

HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Website: www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

Fall 2023

*** Board of Directors ***

President—Jolene Lettow

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Treas. & Hist—Nels Nord

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Member at Large—Hal Davis

Online on Facebook

www.HuxleyHistoricalSociety.org

PH: 515-231-9174

Email:

4HuxleyHistory@gmail.com

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.

HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES AND DINNER



Sunday, December 10

Home Tours Only (5 locations)

\$20 5 to 7pm

Tour of Homes and Holiday Dinner
(limited seating available)

\$40 7:30pm

Dinner held at Fenceline Beer Lab

Tickets sold at Fenceline (107 S. Main Ave.)
Or online at: <https://fencelinebeerlab.square.site>



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.

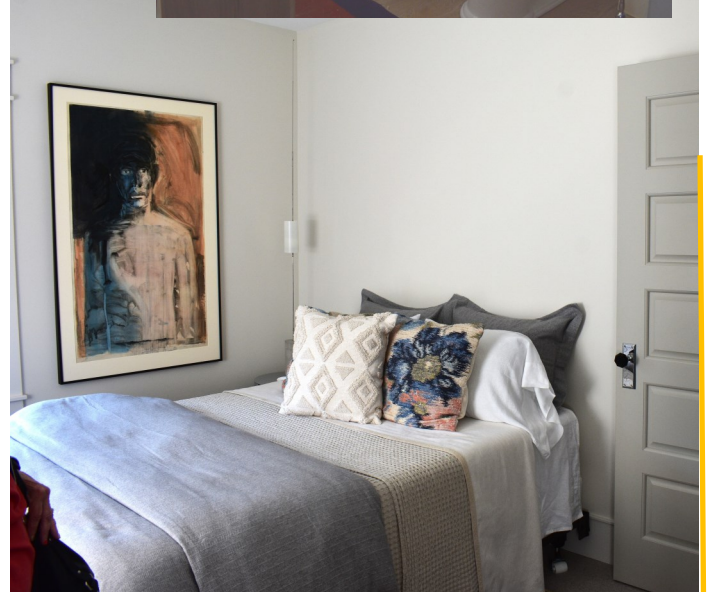
The Maland House Tour



Record temperatures did not deter HHS members and neighbors from The Maland House Tour on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

It was likened to a Sunday afternoon visit in the early existence of the house. There was room to sit out on the lawn under a tent of protection, a lawn game of corn hole, a leisurely swing on the front porch and an invitation to step inside for a tour and refreshments. Those who attended were pleasantly surprised by the lovely improvements of the house.





The Huxley Historical Society Board will attempt to organize more events for our members.

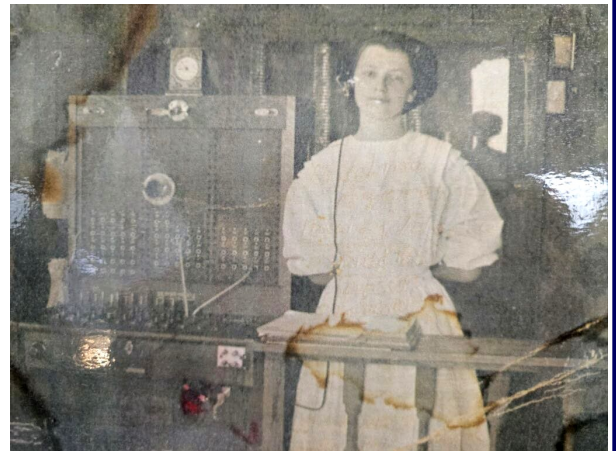


Huxley Telephone Company – Early Years to 2023

The town of Huxley had their first telephone office in 1902 which was the year Huxley was incorporated. The office was in back of the A.E. Nass Hardware Store on the east side of South Main Ave.

Some of the early telephone operators were: Minne Eide, Lena Egness, Mrs. Lewis Monson, Mr. Fatland and his daughter, Cora (Fatland) Ryan. (pictured right)

In 1903 a 13-year-old girl took over running the switch board of the Huxley Telephone Company. During that time it was a real job; the switch board consisted of an array of bells, each corresponding to a different line and each line having a different “code” of rings that the operator had to recognize and connect. Through her four years of work for Huxley Telephone Company she learned to recognize the sound of each bell without looking.



