

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2009 SUMMER.. ISSUE #2/4

The mission of the Ames Historical Society is to preserve local history and illuminate its stories.



Kampus Kamp started with three units on Lincoln Way and expanded, adding cabins that faced Franklin Avenue,

Ames Historical Society Board:

President	Kathy Svec
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Board Members:

Mary Atherly, Bob Bourne, Matthew Donovan, Nick Howell, Carol Phillips, Meg Speer, Rollie Struss, Willie Struss, Neal Tarman, Fred Walker

The Board meets the 1st Thursday of each month at City Hall at 6:45pm. Members welcome!

Administrator Alan Spohnheimer
Staff Sara Vouthilak, Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

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Website: www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

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

Kampus Kamp: Early Ames Accommodations for Travelers

With the summer travel season upon us, it's fun to think about the adventures that early travelers undertook when they left home and motored across the countryside, long before chain motels dotted the landscape. Ames had a number of overnight accommodations for those hardy souls that took to the road.

By Roy Hougen, Ames

One such place was the Kampus Kamp, located on the old Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30) in west Ames at the intersection of Franklin Avenue. It was made up of several cabin-like buildings. These types of accommodations were the forerunners of today's motels.



Kampus Kamp was built in about 1939 and operated by Julius and Edith Hougen, my grandparents. The story that I remember being told was that they had taken a trip to visit their son, Gaylord Hougen, in Santa Monica, California and had stayed in similar accommodations along the way. This gave them the idea to try such an enterprise in Ames. One reason for the name "Kampus" was that they were located only a few blocks from Iowa State College and they thought there was a need for lodging for people who came to the college.

Julius and Edith started with three rather rustic looking, white-with-red-trim, double cabins (above). They expanded over several years to include more modern-looking facilities.

At one time there was an office by the highway but later they put the office in their home.

Two "cottages", as they called them (right), were built facing Franklin Avenue.





Edith Hougren, in a small scrapbook of pictures, wrote it up this way: "These are the cottages, twins if you please, whose first tenants came from over the seas. Two profs with their wives, from South Brazil came, to take a short course, at our college of fame." Edith wrote lots of rhyming poetry; it was her way of expressing herself.

Operating a place for people to stay was a business that came late in their lives. Julius was born in 1876 on a farm in Norway, Iowa. He was the youngest of eleven children of an immigrant family. Edith (Gunderson) was born in Belmond in 1882.

When the Kampus Kamp undertaking was built in 1939, Julius was 63, Edith 57. It wasn't easy work; people came at all hours of the day or night. It meant cleaning, laundry, and general grounds maintenance. They ironed the sheets with an Iron-rite Mangle ironer with heated rollers that passed the sheets through before the days of "wash and wear."

The Hougens had previously been involved in several other enterprises. Julius and his brother had operated a general store in Norway, Iowa. Julius and Edith farmed near McCallburg, Iowa for many years. Their four children were born there, Virgil, Gaylord, Irene and Muriel. They operated a variety store in Mason City

for a short time and had a grocery delivery business in Story City, Iowa. Julius also served as a Deputy County Treasurer in Nevada for a few years.

They sold Kampus Kamp around 1945 and lived the rest of their lives in Ames. Julius died in 1954 and Edith in 1964. They are buried in the Ames Municipal Cemetery.

These, then, are some of my reflections about my grandparents. I remember them as a rather quiet, unassuming couple, active church members and sociable. Some of this information comes from my father, Virgil; I would have been elementary school-age when my grandparents operated Kampus Kamp. We lived in South Dakota and Minnesota during these years and did not make frequent trips to Ames. I do remember that we always enjoyed coming for a visit!

Footnote by Lyell Henry, Iowa City, IA, noted Lincoln Highway historian

The ten separate buildings of Kampus Kamp (by then known as Campus Court) were joined in 1955 by filling in the space between the buildings and covering the entire resulting structure with a brick veneer. This remodeling expanded the number of rental units from eleven to seventeen and was accompanied by another change of name, to Campus Court Motel.

