



Villisca
Historical Society, Inc.
EST. 2006



*Preserving the Past
Enlightening the Present
Living Vision to the Future*

THE DIGITAL ARCHIVES OF THE
**Villisca
Public Library**

Volume 7 Issue 1,
Summer 2014

Editor Forward; For the future we are planning on a semi-annual production schedule. I hope to balance this project with family and dog endeavors. That should allow me to stay engaged. For this particular issue I had planned to have two main features, celebrations and the A.N.& S. RR. As I dug into the two topics I realized there was a lot of info for both subjects. The Railroad story in particular is steeped in history and the archived Reviews are laden with the reporting on the railroad. I decided to pull the railroad story and to feature it in the December 2014 issue. I do appreciate the contributions and there are several articles in this issue that came from our readers. The on line access of the Reviews is a significant tool in researching articles. That presents a unique problem of choosing what to include in each issue and keeping content to around 10 pages. I hope that you are enjoying the many history related articles in the Review by Linda Artlip Weinstein. Be sure and subscribe if you are not a subscriber presently and as always we appreciate your support to the Villisca Historical Society. The theme for this, the Summer 2014 Issue, is "Celebration, Villisca's Tireless Legacy".



"VILLISCA'S TIRELESS LEGACY"



The 2014 Edition of Villisca's Heritage Days is set for July 4, 5 and 6 so it presents an ideal time to highlight some of the past celebrations in and around Villisca. Before I forget it the theme of this year's is "Ham it up with Willard" There have been many over the years and research finds Villiscan's celebrating in the 1880 time frame up to the present Heritage Days Above in photo are Judy Schroeder and Jeanette Higgins, holding an original JUBILESKA flag., a 1939 to early 40's celebration..

- Villisca's Celebration Legacy
- Heritage Days Schedule
 - Hedy Lamarr
 - CO F. Journal
 - Grandparents
- VHS Boys Club, Circa 1950
 - Villisca Updates



~ Ham it up with Willard ~

July 4, 5, 6, 2014

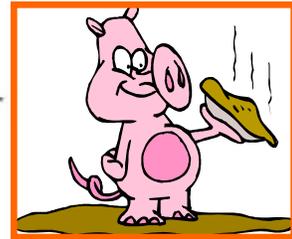


Friday

- 10:00 a.m. - VAFA Golf Tournament - pre registration required
- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm - Armory open for shooting hoops/ kiddy ride
- 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. - City Swimming Pool open

Saturday

- 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast at the Senior Center
- 7:30 Registration for the Fun Run/Walk at the Armory
- 8:00 a.m. - Fun Run/Walk gather at the Armory
- 9:30 a.m. - Sign up for Parade at Enarson Building
- 10:00 a.m. - Parade
- 11:00 a.m. - Christening of "Willard the Pig" at the statue
- 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Activities in the Park
- Strand Ladies Food Booth - at the Park
- Silent Auction of Gift Baskets sponsored by the Villisca Public Library
- PTO Activities in the Square for children
- Lions Club Activities in the Park - Ferris wheel, bounce house, spin art
- Jim, Kathy & Friends in the Park - providing music
- Armory open for shooting hoops, kiddy ride
- 1:00 p.m. - Frisbee Golf - at Enarson Elementary Playground
- 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. - City Swimming Pool open
- 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Barbeque in the Park - sponsored by Villisca Firemen
- 9:00 p.m. - Street Dance with DJ - Chris Gibler on the Square



Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. - Interchurch Worship Service in the Park, Methodist Church if inclement weather
- 6:30 p.m. - Dusk at the Football Field - Barbeque by the City of Villisca for the benefit of the Villisca Swimming Pool
- Dusk - Fireworks with Night Vision at the Football Field

Villisca's Celebration Spirit



1958 Centennial

Marge Beckett-Bustle Queen

Henry Scott-Whiskey King

It can be said with all certainty that Villisca has a long and storied history of Celebrations and Festivals. You name it and it has been done. For the most part the indomitable spirit of the citizenry is the prime force behind these yearly popular events which date back to the late 1800's and continue to this day. Despite the declining population in the past few decades a variety of events continue to this day. Some events have been more popular than others and have survived to be repeated year in and year out. The most recent being the strongly supported and successful "Heritage Days", conceived by Carolyn Cole Gage in 1987 with support from Susie Hedstrom Enarson and Elinor Hossman Brown. The single thread that is common to all of the events and celebrations through the decades is the untiring effort and "can do attitude" of the people of Villisca and the surrounding area. The corner stone of all the events, from Festivals, Independence Day, Centennials, Cooking School and more, they were only successful because of the people that put their lives on hold and took care of the details of the planned event, whatever it was. Undaunted by depression, weather, World Wars and a declining population, the spirit is alive and well in Villisca.

