

# HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Website: [www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org)

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## In person

“The Hub” museum is located at 515 N. Main in the 3C’s building or make an appointment to visit the Nord-Kalsem Shelter House.

Hours; M-F 8:30-10:30 AM

or call to make an appointment.

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**No fooling=April 1st**

**PANCAKE FEED**

**Nord-Kalsem Shelter**

**7AM—10AM**

**Good Will Donations Accepted**



*Mission Statement: To engage and support 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.*

# Huxley High School and Ballard Community High School

Teachers and Administrators-Don Brendeland, Counselor & Teacher

Part 8 of a series by Nels Nord—Treasurer and Historian



Don Brendeland was a long-time high school guidance counselor, algebra, chemistry and physics teacher for 28 years. He was born in Ames, Iowa, on April 4, 1937, to LeRoy “Bud” Brendeland and Mildred (Nerness) Brendeland. Don grew up in Kelley, Iowa, and attended Kelley Elementary School through the seventh grade and then attended Welch Junior High graduating from Ames High School in 1955.

Don attended Iowa State College and graduated in 1959 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. In 1959, he joined the Army Reserves. After he completed his active duty, he began his teaching career in Colo, Iowa where he taught science.

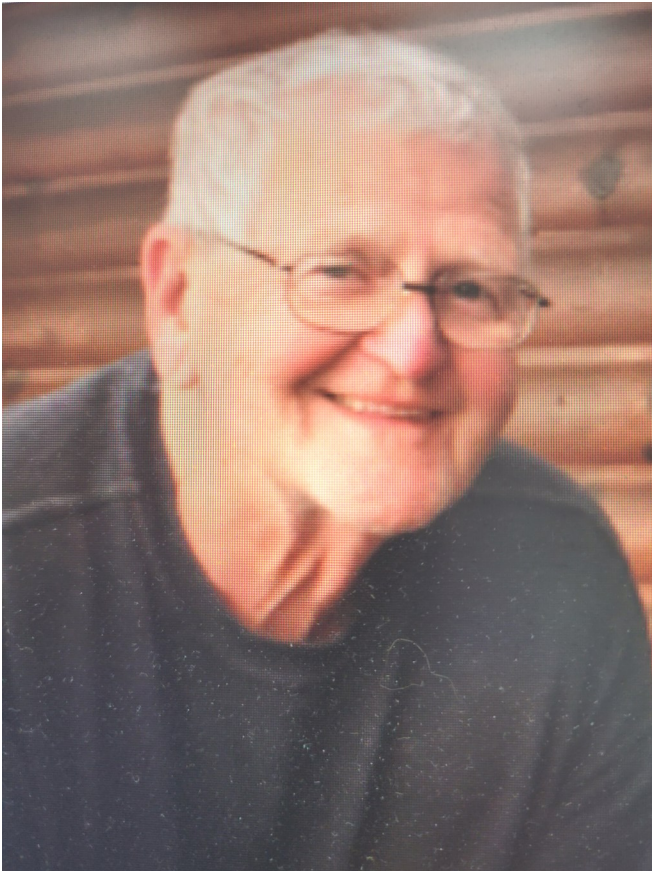
Married to Shirlene Osmundson in 1966, Don began his teaching career at Ballard High School in 1967, teaching physics and mathematics. He was also the Athletic Director for a short time. Don returned to Iowa State College and earned his Master’s degree in 1970, and became the Ballard High School counselor until his retirement in 1995.

Very dedicated to his counseling career he directed hundreds of students to many different colleges and/or careers and is held in high esteem by many. Students would call him after hours when they had problems in their lives. Don had an impact on student’s lives at Ballard that lived on for the rest of his life. Anywhere he went in the Ballard Community he would hear, “Hi, Mr. Brendeland,” followed by a heartfelt thank you for all he did for them.

Don started another career after “retiring” from Ballard working for Kreg Tool in Huxley. The frustrated engineer in Don came out and he had another successful impact on our community. He often commented that he learned more about teaching at Kreg Tool than he did in the school setting. Working with young employees he was able to invest in their lives by collaborating on engineering challenges, product development, and interacting with customers for sales and service.

