



Receiving the Iola Historical Society's 2016 volunteer recognitions at the annual Christmas Potluck Banquet from president Clifford Mishler; (left to right) Kathy and Howard Bestul, jointly recognized as Docent of the Year Award recipients, and Lyle Nauman, recognized with the Volunteer of the Year Award, who shouldered keeping the grounds mowed prim and proper for our visitors.

### Donors & Loaners

October • November • December

**ARCHIVAL DONATIONS:** Joel Edler (Lakeview Tavern ice scraper), Don Helgerson, (1920s Miller High Life porcelain sign), Chet Krause (books for reference library), Clare Oppor (vintage nurse uniform of Mrs. N. Johnson), Joan Paulson Estate (Indian arrowheads teaching aid collection formed by Clarence Paulson), Pat Peters (replicas), Mary Ann Rice (wood handicrafts created by Dick Nassen).

**DONATIONS OF CASH AND IN-KIND:** Mary Jane Bennett (cash, undesignated), Howard & Kathy Bestul (cash, for depot restoration), Donald & Carol Dineen (cash, undesignated), Donald Faldet (brush hog clearing), Donald Faldet (overgrowth clearing and tree removal by buildings), David Groenier (cash, undesignated), Carole Lashua (cash, undesignated), Greg Loescher (cash, for souvenir ceramics program), Earl Lukaszewski (Machine Shed electrical enhancement planning and installation), Phyllis Morris (cash, undesignated), Lyle Nauman (cash, for split rail fence), Joan Niemiec (cash, undesignated), Roger Olson (tree removals), Susan Pilewski (cash, depot restoration), Fred & Nancy Schlicher (cash, undesignated), Shoemaker Companies (discount on services), Ruth Strand (cash, for caboose restoration), James Taylor (cash, undesignated), Village of Iola (refuse removal), Denver Wright (cash, undesignated).

### 2015/16 Supporting Members

The Iola Historical Society wishes to extend special recognition and thanks to the following individuals and organizations for the extra financial support their ongoing status as **Supporting Members** provides to the Society's activities: Ron & Grace Bahr, Mary Jane Bennett, Mark L. Beske, Scott & Karri Bestul, LeRoy & Carolyn Borth, Barbara Egner-Pelmar, Bob & Bev Ellingson, DeRonda & Patricia Engebretson, Helene M. Furst, John & Yvonne Gurholt, Leonard & Irene Haroldson, Iola & Rural Fire Department, Ruth Johnson, Lana & Don Langdok, Thomas & Linda Martin, Phyllis Morris, Joan & Richard Niemiec, Philip A. Strand, Ruth Strand, Forrest & Virginia Torgerson, Roger Voie.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

support provided by their volunteer hours and financial generosity. Likewise, is the encouragement provided by the Iola business community in its promotion and support of our activities. Then, there are the reactions of our visitors, who regularly express amazement at the degree to which we have been able to capture the heritage of our community.

### Past Recognitions

The Iola Historical Society instituted its annual volunteer recognitions program at the 2008 Christmas Potluck Banquet, when its first Volunteer of the Year Award presentation was made. The following year the program was expanded to include a Docent of the Year Award recognition as well. There was also the singular presentation of a Stem-Winder Award during the 2008 banquet to then president Lyle Mork for his energetic leadership.

- The individuals receiving these recognitions have been:
- 2008 Eugene Voie, Volunteer
  - 2009 Chris Williams, Volunteer  
Martha Cook, Docent
  - 2010 Elaine Crase, Volunteer
  - 2011 Donna Hooker, Volunteer  
Phyllis Morris, Docent
  - 2012 Sharon Peterson, Volunteer  
Lola May Dalland, Docent
  - 2013 Lee Halverson, Volunteer  
Joanna Rheingans, Docent
  - 2014 Martha Cook, Volunteer  
Donna Hooker, Docent
  - 2015 Lyle Nauman, Volunteer  
Howard & Kathy Bestul  
Volunteers

### 2016 Events Schedule

- Monday, January 25, 2016  
5:45 pm IHS Board Meeting  
6:30 pm IHS General Meeting
- Monday, February 29, 2016  
5:45 pm IHS Board Meeting  
6:30 pm IHS General Meeting
- Monday, March 28, 2016  
5:45 pm IHS Board Meeting  
6:30 pm IHS General Meeting
- Monday, April 25, 2016  
5:45 pm IHS Board Meeting  
6:30 pm IHS General Meeting
- Monday, May 30, 2016  
Noon -- 3:00 pm 3rd Annual  
Memorial Day Pig Roast

