



# The Pony Express

The Big Creek Historical Society

Flash Back - 30 Years Ago - September 1979

## Polk City Kitchen Band to Play at Barbecue



Back Row left to right –Francis Lumsdon, Roberta Brown, Micki Freel, Virginia Osterhoudt, Melinda Bakken and Darlene Burchett. Middle—Janice Wickham and Mary Lister. Front—Marsha Johnson, Ethel Molin and Sandy Bird.

Kitchen Band that is slated to perform at the 22nd Annual Kiwanis barbecue this Saturday at noon. The group was organized in 1975 for the centennial celebration and then quickly disbanded until two months ago. Bakken reports six of the original members are still performing. They held a concert for the American Legion pig roast in July and hope to continue after this year's barbecue celebration. Those who participate in the band are all from Polk City and include Mary Lester, wooden spoon player; Darlene Burchett who plays the ice trays; Mary Carol Bowrer who plays the pie pans and kazoo, Micki Freel, bass on the wash tub; Roberta Brown plays the coffee can; Linda Erickson, box; and Marsha Johnson plays kazoo. Sandra Bird is in charge of the rhythm section and plays a Tupperware bowl full of bottle caps; Ethel Molin plays the saucepan; director Melinda Bakken mans the jug; Janice Wickham plays kazoo; and Joy Bly is on the grater. Kristen Tweedt is the group's piano player and will be leaving following the celebration to attend St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. The Polk City Kitchen Band will be performing the Pumpers Gong Show on Friday evening.

Anything that is in the average Polk City kitchen is bound to be located somewhere in the Polk City Community

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Excerpts reprinted from the September 6, 1979 Big Creek News

## Restored City Hall Attracts Local Events

The recently restored second floor of City Hall has attracted several local events. Miller Hall has been host to a music recital and music camp sponsored by the Lincoln Street Music Studio. Over 150 people attended the recital. Tammy McCoy, with over one hundred

children, hosted the magician Sydney Storm as part of the Summer Recreation Program. During the Four Season Festival, Barb Pothast organized a sing-a-long in Miller Hall. We encourage use of the facility for local events. Rental

fees are posted on our web site. There is no charge for local civic groups to use the facility. Contact the Big Creek Historical Society to reserve the hall for your event.

## Area History and Information

The Big Creek Historical Society has developed a repository of area history and information including late 1800 and early 1900 Polk City plat maps, Polk County maps and Madison Township maps. Some of the maps depict Polk City's railroad history. The repository also includes several documented family histories and obituaries. The family histories include the families of Murray, Schaal, Brendel, Harvey, Harmon and several others. All of the family histories are listed on the web site. The audio/video library consists of recorded interviews of long time residents of Polk City and the surrounding area talking about their recollection of growing up in the area. Those DVD's can be viewed in the museum. An eight year bound collection (1976 through 1983) of the Big Creek News is available for research into the history of the area. Internet connectivity is also available for research via the internet. We are hopeful that the community will take advantage of the wealth of information in the museum

## Polk City Railroad History



After the Civil War the railroads headed west. Polk City was hopeful that they would be part of that expansion. Unfortunately when the Chicago-Northwestern went to Boone and the Chicago-Rock Island & Pacific went to Des Moines in 1867, Polk City was not included. In 1874 the completion of a narrow gauge line by the Des Moines-Minnesota railroad company from Des Moines to Ames passed through Polk City. That rail line did not last long. In 1879 the line was purchased by the Chicago-Northwestern company and the track was removed with a new line installed approximately two miles east bypassing Polk City. The town of Crocker sprung to life. E. H. Crane, a Polk City resident, responded with a court suit that eventually forced the railroad to build a spur from the mainline to Polk City. The spur, Polk City Junction, was located approximately three miles north of Polk City. This spur line was utilized well into the 1900's before the track was abandoned and then removed in 1979 fulfilling the railroad commitment keeping the line in place for 100 years.

## About the Big Creek Historical Society

This publication is published by the Big Creek Historical Society located in the historic city hall building at 112 3rd Street in Polk City .

The museum is open to the public on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1-3 PM. Arrangements may be made for tours of the museum by contacting the Big Creek Historical Society.

Organization meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month. April through October at 6:30 PM. November through March at 1:30 PM — Public Welcome

You can contact the Big Creek Historical Society at their web site

www.polkcithistory.org or call \_\_\_\_\_