Earliest. The earliest festivals and celebrations were primarily devoted to the celebration of the nation's birthday, Independence Day or 4th of July festivities were often reported in the Review annals. The "firecracker days" were very popular because it provided the means to demonstrate one's patriotism. There was also a mix of events surrounding agriculture, farming implements and livestock. Many of these probably morphed into what we refer to today as the County Fair. The Iowa state fair was evident in very early editions of the Review and was probably supported with the rise of the county fair. Implement displays and agriculture shows were prominent, attracting large gatherings, as many as 5000 to Villisca in the late 1800's. In the 40's, 50's and into the 60's many local implement dealers provided a day long celebration to introduce new machinery and the latest and greatest John Deere tractor. Villisca's rendition was a popular teenage hangout for a free hot dog and a paper plate full of beans down at Earnest Danielson's John Deere on the corner of 4th Street and 4th Avenue.

Longest Running. The continuing theme through the decades has been the 4th of July celebration. In many variations but still built on the principle of celebrating the nation's birthday. I remember the early morning sounds of fireworks from my bedroom window on West 5th street. A tell tale sign that the celebration had begun.

Continued on page 4.

Continued from page 3.

The day was full of activity, family picnics, activities in the park, parades, firemen's water sports, and fireworks displays. I remember it as a most popular annual event as in the days ahead I was privileged to ride with my Grandfather, Bill Marsh, to Bradyville Missouri to pick up fireworks for the family show, usually conducted on a quiet country road around Villisca after dark and following the fried chicken picnic, topped off by the old hand cranked ice cream. A sign of acceptance into young adult hood when you received the honor of helping crank the ice cream freezer. Although the fireworks were outlawed in Iowa they were evident all over town, probably keeping the local constabulary busy reacting to calls from outraged citizens. I do remember the sparklers and they may have been legal as us kids would play with them, making designs in the night air, glowing circles that were exciting, cheap entertainment!

Several renditions of the 4th have occurred through the years but the transition to the Heritage Days format in 1987 seems to have carved out a rightful niche in the celebration history of Villisca. The addition of the all class reunion has become an added attraction which has resulted in many alumni of VHS returning to the area to celebrate. Villisca's celebration of July 4, 1876 was a particular spectacular affair as our country turned 100 years old. From the headlines on page 2, 6 July 1876. "The 4th of July, 1876, has come and gone, and Villisca sums up the result in a very satisfactory manner. For several weeks past the committees have worked with becoming zeal, and the GREAT CELEBRATION fell not one whit short of the expectations of the people." Early in the morning all the roads to Villisca were jammed with throngs of carriages and horseman, eagerly making their way to the shindig in Villisca. A round of 38 guns started the day, and at 12 noon, a parade, commencing at the south side of the square and headed north to 2nd street, then east to 4th Avenue and then south to 6th street and then again west to 3rd avenue continuing to the "camp grounds" east of town. I suspect this may be the small park that was adjacent to the football field in later years, but at that time it was referred to as the "grove or camp ground". The procession was more than two miles in length. Orators coupled with discussions about the early history of Villisca were presented and that was followed by a hearty picnic style meal. The day ended with folks making their ways back into town and to their homes, but some of the younger set stayed behind to dance on a platform and listen to the music of the string band. Some of these activities remain today as a part of the entertainment for Heritage Days.

More successes were found in a myriad of special events through the years. They included the famous "Cooking School". A merchant sponsored activity where new appliances were rolled out to attract the modern housewife. That was in the stay at home era where Mom's made the house into a home, cooked the meals and generally took care of family, while Dad was in charge of the support system for the family. Classes on new equipment were held during the day and music and play entertainment with local talent was conducted in the evening.

This was a community wide event, with sponsorship derived from the Chamber of Commerce and the citizens and other club organizations comprising the organizational element. The Cooking School was even conducted during WW II, again a testament to the citizens and to the spirit of the community. through 1955. A note were insufficient people 1950 Cooking School and mory. This is one of the evening entertainment.



