



The Des Moines Historical Society

HISTORY HAPPENS

Newsletter • Vol. II, No. 5 • December, 2011

Join us to study, preserve and present the history of Iowa's capital city.



www.desmoineshistoricalsociety.org

NEXT MEETING

Showstorm & Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2012

2-5 PM

South Side Library, 1111 Porter, Des Moines

The next meeting of the Des Moines Historical Society will be our annual meeting and we're going to make it fun by including a "Showstorm"!

Join us from 2-3 pm to network and meet other DMHS members. There will be complimentary snacks and beverages. The "Showstorm" will begin at 3 pm.

"Showstorm" is an chance for you to bring an item relative to the history of Des Moines for an old-fashioned "show-and-tell." Items might include postcards, menus, photos or products made in Des Moines; whatever you have that's history-related is welcome! Also, if you're looking for more information on an item you have, you may find it during this meeting.

At 4 pm will be the annual meeting with the election of officers and directors and annual reports. **WE ARE SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS.** Please see the related article in this month's newsletter on how you can serve to keep Des Moines' history alive and well!

Please call (515) 278-1234, or visit our Facebook page or web site desmoineshistoricalsociety.org for further information. Hope to see you there!



The Jewett Typewriter Company was founded by George Jewett in 1890, with offices and factory located at 608 Locust St.



Rollins Mansion Tour Dec. 17

Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 9 a.m.

Rollins Mansion, 2801 Fleur Drive, Des Moines

Step inside this historic Des Moines landmark 18,000 sq.ft. home which just happens to be for sale for \$1.7 million. The elaborate home was built in 1925-27 by Ralph Rollins, owner of Rollins Hosiery Mills. Rollins was friends with cosmetics maker Carl Weeks, who built another signature Des Moines home, Salisbury House. Both homes were designed by local architects Byron Boyd and



Herbert Moore, and both are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The tour will be led by Colleen Johnson, the CBRE Hubbell Realtor with whom the home is

listed. Please note: there are many steps and the home is kept at a cool 60 degrees, so dress appropriately. Coffee and donuts will be available. No charge for members*; dues for new members will be accepted on site. RSVP (515) 278-1234 or alhawkeye@juno.com.

**Renew your DMHS membership for 2012! You may pay at the tour, or online at www.desmoineshistoricalsociety.org*

Time to Pay 2012 Dues

Please consider renewing your membership in the Des Moines Historical Society in 2012. See membership application for pricing. You may also pay dues online via PayPal by visiting www.desmoineshistoricalsociety.org.

Thank you for your support in growing this organization and spreading the word about Des Moines' wonderful rich history!

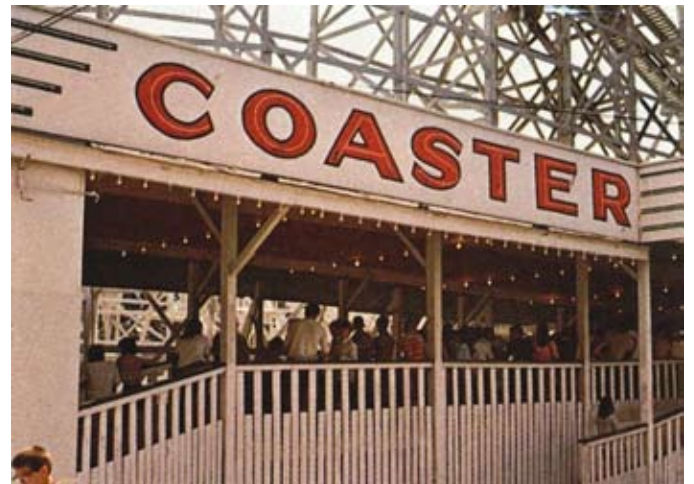
DMHS Seeks Board Members

The Des Moines Historical Society will hold board elections at our annual meeting Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012.

If you are interested in learning more about Des Moines history from people with similar interests, please consider running for a volunteer board position. *All positions are open.* The DMHS board meets once per month throughout the year, in addition to special events and quarterly meetings.