# The Iola Historical Society's Window

Quarterly Member and Activities Newsletter

Volume Nine

Number One

Winter 2016



## Those Were The Days

### A Nostalgic Look Back at Devices Intended To Make One's Life Easier 100 Years Ago

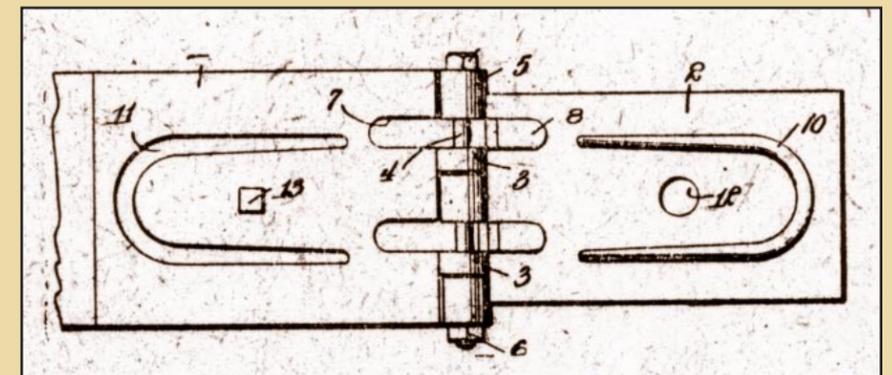
I recently had occasion to conduct some research into the contents of *The Iola Herald* editions of January and February, 1914. In doing so I happened upon the report of an invention registered by a local citizen, along with a trio of improvisations recommended for making life easier, particularly for readers pursuing the back breaking labors of farmers.

The first of these was new hinge concept developed and modeled by a

#### Assembled by Clifford Mishler

local citizen, Melford M. Forceth, who had applied for a patent on the locking device. It appeared with a diagram on page one of the January 29, 1914, edition of the *Herald*. Appearing on page three of the same issue were instructions and a diagram for creating and employing a jack to elevate the axle assembly of a heavy wagon, to facilitate its greasing.

Presented on page three of the following edition of the *Herald*, February 5, 1914, were instructions for creating a lifting device for barrels. Three weeks later, in the February 26, 1914, edition one R. A. Galliher authored detailed instructions for creating and utilizing a "hog loading crate" to ease that task for the "lone-handed man." His presentation also expanded into thoughts on the care and feeding of hogs and the need for "young folks" to become more knowledgeable of the agricultural business.



## IOLA YOUNG MAN IS INVENTOR OF HINGE

### Melford M. Forceth Seeks Patent on Article That Will Prove Valuable Where Locking Hinge Is Needed.

In the November (1913) issue of the *Inventors' Gazette* we find a mention of the application of Melford Forceth for letters patent on hinge invented by him. The *Gazette* says:

"Mr. Melford H. Forceth, (sic) of R. R. No. 1, Iola, Wisc., has invented protected by a pending patent application a Hinge which has plurality of (sic) integral supports or studs formed upon one of the hinge sections for supporting the other of said sections at an angle thereto in an open position, this feature being especially desirable in farming implements where it is often desired that the hinge supported seat of the implement be folded or swung into various positions during the operation of the device.

(Continued on page 2)

## President's Message

The past year proved to be a great one for the Iola Historical Society, with much being accomplished. In addition to the accomplishments, we realized, many other projects are underway, which will build on those accomplishments that should bring about growth and distinction for the organization.

Here's a quick review of some of the highlight accomplishments during the course of the year. First, over the past winter Charles Thompson polished off presentation of the R. I. Anderson Machine Shop exhibit in the Machine Shed, which was formally dedicated on May 9, 2015. Second, the "work day" volunteers polished off the setting up of the Robert R. & Stella Strand Resource Center, which was dedicated on June 28, 2015.

Third, due to the industriousness and support of vice-president Lee Halverson, we presented a string of successful meeting and special programs, highlighted by the visit to Iola of "The First Lady of The World," Eleanor Roosevelt, in the body of impressionist Jessica Michna on August 8, 2015. Fourth, there was the inauguration of the latest in our ongoing series of our "Historic Iola" markers, for "Spud Alley" on September 19, 2015, thanks to the instigation and involvement of Greg Loescher and Donald Faldet.

