



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



# **Marion Historical Society Newsletter**

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

January 2010

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.*

**Check our web site for activities, programs and special events at: [www.marion-historical-society.org](http://www.marion-historical-society.org)**

## **Granger House**

Granger House had a busy holiday season with beginning with a wonderful program on photography called "Stereo Views of Iowa" that drew rave reviews from all who attended. The Sweet Adelines returned for a Christmas Sing-a-Long accompanied only by cookies, candy and hot cider treats. We wish to thank the Marion Kiwanis Sunrisers and Cheri Dickey for all their hard work decorating the house for the holidays. Now that the holiday season behind us, Granger House will be closed for walk in tours for the winter season, however, tours and tea parties can still be arranged with a little advance planning. Please call the Granger House (319-377-7762) if you'd like to set up a visit. Granger House will re-open in May for its summer season

## **"Marion City Services" Exhibit at the Heritage Center**

Well, it's that time of year again! No not just the time of year for New Year's resolutions and diets, but the time of year when we point out that we are half-way through the run of our current exhibit, "Marion City Service, Then & now." That's right, cold temperatures and snowy days notwithstanding, April will soon be here and with it your last chance to learn something about what makes Marion work so well day in and day out. For all our grumbling about city government, many of us don't realize what is involved in keeping a growing city running smoothly.

## **City Services of the Past**

How many of you readers remember Miss Mildred Titus? Miss Titus served as Marion's City Clerk for many years and the Cedar Rapids Gazette highlighted her as its "Woman of the Week" on June 25, 1950. The article detailed her daily routine and responsibilities. As City Clerk, Miss Titus was responsible for a wide range of responsibilities that included keeping the birth and death records, supervising placement of the cemetery graves and keeping the vital statistics for the city. She also collected fees for the city, issued permits for building, beer, cigarettes and dances. She kept the minutes of city meetings and assisted the mayor in administering his duties. Her workdays began at 7 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday and from 7 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Miss Titus also served as a Justice of the Peace, hearing cases and marrying couples in that capacity. A sense of just how much Marion has grown in the years since Miss Titus served as City Clerk lies in the observation by the reporter that "Miss Titus lives alone in a six-room house on the edge of Marion." Miss Titus lived at 503 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. just west of Oakshade Cemetery and well within the city limits today.

## **2009 Historical Society Donations**

Each year the Marion Historical Society receives many donations of items related to Marion and the past. Among the items donated in this past year are many photographs, a camera, books, papers and letters. Bob Naujoks donated a beautiful Seraco Camera (circa 1910) from Sears & Roebuck, Co. in carrying leather carrying case with four double-sided glass plates along with many accessories that has been on display at the Granger House. Books donated include several Marion City Directories for various years donated by Frank Reynolds and a 1907 Atlas of Linn County donated by Larry Beatty of Shellsburg, Iowa. A two-reel movie "Nowhere But Alaska!" was donated in honor of Marion High School Class of 1954 graduate, Jerry Brown who wrote the movie's script. Among the letters donated were a series of letters written by Thomas Kerr while serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. The letters, donated by Bernice Harstad, recount the day-to-day routine of army life, as well as, his observations and thoughts after fighting in the battle at Murfreesboro, Tennessee in 1863. These items and the many others that have been donated help us to preserve history and we are often able to use them in the exhibits and programs offered by the Society at the Heritage Center and Granger House. The papers, letters and books are also a valuable resource for the Society and our visitors who are looking for information about Marion and its history. If you have any items that you would like to donate to the Marion Historical Society, please, contact us at either the Marion Heritage Center or the Granger House.

## Halloween Supper – A Good Time Was Had By All!

For those of you who missed it, our **Halloween Soup & Dessert Reception** at the Heritage Center was a smashing success! We had a good crowd turn out the event, with over 52 in attendance many dressed in imaginative costumes. Games included a scavenger hunt through the “City Services” exhibit and a word scramble that had many scratching their heads. Ticket sales brought in \$444.00 and since most of the soups and desserts were donated, most of that is profit for the Historical Society! Thank you to all who contributed to making the night such a fun one!

### Editor's Note

After eight years with the Marion Historical Society, I will be leaving the Marion Heritage Center position in at the beginning of January. Family concerns make this departure necessary. I will miss the Marion Historical Society's volunteers, members and the Board of Directors that I have come to know and regard as friends during my tenure at the Heritage Center. I very much appreciate everything that our volunteers have accomplished since the Heritage Center opened in 2001. They have accomplished a lot – twenty different exhibits, over seventy-five programs and many receptions, they've produced two videos about Marion, cataloged over fifteen years worth of scrapbooks, moved a two ton fresco, given countless tours and built display cases. Then there's all the cleaning, building maintenance, furniture moving, paperwork, weed pulling, painting, lawn mowing and cookie baking that was also done. In the process they've saved a lot of Marion's history. I thank everyone for letting me be a part of the whole operation. It was fun. The Marion Historical Society is a terrific community asset and I sincerely hope that you will all continue to support it both as volunteers and donors.

After my departure and until a replacement is found, the Marion Heritage Center will not be open on its regularly scheduled days in January so, please, call ahead. Tours and visits at the Center can be arranged by calling (319) 447-6376. Leave a message and someone will return your call.

### Newsletter Delivery

Just a reminder, those of you who regularly use the Internet can receive the Marion Historical Society's quarterly newsletter by e-mail. Several of our members have opted for this method of delivery, which minimizes the amount of paper piling up on the kitchen table. The advantage for us is that it saves the Society the costs of printing and postage and these days every little bit of money saved helps out. If you would like to receive your newsletter from the Historical Society via e-mail instead of by regular mail, please, let us know by emailing us at [marionheritage@juno.com](mailto:marionheritage@juno.com). (If we don't hear from you, we will continue to send you your newsletters the historical way.)

### New and Renewing Members

(Since October 2009)

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

*Joyce & Ray Stow   Robert & Alberta Burkhardt   Glenn & Marjorie Jensen   Jim & Joan Rosche*  
*Milton & Onalee Arnold   Nancy Beadle   Mel Meggers   Barb Feller   Vicki Hughes*  
*Dennis Beatty   Diane Eimen   Sara Fishel   Chuck & Diane Kent*  
*Dora & Earl Bohlken   Hal & Beverly Klink   O.O.P. Club   Charlie & Pat Kress*  
*Jay & Kathy Kacena   Mitch Cannoy   Iowa Popcorn Company   Karen Taylor*  
*Evelyn Hollister   Sam & Jo Dillon   Marhyce Murdoch   John & Bonnye Fowler*  
*Maury & Vivian Barnes   Jack & Norma Hicks   Lucille Novotny   Will Ogle*  
*Lloyd & Noma Lucas   Eula & Neil Wood   Marilyn Sippy   Kim & Susan Ketelsen*  
*Karen & John Clark-Hansen   Howard & Joyce Parks   Phil & Edith Moorhead*  
*Melanie Alexander   Leonard Grabau   Claire Fernow   Scott Bizek*  
*Bob Naujoks & Sharon Reilly   Doris French   Cindy Lundine   Dick & Iris Snyder*  
*Scott Draper   Emil Koval   Marilyn Johnson   Paul & Ann Rehn*  
*Jim Bouslog   Mel & Wanda Campbell*

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

*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, Sam Dillon, Cody Crawford, Jan Dickey. Granger House Director: Barbara Feller, 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, phone: (319) 377-6672, or 447-6376**

*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!*