

HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 8 Issue 1

WWW.HISTORY.HUXLEYIOWA.ORG/

2015

2015 Officers

President

Nels Nord

Vice President

Chris Jennelle

Secretary

Janet Stoll

Treasurer

Scott Petersen

2015 Calendar:

Meetings are generally the
4th Monday of the month
at 6:30 pm in Council
Chambers.

Our home is located at
515 N. Main in the
3C's building call
515-231-9174 to visit.

Winter Hours:

October – April
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30-10:30am.

Just Hanging Out

If you ever happen to visit the north-side Casey's General Store in the morning, be sure to keep an eye out for a lively bunch drinking coffee and talking about every topic under the sun. You are sure to hear about Huxley lore, stories of the past, and tall tales. Although the composition has changed from time to time, this festive group has been getting together for decades.



Photo by J. Stoll. From front moving clockwise are H. Rumbaugh, C. Helland, ???, D. Harris, D. Heinen, H. Lande, D. Rimathe, H. Kalsem, L. Cronk, and G. Peterson

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MISSION STATEMENT :To engage the Community of Huxley, Iowa in the preservation, education, and celebration of our heritage and ancestry. To preserve for research and education, the artifacts, information, and verbal histories about the lives of the people of Huxley from its pioneer origins to the present day and into our future.

Just Hanging Out Cont.

Many years ago Ira J. Hendricks decided to form a “Gossip Center” of sorts where retired folks could meet for coffee and keep up on local news. The original meeting place was in a building that Mr. Hendricks owned on South Main Street.

Taken from a local newspaper in 1973 is an article from a piece entitled, “Gossip Center is place where Huxley men gather”.

“The retired men of the Huxley vicinity have a “hang-out”, thanks to a converted room in a building owned by Ira J. Hendricks.

Appropriately called the “Gossip Center”, the office serves as a gathering place for the retired men where they can up on the local news. About 10 a.m. each morning the group goes to the local café for a cup of coffee.

On the walls of the office, one finds an interesting picture gallery (see picture on page 4) which includes old business houses, churches, confirmation classes, army pictures, wedding pictures, family groups, and other natives of the Huxley community.

The Gossip Center is Hendricks’ creation since he, too, is a retired resident of Huxley. His association with the town stretches back to 1934.



Photo by J. Stoll. From left moving clockwise are G. Wirtz, D. Reinertson, D. Heinen, D. Halverson, and M. Kalsem.

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Just Hanging Out Cont.

Before coming to Huxley, Hendricks owned and operated a confectionary store at Eldon, the town that Grant Wood discovered the subject of one of his paintings, *The American Gothic*. That house has a cathedral window.

In 1929 Hendricks sold the store and went out servicing life insurance accounted until the year 1934, when he moved to Huxley. In 1935 he bought the grocery store from Ben Hokel. The Huxley Cooperative locker board remodeled the interior of the adjacent building and installed a meat locker system.

In 1945 Hendricks sold his grocery store to Henry Dobbe. He then rented a room at the Hardware store, which now is occupied by the Huxley Post Office.

He began writing automobile casualty insurance, selling his first policy to Osmund Larsen Sr. Also at this time he assumed management of the Huxley Telephone System.

In 1950, Hendricks built an insurance office which at the present time (1973) is known to residents as the Huxley Hobby Shop. He transferred the insurance business to his son John in 1954 when he went to work for the Highway Commission at Ames.

Now retired, Hendricks—who will be 74 on September 1—enjoys the fellowship with friends who have also retired. The Gossip Center located on South Main provides just such a place for the fellowship.”

