



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

TRUE AT LAST, TRUE AT LAST! GOODLORDAMIGHTY IT'S TRUE AT LAST!

By now, everyone knows that our nomination to be one of Council Bluffs' historic neighborhoods has been approved by the National Park Service and we are officially on the National Register of Historic Places. But does everyone know how much hard work, blood and treasure have gone into making this a reality? Okay, skip the blood part, but certainly the hard work and treasure are true statements. The City of Council Bluffs, Iowa West Foundation, and the Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance have been working toward this goal for several years. The CBHPA has held countless tours and dinners in some of our finest historic homes to earn their share of the money it took to make this a reality. Iowa West Foundation and the City ponied up big chunks of money because they thought it was important to get our neighborhood on the NRHP. They hired the Tall Grass Historians who spent hours and hours researching history and abstracts, with the invaluable assistance of our own Mary Lou McGinn. The list goes on.

We thank everyone involved in making it possible for our neighborhood to receive this honor. We will do our best to live up to what should be expected of any recipient of an NRHP designation.

PROCLAMATION

We thought proclamations were things that Abraham Lincoln read from some prominent balcony in any town he visited, but, no, even our own Mayor Hanafan can read one—and he did so at a recent City Council meeting. This proclamation detailed the reasons why we received the NRHP designation and it was so interesting that our Mayor has promised to read it to all of us at our next meeting on May 22nd (details below). Be sure to attend and see history being made first hand.

AND SPEAKING OF HISTORY

Everything one would ever want to know about the historic section of our little slice of geography is contained in a wonderful 108-page document prepared by the Tall Grass Historians, which accompanied the above nomination. And you can own your own copy for a small sum. The document will be available for viewing at the next meeting. Anyone interested in knowing the real truth about the oldest part of our NA can order their own set for only \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. A handy order form will be available at the next meeting, and beyond, so don't miss this opportunity to own your own copy.

Continued On Pg.4

COMMUNITY GARDENS

By Julie Gould

200 Glen Avenue

Good garden neighbors and good garden stewards make for an enjoyable experience for all! The City of Council Bluffs and Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful are starting a community garden this year.

Plots will be available May 1st. It will be located on the north side of the viaduct, at 12th & B. Since a lot of us have smaller yards this may be a wonderful opportunity to have your very own vegetable garden. Plots are available for \$20 and in two different sizes. There will even be raised bed for handicap accessibility.

Water will be available on site. There will also be an area for mulching and some tools on site.

If anyone has questions, or to get a copy of the rules, a site plan and an application they can email me at gould.julie78@gmail.com. I can answer some questions or contact the Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful office 328-4947



FUNNY FACT

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

If any person be found on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, engaged in carrying firearms, dancing, hunting, shooting, horse racing, or in any manner disturbing a worshipping assembly or private family, or in buying or selling property of any kind, or in any labor except that of necessity or charity, he shall be fined not more than five nor less than one dollar, and be imprisoned in the county jail until the fine, with costs of prosecution, shall be paid. Iowa Code § 5040 (1897).



PEOPLE GET READY

JUNE 5-6 **JUNE 5-6**

THE FARMHOUT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2010 GARAGE SALE IS APPROACHING

We would like to invite everyone in the neighborhood to participate. We will be placing ads in the local newspapers throughout the metro area, on the web and will have ample signage/flyers/maps to get the word out.

All the folks last year commented on how wildly successful their sale was and how wonderful it was to see the neighborhood so active.

If you are interested in making some walking around money

Please contact:
Kyle Muschall
kmuschall@cox.net
 712-323-4047

To cover the cost of advertising we are asking each participating household to donate what they feel is appropriate

We're Looking For

SWEETS & TREATS

Along with the Garage Sale we'd like to enlist the aid
of all you bakers in the neighborhood to whip
up your favorite confection for the

BAKE SALE

June 5th & 6th

If you would like to contribute please contact
Michelle at gopack8763@aol.com



Join us for the FPNA May Meeting

Bill & Bob will be cooking out
So bring your choice of a
sidedish, beverage or dessert.

May 22nd. 4:00 p.m.
151 Park Avenue

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

SO WHAT ABOUT THIS MEETING?

