

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

FOUNDED 1980 AS AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter to Members 2007 WINTER .. ISSUE #1/4

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



This stamped metal disc from the Lake Comar bath house was recently donated to The Society. Lake Comar was a man made, artesian-well fed lake near Story City.

Ames Historical Society Board:

President Kathy Svec
Vice-President Peggy Baer
Secretary Amy Swenson
Treasurer Ken Cameron

Board Members:

Roger Coulson, Margaret Elbert, Joanne Goldman, Dottie McGee, Carol Phillips, Neal Tarman, Dennis Wendell

The Board meets the 2nd Monday of each month at City Hall at 7:15pm. Members welcome!

Administrator Alan Spohnheimer

Staff Alice Mellen, Dennis Wendell, Colleen Hamilton

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.

Headqtrs: 108 5th, Ames, Iowa 50010

Open Wed-Fri, 1-5pm

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The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments & 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.

Treasures from the Tribune Photo Collection

A special program for our members and guests

Thursday, March 8, 7pm
in the Octagon's 3rd floor gallery, 425 Douglas, Ames

Three and one-half years ago, the Ames Historical Society received 60 years' worth of photographs from the Ames Tribune - in the form of many envelopes of negatives.

Since then, AHS has been using a sophisticated scanner to reveal a treasure trove of images from all facets of life in Ames since the late 1940s.

The public is invited to come and "leaf through" this album as a selection of wonderful Ames images are shared with the audience, many for the first time. The process used in saving these images will be highlighted.

The program will also include an update on progress toward a permanent facility, the annual overview of Society activities and volunteer recognition.

Free and open to the public.



Collegian Theater, 1957



Carr's Pool, 1954



Moore Dairy, 1954, corner of 5th & Clark

Unique Tales in Local History

George Judisch: Pharmacist, Teacher, Entrepreneur, Leader



George Judisch, 1955, in his store

George Judisch was 25 years old in 1894 when he and his brother A.L. established a drug store at 209 Main Street in Ames. Although his brother chose to be a “silent” partner, the store was always called Judisch Brothers. The store, with George at the helm, remained open on the north side of Main Street until early 1956.

Judisch was a leader in the pharmacy profession who donated his time to many commissions and professional organizations at the state and national level. For these involvements, he received many honors.

In a place and time that highly valued academic education, George Judisch was a man of science who earned his expertise as an apprentice, by experience and by self-study.

From 1900-26, Judisch was a part-time instructor in Pharmacology and materia medica for the veterinary division, at Iowa State College. C. H. Stange wrote in his History of Veterinary Medicine at ISC, “At Iowa State, he had a prominent place in the work of the division for 25 years. In order better to equip himself, he studied veterinary physiology, materia medica, poisonous plants and took additional work in agricultural chemistry.”

Although he had fewer than seven years of formal education, his academic work was recognized by a certificate of 25 years of eminent service to Iowa State College, an Honorary Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Des Moines University and honors from many professional organizations.

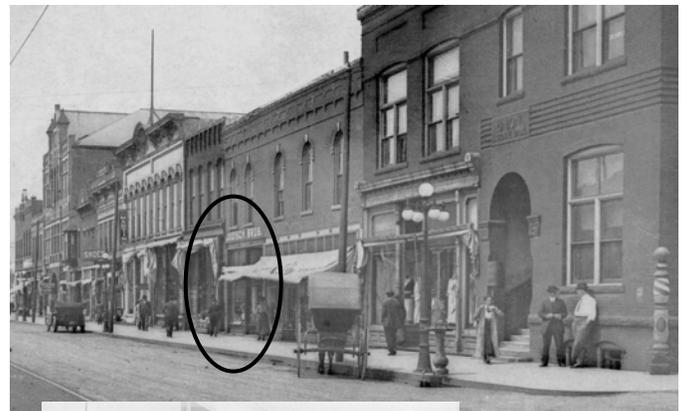
Judisch was dedicated to his students. It was said, “He was always ready to help the students outside class and laboratory hours as well as during the scheduled periods. Many a veterinary student has spent hours at his store downtown receiving helpful advice.”

Part of his success as a teacher was his gift of speaking. As Dr. H. Hugh Dukes recollected, he could “take a digitalis leaf and just build mounds of glory on it. Yes, he was a silver tongued [lecturer]. He cut loose with his silver tongue, it was really a delight to hear.”

He was also a community leader dedicated to improving Ames. With others, he provided leadership to build many of the important community institutions we take for granted today: the hospital, library, banks, church. He was a charter member of the local Rotary Club.

And lead he did - maybe even too fast for some. As a library board member, he proposed that the library building be heated from the electric light plant. The City Council sent that to a committee for investigation, “where it may still languish to this day.” *Ames newspaper, July 16, 1903*

He was a man of high ethical and educational standards. For example, he “began banking with the Union National Bank (now US Bank) at Ames in 1894 and to date, the firm has not had an overdraft, nor a sight draft presented, nor have they borrowed money from the institution.”