Lyell adds: If Ames Historical Society members are interested in Ames' tourist court/motel history, I've written an article on that topic, which someday I hope will be published in a book edited by Drake Hokanson, "From Hotel to Motel on the Lincoln Highway, 1920-1940: The Evidence at Ames, Iowa." In the meantime, if anyone is also pursuing research on this subject, I'd like to hear from that person, or if anyone has any questions about early camps/courts/motels, I'll be happy to share information. My e-mail is disorg@mchsi.com

Final Chapter: Campus Court eventually became small apartments, and later suffered from a major fire. The badly damaged structure was demolished; the site is now occupied by Family Video.



**Kampus
Kamp**

Kampus Kamp

Hiway 30

our 1st stopping
place on our
Honeymoon.
a swell place.

Print—Ames
Service

POST CARD

Place
Stamp
Here



Top: Kampus Kamp is described as "a swell place" on the first stop of someone's honeymoon trip.

Above: Another view of buildings on the site.

Left: Edith and Julius on the steps of their home.

69th Wedding Anniversary

The Society's founder, Ames historian Farwell T. Brown, and his wife Ruth celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in June.

AHS staff dropped in to celebrate the occasion, saying, "We heard stories about how they met. They were introduced in the middle of the (Ames) Congregational Church by Ruth's mother following services. Their first date was by car to 5th and Park Avenue in Des Moines to go a ballroom, the Tromar. Coming back on back roads through Kelley, Ruth said Farwell put his arm around her ("It was pretty dangerous!") and then told her a story he made up as he drove her home about a pink elephant. Ruth had been seeing one other boy, but she said, "After that, it was all Farwell." She even described one day when she saw both guys on the same day.

About Farwell's first car - Ford dealer Emil Mathison told Farwell he probably wouldn't be satisfied with it, but Farwell bought the old Ford Model T "in a hurry" for \$25. "It didn't even have a body. It had a seat on the gas tank."



Back, L to R: Society staff and volunteers:
Alan Spohnheimer, Sara Vouthilak, Janet Klaas,
Neal Tarman, Dennis Wendell

Front: Ruth and Farwell Brown

Volunteer Spotlight!

About Neal Tarman

This is the first in a series of articles spotlighting Ames Historical Society volunteers.



In December 2008, when the Society bought the building at 416 Douglas, \$160 a month was being spent on custodial services. Board member, Neal Tarman saw a way to help and do something he enjoyed. He volunteered to become the manager-custodian for the new building.

Neal is an Ames native who graduated from Ames High School with Curator, Dennis Wendell and the actor Nick Nolte. He worked at the Iowa Department of Transportation for 30 years and is now retired.

Neal has always been interested in history, and started dropping into AHS offices several years ago when they were located at 108 Fifth. When The Tribune's photo archive was transferred to AHS, he worked with the negatives, identifying the subject of the photos by researching past issues of the newspaper on microfilm at the library.

As building manager, Neal makes sure the floors and windows are cleaned, the trash emptied, the lawn moved, the snow shoveled and the light bulbs changed. This takes him 5 to 10 hours a week. To maximize energy efficiency, he installed programmable thermostats in each suite. Seeing another avenue for savings, he stopped the floor mat service being provided at \$30 per month and purchased mats that he now maintains. When he noticed that whole toilet paper rolls were "walking away" from the second floor bathrooms, he installed locking holders. He provided for the installation of a dead bolt lock on the front door.

Neal has found a role he likes and is providing a valuable service to AHS. He is providing significant savings to the Society and has found a way he enjoys to give back to the community. He encourages other community members to consider ways to volunteer their talents and skills to AHS and notes other needed items:

- Snow removal in the winter
- On-call repair service from a plumber, electrician or carpenter
- Also appreciated would be donation of toilet paper, light bulbs, paper towels



Young people from the Lutheran conference meeting in Ames volunteered for several hours on our building plan archive, making significant progress. One entered information into the database, another two unfolded plans and read off the number of sheets, date of construction, builder's name, address of the home, and the name of the home owner at the time of construction. Other team members then filed them.



On July 1, three high school students attending the State 4-H conference provided community service hours. Left to right: Kendra Bland, Rachel Lium, and Katie Moore



ISU graduate student, Larrison Seidle, has been volunteering for AHS. Here he glues stray seeds back on our vintage seed-art display.