Bill and Bob have, once again, volunteered to host the May meeting in their fabulous patio next to their home at 151 Park Ave. We know, we know, some people call it a mansion, others a castle, but it really is a private residence located on some park-like grounds, loved by humans and animals alike. The humans and fish belong there, but the deer only think they do. We promise to “scare them away” with our presence at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, May 22nd, where we will enjoy some of the most scrumptious food imaginable. Most of the food will be furnished by Bill and Bob, but please bring any gourmet delight you wish to share, and we’ll have a real good time. We will welcome the Mayor and any other City officials who have done their share in making our NRHP designation a reality; there will even be enough food for them!

OTHER BUSINESS

Don’t forget some important upcoming dates. Our garage sale will be held the weekend of June 5-6; Kyle has the sign-up sheet. Our summer picnic will occur at Lookout Point on July 10th; volunteers are needed to make it a success so please tell Melissa if you wish to be one. Our first-ever tour of homes and neighborhood walking tour is scheduled for September 19th; a ways away but being planned even as we speak. We invite anyone who wishes to host a late summer or fall meeting to speak up; you don’t have to be fancy because we aren’t.

NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNS

They are coming along and are drop-dead gorgeous. We expect them to be installed early in July. One or two may be available for viewing at the May 22nd meeting, and we promise they will leave you gasping.

INJURIES WE HAVE KNOWN

Gosh, what’s going on around here?! Bill slices off the tip of his thumb while operating his electric saw and requires a skin graft. Carol stabs herself in the hand with a pair of scissors and needs four stitches. And then that Amy—falling off a ladder and breaking a bone in her knee, rendering her nearly helpless. Bet there are other mishaps out there we don’t know about. Either our neighborhood has been visited by a bad gremlin, or we are just active but careless folks.

FLOWER BASKETS

Neighborhood Beautification continues. The flower baskets are up and running, thanks to our tireless volunteers. Dave and John, with help from Kyle, installed some new hooks and secured the loose ones so that Michelle and Brian could hang our latest round of flower baskets. Dallas Johnson donated 40 planted baskets to our neighborhood and 20 more to Wickham, and we thank them. Michelle enhanced the baskets with a little vinca vine, which will only get bigger as the season progresses. Remember, friends, that the flowers won’t thrive without water. Michelle will do her best but it is important for the rest of us to help out.

YARD OF THE MONTH

This is the month when your stalwart Directors will choose our first ever “Yard of the Month.” This program will continue for four months and the winners will receive nice photos of their winning front yards in our respective newsletters, beginning with the June issue. Winners, don’t expect any money; it will be award enough to be pictured in our newsletter, which is distributed everywhere—not just around here. Good luck.

THE LETTER

By **Connie & Trudy Elder** (as told to **Sharon Babbitt**)

209 Park Avenue

Thomas Tostevin was a Quaker whose family had migrated to the United States from Guernsey, one of the islands south of Great Britain. After living in a Quaker community in New York State, he eventually moved with his family to Salem, Henry County, Iowa, a place largely composed of Quakers. He and his brother, Albert, continued their westward journey by relocating to Council Bluffs, where they both served as civil engineers. Thomas became a prominent citizen of Council Bluffs, serving in several public capacities, including that of Mayor.

Thomas married Harriet Gibbs, also a Quaker, in 1852 and they moved to Council Bluffs in 1854. They lived for many years at 209 Park Ave. and may have built the house there, although that is not known for certain. It has been rumored for decades that Abraham Lincoln spoke from the front porch of this residence when he visited Council Bluffs in 1859, but who can really know.

