



MARION HERITAGE CENTER & MUSEUM

News from the Marion Historical Society

MARCH 2024



From *Robyn Ireland*

The Director's Report Thank You

I would like to thank the Meredith family, Nevin, Maureen, and Brian for their loan of railroad artifacts that are breathing life into our exhibit. Kirk and Scott Draper loaned us their father's (Paul) garden train, while Sam and Jo Dillon assembled that display.

Nevin is a lifelong train buff and has collected everything from collapsable ash trays to caboose lanterns, and signs to oil cans. Maureen was instrumental in arranging the artifacts and story panels, while Brian graciously supplied both muscle and set-up suggestions.

Paul and Sam, passionate about trains and preserving Marion's history with them, donated enormous amounts of time to moving the train depot from its original location to City Square Park.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Heritage Center is looking for donations to purchase the following:

A **digital camera** and

Three **metal storage shelves** like those in garage.

The camera would be used for documenting the condition of artifacts when we accept them, and for tracking where those artifacts are stored.

The metal shelves would help us organize and store artifacts in our storage facility. They would allow us to better manage our collection and swap out exhibits during the fall and spring. We are looking for three or four units. New shelving runs from \$150 to \$300, depending on where we purchase it. Looking for sales will be a priority.

We appreciate any help offered!

THE
McIntyre
FOUNDATION
*Encourages Your Membership in the
Marion Heritage Center and Museum*

DARREN FERRETER REGALED WITH TRAIN PHOTO COLLECTION

The Heritage Center was delighted to welcome back Darren Ferreter on Sunday, February 11. Thirty-five guests enjoyed Darren's interactive presentation. Slides of trains of past (from the 1880's through the 1980s) were shown and the audience was encouraged to share their "train memories."

One guest found their grandfather on one of the panels. The visitor knew his grandfather worked for the railroad, but not which one and not what he did specifically. Another patron shared a story about



his trip, as a child, taking a train from here, all the way to San Francisco in order to visit relatives. There was even one photo of Darren as a kid, with his dad. They were waiting to pick someone up from a passenger train.

Darren, his father, and his grandfather all shared a passion for all things railroad and trains. As young as three years old, Darren remembers playing with them and by the time he was 12, he was putting together models. Today, Darren designs and builds replicas of all things train, all over the United States. Including the Heritage Center's permanent exhibit "Tales on the Rails," depicting downtown Marion, circa 1960.

Marion Historical Society Mission

The Marion Historical Society is a membership organization that serves to engage the public in the history, traditions, resources and on-going preservation of the Heritage Center museum for the enrichment of the community.

For more information about joining call 319-447-6376.

E-mail to: marionheritage@marionhistoricalsociety.org

See our website: www.marionheritagecenter.org

www.facebook.com/MarionHeritageCenter/

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 753, Marion, IA 52302-0753

Friends & Neighbors Art Show Invitations

Since 2001, the Heritage Center art show has opened on the same day as the nationally rated Marion Arts Festival. That event draws over 10,000 visitors to City Square Park to see and purchase the work of 50 artists and artisans from across the United States. Since only few of them are from Iowa, our exhibit gives art lovers a chance to see that we have a good many folks with talent – skills and artistry right here at home!

