



# Ames Heritage Association The Ames Intelligencer

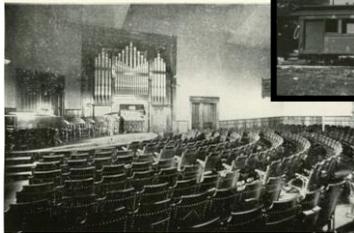
Issue 2 of 4

■ Newsletter for A.H.A. Members ■

Spring 2003

■ The Ames Intelligencer was the first newspaper in the city of Ames ■

## Upcoming Special Events & Programs



### Update on Morrill Hall

**Saturday, March 29, 11am - you're invited!**

What are the plans for the renovated Morrill Hall? Come and hear the exciting ideas for Morrill Hall's reincarnation as a teaching and museum facility. View a pictorial exhibit and short video presented by ISU's Tanya Zanish Belcher, and have an opportunity to ask questions. This information session will take place in F.T. Brown Auditorium at Ames Public Library. It is free and open to the public.



**Ada Hayden &  
Hallett's Quarry**  
Friday, April 25, 7pm, at  
the Story County  
Conservation Center,  
McFarland Park

### When Ames Was 30-Something

*By Barbara Egemo*

Saturday night was family night in downtown Ames in 30s and 40s. It was really jumping. The sidewalks were crowded with people shopping and visiting. It was like a big social carnival. Everyone in town and the farmers from the surrounding area drove to downtown Ames on Saturday nights from 6 or so until the stores closed.

If you came later than 7pm you couldn't get a parking space. If you sat in your car, you visited with all the people you knew who came by. They'd stop beside your car and exchange the latest news.

Or if you got tired of sitting, you'd walk up Main Street, do your errands, and talk to everyone you knew who was shopping or sitting in their cars with the family watching everyone else who was milling around... dogs and kids and old people and all ages.

You couldn't walk very fast because it was solid people. If you made the rounds of Main Street, up one side and down the other it would take about an hour.

I went downtown last Monday night (this was written in 1992) and parked in front of "The Flat Earth" by a tiny tree that looked like it had been hit by the ice storm. Maybe a dozen people walked past in the 2 hours I sat there. Back in that former time zone, there were at least a dozen people just standing in front of the car and the town was 1/10 the size it is now. This, of course, was mainly in summer, though Christmas was a busy time too.

Another busy place in summer was the A & W Root Beer stand (first green and later orange) and Moore's Dairy, which along with the theater, boasted the only air conditioning units in town. Of course when you're small, your sensations are more acute, but I can remember thinking they were both as freezing as the ice cream.

Another difference between that time and now was Church. On Sundays at 11 a.m. the church was always filled. The hotter it was in summer, the more people would be packed in, clear up to the balcony. The ladies fanned themselves and whatever kid was sitting next to them with their church program or hat or something else suitable. The men took off their suit coats and suffered in silence, and the kids just sat in the pews and sweat until their legs stuck to the seats.

There was as little emphasis on sex as possible. I can remember asking my mother what the word meant after I had learned to read. And later, when sex education was introduced in Junior High School, we actually learned something.

In July when school finally let out in New York City, my Aunt and her 3 daughters would come and visit us until September when school started up again. Our tiny four-room house was really bulging at the seams. But my Mom, a veritable dynamo of energy, made sleeping arrangements on our back porch and wherever else she could.

They would come on the Chicago and Northwestern train, and in those days the Ames depot had a tunnel Meeting the trains from the West, one merely stepped outside the depot. But to meet a train from the East, one went through the tunnel, coming out on the other side of the tracks -- a necessity with all the trains coming and going. And going through that tunnel amidst all the train noise, was, to a small child, the greatest excitement of the whole summer.

Our relatives, after that long trip, would emerge from the train with hatboxes and luggage like the queen of Sheba and entourage. My Aunt had studied Opera in New York City, and her stage presence was not to be sneezed at by anyone, let alone a small tick from the Midwest!

Ames really is a beautiful town--the Campus and Mall and Downtown with all its trees and the horse clopping up and down Main Street on Monday nights was pulling a wagon of shoppers. I guess the difference between then and now is there was more emphasis on people in the 30's, and very little attention given to things and how they looked. The more people you touched the happier you were. In some ways, people didn't seem to care as much what they wore or what they say. In other ways there was more emphasis on traditions and formalities, and less casual living. , Bur our little car was often jammed with people when we went on a jaunt somewhere. If not the four of us, my parents would fill it with whoever was available.

Of course, people, me especially, tend to remember the good things. That's why it's such fun to reminisce if you have the time and inclination. And it happens to be just about the coolest thing to do in this super-cool world on a super-hot, 90-degree night in Ames (All-America City) In the nineteen-nineties.

