

The Ames Intelligencer

Issue 1 of 4

■ Newsletter for A.H.S. Members ■

Winter 2004

■ The Ames Intelligencer was the first newspaper in the city of Ames ■

We've got a new name: **Ames Historical Society**

Members Approve Name Change at Special Meeting

Those present in December at a special meeting of the membership unanimously approved the organization name change from Ames Heritage Association to Ames Historical Society.

All the original purposes of the organization as stated in the articles of incorporation and by-laws will remain the same. Organization founding members Farwell Brown, Terry Adams and Jere Maddux were consulted and supported the change.

The purpose for a name change was to more closely conform to the commonly used name for local history organizations. The Board believes this designation will help residents know the organization exists and will assist people in finding listings in phone books and during searches on the world wide web. The atypical name has caused a certain amount of confusion for members and non-members alike.

For at least a year, wherever possible, the phrase, "founded as Ames Heritage Association in 1980" will accompany the new name to explain the change. A new logo will be designed and unveiled at the annual meeting on February 21.



**Save This Date! Annual Meeting:
Saturday, February 21, 1:30pm,
Ames Public Library's F.T. Brown Auditorium**

"A Personal History of the Internment Camp Experience"

WW2 will be the theme for the Annual Meeting, with recollections by Grace Amemiya, "A Personal History of the Internment Camp Experience" and excerpts from "Ames Remembers World War II", an oral history project being undertaken by Cynthia Bennet, AHS Community Programs Coordinator.

Ames resident, Grace Amemiya, will relate her personal recollections from over 60 years ago, when she and her family were moved to an Arizona internment camp during World War II. Her experiences have new relevancy with post-9/11 fears and challenges with racial profiling.



Grace and her husband came to Ames in 1960, when he took a position with the United States Agricultural Research Service. In 1968 he became the Extension Agronomist for ISU, retiring in 1988. Grace was a practicing nurse until she retired and became a homemaker and volunteer. She still volunteers at Mary Greeley Medical Center.

At the Annual Meeting, the past year's overview will be presented, and displays will showcase local history stories and the Society's current projects. Refreshments will be served, and members, their guests and the public are welcome.

Dimes Add Up to a Building Fund: AHS Reaches a 2003 Goal



Q: What happens when a person puts 20 cents in pocket change into a jar, faithfully, every day, and adds other coins and folding money found on the sidewalk?

A: Well, over time, small change adds up! Enough so that a person could make a noteworthy contribution to a worthy cause – such as helping the local historical society start a fund to acquire a building for a permanent museum.

That's exactly what happened when a local donor of modest means approached the Ames Historical Society with a proposal. A gift of \$500 would be made if AHS agreed to establish a special museum building procurement fund, to match the gift and allow the fund to increase until at least \$50,000 was reached.

Board members readily agreed to such reasonable requests and dug into their own pockets to provide the match. The donor's gift was delivered in a small but weighty cardboard box that contained the very dimes and "found money" collected so faithfully over the last four years! The gift, in many ways, symbolizes the way the Ames Historical Society has modestly, but steadily, achieved its goals through the years.

A separate, special account has now been established for the Building Procurement Fund, with its initial cash contribution of \$1275 from the donor and Board. This generous gift from a modest donor has allowed AHS to achieve one of its top goals for the past year – to take real steps toward a permanent museum building.

AHS challenges its members to catch the visionary spirit of our anonymous donor and make a local history museum a reality for the Ames community!

Gather your small change - and big! - and send it with the form on page four, earmarked for the Museum Building Procurement Fund.

How big can the fund grow this year? Let's find out!

AHS Receives Rich Heritage in The Tribune's Photo Archive

In a successful joint agreement, Ames Historical Society received the entire photographic archive of Ames' local newspaper, The Tribune, which chronicles over 60 years of local history.

The photo archive was permanently deposited with AHS to preserve, organize and index. While The Tribune retains ownership and copyright, AHS is authorized to use and provide public access.

The archive consists mainly of:

- 13,000 4 x 5" negatives, Sep. 1948 - June 1958
- over a million individual images on 35mm strips negatives. Jan. 1970 - Dec. 1999
- 20,000 prints, including 7000 mug shots
- over 800 slides

Most of the negatives and prints are black & white; the slides and 1997-99 years of the 35mm strips are color.



The Tribune archive awaits processing.

The images were taken by Tribune photographers to accompany local news stories and provide a pictorial record of the post-war period of rapid change and expansion in Ames. The photos are often the sole surviving originals documenting people and events.

The Tribune Photo Archive (1948-1999) will compliment the Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive (1870s-1930s) held by Ames Public Library.

The collection will require intensive work to make it usable. The negatives arrived in envelopes, labeled only with dates and occasionally the photographer's name. AHS Collections Curator, Dennis Wendell, will be seeking a volunteer crew to undertake the long task of organizing, storing and identifying the treasure trove of images. If interested, please call the museum.

Storage Overtakes Exhibit Area

With the acquisition of the Tribune Photo Archive, the small exhibit area at 108 5th Street has been taken over for processing and storage. The Society will soon outgrow its 900 square feet of space at this address, and will be seeking larger quarters, preferably in the downtown area. Ideas from members will be gladly entertained! Please call 515-232-2148.