Here are some of the other initiatives that were undertaken during the course of the year. Thanks to Mark Dahl the newly established conference room off the museum area in the former Lashua building is nicely appointed with oak shelving for the display of resource materials and selected artifacts. Thanks to Donald Faldet and Roger Olson the trees and overgrowth areas encroaching on the Machine Shed and back storage building have been cleared.

There are several projects presently underway for which completion is projected by the time we move into the 2016 visitor season. The most visible of these is the refurbishment of the caboose that sets on the tracks adjacent to the depot, a project that Charles Wasrud has taken under wing, having enveloped it with

a "winter work" structure to ward off inclement weather. Inside the museum area Doug Watson and Lyle Mork are heading down the home stretch with the Towne Native American Artifacts display. The Iola Fire House doors, which are in deteriorated condition, will be rebuilt by Scott Bestul.

Things have been happening behind the scenes as well. Under the direction of Earl Lukaszewski significant improvements were instituted in the Machine Shed building to accommodate the electrical needs for our events and the installation of ceiling fans to remedy humidity control concerns. Display cases have been moved from storage into the Helvetia Town Hall structure to accommodate the development of new exhibits. Work is underway on sorting through and rearranging the storage in the former Lashua shop and back storage areas, some of which is being earmarked for resettling into new exhibits and an improved preservation environment in the Strand Resource Center.

Not to be overlooked are the ongoing contributions of Donna Hooker in keeping our buildings tidy, with occasional contributions of others under her direction. Then there are the food service preparations for our food service events capably pulled together by Sharon Peterson and Lola May Dalland. Thanks to the initiative and execution of Barbara Johnson, a craft fair component was successfully added to the 2015 Iola Strawberry Fest event, while the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce crew again coupled their fall craft fair component with the Taste of Norway.

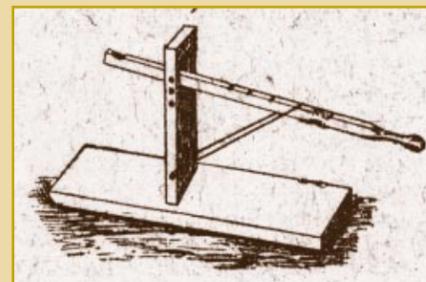
Then there are, not to be forgotten, the many members who contributed as faces of the Iola Historical Society, in responding to calls for docent duty on Saturdays through the summer and on other occasions when we hosted group visits. These include Howard & Kathy Bestul, who were recognized at our annual Christmas Potluck Banquet with certification as *Docent of the Year* recipients. Keeping our grounds prim and proper for our visitors was Lyle Nauman who was recognized as *Volunteer of the Year*.

Most importantly, for the long-term welfare of the Iola Historical Society, is our strong active membership status, and the loyal

### HINGE Continued from page 1

"Mr. Forseth is desirous of disposing of the patent protection which will mature from his pending application and he respectfully solicits correspondence from persons interested in the production of hinges or a staple article."

This invention was thought out and developed, as well as models constructed, by Mr. Forseth at spare times when he was working on his father's farm near this village. The article appears to be an excellent one and will supply a want for which there seems to be no appliance to fill at the present time. Agricultural men using machinery that has seats requiring to be locked in an upright position at times will most thoroly (sic) appreciate the invention. We predict that the young man will be able to place his invention with some manufacturer of agricultural machinery on a good royalty or sell at a fair figure.



### JACK FOR THE HEAVY WAGON

One Described and Illustrated Fills the Bill for Lightness and Also for Strength.

As it is difficult to get a jack strong enough for the heavy wagons without it being so very heavy, the one described, fills the bill for lightness and strength:

One piece, 2 by 8 inches -- 30 inches long.

One piece, 2 by 6 inches -- 30 inches long.

One piece, 2 by 4 inches -- 40 inches long.

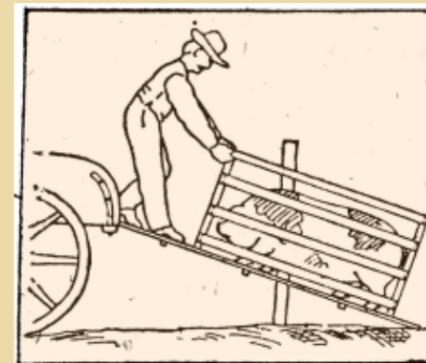
One piece of No. 9 wire 5 feet long.  
Two 20d nails to hold the wire to the sides of the upright piece.

