



*"Where History Meets on 10<sup>th</sup> Street"*



# Marion Historical Society Newsletter

Including news from *Granger House Museum* and the *Marion Heritage Center*

April 2008

Marion, Iowa

*The Marion Historical Society, Inc., was formed to discover, interpret, and preserve the unique history of the region, and to provide activities for the instruction of citizens, visitors, the community and the surrounding area regarding these historical treasures.*

## **Events in Brief:**

*Sunday, April 20 – “Through the Eyes of Pioneers”, Heritage Center, 2 p.m.*

*Sunday, April 27 – “More About Marion” exhibit closes*

*Saturday, May 17 – Art Exhibit Opens*

*Saturday, May 24- Granger House Opens*

*Saturday, May 24 – “Vietnam Sons” Book Signing, Heritage Center 2-4 p.m.*

## **“Through the Eyes of Pioneers:” Program April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Independent Scholar Loren Horton will be at the Heritage Center to present this program of 19th century Iowa in the words of the people who actually traversed the state. Hundreds of thousands of people immigrated to Iowa during the 19th century. Additional hundreds of thousands of people crossed Iowa on their way to new homes farther west. Many of these pioneers kept diaries and wrote letters, which offer a wonderful view of this period. These documents describe the land, the people, the towns, and the experience of traveling across the prairie. This 2 p.m. program is being funded in part by Humanities Iowa which has been a cultural resource for Iowans since 1971.

## **Granger House Opens for Summer Season**

*Granger House will be opening for the 2008 season on Saturday, May 24<sup>nd</sup>, at 1:00 PM.* Be sure to include a stop at the House on your list of spring things to do. Late springtime means that the yard and gardens will be in bloom and the House itself all spruced up after spring-cleaning. The 2008 regular hours for visitors to tour the House are Thursdays through Sundays from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Special tours other than at the times stated can be scheduled by calling the Granger House at 319-377-6672 or by e-mail: [GrangerHouse@Juno.com](mailto:GrangerHouse@Juno.com).

## **“Vietnam’s Sons” Book signing & Panel Discussion**

The book, “Vietnam Sons,” features the story of MHS Grad Kenn Churchill and his friend, Chuck Gradoville, whose death in Vietnam haunted Churchill for years after the event. On Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> you’ll be able to meet the author, Iowa native Dale Kueter during a book signing and panel discussion that will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Marion Heritage Center. Mr. Kueter will be joined on the panel by Kenn Churchill and Charles Gradoville, father of Chuck Gradoville. This event is sponsored by the Marion Independent School District Foundation & Alumni Association as a benefit for the Marion Foundation and the Heritage Center. The cost will be \$5.00. (refreshments included!) Please RSVP by May 20<sup>th</sup> by calling the Foundation at 377-4691 ext.1110 or the Historical Society at 447-6377.

## **Small Museums Group (SMUG) Meeting**

The Marion Historical Society is pleased to be hosting the eastern Iowa meeting of SMUG at the Marion Heritage Center on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. SMUG provides a networking and educational opportunity for Iowa’s small museums (those with budgets of less than \$100,000-mostly way less). The day long meeting will include a tour of the Granger House in the afternoon. If you would like to assist with the hosting or tour, please, give Karen a call at the Heritage Center. (447-6377)

## **World Lunch coming to Uptown Marion!**

There are a lot of things that make Marion a special place to be and this summer you’ll have another fun stop to make on your way to visiting the Granger House or Heritage Center. “World Lunch” is a new event being planned for uptown Marion. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays of June, July, August and September, Marion’s Cultural & Entertainment District Committee is hosting a celebration of this area’s cultural diversity with the focus on international, ready-to-eat foods. You can try a treat you’ve never tasted before or rediscover a forgotten favorite! Then watch how the pros do it – cooking demonstrations will educate and delight, and perhaps give you the confidence to try it at home. If you fill up too soon, relax

while being entertained by authentic musicians and dancers. Bring your family or meet friends and enjoy a taste of something new at beautiful Marion Square Park. Then stroll over to the Granger House or Heritage Center to finish off your afternoon of local entertainment.

