



Newsletter

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Museum Reorganization Continues

As reported in the last issue of this Newsletter, JHS Board members, led by Vice president and Museum curator Dick Steffen, have been engaged in a project aimed at reorganizing the Museum's displays, storage areas and work spaces. This is a daunting task, but progress is slowly being made.

In April, JHS received assistance in this project when South Hamilton School Principal Steve Neuberger and Custodian Dustin Stoll, plus four sixth-grade boys, helped move a heavy bulletin board from lower level storage to the upstairs display area at the museum.



Volunteers help move bulletin board

The main floor will soon house a central "Main Street" feature designed to highlight historic aspects of Jewell's downtown commercial district. This display will, when fully completed, feature photos and written

descriptions of some of the businesses which have occupied locations on Jewell's Main Street in years past.



Jewell's historic Main Street display takes shape.

Also, as part of this project, JHS recently participated in Jewell's city-wide garage sale, held on Friday, May 30 & Saturday, May 31. Numerous items, including display stands, light fixtures, etc., were able to find "forever homes!" And the Jewell Historical Society benefited by receiving modest good-will donations for the items.



JHS board members Jackie Frederick and Donna Busch help at the recent "garage sale."



Surplus items on display at the garage sale

Jewell Jubilee Parade

JHS was once again represented in the annual Jewell Jubilee parade on June 14. JHS Vice President and Museum Curator Dick Steffen accompanied President and Newsletter Editor Bruce Johnson in this year's parade entry.



Photo credit: Scott Ervin

The following day, Steffen presented a program at the museum featuring movies which had been donated by Doug Eggers.

The movies, acquired on 8 mm film, had been transferred to DVD by Steffen and John Schlafke, and depicted episodes of life in Jewell from the late 1930s to the 1950s. Over a dozen people attended and thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

More Museum Visitors!!



Several turkey vultures were recently seen relaxing atop the Jewell History Museum. Word must've gotten out that the Museum is a great place to visit!! Stop in sometime to see what all the fuss is about!! The Museum is once again open to the public every Sunday during June, July and August from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. You can enjoy seeing many items important to Jewell's history and heritage.



A Blast from the Past

The following is a brief excerpt from the "*Families of Jewell*" section of the Jewell Centennial Book (p. 270), published in 1981. This and the Quasquicentennial Book (published in 2006) 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.

Aasa and Ole Gronstad



Aasa Espe, daughter of Elias and Jarund Espe, was born August 23, 1840 near Hardanger, Norway. She came to Iowa around 1869. She married Ole Gronstad who was also from Hardanger, Norway. The farmed 80 acres near the town of Callanan. In 1877 they bought 80 acres southeast of Jewell. Two years later, they sold their land near Callanan and bought 80 acres adjoining their other land. Lester Stangeland, a great grandson, is now on the farm that belong[ed] to Aasa and Ole.

Aasa and Ole had one child, Lizzie. In 1891 Lizzie married Lars Stangeland, who had come to Iowa from near Hardanger, Norway. Soon after that, Aasa and Ole moved to Jewell and Lars took over the farming.

Aasa died at her home on south Main Street, January 6, 1903.... Ole died suddenly of a heart attack at Eagle Grove, Iowa, February 13, 1904....

JHS Website News

The following articles are taken from a more extensive narration which can be found in www.JewellJunctionHistory.org, the JHS website, which is maintained and frequently

updated by the Society's Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer.



Jewell General Hospital

Jewell had a General Hospital of 18 beds which only operated from December, 1947 through 1950. A number of area physicians used the Jewell Hospital for doing medical procedures for the residents of Jewell, Ellsworth, Stanhope, and the surrounding rural area.

The Doctors included Dr. Carl Heise, Dr. Ernest Light, Dr. Dwayne Anderson of Stanhope, and Dr. C. E. Semler of Story City. Procedures in the Jewell Hospital included minor surgeries such as obstetric, tonsillectomy and other minor procedures. 297 babies were born in the Jewell General Hospital.

The Jewell couple Oliver Dewey Smotherman and Grace Evelyn (Caudle) Smotherman (a registered nurse) operated this private hospital which was located on Main Street in what is now the second house north of the Jewell Cemetery.

The address of Jewell General Hospital was 208 Main Street.

It is today the first home just north of the Jewell Cemetery.

Grace Evelyn Caudle (Smotherman) was born October 15, 1920, in Ellsworth. She grew up in Hamilton County, attending

school in Blairsburg and graduating from Jewell High School in 1938. She then went to the Mercy School of Nursing in Sioux City, graduating in 1941. Grace was a veteran of WWII, serving in Pearl Harbor as a nurse in the U.S. Navy, where she attained the rank of lieutenant. After the war she returned to Jewell, working as a nurse at hospitals in Jewell, Story City, Webster City and Ames.

Grace Smotherman also owned and operated the Coffee Cup Cafe in Jewell for 10 years.

[The above information accompanied this article from the August 9, 1950 issue of the *Jewell Record*:]

JEWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL TO CLOSE AT END OF MONTH

Jewell Record [August 9, 1950]: After August 27, Jewell will be without hospital services, Mrs. Grace Smotherman, owner of the hospital announced yesterday afternoon. There are several reason why the Jewell General hospital cannot continue in Jewell. First, the Iowa state department of health has made many rigid demands and regulations, all of which require the expenditure of a lot of money.. This would not be so bad if Mrs. Smotherman had the assurance that after all these requirements had been met, the department would not ask for more. She does not have any such assurance. Hence, Mrs. Smotherman feels it would be unwise to spend between \$7,000 and \$10,000 now, and then be asked to add further equipment again next year. Another reason for closing is the help situation. With the war status as it is, nurses will be rushing to government jobs where pay is much higher than is paid at hospitals. Even at the present time, it is hard to get experienced nurses.

Mrs. Smotherman has operated the Jewell General Hospital in a very efficient and

businesslike manner. She has put in very long hours and the patients have had wonderful care. Jewell and community is going to miss this hospital very much. Mrs. Smotherman will continue to live in Jewell in an apartment of the present hospital building and will seek employment perhaps in Ames. She is going to make three apartments from the hospital rooms and will lease them out.

The Jewell General hospital will be closed to medical patients Aug. 15, and to maternity patients Aug. 27.

Newsletter Note

Dear Readers,

Once again, we happily found ourselves with a bit too much news to include easily in this issue. We will try to share more of these items in the next issue or in our end-of-year recap issue. Many thanks for your continued interest and support.

Bruce Johnson,
JHS President &
Newsletter Editor.



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