The event was conducted from 1931 from a Review of 1956, stated that there to have another one. Picture is from the the stage was at the north end of the Ar-usual skits that was conducted for the

May Festivals were based on musical entertainment and conducted in the spring of the year, primarily in the 30's. Many were scheduled and completed in the various gathering places in Villisca, mainly the local churches or other auditoriums.

In the fall of 1939 a contest was held to name the annual Villisca celebration. A woman named Mrs. Eldon Roth won the contest and \$5.00 for the name "Jubileska". It has been difficult to pull information from the annals of the Review, probably due in part to the spelling of the name which complicates the search engine of the online documents. I could find no more information about Jubileska other than the two years which it ran in the late 30's and into 1940. I suspect that the celebration may have been adversely affected by the beginning of WWII. The celebration must have been substantial enough to have a welcoming flag designed for the annual occurrence as shown on the first page.

For certain Villisca has a long and storied history of celebration and it continues to this day.

RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES

VILLISCA JUBILESKA'

Villisca's fall festival next year will be the "Villisca Jubileska," it was decided Monday night at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. And that decision means \$5 for Mrs. Eldon Roth, who submitted the name in the contest held during the recent Fall Festival here. Entries totaling approximately 500 were narrowed down to "Fallfiesta," "Villifesta," "Festiyillisca," "Jubilisca," "Jub-IMsca," "Jubillisca" and "Villisca Jubileska" before the final vote was taken.

CENTENNIAL 4th!

A Hundred Years'are Finished'!

Doings of the Day at Villisca!

IMMENSE CROWD A BIG TIME.

PATRIOTISM!—ENTHUSIASM!

E y c r b o d y A n x i o u s t o S e e t h e N e x t

C e n t e n n i a l - I I I I

FROM 1876 HEADLINE IN REVIEW

Thus passed the Centennial Day in Villisca, and never has there been a more harmonious gathering, n deeper sentiment of patrioti.-m, or u greater effort to please and be pleased, on the part of the people.

Co. F Journal



COMPANY F REORGANIZED 1947 by Jim Hyink

At the end of World War Two, 1945, the military underwent a rapid demobilization which included Villisca's Company F. Company F was no more after having served in the Spanish-American War-the Philippine Insurrection, 1902, through World War Two, 1941-1945. The 34th Division Iowa National Guard was the parent of Company F and had fought in North Africa and Italy. Co. F had 6 Villisca men killed in action and lost 8 as Prisoners of War.

In 1946 a number of Villisca men, Bob Moore, Dennis Neal and Ed Reynolds, all who had remained in the Guard at staff level, began a campaign to resurrect Co F in Villisca. In 1947 they received permission to do as long as they could recruit 25 members. And so the search began. Most veterans wanted nothing to do with further service; consequently they turned to the younger men and boys with the enticement of \$ 2.50 a meeting, once a week plus some extra field exercises and a summer camp. Once a few boys joined they recruited their buddies. Minimum age to join was 17 but the enrollment officer was willing to accept the age they gave him. Darwin Kendrick and Duane Darnold were 15; within the next year 3 lads of 16 joined - Jerry Greenfield, Jerry Ziehe, and Bennie Gage. The roster of this initial group is: CO Captain Dennis Neal, XO 1LT Leroy Menke, Robert Brandt, Dick Mains, Duane Enarson, Ed Mickleson, Al English, Bill Moates Bob Moates, Fred Eno, Richard Fastenau, Carl Peterson, Lyle Gage, Herb Phillis, Don Garey, Bob Scott, Ed Gidley, Jim Shipley, Roger Gray, Chales Stuelke, Bob Harris, Davis Wagaman, Jim Hyde, Francis Weaver, Darwin Kendrick, and Jim Still. Attached on page 7 is a photo taken in the park of the initial unit; only Ed Gidley is identified.

Drill meetings were Monday night from 7 to 10 PM in the armory and consisted of basic infantry soldier skills. There was a two week summer camp at various Army Posts. A private could make \$ 157 a year which meant a lot with gasoline at \$.25 cents a gallon. After the meeting those of age (and perhaps a bit younger) "fell in" at he Legion Club; others went to the candy kitchen or cruised the streets. A few went home.