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## Hoggatt School End-of-Season Report 2001 "READIN', 'RITIN', 'RITHMETIC"

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by Carole Jensen, Hoggatt School Committee Chair

We were pleased that the 2001 season saw better attendance and more consistent hours, and wish recognize and thank the following people who hosted:

**Betty Gordon, Nancy & Bob Lewis, Carmen & Rupert Kenyon, Bruce Kellogg**

**We are seeking Hosts for this year, so call 233-2431 if you would enjoy learning & telling school stories!**

Visiting with our guests last summer was great fun!

- Bernice Woodley and her daughter lived in the school when it was a house.
- Mrs. Mike Rolling visited. In 1981, her husband donated the school structure, which was enclosed in a building he owned and intended to demolish.
- Many of our guests shared memories with their grandchildren, who listened with rapt attention as they heard what it was like in earlier times.

Here are several stories that guests took time to write in our "Sharing" Notebook:

"Both of my grandmothers were teachers in one room school rooms in northern Iowa. I realize now how young they were when they taught and how cozy it was."



"I went to a country school kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. As I look back, I am amazed that 18 year-old girls with 3 months' teachers training taught 14 children in 7-9 grades and managed to teach us as well as they did. We also performed 3 or 4 different nights of short plays, skits, & songs for the parents and neighborhood - at Halloween, Christmas, Spring and end of the year. I walked 1 1/4 miles to school and took my turn getting water from a neighbor over 1/4 mile away."

Evelyn Fuller



### Artifacts Tell the Story Best!

The artifacts in Hoggatt School really help to tell the story of what life was like in a one-room school. More furnishings appropriate to 1862-1868 are needed.

**Here's our wish list:**

- black & white alphabet strips
- dictionary stand & dictionary
- additional early lunch pails
- "Spencerian Method" writing items
- goose quill pens

If, during shopping or antiquing trips, you find some of these items - or if you know where they can be acquired - please think of Hoggatt School. (Call Carole at 515-233-2431.)

### More Wish List:

#### Hoggatt School Toybox & Play Items

To our 1860's play supplies, we have added string for "Cats Cradle", a cup and ball catcher and marbles.

Teachers could use the following items when their classes visit Hoggatt School and "play school" on their History Field Trips.

- a "yarn" ball
- hoops to roll
- clothesline jump rope
- more hand-made "Gee Haw Whimmy Diddles" (*anyone willing?*)

Thanks go to Nancy Adams, who added some tops to the "toy box".

#### Classes from Ames Schools Use Hoggatt School

Several Ames schools took advantage of our building to help Ames history come alive for their students.



Some held half-day sessions and some used our docents for a shorter visit (30 to 45 minutes).

#### "Thank You" notes from Ms. Hammer's first graders pointed out what was important to them:

- "You have to bring your lunch in a pail. I learned that."
- "I learned that the boys can't sit with the girls."
- "I learned that the flag had 34 stars."
- "I learned that you have to put your nose on the board when you are bad."
- "I learned that there was weird looking bathrooms."
- "I learned that there were games to play."
- "I learned that you can't climb very high in a tree."
- "I learned that girls had to act like ladies at recess."
- "I learned that boys should not mess with girls!"

#### From Mrs. Bowman's Third Grade:

- "I can't believe that the girls had to curtsy and the boys had to bow."
- "I thought the desks were neat."
- "I was stunned the pledge (of allegiance) wasn't written."
- "I think the ink wells were cool"
- "It was very fun learning about Hoggatt School."

#### From Dr. Walsh's Third Graders:

- "Thank you for being our teacher at Hoggatt School. It is very fun except if we get slashed with a Hickory Stick or hit with a ruler."
- "Thank you for pretending to be an old teacher and for teaching us."
- "Thank you for showing us what it was like back in 1868. I really enjoyed it. It was fun!"

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***How fortunate we are that twenty years ago, the Ames community saved and restored this school! It has so much meaning to our children today.***

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## "Ames Attic" On View Now at the Ames Heritage Museum, 108 Fifth



An exhibit of AHA's newly acquired artifacts is on view at 108 Fifth in Ames.



The exhibit showcases an eclectic sampling of AHA's collection and may be viewed on May 18 & 31 (see pg. 1).

## Project Funded by Historic Resource Development Grant Makes Progress

Artifact collections from several Ames families are being accessioned, catalogued, organized and properly stored with the aid of an Iowa Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant.

Dennis Wendell, AHA Board member and ISU Library retiree, is supervising and teaching three interns as they get hand-on museum experience. The interns are Jennifer Harris, and ISU students, Rachel Studer, Colleen White.



Above: Rachel Studer & Colleen White process artifacts

Items from Farwell Brown have been processed, including items from the Brown and Tilden families and the Jameson family (former Main Street clothier).

Also acquired are drug store artifacts from the Judisch family, an early Main Street retailer, business-related items from W.F. Snook, a contractor, and clothing and household items made by Tilden/Collegiate Manufacturing.

The grant has allowed the purchase of museum quality boxes and containers (below). Rolled items have been re-hydrated and flattened (right).



AHA members can view artifacts, and the processing and storage area during the May 18 and May 31 open houses (see page one).

The project must be completed by Feb. '03.

