

Urbandale Historical Society Newsletter
January 2012

Holiday Open House

The traditional Holiday Open House on December 4th was again very successful with more than 40 guests recorded in the guest book.

A committee spent several days after Thanksgiving, decorating different parts of the Olmsted Urban House inside and out. Wayne Robbins coordinated with city employees to get the new strings of lights positioned on the tall evergreens on the front lawn.

Several members were contacted to provide cookies, and Ginny Campbell, Joanne Hanson, and Janice Clements coordinated the serving. Wayne and Gloria Anderson served the punch and coffee.

Ginny, Don and Kathryn Brush, and Virginia Gee were designated as greeters, and other Historical Society members were on hand to welcome guests. Kay Readinger, Beth Haigh, and Carol Lee Riekenberg greeted visitors and answered questions upstairs. Pianist Jean Swift entertained us with Christmas carols. Norm Huitt provided a special display of some of the items from his "Twas the Night Before Christmas" collection.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this special event. Always the first Sunday afternoon in December, the date for 2012 is December 2nd.

Meeting Cancellation

Last winter's weather proved to be very unpredictable. If you have questions about whether a scheduled meeting is canceled, please call Wayne Robbins at 276-1370. It is impossible to try and call all those who might consider attending.

History of Buttons Topic for January Meeting

Start the year off right with the Urbandale Historical Society. The traditional soup supper will be held on Monday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Olmsted Urban House.

Bring some canned or cooked vegetables to put in the pot to add to the soup stock prepared by Joanne Hanson. Also bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and your own soup bowl and table service. Bob and Verda Simon, and Joanne Hanson will serve as hosts.

At 7:00 a program on the history of buttons will be given by Janet Metzger. Buttons of all styles have been made over the centuries and Janet will show some interesting examples from her own collection.

You do not have to come for the soup supper, but can just join us for the program. Everyone is welcome. Invite your friends.

February Meeting on Monday, February 6th

Buster Brown was a well-known brand of shoes for children years ago. Harold Eklund, one of our newer members, will display some interesting advertising memorabilia from his collection in a program on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. Come and share your memories of these important family purchases. Gene and Beth Haigh will serve refreshments.

Plan a Valentine's Day Visit to the Olmsted-Urban House

Valentines have an interesting history. Handmade in their earliest form, they were first manufactured in the United States in the 1800's, some lacey and romantic – some humorous. The Historical Society has acquired Valentines that belonged to Howard and Mae Nelson, Maytie Urban, and Elizabeth Hamilton many years ago. These will be on display at the Olmsted Urban House on Sunday, February 12th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Stop in and enjoy looking at these examples from the past.

Open House

Do you want to learn more about life in the 1920's and 30's? The Urbandale Historical Society has an interesting collection of books addressing this topic. The headquarters of the Urbandale Historical Society at the Olmsted Urban House will be open on Sunday, March 4th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Stop in for more information.

World of Miniatures March 5th

Ruth Carey will introduce us to the world of miniatures with a variety of items from her collection at our meeting on Monday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. Ruth is very knowledgeable and can give you ideas on how to get started or better appreciate this popular hobby. Refreshments will be provided by Kay Readinger.

No "Fooling" Open House April 1st

What do you know about Urbandale History? Clippings and pictures from the past are being collected and organized by Historical Society members. Do you have any family items that could be donated or copied? Check out our collection of mementoes at the Olmsted Urban House on Sunday, April 1st from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Coal Mining in Urbandale April Meeting

Coal mining plays an interesting part in Urbandale's history. Doug Wilson, who has done extensive research on Iowa coal mines, will present the program at the meeting on Monday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

He will show pictures particularly related to the mines that were located in this area of Polk County. He is also interested in hearing more about the experiences local people had in one of the five local mines. Encourage anyone you know who has any knowledge of the mines to share their information.

Refreshments will be served by Janice Winey.

Urbandale Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to the 2011 Urbandale "Citizen of the Year" – Sheila Twaroski. Sheila is honored for her caring and giving nature, and devotion to Urbandale.

Barney Wilder, the local pharmacist, was the first recipient of this award in 1965 for his many contributions to the welfare of the Urbandale residents. Among other things, he sponsored training programs for student pharmacist, worked with the Urbandale Booster Club and Lions Club, furnished materials for resuscitation equipment for the fire department, gave gifts to new mothers and babies, sponsored boys basketball and girls softball teams, and women's bowling teams, and furnished three TVs' for shut-ins.

Back in those days, Urbandale was a small hometown community of about 10,000 residents. In 1965 Paul Milligan, Urbandale's volunteer fire chief, was honored, followed in 1966 by Howard Hanson, the Urbandale city Clerk.