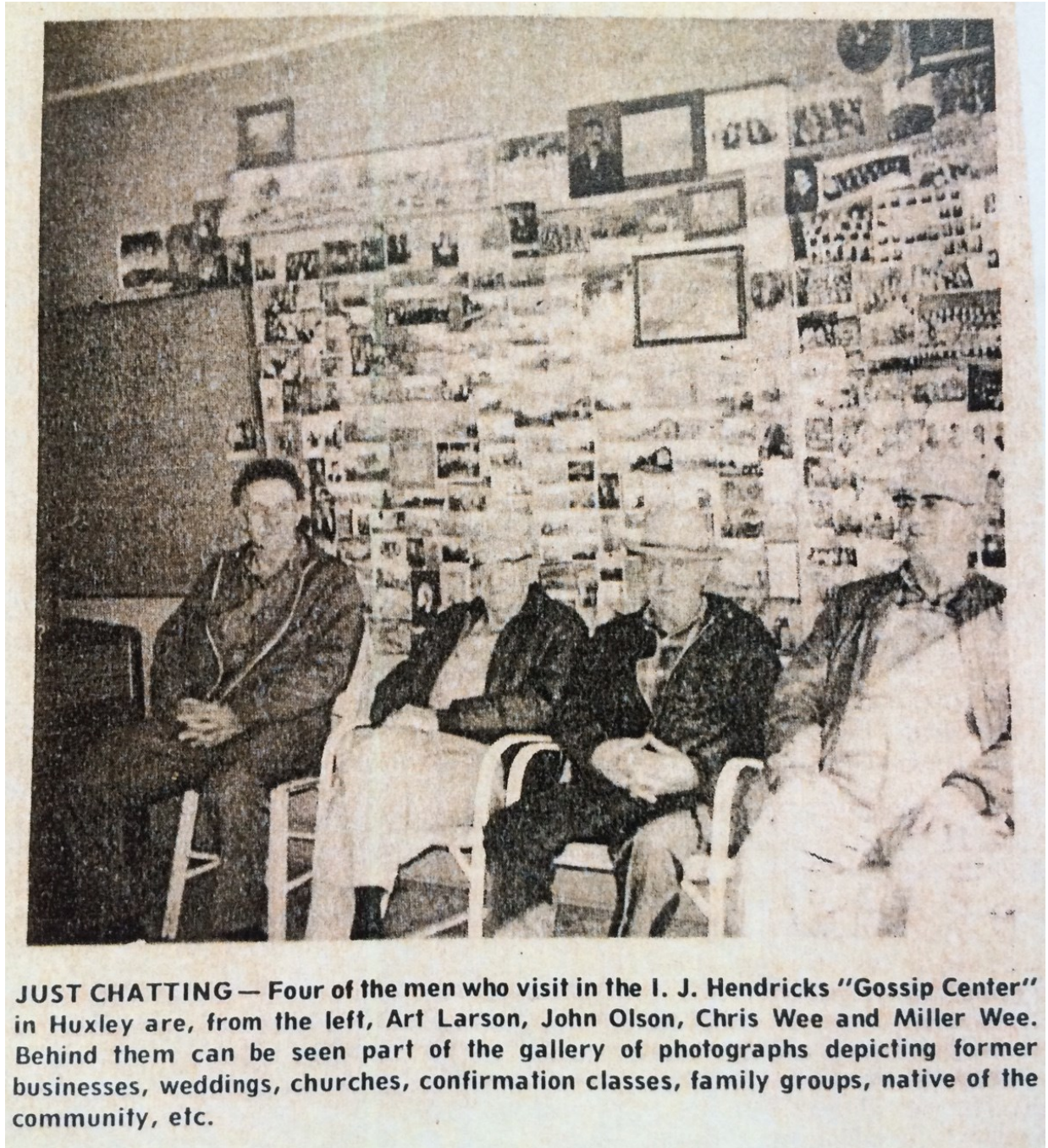
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SERVICE MEMBERS—WE WANT YOUR PICTURES

**PAST PRESENT AND CURRENT!
IN OR NOT IN UNIFORM.**

**Pictures can be emailed, mailed, or
dropped off to Nels or the Huxley
Historical Society room at 3 C's.**



Just Hanging Out Cont.

JUST CHATTING — Four of the men who visit in the I. J. Hendricks "Gossip Center" in Huxley are, from the left, Art Larson, John Olson, Chris Wee and Miller Wee. Behind them can be seen part of the gallery of photographs depicting former businesses, weddings, churches, confirmation classes, family groups, native of the community, etc.

"Hendriks son John runs the Huxley office of the Slater State Bank and John's wife Loretta and children Randy 16 and Cindy 11 own and operate the Huxley Hobby Shop."

We believe this article is from the Ames Daily Tribune from 1973, but if anyone knows the details, please get in touch and let us know.

Doc Reinertson

D.R. (Doc) Reinertson: Recollections about post-war Japan

I had the privilege to meet Darryl Reinertson (affectionately known as Doc), a long-time resident of Huxley since the 1950s, and originally from Kelley, Iowa. Doc was kind enough to allow me to visit with him at his brick home where he and his wife Betty raised their son. No sooner had I sat down in a reclining chair opposite of him, and my glasses fell apart. Mr. Murphy (Murphy's law) paid me a visit most unexpectedly. Turns out this tiny little screw that holds my lens into the glasses frame popped out. Despite my embarrassment, Doc sprang into action and quickly came to my rescue with a specialized screwdriver that was perfect for putting the pieces back together.

I was interested in hearing about Doc's experiences during World War II, and he shared many stories about his 13 months stationed in occupied Japan just after the war ended.



Continued next page

Nov.21 1946. Doc Reinertson: "One more hour and I'm a civilian".

Doc Reinertson Cont.

Doc entered the Army in November 1944, and was stationed in various training camps around the country. In October 1945, he shipped out to Japan and it took 29 days to make the journey by sea. The seas were rough and the ship was packed with people, and Doc recalled how uncomfortable the journey was for him and other servicemen. They finally reached the port in Tokyo in November 1945, and Doc traveled to the south island. He was assigned to the 24th infantry division in the quartermaster company.

Doc recalled how it was quite an education for him when he learned first-hand about the Japanese culture. Understandably, Americans hated the Japanese and had been subjected to continuous media reports about how terrible the Japanese people were during the war. At that time, there were still a large number of combat veterans stationed in Japan and Doc complemented the military for doing their best to get those GIs back to the states as soon as possible.