The first summer camp was at Camp Dodge, Des Moines and since the unit had just been formed they had no uniforms but wore their everyday clothes. The 1948 camp was at Fort Riley and now the company had a roll call of 70. A number of veterans had joined as the were offer immediate promotion to non-commissioned office with a commensurate raise is pay. Photo and Names attached.

Lorene Neal recalls how she served as company clerk for several months until Albert Baker joined. Glen Fengel was a full time guardsman and in charge of the armory. Glen had been a former POW of the Germans and remained with the armory for almost 40

years. There was a small-bore rifle range in the basement and the company used the old rifle range east of town for two years or so I was told. In 1948 the company was activated for a short time and sent to Waterloo, Iowa to control the violence between the union and the meat packers – the Wiener War. The same year they were called out to help control the flooding in western Iowa.

During the following years the company was a major player in community affairs. They did the food preparation for the annual POW supper. Emil Karle, a former German Army baker in World War One, made the black bread. They marched in parades, held a pancake day, had an annual Military Ball, formed a softball team and a basketball team which played the Globetrotters.

As the city declined so too the company. During the 70's it went from three platoons (20 men each) to one platoon. The entire operation was ended in the mid 90s and the remainder moved to Corning. A wonderful tradition of service has now ended but its contributions live on in history.

Bob Moore retired as a Brigadier General in the Iowa National Guard, and Dennis Neal and Ed Reynolds as Colonels. Jerry Greenfield retired as a platoon sergeant with 40 years service.

ACTIVATION OF UNIT IN CITY PARK, 1947.



Hedy Lamarr



Co-Inventor of Spread Spectrum Technology

Thanks to Dale Carmichael for passing this interesting story from the Internet

Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler was born in Vienna, Austria, to a banker and his wife. Hedwig, who obviously became Hedy, had a rather calm childhood, but it was cinema that fascinated her. By the time she was a teenager she decided to drop out of school and seek fame as an actress. Her first role was a bit part in the German film [Geld auf der Straße](#) (1930) (aka "Money on the Street") in 1930. She was attractive and talented enough to be in three more German productions in 1931, but it would be her fifth film that catapulted her to worldwide fame. In 1932 she appeared in a German film called [Ecstasy](#) (1933) (US title: "Ecstasy") and had made the gutsy move to be nude.

Although better known for her Silver Screen exploits, Austrian actress Hedy Lamarr also became a pioneer in the field of wireless communications following her emigration to the United States. She supposedly gained the knowledge from her first husband, Fritz Mandl, a Viennese munitions dealer who sided with the Nazis. Hedy drugged her maid to escape her husband and homeland. Her husband made the effort to collect all of the film in which she was nude to include a copy owned by Benito Mussolini. He was not successful. Upon fleeing to the US she immediately signed with Cecille B. Demille as she had captured Hollywood's interest with her films made in Germany.

The international beauty icon, along with co-inventor George Anthiel, developed a "Secret Communications System" to help combat the Nazis in World War II. By manipulating radio frequencies at irregular intervals between transmission and reception, the invention formed an unbreakable code to prevent classified messages from being intercepted by enemy personnel.

Lamarr and Anthiel received a patent in 1941, but the enormous significance of their invention was not realized until decades later. It was first implemented on naval ships during the Cuban Missile Crisis and subsequently emerged in numerous military applications.

