



Newsletter

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JHS Celebrates Jewell Jubilee

The Jewell Historical Society participated in the annual Jewell Jubilee Parade, with the Society's entry being staffed by Dick Steffen, JHS Vice President and Museum Curator, and Bruce Johnson JHS President and Newsletter Editor



Following the parade, the Museum was open to visitors, with Steffen presenting a program showing historic movies of Jewell.

Museum Facility Improvements

In the months since the last season of Open Hours, the Jewell History Museum has undergone some improvements in the building's infrastructure which will result in an improved experience for Museum attendees.



One such improvement is the installation of a new chair lift on the stairway between the ground-floor entry and the building's lower level. This will greatly improve access for those with mobility challenges.

This better access will, in turn, allow more individuals to attend programs at the museum, which will be presented in the lower level due to there being more room.

Another improvement, intended to better allow for the presentation of programs, was the purchase of a large-screen television, which can be connected to a video or a

laptop computer. This will greatly assist with audiovisual aids for these programs.



And last, the building has undergone improvements to the plumbing in the restroom.

The Board of the Jewell Historical Society is very grateful to local craftsmen Jerome Hadaway, Jason Thompson, and Mick Walker for their help with these projects!

2024 Presentations Planned

The Jewell historical Society is planning a series of presentations this summer which will be open to the public. This summer's theme will be "Travels from Jewell." The first such program was held during Jewell Jubilee, with the others to follow later. See the flier included on page 4.



JHS Website News

The following article is excerpted from the JHS website.

Did you know that as the town of Jewell grew, the schools also needed to be larger?

One of the store buildings was moved from Callanan during the winter of 1881-1882. The reason buildings were moved in the winter was because they could be more easily put on skids and pulled by teams over the frozen ground. (This was true of so many buildings that were removed from the settlements of Lakins' Grove, Callanan, Hook's Point, and other towns that failed to attract a railroad.) This building was placed along Main Street. That first school was held in the rented back room, with William Anderson serving as the teacher. The next year, a school district was organized and the school was moved to a different building south of the railroad tracks. Anderson was the only teacher for one year. In 1883 Howard Smith was added to the school staff. By 1890, a whole block was purchased and a two-story brick structure was built. Two years later a four-year high school program was added. In 1905 an addition was constructed on both ends of the school.

Girls Camp Fire is Organized

(Published September 21, 1916 in the Jewell Record)

*Girls of Jewell to Have Organization Similar to Boy Scouts
Have Sent For Charter*

The girls of Jewell, not to be outdone by the boys, have taken preliminary steps towards organizing a "Girls Camp Fire". A meeting was held last Monday evening, nineteen girls meeting with Miss Emma R. Knudson to effect an organization. The girls voted to name their

organization the "Walla Walla Camp Fire," and Miss Knudson has sent for a charter. As soon as it is received, a permanent organization will be effected.

The Camp Fire is a national organization, working among the girls along lines similar to the work of the Scouts among boys. Meetings will be held weekly and one a month the ceremonial Camp is held. Each girl will select for herself some appropriate Indian name by which she will be known in the Camp Fire organization. Various honors are awarded members for proficiency in house work, in school work, and along other lines. Further particulars concerning this new organization of girls will be announced later when their charter is secured and their organization completed.

Following is the list of names of girls who were present at the initial meeting of the Camp Fire Girls: Grace Thompson, Marie Andersen, Naomi Severson, Ardys Knudson, Jennie Bentson, Rose Teagarden, Gertrude Alexander, Marion Clark, Kathryn Knudson, Sylva Hansen, Eva Dalbey, Ethelda Porter Phyllis Chilson, Sylva Bentson, Minnie Skare, Almira Eittrheim, Grace Hall, Hattie Hendrickson and Guila Cannon.

These and other stories of interest can be found on www.JewellJunctionHistory.org. The site was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by the Society's Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer.



A Blast from the Past

The following is a brief excerpt from the Jewell Quasiquicentennial Book (p. 97), published in 2006. This and the Centennial Book (published in 1981) 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.

Jewell PTA

In August, 1947, Mrs. Ben (Pauline) Reese and Mrs. Harry (Dorothy) Stark gathered interested mothers together to discuss and form a Parent-Teacher Association. Following a program presented on September 9, a vote was taken and the one hundred guests present unanimously favored organizing a PTA. The first PTA was organized on September 30, 1947 with 50 members enrolled. Pauline Reese was elected President.

Lilly Holaday, the high school principal and math teacher, was elected vice-president, Dorothy Stark elected secretary, and Miss Marian Segar elected treasurer. Meetings were held the first Monday of each month. The superintendent of schools at the time was Mr. Alfred Fischer. He graduated from Iowa State Teachers' College and had spent two summers at the University of Iowa. However, Mr. Fischer's legacy to Jewell was his murder.

On April 18, 1951, fifteen-year-old Robert shot his father to death in one of the upstairs rooms of the superintendent's house on Anderson Street. According to memories and an account in the March 2, 1952 Des Moines Register, Mr. Fischer had a huge temper and took out his frustrations frequently on Robert. After an argument over raking the yard, the young Fischer went in the house. Mrs. Fischer testified, "I was in the bathroom when I heard Mr. Fischer come in and go upstairs two steps at a time. Then I went to the kitchen, and I heard what I thought was a cap pistol. ... The first thing I heard, Mr. Fischer said, 'Mommie, I've been shot.' Then after quite a spell, he said, 'with a rifle.'" The Fischer boy was sent to prison for fifteen years.

Jewell History Museum

**Open Sundays 1-4
June-August 2024**

**2024 Theme: Travels
from Jewell**

**June 30: travel to
Ellsworth**

**July 28: travel to
New Mexico in
1928 and 2019**

**Programs at 2 P.M.
in lower level**



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

The Jewell Centennial Trust
The IMT Group
POET
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