ABOVE: 1915 view of Judisch's store – note Union Bank, right, with curved door

LEFT: store interior



Judisch's store in 1951, next door to Tilden's

Judisch's "silver tongue" found its way into the newspaper advertisements for Judisch Bros. Drug Store, a truly full-service store that offered free delivery:

"A shopper's paradise.
A full line of Drugs and Druggist Sundries.
This is your Harvest Time.
Don't go away empty handed."
August 1894

"We are the LEADERS in School Supplies.
We have everything needed to fit your children for
School, Books, Stationery, Tablets, Pens, Inks, Pencils,
Slates, Sponges, etc.
Everything in School Supplies."
September 1894

"The Road to Health.
There are many of them and
one of the most important ones is personal cleanliness.
CLEANLINESS IS NEXT
TO GODLINESS.
With good Soap and plenty of water this is easy.
We have the best Soaps the market affords."
October 1894



1955 store interior, updated with brighter fixture colors

Judisch was a familiar sight to many Ames residents during the years that the narrow-gauge train, the Dinkey, was in operation. He would regularly take the Dinkey from his drug store on Main Street to Iowa State College where it was an easy walk to the Veterinary Quadrangle.

George Judisch Timeline

- 1869** Born Nov. 28 on a farm in Muscatine County, IA
- 1874** Began working in a pharmacy part-time at age 15, moved to full-time a year later
- 1889** Became a registered pharmacist and began working at Harlan Brothers Pharmacy in Des Moines
- 1894** In July, George and his brother bought Westerman Drug Store on Main Street in Ames; it became Judisch Bros. Drug Co.
- 1899** Married Lillian Hunter
- 1900-26** Became an instructor in Pharmacology and materia medica for the veterinary division, at Iowa State
- 1919** Awarded Honorary Doctor of Pharmacy degree by Des Moines University
- 1924-36** Served on Iowa Pharmacy Commission examining board
- 1926** Received Iowa State College award for 25 years of eminent service
- 1925** Retired from Iowa State College
- 1927** Wife Lillian died
- 1956** In January, Judisch Brothers Drug Company closed after 61 years in business
- 1959** Died at age 88 on Sun., Feb. 1 at 702 Clark after several years of ill health

Active Community and Volunteer Affiliations

- Member of original Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees; served 15 yrs
- Member of original Ames Library Board; was Director when library was built
- President or chairman of several bank boards, including Union National Bank (now US Bank) from its beginning until 1958
- Congregational Church member, Mason for 50 years and Order of Eastern Star, charter member of Ames Rotary Club
- President of Iowa Pharmaceutical Association; long-time member of their legislative commission and delegate to national convention
- Life member and Honorary President of American Pharmaceutical Association and active in National Pharmaceutical Society

Interesting footnote: Judisch's grandfather fought at the Battle of Waterloo and later left Germany to escape political intolerance. Judisch's father and uncles fought for the Union Army in the Civil War.

2006 Collections Annual Report by Dennis Wendell

Highlights are grouped under the six goals for the year.

Goal 1. Aggressively collect archival materials, artifacts and local history stories

- 290 linear feet of archival materials were added plus untallied cubic feet of artifacts
- 8 x 11' moongate from Mandarin Restaurant
- Bars from basement window to former Ames City Jail [survived 1970 bombing]
- 100 year-old coffin from Adams Funeral home
- Several collections of Central Junior High and Ames High School memorabilia
- Historic photos from many different donors
- Civil War artifacts



The sign from Archie's Shoe Repair was salvaged by Dennis Wendell, Jerry Litzel and Neal Tarman.

- Signs from defunct businesses: Ames Reliable Feed, Big Table Books, Archie's Shoe Repair
- Added key references: R.L. Polk city directories, telephone directories, MLS sheets, maps & atlases including Sanborn fire insurance maps & 1908 atlas of Story County, histories including facsimile ed. of 1887 W.H. Allen History of Story County & 1890 Biographical & Historical Memoirs of Story County
- Interviewed residents about their lives and businesses: Archie Wierson, Floyd Penkhus, Lester Scott, Ron Moses, Clearview School alums
- Organizational records: Collegiate Mfg. Co. (1913, 1950-1970s), Ames WCTU (1936-1976), Ames Community Arts Council (1980-96)
- 266 glass plate negatives from the 1890s collected by Haakon Herigstad via Liz Lorch
- 1860 Victorian seed art wreath, 4' x 3'
- Tom Wetteland wood crafting models: Conestoga wagon, stagecoach, hearse, milk delivery wagon (right) and buckboard



