



"Where History Meets on 10<sup>th</sup> Street"



# Marion Historical Society Newsletter

Including news from Granger House Museum and the Marion Heritage Center

October 2009

Marion, Iowa

*The Marion Historical Society, Inc., was formed to discover, interpret, and preserve the unique history of the region, and to provide activities for the instruction of citizens, visitors, the community and the surrounding area regarding these historical treasures.*

## **Events in Brief:**

**Sunday, October 4:** "Harvest Moon Afternoon, a barn dance with live music by *The Roadrunners*.

**Sunday, October 11, 2 p.m.** – "On Fire With Deb Krebill", *Heritage Center*

**Saturday, October 17:** *Memories of Lincoln* by "Elizabeth Todd Edwards"

**Sunday, October 25, 5 – 7 p.m.** – *Halloween Party, Heritage Center*

**Sunday, November 15, 2 p.m.** – *Dan Whitlow, Marion Engineering plan, Heritage Center*

**Sunday, December 6, 2 p.m.,** *Projects & Progress, Dave Hockett, Heritage Center*

**Sunday, December 13, 2 p.m.** -*Sweet Adelines Holiday Sing-Along, Granger House*

Check our web-site for activities, programs and special events at <http://www.marion-historical-society.org>

## **"Marion City Services" Exhibit at the Heritage Center**

Have you ever thought about what it really takes to make a city or town work? The Heritage Center's newest exhibit, "Marion City Services" highlights just those things along with many bits of interesting municipal history. Swing by and find out who put out the fires in days past or just what a Planning Department does. Who gave the City Council a bolo knife? Which of Marion's mayors hosted a banquet for hundreds of his fellows in the city's underground septic tanks? You can learn the answer to these and other questions when you visit. We know that after seeing the exhibit that you will want to join us in thanking the many volunteers who put in many hours working to put it together and for the exhibit sponsors, Wal-Mart Foundation and the City of Marion for their financial assistance. In the course of this exhibit's run, representatives from Marion's City Services will be speaking at the Heritage Center about their areas of responsibility, beginning with the following programs:

-What do Peshtigo, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois have in common? And what exactly do they have to do with Fire Prevention Week? Join us at the Heritage Center on **Sunday, October 11 at 2 p.m. for "On Fire With Deb Krebill"** and you'll find out. Deb is the Fire Marshall at the Marion Fire Department and she will be giving a talk on the history of Fire Prevention Week. She can also answer any questions that you might have about Marion's own great fire department. –

- On **Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m.**, Dan Whitlow from Marion's Engineering Department will be on hand to discuss the department and its plans for Marion in 2010.

- **Sunday, December 6 at 2 p.m.**, will be the day you can find out about the Marion's Historical Commission and the Comprehensive Plan that people either love or hate. Assistant City Planner, Dave Hockett, will explain the Plan and answer your questions.

## **Upcoming Granger House Events**

Now that autumn is here, Granger House is only open for tours by appointment until the holiday season. If you wish to arrange a tour, please call Barb at 393-7052. Granger House will be hosting two special events in October:

**Sunday, October 4, from 2 - 4:00 p.m.:** "Harvest Moon Afternoon" with live music by *The Roadrunners*. The band includes a square dance caller so dust off your dancing shoes and join us for some fun. Even if you aren't a dancer, you can come tap your toes and clap your hands! *The Roadrunners* will play rain or shine and treats will be provided by Linn Mar Key Club. Tours will be limited to the carriage house that day.

**Saturday, October 17, 2:00 p.m.:** "Memories of Lincoln." Actress/educator Becky Kay will portray Elizabeth Todd Edwards, Lincoln's sister-in-law, as she gives us the lowdown on what it was like to have president in the family.

Holiday decorating at Granger House will be starting soon so if you are interested in helping us deck the halls give us a call. The house will be open on weekends for the holiday season beginning November 28<sup>th</sup> and running through December 20<sup>th</sup>. The annual Holiday Sing-Along with the Sweet Adelines will be Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. – that's always a nice afternoon's entertainment so mark your calendars.

## **Halloween Supper**

We'll be marking the fall season with a **Halloween Soup & Dessert Reception** at the Heritage Center on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. There will be games, contests and prizes for best costumes, so plan to attend. For you shy types, costumes are not required only encouraged. The cost for an evening of food and fun is \$5.00 for Historical Society Members and \$7.00 for non-members. For reservations, contact the Heritage Center at 447-6376

## **Art by Your Friends & Neighbors People's Choice Winners**

Congratulations to our 2009 People's Choice winners, Ralph Gaede (Winter Evening), William Kettlekamp (Cattle-Clayton county) and "Jazzy" Gorman (For Dustie). Each prize winner received a check of \$75.00 courtesy of our sponsor, Hills Bank & Trust. Once again, Jay Kacena, with some help from Bob Naujoks, did an outstanding job of organizing and hanging the exhibit. The artwork seems to get better and better every year and we are looking forward to next year's display, Jay!