We Like Getting Get Your Letters, E-Mails and Phone Calls!

Remembering Mrs. Jackson



One day in May, Society Administrator, Alan Spohnheimer, was scanning old negatives from the Ames Tribune Photographic Archive and came across two images showing a girl taking piano lessons from Mrs. P.E. Jackson. When long-time Ames resident, Jack Adams, stopped in, Alan asked him if he knew who "this Adams kid was". Jack replied, "That's my sister!" The images were sent along to Marna Adams Stevens. One was published 60 years ago in 1949 when Mrs. Jackson was moving from Ames; the other one, unpublished, was probably only seen by the photographer developing the photos."

Marna replied, "What a surprise! The second photo is the one I have had for many years. It is my understanding that it went along with a story about Mrs. Jackson. My daughter has it framed and on her piano in her home. I loved Mrs. Jackson. Also loved the deck of cards that seemed to be holding up the music stand. I'm very touched to see it and to remember those days. I'm so glad Jack stopped by to identify the Adams kid---me!"

Contributed the Balance

This letter appeared in the June 2009 Ames High School Alumni Association newsletter:

"My Ames High Class of 1954 Reunion has contributed the balance of our bank account (\$1040.46) to the Ames Historical Society for the Legacy Ames campaign to establish a permanent Ames History Center and Museum. This will acquire and renovate space at 410/416 Douglas in downtown Ames and provide for the continued operation of the facility. Thank you for helping us to inform classmates and others of our donation. Sincerely, Sharon Krieger, Class of 1954."

Post Office Mural Memories

Received from Betsy Gulliver Johnson in response to Society's winter newsletter: "Very interesting newsletter. I remember that marvelous post office mural. All that symbolism keeps it fresh as a problem-solving puzzle treasure for students of all ages. . Kudos to those who restored and preserved it! Check enclosed to renew my dues a little early."

E-Mail from Spain!

In July, this e-mail arrived, "I am Juan Quintana, Director of the Empire Military History Museum of Madrid (Spain). This is a small history museum dedicated to military and police history. I have seen photos of old Ames police and military units on your website.



We are looking for photos of police and military units from all over the world to publish on our website to show the uniforms, vehicles and equipment of different police forces of the world and the evolution of them from the early history of police departments and their relation with the evolution of the cities and countries.

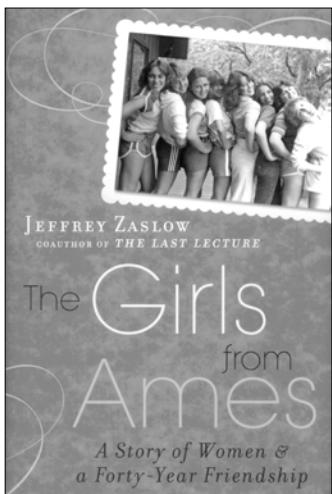
The photos on your website are really amazing and we do not have any photos of Iowa and its cities. I want to ask you for permission to publish some of these photos on our website. I will add a link to your website to give you more visitors. I like so much your website, it's very interesting and full of information of the Iowa people during all of the 20th century. Thank you in advance from Spain."



This note arrived in May: "This sunflower was grown from the heirloom seeds that you gave away last year at your lecture series. The packets had an invitation to send photographs of the grown plants. This was a nice "benefit" of attending your programs!"

Ames Historical Society News

The Girls From Ames

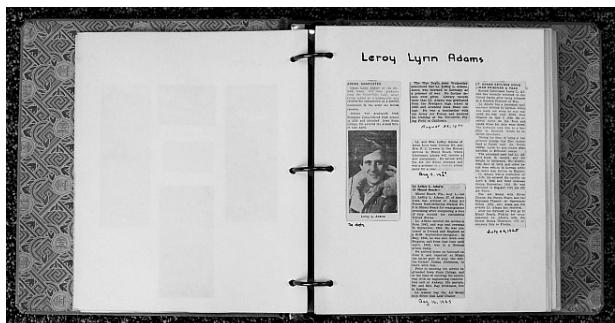


In April, Zaslow visited Ames to deliver a lecture at the Memorial Union, and all ten "girls" were in attendance. A display panel of pictures from their 1980s era was prepared by museum assistant, Sara Vouthilak and displayed at the lecture and several book signings.

