

The Noon News

March 24, 2008

Published by



Waterloo Exchange Club

Fred Strohbahn, Iowa Historian and Author - It was a much different place then. The climate was a lot colder. Massive glaciers up to a mile thick had ground their way across the land we call home at least four times. They pushed loose soil ahead of them and leveled off the rolling hills. The climate began to moderate about 10,000 years ago. The glaciers gradually melted leaving the terrain looking much as it is today. As they melted the glaciers carved out rivers and left deposits of powdered rock and dirt that, over time, formed the rich Iowa soil we have today.



Fred Strohbahn autographs his book for Exchangites

As the climate continued to become warmer and dryer, the boreal forests

gave way to a plant that thrived in the evolving climate - grass. The tall-grass prairie that eventually covered most of Iowa contained some of the most fertile land in the world when the Iowa territory was established in 1838. The white population at the time was around 32,000. But that was about to change dramatically. In 1836, Vermont blacksmith, John Deere, had invented a steel plow that was capable of cultivating the rich, sticky prairie soil. He moved his shop to the Moline, Illinois area and by 1855 was turning out 10,000 plows a year.

By 1846 the population of the territory had grown to 75,000 and Iowa became America's 29th state. During the next 15 years, European immigrants poured into Iowa. The population swelled to 675,000 by 1860. Fred Strohbahn's family came from Germany to Iowa in 1866. The Strohbahns participated in the transformation of the prairie into the most productive agricultural system in the world, encompassing 26 million acres, nearly 73% of the land area of the state. Today, the livelihood most of Iowa's 3,000,000 people is still tied to agriculture in some way.

Fred Strohbahn knew he had to record this story. His uncle had planted the seeds for it in the fertile mind of a curious 10 year-old with his stories of life on the family farm. As Mr. Strohbahn puts it "Other families have similar histories, but very little was written down and most early families did not have cameras." His book, *From Tall Grass Prairies to Huge Grain Fields - 150 Year History of a Grundy County Pioneer Family Farming. Producing and Trading Livestock* was completed and published in 2006. It's very well done and a must have for the Iowa history buff.

Mr. Strohbahn provides us with not only a collection of facts and data, but also an insightful look inside his own remarkable family and life. But we were most impressed by the narrative associated with the cover photo of the latest Strohbahn family Russian immigrants, Fred's four adopted grandchildren. When one of them, Dmitriy learned to speak English, he told his new parents of an older sister in a different orphanage in Russia. They found Alyona Grace and brought her to Iowa to join her siblings.

NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS

Program : East High Bus Shelter Project
Prayer : Mike Grillo
Pledge : Ann Rogers
Menu : TBD *meet at the Elks Club*

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

Mar 31: TBD *meeting at the Elks Club*
Apr 07: Large Cheese Burger and Fries
Apr 14: Meatloaf
Apr 21: Roast Beef
Apr 28: Meet at East High School
Order Chef Salad one week in advance

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Mar 31: Student of the Year at Columbus HS
Apr 07: Basket Ball Awards
Apr 14: Closed Business Meeting
Apr 21: Prevention of Child Abuse
Apr 28: ACE Student of the Year

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 03: Kevin Evans*
Mar 09: Kathleen Earnest*
Mar 25: Nancy Showers
Mar 25: Lloyd Hummel

*- Omissions from earlier weeks

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

President Neebel continued the series about how to treat people with lesson #3—Always Remember Those Who Serve.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. The waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents" she brusquely replied. "I'll have plain ice cream" he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When he came back, she started to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the dish were two nickels and five pennies. You see he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

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Next Meeting Correction - The meeting at Columbus High School that was planned for next week has been postponed until April 28th. So we will **meet at the Elks Club next week**.

Guests - Three guests this week. John Woods invited his friend Kelly Petrillo. Kelly recently moved to Independence from Alaska. Frank Magsamen brought his son Jeff and Daughter-in law Tracy. They are from Waverly.