## **Granger House Porch**

You may have noticed the ladders and work trucks parked out front as you drove by the Granger House this past September and wondered what was going on. That was the crew from Weber Paint and Glass who were busy repairing and replacing the front porch's roof deck and membrane. You will recall that Granger House received a significant State Historical Society of Iowa REAP/HRDP grant to do this work. There is still some more work to be completed and, as with any old house, additional needed repairs have been identified. Next up will be the repair, replacement and painting of the rails and trim on the porches and windows at Granger House. (If any of you are looking for a winter project give us a call.)

## **Holiday Gift Ideas!**

When your thoughts turn to holiday gift ideas, don't forget to think local! The Marion Historical Society has some ideas for you to consider this year. How about the Historical Society's newest DVD "Well-Schooled, Marion Memories" which is a perfect gift for anyone who attended a school in Marion, be it at a one room school, or a school in either the Marion Independent or Linn Mar districts. The Marion Historic Preservation Commission's book by Judy Hull, "Around the Park, Marion Merchants" is newly available at the Heritage Center, as are previous Commission books. The Marion Throw, depicting local scenes, makes for a nice lap warmer or a pretty nice wall hanging. We also have the DVD "Marion, One of Many, One of a Kind" and a few commemorative Christmas bulbs from years past. Another great gift idea for your favorite history buff is a one year membership in the Marion Historical Society. A whole year of Marion history at the Granger House and Heritage Center – what could be nicer?

## **Historic Bits**

On February 25, 1847, explosions were heard in areas of eastern Iowa that caused some to think that Marion had been blown up. As detailed in an April 1958 Palimpsest article by Ben Hur Wilson, the explosions were heard as far away as Iowa City and caused great alarm. As Mr. Wilson wrote in his article, the big noises marked the arrival of the first great meteor in Iowa. Although it actually fell along the Cedar River south of what is now Bertram, it was known at the time as the "Marion Meteor" due to its proximity to Marion which was the county seat. The meteor was estimated to have weighed over 46 pounds before it broken up and several pieces were recovered by individuals who witnessed the event. At the time the article was written, pieces of the meteor were reported to be held by Amherst College and by the Field Museum in Chicago.

## **Alliant Energy Foundation Grant**

We are pleased to note that the Marion Historical Society has received a grant of \$400.00 from the Alliant Energy Foundation for the purchase of a portable, hand-held scanner. This portable scanner will enable us to capture and transfer historical documents, photographs and newspaper articles from hardcopy into a digital format. This will enable us increase the scope of our reference materials and to provide increased access to these materials to interested individuals. This will also help us to minimize physical contact with the original source materials which are often very delicate or available to us only for a short term. We expect to receive the scanner and begin using it by the time of our next newsletter so if you have any photographs or written materials pertaining to the history of Marion that you would be willing to let us scan for our archives, please, let us know.

## ***New and Renewing Members***

*(Since June 2009)*

*The following people have renewed or become new members in the Society since our last newsletter:*

*Katie & Ed Mulholland    George & Charlotte Machacek    Thea Leslie    Darlene & Larry Lerch  
Judy Hull    Richard & Iris Snyder    Mark Klopfenstein    Mike Goater    Connie & Chuck Bennett  
Richard & Marjorie Ferris    Walker & Linda Kelly    Irene Kinchloe    Beth Livengood  
Al & Virginia Ross    Sue Galvin    Susan & William Kling    Patti Marolf    Voanne & Marion Hansen  
Jill Ackerman    Mel & Carol Holubar*

***Thank you to all members, donors and sponsors for your valuable support!***

*The Marion Historical Society Board of Directors and Staff*

*Marjorie Reynolds: President, Vic Klopfenstein: Vice President, Mark Morgan: Secretary, Barb Robison: Treasurer*

*Other Members on the Board of Directors: Jim Rosche, Sam Dillon, Cody Crawford, Jan Dicke., Granger House Director: Barbara Feller, Marion Heritage Center Coordinator & Newsletter Editor: Karen Clark-Hansen, Membership Administration: Eula Wood*

***You may contact us at: P. O. Box 753, Marion, IA 52302-0753, phone: (319) 377-6672, or 447-6376***

*Please remember to let us know when you add or change your e-mail address or phone number, for we often let our members know what is happening through these means. Your privacy is respected by the Society: your personal information is used only for internal correspondence. And, as always, thank you for letting us know what you think concerning YOUR Historical Society!*