Goal 2. Find space to accommodate ever-growing collections

- Contents of Bert & Mary Adams home gifted to AHS; held public auction in May to dispose of unwanted household goods
- Recruited US Bank (campustown) to store large artifacts from Dr. Bert Adams' 1950s medical office, Ames Tribune bound volumes and City video tapes



- Found space in Ellsworth for 93 boxes of music 1930s-1960s deselected from Ames Municipal Band Music Library (above)
- Found 2500 sq. ft. of storage space at HQ, in North Ames, West Ames, Story County Conservation, Nevada, Story City and Ellsworth

Goal 3. Promote AHS as the official archive for Ames to the City and other organizations

- City Cable TV programs (2,300 cassettes)
- 1935 water color drawing of bandshell
- Landmark Challenge designs
- Ames Tribune newspapers: 301 bound volumes weighing over 2 tons
- Noon Rotary Club records
- Building plans (right) from City Inspections, 3,000+



Goal 4. Engage in preservation and conservation

- Procured 16 sections (1200 lbs.) of steel library shelving for Tribune bound volumes
- Obtained Local Historic Landmark designation for the Bert & Mary Adams home
- Contracted with Midwest Art Conservation Center to restore Bert Adams 1934 oil painting
- Ran ozone machine periodically to kill any molds from incoming collections

- Made progress to complete last year of HRDP grant to preserve endangered Ames Tribune Photo Archive negatives

Goal 5. Assist other organizations / individuals

- Loaned oil painting to Iowa State University Museums for Grant Wood-related art exhibit
- Loaned artifacts (right) to businesses for display (Olde Main Restaurant, Little Pillow Co.)
- Provided images to publishers & private collectors: Neta Snook, 1846 North American Speller & McGuffey's Second Eclectic Reader; created photo use policy
- Provided advice to: Martin Foundation on gaining local historic landmark designation for the Archie & Nancy Martin house; Ruth David on preservation of her parent's Holocaust correspondence; Octagon Center for the Arts on preserving the Ruedenberg puppet documentation
- Assisted West Ames Historic Study Group
- Created indexes to help researchers (building plans, Tribune mug shots, obits)
- Transferred material to other historical groups: Transportation exhibit to Iowa Transportation Museum, ISU-related archival materials to University Archives, Historical material to newly-formed Gilbert Historical Society, Glass plate negatives to Drake University, Attendance certificate from School District No. 4 in Palestine Township to Huxley group, Other archival material to Story City, Nevada and Shipley



2006 Donors to AHS Collections

In 2006, additions to our artifact collection came from 90 donors who contributed 125 collections of items totaling 290 linear feet.

We sincerely thank our donors:

Ames Community Art Council, Ames Woman's Club, Lois Anderson, John Adams, Nancy Adams, Terry Adams, Beverly Anderson, Norval Armstrong, Tom Arnold, Richard Arrasmith, Roberta Baty, Darryl Bennett, Kay & Roger Berger, Betty Blagen, Craig Boylan, Brunner Art Museum, Wesley Buchele, Brent Buldhaupt, Doris Plagge Burton, Ken Cameron, Mary Carr, Lynn Christian, Steven Cooney, Carolyn Cornette, Kathryn Coronas, Bette Coulson, Carol Cummings, Robert & Marilynn Curry, Tom Dooley, Margaret Elbert, Peggy Faden, Becky Fehring, Linda Goldfriend, Margaret Mae Gross, Sondra Guilford, Helen Gunderson, Colleen Hamilton, John Hart, William Heathm, Phyllis Heffron, Lyell Henry, Hunziker & Associates, Ginny Jackson, William Jepsen, Lois Jessen, Mary McNabb Kearns, Bob Kelly, Cheryl Kimberley, Mike King, Irwin Klaas, Janet Klaas, Patricia Knight, Jeanne Lillig, Rick Lippard, Jerry Litzel, Liz Lorch, Lynn Matson, Eleanor Mathews, Jim Menzel, Barbara Minear, John Nutty, Robert Owens, Diane Parsons, Betty Quam, Martha Rasmussen, Peggy Riggs, Robert & Jo Rod, Lester Scott, Kathryn Seidel, Karen Selby, Dorothy Shepard, David R. Smith, Alan Spohnheimer, Elizabeth Starleaf, Red Stenberg, Willie & Rollie Struss, Edna & Harry Svec, Kathy Svec, Thompson Electric, The Tribune, US Bank, James Utter, John van der Linden, Fred Vogtlin, Lois Vohs, Dennis Wendell, Florence Wheeler, Holly Wetteland, Archie Wierson, Doug Wierson

Goal 6. Continue professional development

- Curator and Collections Assistant and attended all-day workshop given by the CIA (Consortium of Iowa Archivists) in Sioux City on June 20th dealing with Archival Arrangement & Description, and The Care, Handling, Arrangement and Description of Photographs



In our Fall newsletter, we featured the Armstrong family of Ames and their marionettes. Klaus Ruedenberg of Ames recently donated the Armstrong's collection to the Ames Historical Society. Curator Dennis Wendell (above) has been able to match the marionettes to their parts in scripts. Tiny Tim is shown (right).



