



The Big Creek Historical Society

The Pony Express

Volume 1 Issue 11 Spring 2008

‘Stairway to Yesteryear’

By Tom Cox

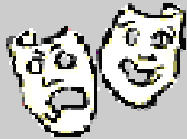


Jim Byrnes, contractor who completed the work in the first phase of the restoration, has been selected to complete the second phase restoration of the historic city hall building. We hope to have started the project by the time you are reading this newsletter. An action plan has been documented. The plan calls for a new roof, restored chimney and restored exterior, including new storm windows, prior to any restoration work on the interior. All of the work will be guided by rehabilitation standards

and preservation briefs published the Secretary of the Interior and National Parks Service. Some of the projects being worked on are; tin ceiling (color is Caribbean Sea) has been ordered, glass door knobs acquired and some decisions on light fixtures . A few group members have spent a large amount of time cleaning the second floor. Over the past sixty years a great deal of dirt and other ‘stuff’ has accumulated. Most of the woodwork has been scrubbed. We found the woodwork to be in quite good condition after 145 years. There is still a large amount of cleaning to do prior to starting the restoration work on the second floor. If you would like to help with this process, please contact us.

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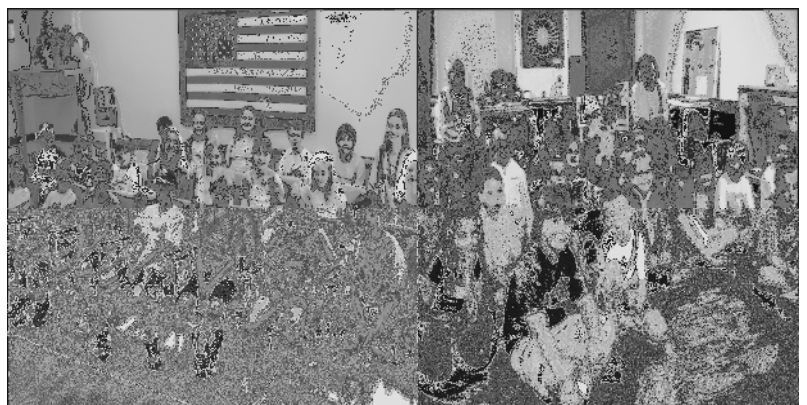


It seems that by the time you make ends meet, they move the ends

Anonymous

North Polk West Elementary—3rd Grade visits Museum

Forty three 3rd Graders from North Polk West Elementary visited our museum on May 20th. The museum was not well organized because of the restoration work but that did not get in the way of the students learning about the early days of Polk city and touring the upstairs of the historic city hall building. We thoroughly enjoy the annual visit while having the opportunity to pass on some of the city's rich history to the students.





Wagner sketch of historic city hall of Polk City.

If you like what we are doing, ask a friend to join us. Adding members who believe in what we are doing will make doing it much easier.



Wagner sketch of the bandstand in the Polk City town square

From The President.....

Spring is such a wonderful time of the year. The antlers of the male deer are beginning their annual growth, the much sought after morel mushrooms make their brief appearance, the many flowers that bust through the ground for their colorful summer presence and the restoration of historic city hall begins. Although the restoration

will not be an annual occasion it is no less a great happening this spring. It is very exciting to see the project moving forward. We have much work to do in the area of increasing our membership and encouraging more participation. Hopefully 2008 is when we can lay the ground work to make that happen.

New Members

Troy & Susan Dunsky Family

**Marianne Huennekens
In Memory of
Jim Huennekens**

Welcome

Big Creek Historical Society Items

Polk City Historical Structures Throws



Available for \$50
Plus \$7.00 Shipping Fee

A Great Gift!

Books

Early Days of Polk City

Brave Men Shouldered Their Muskets

By R. Currie—\$8 each

American Patriotism

By Leonard Brown.
Reprinted by R. Currie

\$37.95

Murder!

By R. Currie - \$14
\$3 shipping for all books

Big Creek Historical

Cardigans

\$25

Calendar of Events

June 2008

Care Center Bingo—9th
Meeting—16th 6:30 PM
Museum By Appointment
Ice Cream Social - 27th
7:00 PM - City Square

July 2008

Care Center Bingo—14th
Meeting—21st 6:30 PM
Four Seasons Festival
City Square 25th & 26th
Museum By Appointment

August 2008

Care Center Bingo - 11th
Meeting—18th 6:30 PM
Museum By Appointment

September 2008

Care Center Bingo - 8th
Meeting - 15th 6:30 PM
Museum By Appointment

Recipient of Polk County Grant

Big Creek Historical Society was the recipient of a Polk County Community Betterment Grant in the amount of \$2,500. The grant was awarded for the purchase of stage curtains as part of the restoration project. We appreciate the support of our project by Supervisor Tom

Hockensmith. This is the third year we have been awarded funds from the grant program.

Correction

We regret the name misspelling in the last issue of new member Genevieve Lillskau.

Word Skills

Rearrange the letters of the following to see what phrase you can create.

Presbyterian

Answer on Page 4



This Newsletter is produced by the Big Creek Historical Society, PO Box 201, Polk City, IA 50226. Contact: Tom Cox

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www.polkcithistory.org

BCHS Officers:

Pres. Tom Cox

Vice Pres. Lela Austin

Treas. Paul Grodt

Sec. Phyllis Martens

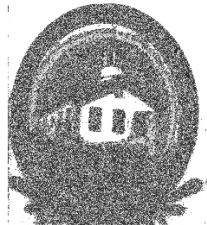
Photography— Paul Grodt

Big Creek Historical

Society T-Shirts

\$10

\$4 Shipping Fee



**‘Preserving
the Past
for
the Future’**

Goals for 2008

1. Increase our membership base and participation.
2. Complete restoration of City Hall.
3. Develop displays and programs for the museum

Help Wanted

Our group has several projects scheduled to be completed this summer that would benefit greatly from the help of more hands. These projects accommodate a very flexible schedule with respect to the time and the amount of time. The additional help will ensure that we will be ready to go with our museum operation when the restoration work is completed. Your help would be very much appreciated.

Following is a list of some of the projects being worked on:

- Sorting & Cataloging
- Framing of Photographs
- Preparation work to

Restoration of 2nd floor

If you could help with any of these please contact Lela Austin (984-6297) or Tom Cox (965-3828).



Morel Mushroom

Big Creek Historical Society
PO Box 201
Polk City, IA 50226

Address Service Requested



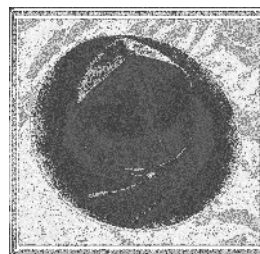
***Photos of the
Restoration Progress
Will be included in
Future Issues***

Museum Update

By Tom Cox



Lela Austin has begun the task of building a obituary file for the Big Creek area and for former residents of the area. If you have obituaries that you would like to add to the historical society's file (copies are fine) please mail them to; PO Box 201, Polk City, IA 50226. The file will be kept in the museum once the restoration project is complete. The information will be available for research and reference.



Chester Coffeen, life long resident of Polk City, passed away late last year. Chet was a regular visitor to our museum and it was very interesting to visit with him. He had a wealth of information about Polk City. The military hat pictured is one of several items donated to the museum in the memory of Chester. We will miss him.

**** Word Skill Answer*****

Best in Prayer