



# The Pony Express

The Big Creek Historical Society

Flash Back - 28 years ago - 1983



First place winners of the Library Reading Contest at West Elementary School are pictured. Back row, left to right are Brad Sills—4th Grade, Topple Baccam—3rd Grade, Tami Leonard—5th Grade, Michael Brown and Tim Bartleman, tied in the 4th Grade. In front row, left to right, Heather Brotherton-2nd Grade, Steve Brown-2nd Grade, Brenda Nelson-1st Grade, Katie Morse-1st Grade. Winners not pictured are Melinda Diaz-5th Grade and Leigh Taylor-3rd Grade.

There were 50 winners all together which included 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place winners in each class. Everyone received a bookmark or picture of their favorite celebrity.

*Reprinted from the May 19, 1983 Big Creek News.*

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## Welcome to our New Members

**Pam Witt**

**D.B. & Barb Canova**

## Iowa Kids Score High

Students in Iowa public schools typically perform a full year above national average scores on standardized achievement tests. Recent results from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and Educational Development reveal that 94% of the Iowa school districts have an average student test score at or above the national median. In the elementary grades, Iowa students recorded composite scores in 1981 ranging from 6.4 months above the national composite grade-equivalent at the third grade level to 9.7 months above the national composite median on the Tests of Educational Development.

The 1,300 Iowa juniors raking the college admission Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in 1981 recorded the highest composite state score in the nation. Iowans average 516 on the verbal section and 572 for mathematics; this compares with national averages of 426 for verbal and 467 for mathematics. ACT assessment, 24,000 Iowa students compiled an average mean score of 20.3. This compares with the national mean of 18.4.

*Reprinted from the July 28, 1983 Big Creek News*

## In Remembrance

Big Creek Historical Society has lost one of its founders. Thelma 'Timmy' Miller passed away September 7th. Timmy served as President for several years and was instrumental in establishing our group as the viable, productive organization that it is today. Timmy will always be remembered.

**GRAVESTONE SYMBOLS & TRACING TOUR**



The Big Creek Historical Society teamed up with Polk City Public Library for another summer program. Pam Witt (pictured above) coordinated the program,

along with the publicity. Thirty people participated, beginning at the library. Collette Heuertz (pictured to the right) made a presentation on the meaning of different symbols on gravestones. Lela Austin and Tom Cox presented what was involved in the technique of gravestone tracing or rubbing. After the presentations, the group reconvened at the Polk City

Cemetery for a hands on tour. Following the time spent at the cemetery the group moved to the BCHS museum for the viewing of the documentary 'Historic Polk City Cemeteries.'



**M u s e u m   A c t i v i t y**



**Genealogy**

On June 20, 2011 Teresa Liewer of the Ankeny Genealogy Society brought her vast knowledge of genealogy to the museum. We had a good turn out of members and non-members looking for tips in getting started or completing a family history. Teresa

encouraged people to get started and to use the Iowa Genealogy Society, located in Des Moines, as a source of information as well as, local societies and libraries. Teresa conducted a very informative session.

summer group for what has become an annual visit. The Bassmeister interacted with the kids and kept them all entertained. Fun was had by all.

**Fishing for Laughs**

On the 14th of June 2011 comedian/ventriloquist Curt Strutz 'The Bassmeister' brought his fishing themed show to Miller Hall. There were over 100 Polk City Park and Recreation kids and staff. Tami McCoy, Director of Park and Recreation, brought her



**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. We welcome organizations to use Miller Hall and the museum.

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](http://www.polkcityhistory.org) or call Rose Hutton-Taylor -984-6653 or Tom Cox -965-3828