An Enduring Challenge: The Visit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Ames, Iowa

By Cynthia Bennet, AHS Community Programs Coordinator

A wonderful part of the story of Ames is our connection to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. How many cities can say that Dr. King spoke there? In fact, it was almost 44 years ago that he spoke in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union.

It was a cold Friday evening on January 22, 1960. Dr. King was invited by the Student Religious Council to be the featured speaker during the Religion-in-Life week's events. Fifteen hundred people heard him speak that evening, many in the Great Hall, and others listening to the speakers that had been set up at various locations inside the Union to accommodate the overflow crowd.



Described as the “internationally recognized humanist,” Dr. King was 30 years old at the time of his visit. He had earned three degrees and received five honorary ones, as well as 37 other major awards and citations.

Dr. King began by talking about having been in Africa when the new nation of Ghana was born, and how on the night the British flag was lowered and the new flag of Ghana was raised, he realized he was witnessing an old age passing away and a new age beginning. And while he recognized the issues there were colonialism and imperialism, he compared those to segregation and discrimination in our country. That was the old age that needed to pass away in America for a new age to begin.

I was fascinated to read his speech, and see his tracing of the historical elements that began to transform the lives of Negroes, as Blacks were referred to then. He largely linked the opening vistas to the ability to travel. To move from the rural plantation to the industrial centers of the country, the possibility of owning an automobile, and even the two world wars that, while terrible, provided opportunities to see and experience a whole new world.

Likewise, organized labor and other social agencies also made things more possible than ever before. Dr. King had a wonderful example of how things had changed. He compared his trip to Paris the year

before, which took 14 hours, to the one he had just made which took only seven. He said he'd realized that a woman could now get up on Saturday morning, go to New York, fly nonstop to Paris, buy a little *Evening in Paris* perfume and an outfit, and be back on Sunday in time to wear it to church. His point in this was how the world had changed. He said it had become “geographically one” but now the challenge was to make it “spiritually one.”

The other challenge that he pointed out, that is so relevant for a scientifically-oriented community like Ames, was to keep “our moral progress abreast with our scientific and technological progress.” He reminded us that, as he said it, “civilization is what we use, culture, what we are.” He wanted us to recognize, I think, that technology and all it makes possible provides the “how” of our lives, but it's culture and all that encompasses that gives us the “why” of our lives—what we value and how we express it.

He wanted to be sure that we place an equal value on human and social relations as we pursue all the progress that science has to offer.

Dr. King also spoke about his belief in nonviolence, and why he advised other Blacks to love those that were opposing them and seeking to defeat them. He explained by breaking the word “love” down into its three different forms according to the Greek language. He began with eros, which he described as a kind of ecstatic and romantic love. Shakespeare, he said, was speaking of eros when he wrote Sonnet 116, which begins “Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds, or bends with the remover to remove....” He said he could remember the words of the sonnet because he used to quote them to his wife when they were courting.

He next spoke of filia, or the affection between personal friends, a love based on liking and because we are loved back. But what he saw as most applicable to what he was trying to communicate to his followers, and those attempting to understand him, was the concept of agape. That is the spontaneous love of one person for another, seeking nothing in return. He described it as an overflowing love, a love people extend to each other because they recognize that is how God loves people.

Dr. King believed that in this way we could still love the person while hating his or her deed. This was the kind of love he believed would carry an individual through the struggle, and this love that was the foundation of his principle of nonviolence.

Picture from 1960 ISU Bomb yearbook

Your Membership is Essential – Please Renew Today!

Membership renewals are sent on the one-year anniversary date of the previous year's payment. You may wait to receive your reminder, or you may renew at any time during the 2004 year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

(We use e-mail ONLY to notify members about upcoming programs.)

Introductory	\$10		
Individual	\$25	Sustaining	\$100
Family	\$40	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000

★ Museum Building Procurement Fund Donation

amount _____

Send to:
Ames Heritage Assn., PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 Soon!

Ames Historical Society Board: President - Kathy Svec; Vice-President - Carole Jensen; Secretary – open; Treasurer - Peggy Baer; Jorgen Rasmussen, Lynn Jenison, Margaret Elbert Benson, Catherine Hunt, Janet Jepeway, Leo Lawler, Dennis Wendell. The Board meets the second Monday of each month.

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501C3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs and exhibitions and the operation of two historic sites. Headquarters: 108 5th, Ames; Phone: 515-232-2148, amesheritage@qwest.net.

The Intelligencer newsletter is published four times a year for AHA members. Direct comments & questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April 1 through October 31.

Bauge Log Home is east & north McFarland Park's lake. The park is ½ mile east of Dayton Rd at 56461 180th Street. Open Sundays during good weather months.



The AHS exhibit on Lincoln Highway in Ames received many glowing comments during its run at the Ames Public Library from November 15, 2003 to January 18, 2004.

The exhibit will also be on view during the Annual Meeting on February 21.

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 Ames Historical Society
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