Don was credited with the development of the DB50 (a woodworking pocket hole machine) during his Kreg tenure. And, just as he became an icon at Ballard, Don became a well-known woodworker across the U.S. within the industry.





In addition to a busy work life, Don was known for investing in the community. He was a city council member, fireman, member of the business development committee and member of the community choir. Don was one of those people who made a difference in so many lives and was considered a friend by countless others. And, many of those friends were lucky enough to experience his sense of humor and a better day when they spent time with him.

Don and Shirlene had three children who all graduated from Ballard: Kathy, Linda and Erick. Don passed away on July 17, 2019 at Iowa Methodist Medical Center.

~end



## Huxley High Alumni that Have Gone Before us.

Fred Lande: Class of 1950 Died, December 2022

Homer Kalsem: Class of 1950 Died, November 2022

Katherine Saveraid: Class of 1951 Died, October 2022



***Member renewal time.***

***Clip and Mail***

***(form on the back of your newsletter)***

***OR***

***Stop by in person!***

***Just don't forget!!!***





# Maland House Update

## Doyle Tweet and Hal Davis—December 2022

By Hal Davis



Happy Holidays from Doyle and me. We have finally moved into the Maland house. It has been a long haul. We are happy to be in and look forward to having people visit.

Since moving in we have been wrapping up final details like installing kitchen door pulls, hooks and handrails, fixing minor drywall issues and trying to decorate with furniture brought with us from our previous houses. Always a challenge.

We are pleased with the overall look of the house especially on the exterior. We were able to bring the house back to pretty much how the home appeared in historical photos. We opted to open up the porch and not

install the screens. We feel that an open porch is more approachable and fits our lifestyle better.

Entering the house you will find that we were forced to change the interior due to some unforeseen issues in the inspection after the derecho occurred. We had always planned to incorporate the third floor into livable space. The attic was always used for storage and the attic was completely open to the rafters. After the Derecho came through we had a structural engineer assess the property and we found that the south side roof dormer had sunk into the roof line nearly 9 inches. When the home was built it was built with the roof line sitting on the exterior soffits. There were no interior walls built in the attic to carry the weight of the roof. It was an open shell. In addition to this finding, the floor structure of the attic was 2 X 6 boards because it was never intended to be livable space. So needless to say, the entire second floor ceiling structure needed to be removed to install all new 2 X 12 boards through the whole second floor in order to make the third floor safe to use as livable space.



Also in order to make this all work four new concrete footings were put in the basement and a steel cage was created that carried through the first and second floors. Let's just say that this added a lot of unforeseen expenses, but the house isn't going anywhere and is very solid. In order to create this steel cage the entire interior layout had to change which caused us to change gears and reconsider what the interior needed to be.

Doyle and I had to weigh our options and really think outside of the box to create a place where we could live in a space that would work for us, modernize the space and still pay attention to the historical elements that we could salvage and be able to finish the project on budget and be appealing to families' needs when we decide to move on.

Overall we are happy with the finished look. We look forward to opening up the house. We have found Huxley to be a great little community and we are happy we took on the project. Thank you for the opportunity. END





# Area Century Farms

## Kalsem Farm Inc. 1882 ...

In 1882 John V. Kalsem homesteaded just south of where the farm is today (1 mile west and a mile and a half north of Huxley). He was born in Nestrand, Norway in 1839. John V. immigrated to the United States when he was twenty. John V. and his wife, Martha Cleveland, who also was born in Norway, had nine children, including Ole J., their fifth-born in 1869. This son took over the family's original farm and expanded it to 388 acres during his 34-year farming career which climaxed in 1928 when he became one of the third group of Iowa Master Farmers selected by *Wallace's Farmer*. He also served as President of the Iowa Livestock Shipper's Association, officer in the local cooperative elevator, officer of the Creamery, officer of Fjeldberg Church and member of the school board that built the new Huxley Consolidated School. Ole J. married Anna Nelson and to this union four daughters (Millie, Madelia, Alma, Javerna) and one son, Orville Nelson Kalsem were born. Ole earned a reputation for producing quality grain-fed beef.