Some things DMHS has already done:

- Given presentations to local organizations about Des Moines history
- Featured with WHO-HD's Andy Fales for reports about historical Des Moines citizens and other topics.
- Assisted in coordinating the Centennial Celebration of the Des Moines Municipal Building in 2009; helping organize and gather items to be placed inside the City Hall Time Capsule.
- Organized special Members Only events such as behind-the-scenes historic tours and research workshops.



DM History Tidbit Trivia

Many people have fond memories of Riverview Amusement Park over the 63 years it was in operation. Bill Kooker, whose family owned Riverview at the time it closed, offers this photo and tidbit trivia about "Waiting in line to ride the Coaster": *The coaster crew was notorious for their pranks on the people in line. Anybody remember trying to pick up a lost wallet (that was nailed to the deck?)* He adds, *"A smile and a wink from a young lady usually was good for one more time around. The crew was known to do a "pass-through" if there was no line waiting (slowing the train through the station but not stopping it). They liked the resulting 'Thank You' cheer from the riders."*

For several years, Kooker has been at work on a film documentary about Riverview, and has also just completed a book on the subject (release date unknown). To relive or share cherished Riverview memories, visit www.riverviewparkdsm.com or on Facebook, "Riverview Amusement Park Des Moines Iowa (Official Group)".

DMHS Membership Makes a Great Holiday Gift



If you're looking for a last-minute stocking stuffer for a loved one who is hard to buy for, consider gifting them a year-long membership in the Des Moines Historical Society. Membership not only supports DMHS financially, it also connects people to their past. Throughout the year, members are invited to private "members only" events and programs and receive this newsletter. It's a great way to meet other like-minded history buffs. Buying a membership is easy: fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it in with a check; or visit www.desmoineshistoricalsociety.org and submit information and payment online. If you are giving a membership as a gift and would like a membership certificate to use as a stocking stuffer, email info@desmoineshistoricalsociety.org. We can send you a PDF electronic file to print off at home. Thanks as always for your support and let's "make history in 2012!"

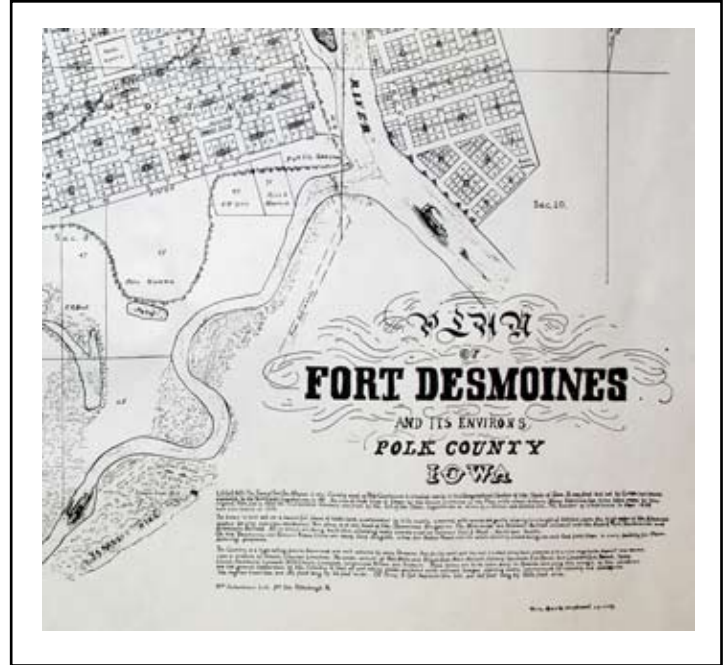


Photos by Pat Meiners



Happy Birthday!

The Des Moines Historical Society held an open house at the Birthplace cabin near Principal Park to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the founding of Des Moines. Clockwise from top left: President Pat Meiners stands outside the cabin; a special "birthday" cake just for DMHS; the public had a chance to browse through some historical research compiled by DMHS members.