In preparing for his book, the author used the Society's website to "get a feel" for Ames. The book is about the extraordinary friendships shared by the women, and touches on many familiar Ames scenes.

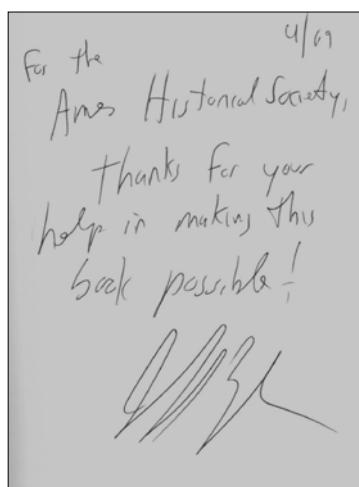
Society Wins HRDP Grant

In July, the State Historical Society of Iowa announced that our Historic Resource Development Grant application was approved, totaling \$5158.



This grant will fund the scanning and microfilming of our extensive collection of information on WW2 Story County military service personnel. It consists of 27 scrapbooks (above) that follow the activities of 2755 individuals, as well as index cards that record military records for 8250. The project will also include indexing of all the names for easy reference. The index will then be placed on our website.

The launch of Jeffrey Zaslow's new book, "The Girls from Ames", caused a lot of excitement around town. Zaslow, a columnist for the Wall Street Journal, is well known for his book, "The Last Lecture."



Legacy Ames Update

Legacy Ames co-chairs, Rollie and Willie Struss, continue to lead the fundraising effort to pay off the building contract. In May, an additional \$30,000 was paid on the approximately \$178,000 balance due.

The Society has been very grateful for nearly \$5400 in donations received to date in memory of long-time resident, Robert Stafford, who passed away in June. Bob and his wife, Virginia, have been supporters of the Society for many years and we were especially pleased to be suggested for memorial donations in Bob's honor.

The sale of the Bert and Mary Adams home by the City of Ames should occur this fall. The sale will be announced to the public later this year and sealed bids will be taken. It is the intention of the City to gift the proceeds of the sale to the Society for the Building Fund. The house is near Ada Hayden Park and is a historic treasure. It will be sold with 1.8 acres of land.

Summer Games Fest is August 2

Hoggatt School will host its third Games Fest on Sunday, August 2, starting at 3pm. Enjoy 1860's style outdoor games for all ages: three-legged race, sack race, ante-ante over, drop the handkerchief, flying Dutchman, red rover, tag and more! Participate in country school opening exercises, elocution, math and penmanship, and learn about life during the Civil War era. Fun for all ages. Free to attend. Bring a bottle of water to quench your thirst.



Hoggatt School is located on Meeker School's grounds at 18th and Burnett in Ames. Regular school summer open hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 2 - 4:30pm through August 31.

For more information, call Carol Alexander Phillips, 515- 232-0595.

Curator's Report by Dennis Wendell

Donations to the Collections

Selected highlights since January include:

Records/artifacts: Mary Greeley Medical Center Auxiliary

Real Picture Postcards: Campus Court Motel (postmarked 1957); footbridge over Squaw Creek (postmarked 1910); Lincoln Highway bridge over Squaw Creek (postmarked 1907)

Ken-A-Vision microscope projector: used at Roosevelt School

Stereo viewer: Novelview; slide model; black Bakelite in original mailing box with film strip

Note: The 1930s Novelview stereo viewer complements our Victorian stereopticon and 1950s ViewMaster. These devices, as well as the microscope projector, reflect one of our collection strengths, that of educational technology. We aspire to collect a mix of strictly Ames-related objects (not necessarily dramatic to exhibit) as well as engaging general objects from the past that will excite viewers. Every time kids visit, staff are reminded of the chasm between generations and the lack of awareness of people, events and customs dating back a mere 25 years.