Orville eventually took over the farm and continued feeding cattle along with hogs, chickens, and milk cows. He was also very involved in the horse industry, breeding, training and showing. He married M. JaVerne Ersland and two sons were born, Owen John and David K. During his life time, the family farm was incorporated and increased its size to 795 acres.



An example of beef and horses that Orville raised—with Iowa Foundation Barn in background

Orville organized the Story County Cattlemen's Association and served as its President for several years. In 1941 he served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Huxley Community Club and in 1942 he helped start the annual Huxley Horse Shows that ran for 12 years. He also served as Secretary and the President of the Iowa Beef Producers Association. He served as Regional Vice President of the American National Cattlemen's Association 1971-72. He served as Beef Representative and President of the Iowa Marketing Division, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture. He served as local 4-H Club leader and served on Fjeldberg Church Council.



Orville with Don and Bruce Melaas  
in front of Iowa Foundation Barn

Orville received the Iowa Master Farmer Award in 1952. He was inducted to the Hall of Fame for the Iowa Quarter Horse Association in 1965 and the Hall of Fame, of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, in 1966. Then the Agriculture Hall of Fame, of ISU, in 1980; Outstanding Farm Family, of Kiwanis Nebraska-Iowa District, in 1992; and Cattleman of the Year, Story County, 1994.







Through the years the farm has hosted a multitude of visitors to the family farm cattle feeding operation. These visitors have included various ISU Ag and Veterinary classes, members of cattle organizations, members performing at ISU, U. S. Senators, Iowa Governors, farmers and farming experts from around the world.

Orville and Javerna Kalsem had two sons. Owen John is currently President of Kalsem Farm. He and his wife, Ann (Thompson) have four children: Oren Jeffrey, Sharon (Joe) Guilinger, Karen (Scott) Davis, and John Clinton, is a full-time employee of Kalsem Farm Inc. (KFI) and lives at KFI with his family.

Orville and Javerna's second son David, is currently Vice-President of Kalsem Farm. His wife, Cheryl (McClure), is currently Secretary-Treasurer of KFI. They have two children, Jill (Scott) Feuerhelm and Mike (Michele) with their family, also live and work full time at KFI.

Both John and David received the Iowa Master Farmer Award, 1991 and the Cattlemen of the Year, for Story County, 1984. Iowa Dept. of AG & Land Stewardship & The Iowa Ag Radio Network Good Neighbor Award in 2003. Owen John was always very involved with 4H as a competitor with horses and cattle, then as a parent acting as the 4H supervisor for both horses and cattle and also as a 4H horse judge, judging mentor and clinician. In 2020 Owen John was inducted into the 4H Hall of Fame.

Kalsem Farm Inc. continues to raise cattle, horses, row crops and hay. Several of John and Dave's grand children are involved in 4H and help on the farm. Sometimes Kalsem's host tours for threshing demos and plow days, many different livestock activities and to see the barn that is listed with the Iowa Barn Foundation located on the main farm, and is still in daily use.



Owen John



Dave and Mike binding oats in preparation to thresh.

END



**Huxley****Membership Form—Clip or copy and mail**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership \$ 20.00

Lifetime Membership \$500.00

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fjord Recipe Booklet \$ 5.00

2nd Ed. DVD / 1939-1955 \$ 20.00

Shipping and Handling for Book/DVD \$ 5.00

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ck # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: HHS  
515 N. Main Ave  
Huxley, Ia. 50124

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*\***

Effective immediately membership fees will be  
due in January of each year.

Please share stories and photos with Huxley  
Historical Society by emailing them to  
**4huxleyhistory@gmail.com** or mail to  
HHS, 515 N. Main, St. Huxley, Ia. 50124

**Website: [www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org)**