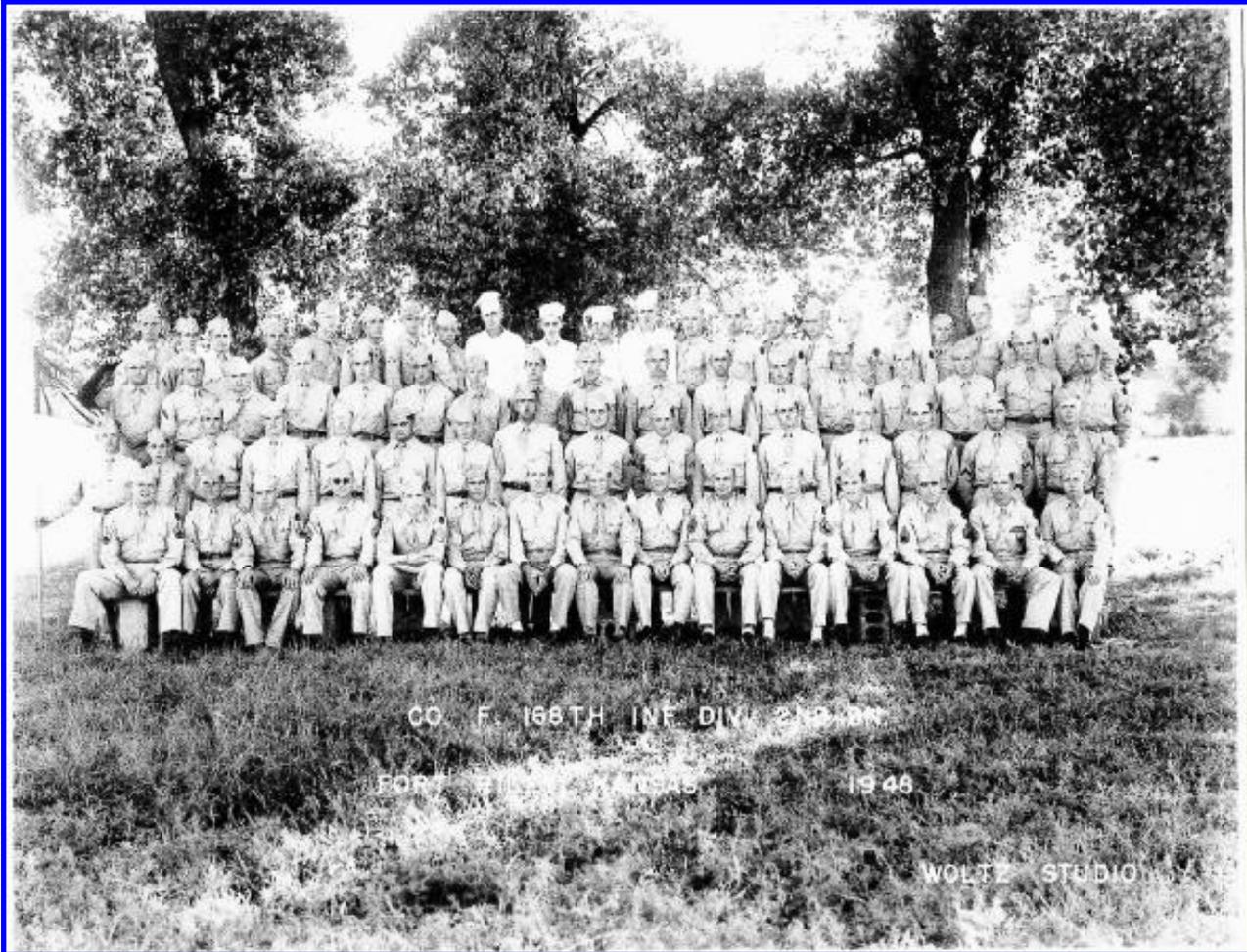
But most importantly, the "spread spectrum" technology that Lamarr helped to invent would galvanize the digital communications boom, forming the technical backbone that makes cellular phones, fax machines and other wireless operations possible.

As is the case with many of the famous women inventors, Lamarr received very little recognition of her innovative talent at the time, but recently she has been showered with praise for her groundbreaking invention. In 1997, she and George Anthiel were honored with the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) Pioneer Award. And later in the same year, Lamarr became the first female recipient of the BULBIETM Gnass Spirit of Achievement Award, a prestigious lifetime accomplishment prize for inventors that is dubbed "The OscarTM of Inventing."

Proving she was much more than just another pretty face, Lamarr shattered stereotypes and earned a place among the 20th century's most important women inventors. She truly was a visionary whose technological acumen was far ahead of its time. She passed away in 2000.

Villisca Library's Review On Line

Get in touch with Villisca's History through the online Villisca Review Archives at <http://villisca.advantage-preservation.com/>. Paste the link on your desktop and it is only a click away from bringing back old memories and stories of old.