"Armstrong in Africa" b&w, 35mm issued as a

Wheaties premium (1937)

Ames High School yearbooks: inventoried at Ames Public Library with the hope of having duplicates transferred to AHS

Publication: *A history of the Iowa State University YMCA to 1953* by Ray Cunningham

Book: *Korean War journals/* by Clair Keller, 2nd ed.

Books (5): owned by Kate Mitchell with signature or bookplate

Artifacts: Varsity Theater: 16' marquee sign in two sections; Best Devices Co. lantern slide projector with 2 brass slides: "Intermission" and "Snack Bar Closes in 5 Minutes"; 3 film can cabinets, ticket stub post

Archive: Paul Goodland papers: (as priest) diplomas, appreciations, renunciation, plaques – (as mayor 1980-1989) campaign material, correspondence, clippings, photos, plaques, gavel block)

Milk bottle: Iowa Guernsey Dairy, Ames, Iowa

Cream cans: O'Neil Dairy

CD: Sweet Nothin' [Ames band 1972-1975] original songs

Booklets Wartime suggestions to help you get the most out of your refrigerator (Frigidaire, 1943)

Loan calculator: used by Robert Stafford at First National Bank

Books: *Country roads of Iowa; Iowa, off the beaten path; Christmas in Iowa*

Ledgers: Story County Chattel Mortgage Records (1897, 1903-1906, 1907-1910)

DVD: 16mm film of footage shot from WWII bomber

Mosler Safe: from 1912 Ames Post Office

Acquired on June 8, this rare, vintage Mosler Safe is the heaviest artifact in our collections and may be the sole surviving artifact from the 1912 Ames Post Office.



It all started when volunteer, Paul Clark, mentioned that his friend, Kent Cooper, was available to move the safe that afternoon. The safe had been on the loading dock

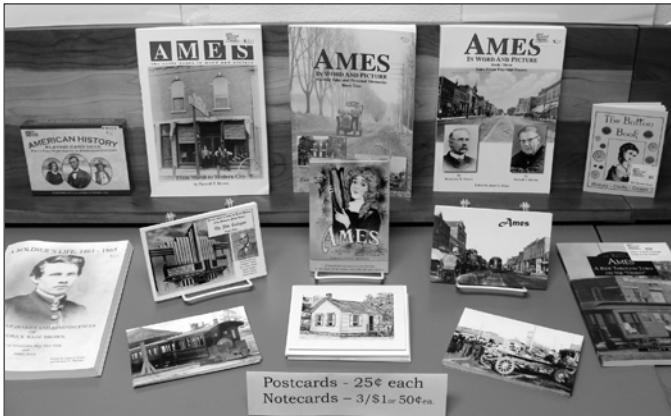


of the Ames Post Office and permission had been obtained from Postmaster Larry Jordison to move it. A pallet jack was used to roll the safe to the edge of the

dock where Kent and his endloader took over. The owner of the Pantorium agreed to let us place the safe inside a double door off the alley.

While the short trip to the Pantorium was uneventful, the process of getting the safe into the building took an hour. The backhoe attached to the endloader limited maneuverability in the tight alley space. An audience from the neighboring bars looked on intently as Kent angled the endloader back and forth, and Neal Tarman and Alan Spohnheimer pried the safe into the Pantorium's back room. Eventually, the principles of physics worked in our favor and the safe was moved in far enough to barely shut the double doors!

In the Gift Shop



The Shop features a good selection of color postcards with images from our collection, notecards of Hoggatt School and all of Farwell Brown's books on Ames history. Hours are 1-5pm, Wednesday through Friday, or by appointment.

FREE to current members as long as supplies last: Full-color numbered fine art poster, *Historic Homes of Ames* by Jacquelyn Olson; Measures 16 x 20", Stop by Society Headquarters at 416 Douglas, to pick up your copy!



Volunteer Breanne Hunter has been applying her library degree work to do collections inventory. She also helped organize our library of building plans.

Renew Now for 2009

Membership renewals for 2009 are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. See the label on this newsletter for information about your membership.

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

Additional amount for:

Building Fund \$ _____ Operations Endowment \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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