Many of the early recipients have now passed away, or no longer live in the community. Other names are familiar as they have continued to serve Urbandale in a variety of ways. How many of these honorees do you recognize?

Walker Johnston	E. J. Giovannetti
Harold Foote	J. Michael Carlstrom
Ralph Whitten	Bill Lawson
William (Bill) Funte	
Iyleen Lemon	Ron Cross
Goff Joyner	Madeline Kaloides
Larry Hindert	Mary Sherer
Gene Walker	Dale Readinger
Frank Gibson	Leonard Eichacker
Les Hamilton	Dorothy Milligan
Mugs Olmsted	Lee & Mickey Couch
Howard Nelson	Steven Lytle
Marilyn Kollmorgen	
Mike Carver	Phil Noah
Bob Dabrieo	Bob Simon
George Long	Greg Robinson
Don Avaux	Al Kaduce
Lee Abarr	John Kline
Miriam Cline	Wayne Van Heuvelen
Ken Hutzell	Al Cross
Don Brush	Mark Courter
Wayne Robbins	John Forbes
Barney Dennis	Mary Polson

Thanks to the Chamber for continuing this tradition of recognizing these individuals. It gives us an opportunity to say thanks for what they have and are continuing to do for the welfare of citizens in the Urbandale area. A brick with each name is being installed in the Walk of History at the Olmsted Urban House.

Clip and Save Important Dates

January 9	Soup Supper / Meeting
February 6	Meeting
February 12	Open House
March 4	Open House
March 5	Meeting
April 1	Open House
April 2	Meeting

Urbandale Lioness Club

In October the Lioness Club of Urbandale celebrated its founding 35 years ago in 1976. Sponsored by the Urbandale Lions Club, it was the first Lioness Club in Iowa. Madeline Kaloides was elected president. There were 49 charter members. Some of the members that started the Lioness Club are also long-time members of the Urbandale Historical Society. Those members include; Velma Caldbeck, Marian Chase, Hazel Demirjean, Joanne Hanson, Karolyn Hatch, Deloris Lewis, Mary Sherer, Delores Van Horn, Janice Winey, and Marjory Wittenbaugh.

From the beginning, the Lioness have promoted projects related to sight-saving; i.e. collecting eyeglasses, recruiting eye donors, preliminary eye testing of children in preschool and day care centers, programs to prevent blindness, supporting Leader Dog programs, and helping with Glacomobile.

Service projects expand to other areas. Joan Sievers involved the Lioness group with the Urbandale Schools' ESL programs, and helped organize the annual Scholarship Brunch to raise money for Dollars for Scholars. Thousands of dollars have been awarded to Urbandale students through the years.

Numerous Urbandale organizations also have received their support, such as: Urbandale Public Library, Caring Corps, Senior Center, Food Pantry, High School Performing Arts, Lions Park Shelter House, Youth in the Park, Living History Farms, and the Historical Society.

Thanks go to the Lioness members for their years of service to our community! The group currently has about 40 members with Brenda Smith as the president. New members are welcome to join at any time.

A Special Tribute

The Historical Society lost one of its most faithful members when Norma Wilder died suddenly in September. She continued to attend Historical Society events even after her husband Barney died in 2007. She especially enjoyed our twice a year bus trips to different places in Iowa.

Norma had worked for over 50 years in the Des Moines area as a pharmacist before she retired. In 2006 she and Barney presented an interesting program about the history of Urbandale Pharmacy. At that time several former employees came back to share their experiences. We appreciate that Norma had donated several items of memorabilia from the Pharmacy to the Historical Society.

The Olmsted Urban House

The Olmsted Urban House and property is owned by the Urbandale Historical Society which is responsible for its upkeep; but is important to the entire community. When is it open to the public? Currently, because we are all volunteers, there are not regular office hours. There are regular monthly evening meetings organized by the Historical Society, and occasional Sunday afternoon Open House events. Check the website for detailed information at www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org

If you wish to schedule a tour for a school group, scout troop, or other youth group, please contact Beth Haigh at 276-9654.

Special arrangements can also be made for family groups or individuals who wish to visit the house and barn, or seeking to learn more about Urbandale history. The number for the

office answering machine is (515) 270-2917. Someone will get back to you.

2012 – Membership Renewal

Your help and support is needed. Luckily, we did not experience any major maintenance expenditures last year, except for gutter repair and tree damage. Upcoming activities include more work on shutters, porch posts and floor boards, and electrical wiring updates.

Like any homeowner, costs have increased for utilities, lawn care, snow removal, and kitchen and office supplies. Please send in your dues and do what you can to encourage others you know in the community to become members.

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 _____