As an occupying force, it is easy to understand how difficult it would have been for combat veterans to be charged with non-combat duties among a population that they were recently in life and death struggle with. This underscored the importance of having non-combat veteran troops stationed in Japan as an occupying force. Just as in the U.S., the Japanese people had been taught that Americans were giant brutes that would rape the women and kill old folks and children. Over time, with peaceful interactions between the Japanese and US troops, this belief disappeared.



Doc Reinertson in Washington D.C. for his Freedom Honor Flight trip in 2014.

Continued next page

Doc Reinertson Cont.

The Japanese culture dictated strict obedience to those people in authority (in this case the Americans). There was concern there might be problems occupying Japan, but by the time Doc left Japan in October 1946, he only knew of two instances where there were any issues. In conversations with locals, Doc recalls how people asked how it would be if the Japanese had won the war and occupied America. Doc spoke honestly, saying that had the Japanese won the war and tried to occupy the U.S., Americans would still fight them and not accept Japanese rule. This concept was difficult for Japanese people to understand.

While stationed in Sasebo, Japan, Doc mentioned meeting a man who had been in Nagasaki when the Atom Bomb fell. He didn't remember seeing a flash or hearing an explosion, but awoke upon the floor with searing pain in his back. He showed Doc his back, and it was covered in burn scars. Doc spoke about seeing the devastated remains of Nagasaki first-hand; just a few skeletons of buildings reached out of the rubble. He has heart-felt sorrow for the people of that city, and mentioned that perhaps millions more people would have died had the U.S. not dropped "the bomb". A difficult decision that nobody wishes to make, and hopefully will never have to again.

Thank you Doc for your service during WWII, and for sharing with us some of your experiences.

By Chris Jennelle



Doc Reinertson with his WWII army uniform.

Thank you for being a member. We appreciate it very much.

Please consider joining as a LIFETIME member and never have to worry about renewing again.

A LIFETIME membership is easy (\$500 one time) and it means so much to HHS as we need a safe space to store the heritage we have acquired AND your input about how best to preserve it. The HHS needs a building and archival quality storage to protect our fabulous treasures much of which are delicate photo's, fabrics, and papers.

Feel free to use the membership form on the back of this newsletter.

Please come to a meeting when you can, as you are what make HHS what it is. We value your help making good plans for our future.

NOT to mention the great stories we share!

The following are Lifetime members committed to HHS.

Dick & Beverly Anderson
John Berhow
Omar & Valerie Brendeland
Duane & Barbara Finch
Orville & Dolores Hauge
Laverne & Elaine Helland
Darlene & Robert Herman
David & Cheryl Kalsem
Homer & Kay Kalsem
John & Ann Kalsem
Dean & Diane Lande

Elizabeth & Javerna Maland
Don & Donna Nord
Nels & Rowena Nord
Dr. Kirk & Liz Peterson
Paul & Florence Sandve
Harriet Sheldahl
Avis Steensland
David & Verda Tesdall
Gary & Janet Thompson
Boyd Antill & Mary Tomlinson
Marilyn Whetstone

Thank you for being a member. We appreciate it very much.

For 2014 our list of regular HHS members included:

Don Anderson	Norm Luiken
Larry & Karen Anderson	Barb & Jim Mallon
Ober Anderson	Lyle & Pat Martin
Sandra Deig	Rich Nelson
LeRoy Dobbe	Bob Nervig
Don Duncan	Don Nord
Karen Dunne	Mark & Wanda Nord
Arvid Eide	Rick Nord
Chuck & Barb Faush	Louise O'Donnell
Don & Judy Fausch	Kirk & Liz Petersen
Paul & Rosemary Fjelland	Scott & Kalen Petersen
Yvonne Fjelland	Joan Richardson
Bruce & Sandy Halverson	Delila Roberts
Orville Hauge	Steve Rye
Edna Hellekson	Elwood Sapp
Chris & Lindsey Jennelle	Mary Ann Schonhorst
Darlene Kalsem	Nancy Sheehy
Mark & Marsha Kenney	Denny & Karen Soderstrum
Steven Kruse	June Squire
Arlene Lande	Janet & Gerry Stoll
Nero & Linda Lantz	Larry & Kay Thompson
Arnold and Viviane Larson	Ronald Twedt
Kenneth & Louise Larson	Roger & Judie Weyer
Ikey Lee	Carrie Witt
Ruth Lee	Terry & Marlys Witt
Virginia Lee	

2015 Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please circle the options that apply:

Annual Membership \$20

Lifetime Membership \$500

Gift Amount \$_____

2nd ed. DVD Purchase \$20

S&H for DVD \$2.50

Total \$_____

Mail To:

HHS-515 N. Main Ave-Huxley Iowa. 50124FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT US AT ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING:

PHONE: NELS NORD 515-231-9174

EMAIL: HHS@HUXCOMM.NET

WEB SITE:
WWW.HISTORY.HUXLEYIOWA.ORG**HUXLEY**515 N. Main Ave
Huxley Iowa. 50124*Please remember to renew your 2015 dues*