Ames Historical Society News

We Extend Our Thanks to Many for Year-End Generosity



The Ames Historical Society was one of three local organizations that benefited from the 2006 Altrusa Home Tour on Dec. 2 and 3. Here, Altrusa president, Carole Jensen presents a check for \$1250 to AHS. Thanks to all who toured!

An Ames donor who wishes to remain anonymous has provided a \$10,000 gift to AHS that has been used to greatly expand our fledgling Operations Endowment. The interest from this fund will be used to support the daily activities of the Society, while the principal will remain in the fund to continue to earn interest.

Memorial donations for Harry J. Svec of Ames, father of Society president, Kathy Svec, has brought ~\$2,300 to AHS. Half the money will be allocated to the Building Fund, the other half to the Operations Endowment.

The Friday Noon Kiwanis has provided a \$357 grant for AHS' "Boxed History" project. This project will create kits that contain facsimiles of key historical items from the AHS collection. The project will take 12-18 months to develop. When completed, the boxes will be available for check-out to area teachers.

The fundraising weekend at Border's Books in Ames on Sept. 22, 23 and 24 netted \$593 for Society projects. AHS thanks all who shopped at Border's that weekend.

City of Ames Funding Granted

During budget hearings for the City of Ames for 2007-2008, the Ames City Council approved a \$10,000 grant to support AHS facilities and operations. The grant is funded by the Local Option Sales tax in Ames, the same source of funding for grants to human services and organizations such as the Central Iowa Symphony and ACTORS. The Society is grateful for this critical funding.

Thanks to Terry Pickett

Ames consultant, Terry Pickett, sat in with the Ames Historical Society Board on December 9 to provide direction for an intensive strategic planning session. Terry's experience and expertise provided focus to our efforts and produced a very serviceable three-year plan. We thank Terry for his donated services.

2007 "Along the Skunk River" Armchair Series Continues

All presentations 7pm at Ames City Auditorium, 6th & Clark, Ames. \$2 donation requested at the door.

February 26

The South Skunk River and its Navy by Jim Colbert

What do you get when you put together a human activity-impacted river full of trash with Iowa State University biology students? Why, the "Skunk River Navy", of course! Come hear about the ten-year-old effort to raise awareness of students and community members while also raising the aesthetic quality of the river in our backyard. ISU Professor and "Admiral" Jim Colbert will describe the ecology of the Skunk River prior to settlement and how it has changed – prompting his "naval" activities.

March 26

Stories in the Stones by Amy Yoakum

Usually a Naturalist for Story County Conservation, Amy turned into a history detective when she got curious about Story County's hidden and little known pioneer cemeteries. Following the simple lead of a person's name and birth and death dates, she reveals the rich stories she uncovered about cultural influences, art, local history, disease, epidemics and the Civil War.

April 30

Historical Whatchamacallits & Thingamajigs by Don Faas

Former Ames High School teacher, Don Faas is an avid local historian and researcher who will delight and challenge the audience with stories about an intriguing array of objects from the past. Most of Don's ingenious "whatchamacallits" are well more than 100 years old, invented by our ancestors to provide ease and convenience, and solve problems. Don's selection of objects always changes, so audience members who have heard him before will see a new mix of "thing-a-ma-gigs".

Sponsored by Ames Historical Society, Skunk River Paddlers, Ames Public Library, Story County Conservation

Building Fund Update

October 2006 \$20,766; January 2007 \$31,005

Operations Endowment

November 2006 \$1,000; January 2007 \$12,978

We are grateful for year-end donations from our members!

Society HQ Moving to 416 Douglas!



The Society has leased Suite 101 in the office building at 416 Douglas, shown above. Its location near the Octagon Center for the Arts and Ames Public Library will create a cultural hub in the Main Street Cultural District. The move will occur in the next three months. Members attending the March 8 Annual Meeting (see page 1) will be able to preview the new space. AHS will occupy half of the downstairs.

The Society has also begun conversations with building owners, Marilyn and Red Stenberg, about purchasing the structure. Its design and sturdy construction would serve the Society's needs for years to come. Sale by the City of Ames of part of the Bertrand and Mary Adams property would provide partial funding, and additional fundraising will be required. Members will hear more about the property at the Annual Meeting on March 8.



Membership Form

Renew now for 2007!

Membership renewals for 2007 are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. See the label on this newsletter for your anniversary date and level.

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 _____

Checks payable to Ames Historical Society; send to:
Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

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