to serve, please notify us by September 15.

Subscribe to the *Iowa Historian* newsletter

The *Iowa Historian* is a monthly publication of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Each issue of the e-newsletter gives you current news about the State Historical Society including upcoming events, exhibits, educational programs, publications, grants, and stories of interest.

To subscribe, sent a blank e-mail to join-iowahistorian@lists.ia.gov

Does anyone remember?

**Bill and Nan's Service Station & Café
Altoona, Iowa Phone: 7481
Gas and Accessories
Short Orders**

We have received a thermometer with the name of this business printed on it. If you remember anything about Bill and Nan's, please call the AAHS.

Iowa Automobile Dealer History

The Iowa Automobile Dealers Association, founded in 1919, is compiling a book about its history. The group is looking for old photos and memorabilia from Iowa auto dealerships in the past. It is especially interested in items such as photographs, print materials, signs, old manuals, and memories that could be used in preparing the book.

For more information, contact Mary Cason at Iowa Automobile Dealers Association, 1111 Office Park Road, West Des Moines, IA, 50265, or call (800) 869-1900.

BIG CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSES

The Big Creek Historical Society has announced dates and times for their museum open houses. The museum is located in the front room of Polk City's City Hall, 112 Third Street, Polk City. It will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. on August 26, September 30, and October 28. Many artifacts from the area are on display.

A tour of the second floor of the historic building is available during museum hours. Tours can also be arranged by appointment. Contact the Big Creek Historical Society at www.polkcithistory.org or by calling 965-3828.

IOWA PIONEER CERTIFICATE

The Iowa Pioneer, Century, or Statehood Certificate Program is sponsored by the Iowa Genealogical Society. It recognizes persons who are directly descended from Iowa pioneers.

The purpose of the Certificate Program is to recognize families with Iowa roots, encourage people to undertake genealogical research, and to provide genealogical resources at the Iowa Genealogical Library.

Applicants must prove they are directly descended from ancestors that settled in Iowa:

- By 1846, to receive a Statehood Certificate
- By 1856, to receive a Pioneer Certificate
- More than 100 years prior to the date of application, to receive a Century Certificate

Applicants may apply for certificates for themselves or others. Persons who reside outside of Iowa are also eligible to receive certificates.

Information about the Certificate Program can be found at the Iowa Genealogical Society website at www.iowagenealogy.org or by contacting the Iowa Genealogical Society, 628 East Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309-1924.

CENTURY FARM AWARD

A farm near Runnells, Iowa, owned by Phyllis Person, has received a 2007 Century Farm designation by the state of Iowa. The farm was originally purchased in the early 1900s by Curtis Person and has been in the family every since. Phyllis, and her late husband, Dean, made their home on the farm for the majority of their 65 years together.

“Capture the Heart of America”

The first annual photo contest sponsored by
Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

Entry Deadline: September 12, 2007

Photo categories include:

Events/Festivals *Farm Life* *Heritage Area Site*
Historic *Scenic*

For more information go to:
www.silosandsmokestacks.org

or

contact Aaron Steinmann at 319-234-4567 or at
asteinmann@silosandsmokestacks.org

And you think this has been a hot summer-----

The hottest temperature ever recorded in Iowa was 118 degrees in 1934.

The hottest afternoon on record in Iowa was August 18, 1936. The average high for 113 weather reporting stations that day was 106.52 degrees.

Christmas in Olde Town

Friday, November 23, and Saturday, November 24, 2007

The AAHS has been asked to sponsor storytelling and children's activities for Christmas in Olde Town on Saturday, November 24, between noon and 3:00 p.m. Volunteers will be needed for 1-2 hour time periods that day.

If you have ideas for storytelling or old-fashioned holiday activities, please let us know

Thank You To----

- Barb Bolt for organizing the AAHS picnic at Chick-A-Pen Hill in July.
- Bob and Phyllis Kujac for inviting the Society to their beautiful facility at Chick-A-Pen Hill for a tour of their antique collection and picnic on the grounds.
- Doug Teuber and Earl Iseminger for their work at the Historical Center this summer.
- Bob Thompson for his large donation of historical information, photographs, furniture, and artifacts to the Historical Society.
- Doug Teuber and Tim Burget for their work in transporting donations to the Historical Center.
- Helen Blaney for her help in watching over the Historical Center on a regular basis.
- Norma Stuart for her efforts in locating information and photographs to use on our website.
- Don Coates for helping to write the AAHS grant application to Prairie Meadows

Prairie Meadows Horse and Buggy Days

Saturday and Sunday, September 15-16, 2007

1:00 p.m.

Living History Farms

An old-fashioned parade of draft horses, mules, riding horses, ponies, and driving horses will take place on Main Street of Walnut Hill at 1:00 p.m. on September 15-16. The horses will pull authentic, handmade carriages, spring wagons, surreys, and buggies. Visitors are encouraged to cast their vote for their favorite entry. The winning entry will receive the "Town Folks Choice Award."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, August 27	Monthly meeting at the Historical Center
Saturday/Sunday, September 15-16	Prairie Meadows Horse and Buggy Days
Thursday, September 27	Southeast Polk Homecoming Parade – Altoona
Monday, September 24	Monthly meeting at the Historical Center
Thursday, October 11	Taste of Altoona
Monday, October 22	Monthly meeting at the Historical Center
Friday/Saturday, November 23-24	Christmas in Olde Town
Monday, December 24	Christmas Eve - No meeting

Watch for announcements about special holiday events!

**Altoona Area Historical Society
1060-14th Street SE
Altoona, IA 50009**

Tim Burget, President

Dan Higginbottom, Vice President

Diane Burget, Secretary

Barb Bolt, Treasurer