



The Pony Express

The Big Creek Historical Society

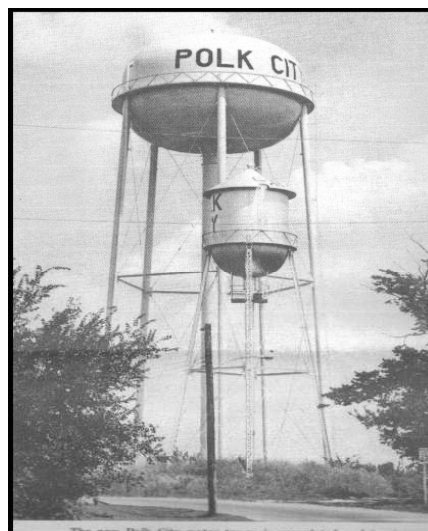
Flash Back - 34 Years Ago - 1976

Water Tower Going Up, Up, Up



Every day the water tower structure gets higher, higher and higher. Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Co. has the contract for the construction of the 300,000 toro spherical water tank at a total cost of \$209,300. The job is to be completed late this summer. The present 25,000 gallon water tower is expected to be torn down when the new one is put into operation.

Reprinted from The Big Creek News, June 3 1976.

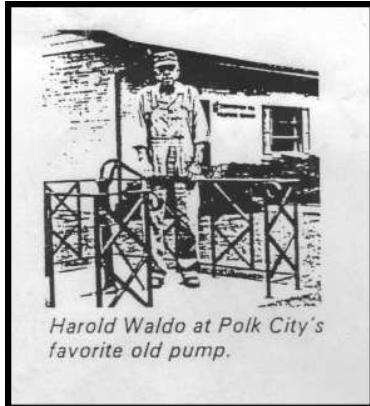


The new Polk City water tower is completed and is pictured above the old structure. Notice the difference in size and shape of the two structures. The new tower was built by Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel and has been painted green with POLK CITY painted across in black letters. Reprinted from The Big Creek News, August 5, 1976.

Did You Know

Iowa was a part of the Missouri Territory from 1812 until 1821 when Missouri became a state. For 13 years it was 'an orphan' until it was attached to the Michigan Territory in 1834. In 1836 it became a part of the Wisconsin Territory. Iowa became a Territory of its own right on July 4, 1838, with Burlington, (formerly known as Flint Hills) as its first capitol. Iowa became a state in 1846. George Beebe founded the Big Creek Settlement sometimes referred to as the Beebe Settlement in 1850. The settlement became the incorporated town of Polk City in 1875.

A Site for Thirsty Folk



Harold Waldo at Polk City's favorite old pump.

In 1961, the telephone company established a dial system in Polk City. The site selected for the new building had an old pump and well on it... one with quite a past.

Harold Waldo, the mayor of Polk City, suggested the pump be kept as a city landmark. The well had been there longer than he had, he came in 1895. Originally, it was dug for a church. Later, a farmer bought the old vacated building to be use as a barn on his farm. Waldo remembered the days when the well was the town meeting place and the main water source for local people. Through the years, he said, it has remained "as dependable as the rising sun". Even in severe drought years, it was the only well in Polk City that didn't go dry. The pump is still located at 4th and Church Streets. The iron railing and the pump handle are long missing but the stories and the memories of the 'best' well in town lives on. Harold Waldo was the Mayor of Polk City from 1944 through 1964.

Museum Activities

The 2010 museum season is off to a great start. Polk City Chamber of Commerce held their April membership meeting in Miller Hall. On April 11 we enjoyed a good turn out of over forty attendees for the two presentations on 'The Creation of the Lakes' video created by the historical society. May 28th we had the pleasure of hosting sixty five NW Elementary third graders. A short presentation was given on the history of Polk City. The students were very attentive and asked a lot of good questions. Following the presentation the students toured the museum. We all had a good time. On June 13th the video '1st 100 Years of Polk City' was presented. A new family membership and a recruit for the Big Creek Players resulted. Wow! Other programming is being pursued for Miller Hall.

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.polkcityhistory.org.

2010 Officers

President—Rosemary Hutton-Taylor

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