CO. F., FORT RILEY KANSAS 1948**ROW 1, L-R**

BOB BRANDT
JIM STILL
DENNIS ANDERSON
BOB HARRIS
AL ENGLISH
ORVILLE MARSH
LEROY MENKE
DENNIS NEAL
WILLIAM ANDERSON
GLENN FENGEL
FRED ENO
DON FISHER
JOE SHIELDS
JIM SHIPLEY
ALBEERT BAKER

ROW 2, L-R

CLYDE STARLIN
JERRY GREENFIELD
HAROLD MAINS
BILL WILLS
CHARLES BROWN
WILLARD ANDREW
JAMES LUND
LYALL GAGE
JOEL TAYLOR
BOB SCOTT
DICK WRIGHT
BENNIE GAGE
LEO SPIKER
GLENDON SMITH
JERRY BRYANT
FRANK FROYD

ROW 3, L-R

DALE BRIGGS
DARWIN WIRTH
NOT KNOWN
DONNIE ANDERSON
DAVIS WAGAMAN
SPANK MCFARLAND
CHUCK GRAHAM
LAURENCE HOYT
LEONARD DANIELSON
DON HELLER
NOT KNOWN
NOT KNOWN
ROGER GRAY
KENNY WESTERLUND
BILL FRYER
LELAND MEANS
HAROLD GEYER

ROW 4, L-R

BERNARD SCOTT
FRANCIS WEAVER
JERRY ZIEHE
DARWIN KENDRICK
CARL PETERSON
BOB GRAY ?
NOT KNOWN
NOT KNOWN
BILL MOATES
DUANE ARNOLD
HERB PHILLIS
BOB MOATES
HERB BASHAW
NOT KNOWN
JIM NEAL
NOT KNOWN
RICHARD FASTENAU

MERLE WHITE
REX RAINS
ED MICKELSON
CLARK SCHAFFER
WAYNE FAST

Written by a third grader on what his grandparents do.

Via email from Bob Carlson, class of 60. Pulled from the internet.

After Christmas , a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:



We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house , but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a tin box that has wheels, but its strapped to the ground.

They ride around on their bicycles , and wear name tags, because they don't know who they are anymore.

They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now.

They do exercises there , but they don't do them very well.

There is a swimming pool too, but they all just jump up and down in it with hats on.

At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts.

Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night - early birds.

Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck. My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and, says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too.

When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

The information on this Class of 50, a frequent member of the VAFA Hall information and forwarded bring to mind clubs that we teen years. For me I recall that us West Enders



page was provided by Fred Stickler, contributor and recent new of Fame. Fred ran across this it to me. For most of us it will were involved in during our a club, The Swearers Club, started and it was based on us

trying to control our swearing at that time. A donation was required each time any of us uttered a swear word. I think we operated that club just long enough to collect the required fees to buy a round of Malts at Honeyman's! Pay attention to the Constitution, it seems this code is applicable today with the exception of the Politically Correct! Heck we should send it to Congress and they could adapt some of the rules.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT- Don Heller

VICE-PRESIDENT- Darwin Kendrick

SECRETARY- Duane Darnold

TREASURER- Jerry Ziehe

MEMBERS: Don Heller, Darwin Kendrick, Duane Darnold, Jerry Ziehe, Gene Jewel, Tom Kelley, Fred Stickler, Tom Enarson, Laurence Hoyt

MASCOT- Jack

CONSTITUTION

1. No smoking
2. No swearing in clubhouse
3. No talking unless you're called on or your hand is raised
4. No quarreling among ourselves
5. Come to every meeting unless you have a very good excuse
6. Pay your dues
7. No girls in clubhouse
8. Help each other as much as possible
9. Run around together
10. Vote new members in
11. Have fun but stay out of trouble
12. Any member that two-times the club or tells things that should be kept quiet will be kicked out of the club

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Villisca Historical Society, Inc Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1, Summer 2014

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Mailing Labels Placed Here



LIBRARY IN NEED OF NEW ROOF. Desperately seeking funding to repair and upgrade the roof over the library. Donations to Villisca Public Library, zip 50864

ARMORY UPDATES: Armory is open July 4 and 5 to discuss current restoration efforts. Donations to the Villisca Historical Society will be taken to aid in replacement of windows in the Armory.

Many thanks to Fred Stickler, Bob Carlson, Dale Carmichael, Carol and Jerry Greenfield, Jim Hyink, Peggy Vermillion and John McKean for providing articles and information. Sure makes my job easier so

bring it on!

FEEDBACK

Bob Carlson writes: Thanks for all the memories. Judy and I always look forward to the "bit of history" you provide so well in your newsletter.

I may be wrong but if my memory serves me correctly; Tom Shapcott owned a used machinery dealership on the west side of hwy 71 at the south edge of town and the Chalmers dealership was owned by Fred Bryson and Ole Franks.

Hope all is well with you, Jeanette and your family.



farm
Allis-