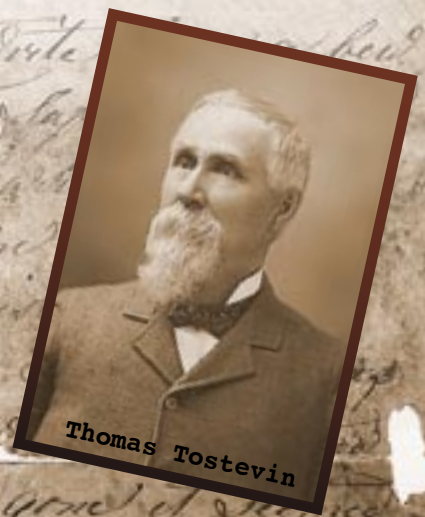
Fast forward to the 1930's when the Elder family lived at 209. One of their many children, Rose Marie, found several newspapers from the 1850's, which had been stashed away somewhere in the house, and among these precious papers was a letter written in 1854 by Lucinda Gibbs to her daughter Harriet. Aunt Rose Marie wrapped the letter in aluminum foil and kept the treasure for decades, until she gave it to her niece Connie, who unwrapped the foil and tried to read the damaged letter, puzzling over who these folks were and how they could be related to her. It is amazing how one thing will lead to another and Connie's genealogical research showed her that none of them were actually related to her but were, instead, intimately connected with this historic home.

Although this letter has been damaged and is very hard to decipher, it looks like it was a prayerful and wistful letter to daughter Harriet from her mother Lucinda, when she and Thomas left Salem for their new life in Council Bluffs. One thing is clear—that mother Lucinda never expected to see her daughter or her grandchildren ever again. What would be a simple day trip today, would have been nearly impossible for a lone Quaker woman in 1854.

Reading this letter makes you think about real life nearly 160 years ago. Perhaps “the good old days” were better in hindsight than they were in actual time.



Harriet Gibbs



Thomas Tostevin

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Carol Mattox

225 Huntington Avenue

I was greeted by Maxine Gotto (142 Park Avenue) and her faithful Greeter Bear from Alaska. What a treat. When Maxine says she collects bears, she really means it! She states that she has about 400 (this reporter thinks there are closer to 900) most of which she can tell you who presented her with each one. These bears range from about 2 inches high to about 3 feet tall. They line her bed, couch, shelves and baskets throughout her home. They come from places as far away as Wales and England to as close to home as a series from Kmart and several from Alaska. Presenters were family members, friends, as well as those Maxine had chosen for herself.

Maxine has lived in her present home since 1965, 45 years. She was attracted to the neighborhood because of the beautiful shade trees. Then several years ago Dutch Elm disease killed many of the trees. Maxine has seen many neighbors come and go. The Kirbys lived a few houses down and they had many picnics together in Fairmount Park, especially on the Fourth of July. She said when her girls were younger, people flocked to Look Out Point to watch the fireworks.

Speaking of girls, Maxine and her husband Cletus has two girls, Linda Hofflander and Carol Batten. Both girls are married and live in town. Linda was able to walk to the old Kirn when she was in high school and was in the first graduating class of the new AL High School in 1968. Maxine and her husband were married over 55 years before he passed away. Maxine

has two grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Gotto had many memories of the neighborhood. She said the Kirby's yard was the neighborhood playground. They used to play ball in their back yard because it went all the way from Park to Glen Avenue. All the neighbors knew each other. Bill and Bob's house was called "the castle" by all. At first it was a single family home and then it became apartments. There was one neighbor lady who put tinfoil over all of her windows and had tiny peep holes to look out. This woman scared her children. Downtown was very different; a hotel was on the corner of Broadway and Park. The building that they are renovating for the Chamber of Commerce was Continental Furniture Store. Lyle's was a Safeway grocery store. There were two



theatres across from each other. Of course there was no mall and Ogden Place was nonexistent, and in its place was a Hinky Dinky grocery store, a Kings Restaurant.

Maxine's other hobbies include reading books and writing in journals. She does knitting whenever she feels like it. She loves working in her yard. So if you see Maxine outside give her a wave. I found her to be very friendly and of course neighborly! Thank you Maxine. I enjoyed our visit.



