



## Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 2  
Apr – June, 2021

### Museum Opens!

The Jewell History Museum is now open to the public for the first time since the pandemic began. The Jewell Historical Society is pleased to have the Museum open every Sunday from 1-4 PM, beginning June 6, and lasting until Labor Day.

These open hours are somewhat dependent on having a sufficient number of volunteers to help with the task of greeting visitors. At least initially, Board members will serve in this capacity, but the hope is that other volunteers will step forward to share in these duties. Such volunteers would serve as Docents on a Sunday of their choice along with one or more Board Members. There will always be at least two individuals in attendance. A detailed knowledge of the Museum's collection is NOT a requirement; only a willingness to greet and visit with guests touring the facility. Some individuals have indicated a willingness to help monitor the Museum during these open hours. If that could be you, please contact Museum Curator Dick Steffen by phoning him at (515) 310-0413 and leaving a message. Dick will return your call as soon as possible.

### Chair Lift Installed

The chair lift installation project has been completed. The chair, which was donated by the family of a late Museum supporter, can transport persons from the ground-level entrance up to the main Museum display level. It is hoped that this addition will be of benefit to those with limited mobility who might wish to visit the Museum. The project was partially funded by a Tourism Grant from Hamilton County Development.

Below is a photo-essay detailing the installation process.



Pre-installation view of interior stairway location leading down from main Museum display level to ground-level entrance.



Preparation begins for the installation



Final assembly



Lift mechanism installed



Chair being tested by Museum volunteer Debera Fish while Board Member Jackie Frederick looks on.



Contractor Ron Cook completes the installation

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### JHS Website News

Here's another article excerpted from the Jewell Historical Society's website. This one reports an event which occurred on June 4, 1908:

#### *Cedar Rapids Jobbers Were Here.*

*The Cedar Rapids wholesalers, jobbers and manufacturers arrived on their special train*

as scheduled last Friday forenoon and spent thirty-six minutes in Jewell. The special came in from the north, arriving here at 11:09 and departed at 11:45. The visitors were accorded a lively welcome, the depot grounds being thronged when the special pulled in. The small boy and the small girl were very much in evidence and enjoyed the affair hugely. The tourists left Cedar Rapids Monday morning on their trip through north-western Iowa and reached home Friday night.



There were about eighty people in the company, including a band of twenty pieces. The latter organization furnished some excellent music on the street corner. Their train was a fine one, including seven coaches, buffet and baggage car, diner, day coach, three sleepers and a superintendent's private car. The visitors called on the local business men during their short stay here, not soliciting business but merely informing the business men of the fact that Cedar Rapids is on the map, commercially.

This and other items can be found at [www.JewellJunctionHistory.org](http://www.JewellJunctionHistory.org). The site was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by the Society's Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer.

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### **A Blast from the Past**

The following is another brief excerpt from the books which were published during Jewell's Centennial and Quasquicentennial.

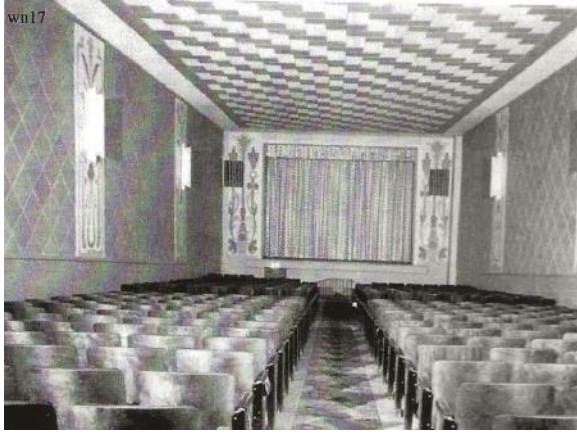
This one is from the Quasquicentennial Book, published in 2006:



The Strand Theater was showing the *Three Comrades* with Robert Taylor, Margaret Sullivan, Franchot Tone and a rising Robert Young in 1938.



Glenn Maxon remodeled the theater by moving the ticket booth to one side, the concessions to the other side; he provided a 'baby room' for mothers with tiny ones if they needed a quiet space during the movie. As late as the mid-60s, Maxon knocked on the apartment next door to let renters know when the movie was going to start so they could be certain to see the whole thing.



*Nicely refurbished during the remodel, space for an orchestra was still there. During the 1930s, Maxon's daughter used a flashlight to usher people to a seat. During the silent movie era, an organist or piano player provided the sound. As Maxon's daughter, Phyllis Maxon Risetter, recalled: "I think the musician was a 'small person,' perhaps the sister of the little fellow around town we called 'Shorty'."*

Many such articles of interest can be found in this book and in the Centennial Book (published 1981). Both are available for review in the Jewell History Museum. In addition, copies can be found at the Montgomery Memorial Library, from where they can also be checked out by Library cardholders.

The museum project has been partially funded by grants and donations from:

- The Jewell Centennial Trust*
- The IMT Group*
- Jewell Lions*
- The Wal-Mart Community Grants Program*
- Hamilton County Development*
- Tourism Grants*
- The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation*
- And*
- Private Donors*

The Jewell Historical Society is working to catalog, preserve and display items important to the history and heritage of Jewell Junction, Iowa. Please help the mission of your Society and of the Jewell History Museum by becoming a member at one of the levels indicated. Your membership helps to maintain the operation of the Jewell History Museum. (Note: The "Utility Membership" will support the Museum's utility bills for a month.)

**Annual Memberships**

___ Individual	\$ 25.00
___ Family	\$ 45.00
___ Patron	\$ 100.00
___ Utility	\$ 250.00

**Lifetime Membership**

___ Lifetime	\$1,000.00
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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