The switchboard that Cora operated was located in the jewelry store and later moved to various locations including above the bank at North Main Ave. and 1st street where it stayed until Huxley Telephone Company built a new building in the 1980s. The switchboard was equipped with 12 country lines and 32 in-town “drops.” There were sometimes as many as 10 or 12 people on a line. Also on the switchboard was a toll line to Nevada, where connections were made to call Des Moines. Telephone service to Slater was free.

Some of the managers of the Huxley Telephone Company in the early years were: Henry Birkestrand, Clarence Bergeson, and Bert Haverman. Other managers of record are: J.F. Kalsem (1924), Milo Havens (1934), H.J. Birkestrand (1943), I.J. Hendricks (1946), Rose Heggen (1947), Charles Busby (1950), Lyle Powell (1965), Billy Hotchkiss (1980), Gary Clark (2020) and Levi Bappe (2020).

According to journal records of the board meetings of the Huxley Mutual Telephone Company, records indicate a meeting was held on February 2, 1925, and it was listed as the eighth annual meeting.



Lillian Busby was the switchboard operator at Huxley Communications for 25 years.

On August 31, 1937, a special meeting was called concerning the incorporation of the telephone company and to accept the new by-laws. In October 1937, it was voted on and carried to incorporate the name changed to Huxley Cooperative Telephone Company. On April 4, 1956, dial telephones were installed.

In the early years the telephone office was located in the south part of Main Street in different buildings. It was moved to the second story of the old bank building in 1908. When the Huxley Post Office was moved into the Huxley Hardware building in the 1970s, the Huxley Telephone Company moved to the first floor where the Post Office had been. In 1980 the business was moved across the street west in the building which was known as the Charley Miller Apartments.



NEW HOME—Employees of the Huxley Cooperative Telephone Company began operating from their new headquarters in downtown Huxley recently. Employees pictured (from left to right,

front row) are Diane Orbell, Irma Powell, Helen Mains, Patty Boeck. (Back row) John Lee, Mgr. Bill Hotchkiss, and Ted Powell. (Photo by Mike Kolbe)



After 45 years, the old Huxley Telephone building was demolished and a new building was completed on the same site at 102 North Main Avenue and 1st Street at a cost of \$250,000. The new telephone building added much to the appearance of "Old Huxley." The modern brick structure housed new modern telephone equipment in the 2,6080 square feet of the office space for employees.

Robert Stensland was the architectural and interior designer and Endicott Products Brick, represented by Gary Davis, supplied the brick for the new building. It took eight months to build and was opened for business on May 29, 1981.

On Saturday, July 25, 1981, Huxley Co-op Telephone Company had an open house for their new building.

In 2022, a new multi-million dollar building was built at the South Main Avenue and Campus Drive, Huxley.

Special Request for Corn Husking-1940

With elections for our school board just finished this week, this document has some relevance in just how much "times have changed." Agriculture influenced even the need for school board meetings, rules for attendance and special allowances made for harvest season.



TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE HUXLEY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL.

* * * * *

We the undersigned patrons of
Huxley Consolidated School respectfully
request a one weeks corn husk-
ing vacation in November 1940.

or October

J. R. Sydnies
Barny Turett
S. A. Lande
H. C. Wee
Ormond Sheldahl
Chas Wee
Paul Lee
J. M. Michelson
Harold Sheldahl
W. B. Richardson
J. F. Kalsen
R. B. Helland
Grant Kullander
L. Larson
Ormond Larson

Olaf R. Brendland
H. A. Larson
Ole Fjelland
A. A. Fjelland
Chas. Hennick
Sam Steensland
T. T. Lee
H. R. Geisler
Frank Geisler
Sanford Sydnies
Mrs. Bondsen
H. G. Solverson
R. J. Hildrich
Andy Eysland

HUXLEY GRADUATES WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Jenet (Sydnies) Thompson, Huxley High Class 1952, 9/11/2023