**EVEN
MORE**

News That's Fit to Print

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.4

THE LAST WORD

Remember when we were kids—carefree and happy—never realizing that we needed to act like responsible little people? We rode our bikes down any driveway that was handy, it didn't matter who it belonged to. We slid down those same driveways in winter as well. Games of hide-and-seek were played wherever there was a handy shrub or tree to hide behind. Today's kids are also carefree and happy and we like it that way. In our neighborhood, the houses are mostly close together and some of them offer only postage-stamp yards in which to play, so we don't mind sharing a little space with our future citizens. But, it only takes one or two of these carefree and happy kiddies to spoil everyone's fun. Recently, one child, who apparently was never taught to be respectful of other people's property, decided to chop a tunnel through some trees that had taken ten years to reach their majestic 25-ft. height, thereby perhaps destroying them forever. Parents, please teach your children to respect the property of others so that we can live together in harmony. Until next time....Sharon

PASTA PARTY!

When: Saturday, May 22, 5-7pm

Where: Bayliss Park (across from 530 1st Ave)

How Much: Tickets \$8 for Adults, \$5 for Children (ages 4-12); available at CB Area Chamber of Commerce (7 N. 6th St) & HyVee (1706 N. 16th St)

Details: Proceeds benefit MSCB – Main Street Council Bluffs, Tents provided by Arlo Burk Agency with American Family Insurance

Featuring: Live music by Chantilly Reign – sponsored by Council Bluffs CVB; Children's Bounce House – sponsored by Romano True Value Hardware; Extended hours at the CB downtown historic sights and attractions includes Rails West Railroad Museum and Squirrel Cage Jail until 7pm

Coordinated by: MSCB – whose goal is to bring new, exciting activities to downtown CB in hope of creating community involvement and pride and preserving our rich history and promoting economic growth in our community.

SPECIAL THANKS

By Amy Dixon

509 Huntington Avenue

Just a note from the Special Representative thanking everybody in my neighborhood for looking out for me during my little injury. Where does one start to thank the people who have shared in this little episode.

First of all, to Bob who insisted I fix that darn downspout which resulted in my fall off of the ladder. But, he redeemed himself by planting some kind of grass in my backyard and every time I look at it I will think of Bob!

Then to Charlie Frank Tawzer who brought the chair down from my deck so I could shower and helped pick out the right t-shirt to wear to the ER and brought me that heavenly slice of hot pizza.

Janet the neighbor who supervised my lawn boy (she was great!), Aunt Goldie brought me orange casanova malts that were really yummy and have calcium for broken bones, Kyle and Cindy for the yummy spaghetti and to Carol M. who dropped off chili and salad fixin's for a yummy dinner on a rainy day. And to old lady #1 and old lady #2 who brought tater-tot casserole to me (that is my favorite comfort food!). Also a thank you to the Ferris Household for the use of the walker... which came in very handy!

Thanks to everybody in the neighborhood for their well wishes, phone calls and overflowing offers of help. If anybody would like to stop by and mow at any time, feel free! Enormous thanks to Clifford for his patience during all of this. When I think of whom my true friends are, my cup runneth over.

See you all at Bill and Bob's!



THE Fairmount Press
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association
 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
fairmountparkna@aol.com

Sharon Babbitt	President
Kyle Muschall	Vice President/ Publisher
Tracy Dreessen	Secretary/Editor
John Huggins	Treasurer
Amy Dixon	Special Representative

Sharon Babbitt	Board Member (2012)
Kyle Muschall	Board Member (2011)
Tracy Dreessen	Board Member (2012)
Nate Watson	Board Member (2011)
John Huggins	Board Member (2012)
Carol Maddox	Board Member (2012)
Maxine Gotto	Board Member (2011)

**Have an Opinion?
Please Share!**

We welcome any submission from a member that constructively furthers a topic of current public interest. Of course, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association or its membership. Any submission must be received by the first day of the month for inclusion.

COPIES PROVIDED BY THE



Yes! I want to be an active member of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association. Please find enclosed a check for annual dues in the amount of \$20.00 per household.

My Name and Spouse's/Significant Other's Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numer: _____ Email Address: _____

Remit to: John Huggins, Treasurer, 206 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503



Yes! I want to purchase a Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association banner.

Please find enclosed a check for the Banner fee of \$10.00

(Or additional amounts of _____ for additional banners totaling _____.)

You must be a paid member to purchase a banner

My Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numer: _____ Email Address: _____

Remit to: Sharon Babbitt, President, 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 or John Huggins, Treasurer, 206 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503