### **“Communication by Mail” Fresco**

Since our last newsletter, ideas about moving the “Communication by Mail” fresco from the old City Hall building have shifted into a plan and actions. At its April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Marion City Council voted to support efforts to move the fresco to the Heritage Center and to contribute \$10,000 to the cause! Vic Klopfenstein, Marion Historical Society vice-president, has agreed to spearhead the drive to raise the \$30,000 anticipated to be needed to fund the project. According to a proposal by art conservator Tony Rajer, moving of the mural could occur as soon as early summer if the funding is acquired. It will require community support from people like you to succeed in this complicated project. If you would like send a donation and/or sign up for hands on involvement when the actual work takes place, please contact us at the Marion Heritage Center. (447-6377/6376)

### **Art by Friends & Neighbors**

April snowfalls notwithstanding, spring is approaching and when spring arrives, can the Heritage Center’s annual Art Exhibit be far behind? No it can’t! This year’s exhibit, which opens on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – also the day of the Marion Art Festival, is sponsored by Hills Bank and Trust,. Running through July 27<sup>th</sup>, this year marks our seventh annual exhibit of original artwork by local artists. If you are thinking of exhibiting, or if you can suggest other local artists that we should invite to participate, please let us know by contacting the Marion Heritage Center or Jay Kacena.

### **Scrapbook Memories**

In July 1946 a local newspaper article reported on “A Lonesome Dog...” as follows: “Bozo, the 12 year old Northern Husky, owned by Charles Dye, isn’t a dog without a home, but he is an animal without a business place to guard. For more than ten years Bozo has kept a vigilant watch over Mr. Dye’s automobile repair shop at the intersection of Seventh avenue and Thirteenth street. Then on July 1, Mr. Dye had to give up his lease. He closed out much of his equipment and moved the rest to his home at 1175 Ninth St. But a dog like Bozo can’t break a habit of ten years standing. For a decade he had watched over the repair shop and its owner. Since July 1 he has made the 10 block trip from the Dye home to the repair shop nearly every day. Bozo is old and crippled and the walk is quite an ordeal for him. Sometimes, as he ambles slowly along, his hind legs will give out and Bozo will sit down suddenly. Slowly and painfully he will stand up. Dogs who formerly treated Bozo with respect to which he was entitled for his terrific fighting ability, now prance around him and pass unnoticed by the aged husky.... The ten year vigil over the repair shop has just about closed. Each day Bozo will go there for awhile to lie on the walk in front of the place. But his master is never there and after a while Bozo will slowly make his way home and lie down on the front porch. A bark at the rear window produces food from Mrs. Dye. Were Bozo human, he would be between 00 and 90 years old.” Well, Bozo is long gone but he did leave a nice memory of a summer long past.

### **New and Renewing Members**

*(Since January 2008)*

*The following people have renewed or become new members in the Society since our last newsletter:*

*Thank you to all members, donors and sponsors for your valuable support!*

*Karen & Robert Hoyt      Roger & Anita Ennen      Mona Morgan      Nancy Miller  
Marjorie Reynolds      Jean Oxley      Jan & Sally Hornbeck      Margaret Wallace  
Charles & Connie Bennett      Barbara Fitzgerald      Leon & Geri Durivage      George Klingler  
Richard & Billie Enneking      LaVerne Vaske      Chuck & Lois Boquist      Rosemary & James Thomson  
Barb & Jeff Robison      Peter Thurman      Donn Carnal      Dennis & Linda Sutherland  
Dennis Beatty      Sheryl & Mark Morgan      Eldon & Pat McMillen      Larry & Marjory Martin  
David & Barbara Kalkwarf      Jane DeWitte      John & Mary Vernon      Genevieve Stickney  
Ruth & Ralph Gaede      Jack & Jeanette Larson*

### **We couldn’t do it without you!**

*The Marion Historical Society Board of Directors and Staff*

*Marjorie Reynolds: President, Vic Klopfenstein: Vice President, Mark Morgan: Secretary, Barb Robison: Treasurer*

*Other Members on the Board of Directors: Jim Rosche, Paul Rehn, Sam Dillon, Granger House Coordinator: Marion Heritage Center Coordinator & Newsletter Editor: Karen Clark-Hansen, Membership Administration: Eula Wood*

*You may contact us at: P. O. Box 753, Marion, IA 52302-0753, at (319) 377-6672, or 447-6377*

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*Please remember to let us know when you add or change your e-mail address or phone number, for we often let our members know what is happening through these means. Your privacy is respected by the Society: your personal information is used only for internal correspondence. And, as always, thank you for letting us know what you think concerning YOUR Historical Society!*