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## Welcome New Board Members

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**2002-2005:** Kathy Svec, Jorgen Rasmusson, Catherine Hunt, [vacancy]

**2001-2004:** Carole Jensen, Leticia Hansen, Dennis Wendell, Leo Lawlor

**2000-2003:** Peggy Baer, Margaret Benson, Lynn Jenison [vacancy] (seeking additional Board members)

**We salute these retiring Board members:** Suann Evans, Bill LaGrange, Nick Howell, Rollie & Willie Struss

**Officers for 2002:** President: Kathy Svec, Vice-President: Carole Jensen, Secretary: Letitia Hansen, Treasurer: Peggy Baer.

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## Seeking Applications through May 15 for Community Programs Coord.

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Ames Heritage will hire a part-time Community Programs Coordinator this year. The C.P.C. will work 12 hours/week on a contract basis, at \$10/hour. The position will be funded through a grant and memberships.

The C.P.C. will present or coordinate the presentation of local history programs to groups and organizations that request talks, lectures and tours on local history subjects.

Emphasis will be on developing a relationship with Ames schools, but other community groups will also be served.

Qualifications: AHA seeks a self-starter who enjoys public interaction and would enjoy learning about and researching local history. Work schedule will be flexible and may require occasional evening and weekend hours. Experience with research, teaching and/or public speaking preferred.

For more information, call Kathy Svec, 515-232-4877. Letters of interest and resume may be sent to PO Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010. **Due May 15.**

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## SHARE: Another Way to Say "Thanks" to AHA Volunteers

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When you volunteer for AHA, you provide a great service to the community. AHA would like to tell our volunteers "Thanks" by providing information about SHARE (Self-Help and Resource Exchange), a program in Ames for those who volunteer. It is a way for volunteers to stretch food dollars.

If you provide at least 2 hours of volunteer service per month, you are eligible to receive a monthly food package worth about \$32 for only \$16. There are no age or income limits to participate. The food packages usually consist of 3 - 4 different meats (chicken, fish, etc.), 3 or 4 fresh vegetables (potatoes, onions, lettuce, etc.), 3 or 4 kinds of fruits (apples, oranges, etc.) and 1 or 2 miscellaneous items (noodles, puddings, etc.). There are also special packages offered each month (like a holiday box, steak packages, etc.) as well as a vegetarian box (\$9).

If you are interested in SHARE or in volunteering for AHA, call Volunteer Coordinator Carole Jensen at 515-233-2431 for further information.

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## Bauge Log Home Restoration "Complete" – Come & See!

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Thanks largely to Rollie and Willie Struss, the restoration of the Bauge Log Home is close to complete! We invite all our members and friends to visit the log home this summer.

Rollie and Willie have retired from the AHA Board, but not from Bauge. To prepare the house for opening, they have cleaned, and installed safety rails on the stairwell. Over the winter, Willie assembled an extensive training book that provides information about all facets of the house and the Bauge family, a resource she has already used to train new volunteer hosts.

We are pleased to have acquired a sewing machine from Dennis Wendell, and have installed an appropriate telephone. The Neta Snook Questers donated a kitchen table and a pantry cupboard for the house.

### Remaining Wish List (1890 – 1910 time period):



#### Kitchen stove

1900's vintage, black, with warming closets and water reservoir. Reservoir needs to be on the right hand side. (Need not be this fancy)

#### Everyday drinking glasses

Do not need to be a matched set, but should be old.

#### Tall, but small scale chest of drawers for girls' room. Mirror for girls' room.

Inquire with Rollie & Willie Struss, (515) 232-0865 to be sure items are still needed.

AHA is a 501C3 non-profit organization and we accept donations, gratefully. Certain items can be purchased, depending on price.

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**Your Membership is Essential –  
Please Renew Today!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**(We use e-mail ONLY to notify members about upcoming programs.)**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>

Send to:

**Ames Heritage Assn., PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010** Soon!

Ames Heritage Association Board: President - Kathy Svec; Vice-President - Carole Jensen; Secretary – Letitia Hansen; Treasurer - Peggy Baer; Jorgen Rasmussen, Lynn Jenison, Margaret Benson, Catherine Hunt, Leo Lawler, Dennis Wendell. The Board meets monthly.

Ames Heritage Association is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs and exhibitions and the operation of two historic sites. Headquarters: 108 5<sup>th</sup>, Ames; Phone: 515-232-2148.

The Intelligencer newsletter is named after an early Ames newspaper. It is published three to four times a year for Association members. Direct comments & questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April through October.

The Bauge Log Home is east and north of the lake at McFarland Park, which is 1/2 mile east of Dayton Road at 5646 I 180<sup>th Street</sup>. Open Sundays during good weather months.

*Ames Intelligencer*  
**Ames Heritage Association**  
**PO Box 821**  
**Ames, Iowa 50010**

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**Please Renew if you haven't!**

Your label tells when <sup>TM</sup>  
you last renewed,  
and at what level.  
Member year is  
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.