One iron bolt, three-quarters by 6-1/2 inches to hold the lever.

Two 2 by 2-inch mortises are cut out in the 2 by 8, 12 inches from the front end.

Tenons (projecting members) are cut on the upright 2 by 6 to fit them (into the 2 by 2-inch mortises).

The nails are driven in to the sides of the upright piece to hold the wire, the bolt is put through the mortise and the lever and if the grease is handy you are ready to grease your wagon.



### TO LOAD LARGE HOGS BOTTOMLESS CRATE IS HANDY FOR LONE-HANDED MAN

Illustration Shows How Big Animal May Be Driven Into Wagon by One Man -- Some Farmers Are Stingy With Shelter.

(By R. A. GALLIHER.)

The lone-handed farmer often experiences no small amount of inconvenience in loading a large hog. For the benefit of a farmer who never thought of a hog-crate without the bottom, I will give my plan for making the crate and the way to load the hog into the wagon.

For corner posts of crate procure posts of poplar two inches square and three and one-half feet long. The ends, side and top should also be made of poplar strips, one by two

and one-half inches. Cut strips for sides and top about five feet long and for the ends, about two and one-half feet long.

These dimensions may vary according to the size crate you desire, but be careful not to make the crate so wide that the hog can turn around in it.

Nail side and end strips to posts with wire nails that will reach through the posts and clinch. The top slats are nailed to the upper slats on ends. You now have a complete hog crate, and one without a bottom.

Now for the loading. Take your wagon as near the place as possible where the hog is to be loaded. Lay boards about ten feet long from the rear end of the wagon to the ground, with a few cleats nailed on under side to prevent boards from springing apart.

Stand the crate on end nearby. Shell a little corn close to crate, and when the opportunity presents itself, drop the crate over the hog. You are now ready to load Mr. Hog, which is done as shown in the accompanying cut.

Simply walk up the boards backwards, pulling the crate in front, which compels the hog to walk right into the wagon bed. Unloading is done in the same manner, except that the hog walks out backwards.

It is a good idea to drive a stake at each side of the boards to prevent a hog from overturning the crate. This is not necessary if there are two men to do the loading, for in such a case one can stand at each side of the crate.

Select the kind of hog you want and then grow the best. If you go in for bacon hogs, don't make the mistake of buying the lard types of sows.

It's a mistake to have pigs come in the middle of winter.

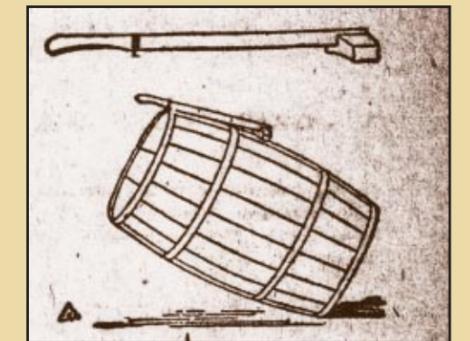
Some farmers are liberal with their feed, but stingy with their shelter. They will shovel out plenty of corn then see their pigs pile up

in a bunch in a fence corner and shiver for hours in the cold wind, thereby losing all value of the corn.

Do not neglect to keep plenty of coal or wood ashes where the pigs can get at them all the time.

If you find a runt in the litter don't waste too much time trying to build him up, but look after the good ones.

The young folks ought to know why trees and plants grow as they do, and how to help them grow. They should be taught the names of the trees, grasses and grains of the country. And would it be altogether impractical to teach them something about actual farm business? The bookkeeping might relate to farm operations, instead of things away in city and town. It would be a good thing to put into the arithmetic (sic) a good many problems bearing on farm life.



### EASY WAY TO LIFT BARRELS

Simple Device Shown in Illustration Herewith Will Be Found to Be Quite Convenient.

Where many barrels are to be lifted the following simple device will prove of great value: Including the six-inch hand grips, the handle is about two feet long. Just below the hand grip a metal hook an inch wide is fastened. This fits over the rim of the barrel. At the lower end of the handle is a wooden cross piece hollowed on the inner side so as to fit the curvature of the barrel. If very heavy barrels are to be lifted the handle should be from six to twelve inches longer, so as to get extra leverage when lifting.

(Continued on page 4)