Nancy (Hanks) Coon, Ballard Class 1961, 10/11/2023

Don Nord, Huxley High Class 1956, 11/11/2023

Fjeldberg Cemetery Veterans Listing Updated 4/2023

SOUTH SECTION

Ernest Fjelland, 1906-1970
 Stanford Fjelland, 1896-1928
 Harry J. Fatland, 1901-1979 WWII
 Raymond G. Anderson, 1922-1996 WWII
 Clarkson A. Anderson, 1924-1978
 H. Gilbert Dueland, 1894-1973
 Alfred Harestad, 1938
 Orval A. Hellekson, 1919-1993 WWII
 Dean Hellekson, 1945-2021 Air Force
 Andrew Wenos, 1891-1959
 James D. Tomlinson, WWII
 Henry W. Berhow, 1908-1976 WWII
 Martin Ole Thompson, 1889-1961
 Gunder Thompson, 1896-1966
 T.H. Lande, GAR
 Arlo Murray Heggen, 1913-1996
 Gaylord D. Martin, 1945-1987 Viet Nam
 Morris Helland, 1924-1986
 Charles B. Thorsbakken, 1931-1981 Korea
 Gene D. Sydness, 1924-1992 WWII
 John (Jack) C. Schneider, 1937-1992
 Clark Helland, 1922-2006 WWII
 Everett Steensland, 1923-1992 WWII
 Donald E. Tesdall, 1921-1990 WWII
 Thomas Osting, 1923-1975 WWII
 Edward Helland, 1896-1970
 Jesse Nelson, 1909-2006 WWII
 Omer A. Hill, 1914-2000
 Harold S. Ness, 1921-1988
 Williams L. Pererson, 1923-1944 WWII
 Andrew Nelson, 1842-1935
 Fredrick J. Blackwood, 1891-1969 WWI
 Avernol Fjelland, 1927-2003 WWII
 Jacob Lee, 1925-2008 WWII
 Marion J. Kalsem, 1922-1991
 Carroll T. Sydness, 1929-1965
 John Sydness, 1890-1963
 Anfin Ersland, 1841-1923
 Ronald Fjelland, 1923-1996 WWII
 Robert F. James, 1910-2004 WWII
 Ira J. Hendricks, 1899-1975
 G. Lantz
 Erick England, 1899-
 Milo Veland, 1914-1997 WWII
 Arthur H. Kalsem, 1896-1989 WWII

Weir Jr. Birkestrand, 1917-1995
 Robert L. Hill, 1922-1979 WWII
 Sherman M. Risvold, 1921-1979 WWII

MIDDLE SECTION

Anthony H. Anfinson, 1921-1990 WWII
 Donald W. Bauge, 1922-1990 WWII
 Everett Lande, 1922-1980 WWII
 Sherman Thompson, WWII
 Orval Bryd, 1913-2006 WWII
 Jim Knutson, 1933-2003 Korea
 Roy Ashbaugh, 1891-1980 WWII
 Harold L. Fjelland, 1914-1976 WWII
 Martin S. Fjelland, 1918-1985 WWII
 Osmund L. Severeid, 1878-1958 Cuba
 Burnis G. Meyers, 1893-1983 WWII
 Harold B. Stensland, 1914-1998 WWII
 Robert Christopher
 Wilford L. Gregg, 1927-1985
 Cecil C. Lande, 1923-1989 WWII
 Dr. Arnold L. Nelson, 1903-1979
 Richard Snyder, Korea
 Ronald E. Dobbe, 1933-1983 Korea
 Gene L. Ames, 1925-1945 WWII
 Terry L. Cochran, Viet Nam
 Jennings A. Ritland, 1897-1948
 Sherill E. Lande, 1920-1954 WWII
 Oscar E. Ritland, 1895-1968 WWII
 Clara Larson, 1903-1921 WWII
 John E. Oakland, 1892-1971
 Thomas S. Oakland, 1928-2009 Korea
 Kenneth Oakland, 1926-2005 WWII

NORTH SECTION

Larry Hill, 19 -2015
 Clarence S. Stensland, 1917-2003
 Mert Frantz, 1937-2003 Viet Nam
 Westley S. Wiersen, 1926-1998 WWII
 Billy J. Jr. Bruce, 1927-2005 WWII
 Herbert Robinson, 1922-2003 WWII
 Terry Huth
 Dick Lande
 Robert Mitchell, 1927-1999 WWII

ADDED to list since April
 Homer Kalsem, Korea
 Owen John Kalsem, Korea

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