1854 Fort Des Moines Maps For Sale

The Des Moines Historical Society is selling reproductions of the 1854 map of "Fort Des Moines and its Environs Polk County Iowa." Maps are \$5 for nonmembers and \$3 for members and are approximately 30"W x 24" H. Makes a great holiday gift and looks even better framed! Contact DMHS President Pat Meiners, a1hawkeye@juno.com; (515) 278-1234 to buy one today.

October Meeting Recap: Notables of Des Moines

Des Moines is famous for a number of reasons, but at the October meeting of the Des Moines Historical Society, a few surprises laid in store. Here are a few "notables" that were mentioned, all having a connection to Des Moines. How many do you know?



1. Russell Stover, candymaker mogul, first introduced the "Eskimo Pie" in Des Moines; 2. Samuel Blanc invented the Roto-Rooter in Des Moines; 3. Stanley Prustner, Nobel Prize winner in Physiology and Medicine (1997), born in Des Moines; 4. Hope Emerson, actress, born in Des Moines and graduated from West High School in Des Moines; most famous as voice of "Elsie the Cow" for Borden Milk (1940s).

The Des Moines Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

THE DES MOINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Des Moines, Iowa held its organizational meeting Sunday, September 27, 2009 at the Des Moines Birthplace/Fort Des Moines II Memorial Cabin. Article II of the bylaws states: "The purpose of the DMHS is to promote the preservation and study of the history and heritage of Des Moines, Iowa."

2011 DMHS Officers & Board Members

Pat Meiners, President	Natasha Moore, Vice President
Ted Lussem, Treasurer	Rick Meiners, Secretary
David Coates	Karen Hanley
Sarah Oltrogge	Jacob Shoemaker
Julie Thompson	

Meetings

The Des Moines Historical Society holds quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October. Every meeting is free to attend and open to the public. You do not have to be a DMHS member to attend. Each meeting includes a program related to Des Moines history. The DMHS also holds "members only" events such as private home tours and research workshops.

DMHS Meetings & Activities

Annual Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, "Showstorm & Annual Meeting." 2-5 p.m. at the South Side Library, 1111 Porter Ave., Des Moines. Free and open to the public.

Research Day: Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012 at Iowa Genealogical Society, 608 Grand Ave. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For updates or more information on DMHS, visit www.desmoineshistoricalsociety.org or find us on Facebook "Des Moines Historical Society." Questions may be directed to Pat Meiners, president, (515) 278-1234.

The DMHS works to:

- Get the community involved in Des Moines history.
- Make Des Moines history relevant and interesting.
- Have quarterly programs to inform citizens about the history of Des Moines.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Fill out a membership application online and pay dues* with a credit card at www.desmoineshistoricalsociety.org.

Today's date: _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

NAME: _____

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL & ANNUAL DUES:

ADDRESS: _____

_____ \$10 Individual Membership

CITY: _____

_____ \$15 Household (2 voting members)

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

_____ \$25 Not-for-profit organizations

E-MAIL: _____

_____ \$50 Governmental organizations

PHONE: _____

BUSINESS CLASSIFICATIONS

Home / Mobile / Work (circle one)

_____ \$25 Less than 50 employees

_____ \$50 50 – 99 employees

_____ \$100 100 or more employees

FOR 2ND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER or BUSINESS/ORG. VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

Make checks to: Des Moines Historical Society (DMHS).

Mail dues and application to:

NAME: _____

DMHS Treasurer, Ted Lussem

ADDRESS: _____

2919 John Patterson Rd.

CITY: _____

Des Moines, IA 50317-3136

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

OPTIONAL

E-MAIL: _____

Special interests: _____

PHONE: _____

I am interested in volunteering on a committee or as an officer

Home / Mobile / Work (circle one)

How did you hear about DMHS? _____

*Dues paid during the last quarter of a year cover the next full year also.

For office use: Amt. Rec'd. \$ _____	Cash _____
Membership # _____	Check # _____