Election of Officers - Correction - *Anyone interested in serving on the Board as a Director (two year term), or as Vice- President, please contact Nominating Chair - DeLon Gobeli (239-4006), or e-mail drgobeli@mchsi.com. The slate of candidates will be read at the next two meetings. Election will be Monday, April 14, 2008, therefore please submit your name to DeLon by this **Friday, March 27**.*

District Exchange Convention - The Heartland District will host the convention in Joplin, MO on June 5-7th. Our club pays the \$110 registration fee for members who attend, leaving members responsible for only their travel, lodging and meal expenses. The convention programming is typically excellent and members are encouraged to attend.

Retirements - Black Hawk County Engineer and fellow Exchangite Dick King is retiring this Friday, March 28th after serving for 12 years. There will be an open house celebration in the Black Hawk County Board Room on the 2nd of the Courthouse from noon - 3:00.

Don Temeyer, Michelle's husband and long-time friend of Exchange is retiring this Friday also. Don is completing a 34 year career with the City of Waterloo. Don most recently served as Director of Community Planning and Development. There will be an open house for Don this Friday from 2:00 - 4:00 in the Mollenhoff Conference Room located on the second floor of City Hall. Michelle extends Exchangites a special invitation to Jamison's for further festivities beginning at 5:30.

My Waterloo Days Parade - Lynette Fitzgerald is organizing the Club's entry in the My Waterloo Days Parade. Lynette says the project is in the early planning phases and she is looking for members to participate. The parade date is Saturday, May 31st starting at 9:30AM. Lynette rightly says *"this is a great way to promote and some of our programs."* She is advancing the idea of having more involvement from some of initiatives such as the Fire Fighter of the Year, Police Officer of the Year, Student of the Year, ACE Award Winner, etc. be involved. This sounds like something that we should pursue. Let's get involved and support the effort. To participate or get more information, contact Lynette by email at lfitzgerald@warnergroup.net.

Membership Update - President Neebel reported the loss of two members. Kelly Christensen and David Amend have resigned due to scheduling conflicts. This brings the membership to 106. For the year we have welcomed 13 new members and we have lost 4.

Prevention of Child Abuse Month - April is National prevention of Child Abuse month and our committee Co-chaired by Marcy Borwig and Monica Haag are planning lots of ways we can be involved. We'll publish the full slate of activities when the planning is complete.

For now though, plan on joining the Family and Children's Council on Saturday, April 5th for the Blue Ribbon Tying in the Parks. At 8:00AM at the following locations: Overman Park in Cedar Falls; Exchange Park Evansdale and Lincoln Park in Waterloo.

There will be a reception/breakfast at the Family and Children's Council Office in the KWWL Building from 8:30 -9:00AM.

Lots more later. Stay tuned.

Junior Achievement Event - Exchangite Brittany Jungck is the Education Manager at the Cedar Valley Office of Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa. The organization is having a wine tasting and silent auction fund raiser on April 3rd. Check out the flyer on the following page. For more details, contact Brittany [here](#) or call here at (319) 274-0760.

Editor's Note: We are excited about the fine work being done in the Cedar Valley schools by the rejuvenated JA program. This is important work that deserves our support. Hope to see you there.

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Meeting each Monday at noon

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407 East Park Avenue
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Junior Achievement's *First Annual*

TASTE OF Spring



Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

Escape into an evening of fine wines, hors d'oeuvres, and fantastic silent and live auction packages at Junior Achievement's First Annual "Taste of Spring" event!

Thursday, April 3, 2008

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**PARK PLACE
EVENT CENTRE**

1521 Technology Parkway, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Money raised from the event will help provide JA's hands-on business and economic education curriculum to 28,362 Eastern Iowa students this school year!

General Admission Tickets
\$30 in advance
\$40 at the door

**Reserve Your
Tickets Today!**
319-274-0760

Music Provided by Mick Staebell



**Junior
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