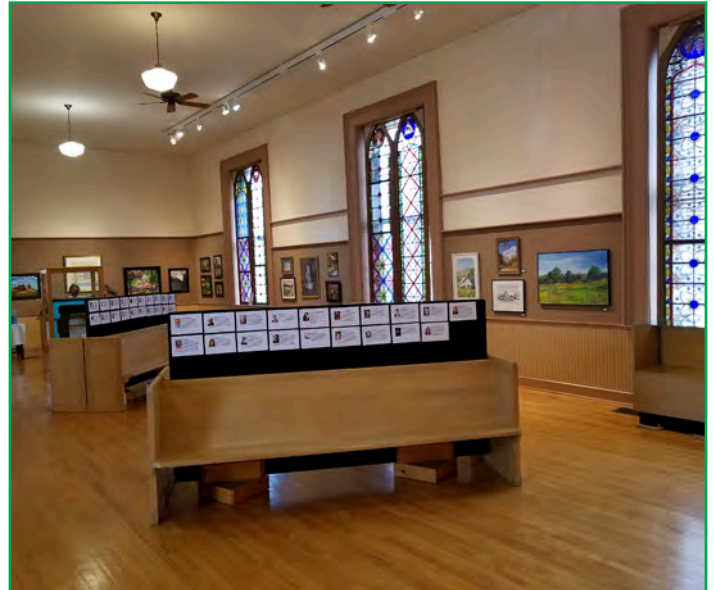
ART

BY YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS



Invitations will soon go out to all our previous exhibitors (about 150 artists) in spite of the fact that we will only have space for the first sixty who respond. If you haven't been in our show before but would like to be added to the invitation list, please contact

jaykacena7709@msn.com



We are grateful to Hills Bank and Trust Company for sponsoring FREE ADMISSION to this event in addition to providing \$100 in prize money to each of the top three most popular exhibitors. Be sure to visit **Art By Your Friends & Neighbors** May 18th through July 28th and cast a vote for your favorite artist. Please thank the folks at Hills Bank, if you get a chance.

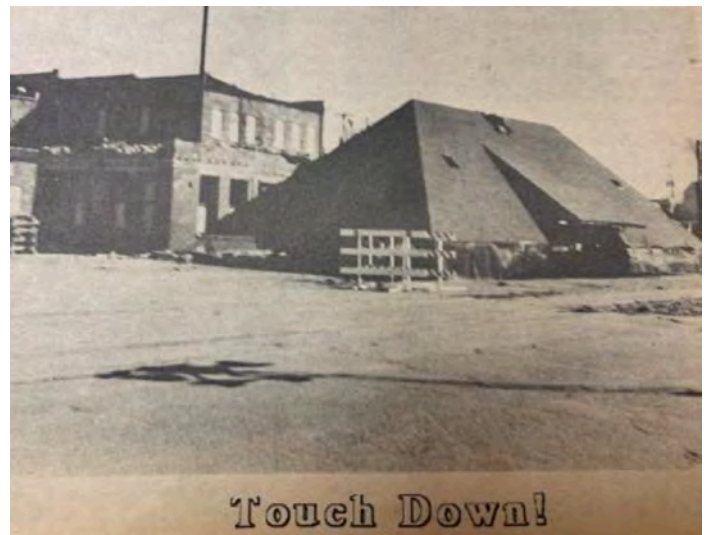


MARION'S RAILROAD LEGACY REIMAGINED

The Marion Heritage Center is excited to announce its next program on Sunday, March 10 at 1:00 pm: Sam Dillon's "Marion's Train History into the Future." He will cover the moving of the train depot to the development of the new Draper Park off the Grant Wood bike trail, The newest park will contain the refurbished caboose, from City Square Park. Sam was part of the original crew that cleaned depot bricks.



Initial Lift-Off



Touch Down!

Built in 1873, the depot was the third and final structure used as a stopping point in Marion. It wasn't until the late 1970's, when trains went into a decline, that it started into a state of disrepair. By 1988, when the uptown mall was slated to be built where the depot sat, Paul Draper formed the Depot Pride committee. His idea was to move the structure to City Square Park to be used as a pavilion.

Sam Dillon, Mayor Vic Klopfenstein, City Manager Jeff Schott, City Planner Riley Simpson, Roger Green, John Martinson, Joy Huston, and Ora Foster cleaned 19,000 bricks for the walls and another 18,000 for the paving. The crew used a hand chisel and hammer to pound off the old concrete or an air chisel to vibrate it off. The process took two to three minutes per brick and produced copious amounts of dust so breathing and talking were a challenge. After it had been reassembled, a porch, two restrooms and a storage area were added.

**Marion
Historical
Society, Inc.**

**Board of
Directors:**

Harold Barnes, President
Vic Klopfenstein, Vice-President
Vicki Barnes, Secretary
Erik Miles, Treasurer
Vicki Hughes
Nevin Meredith
Mark Seidl

**Meetings are held the
Fourth Thursday
of each month
at 2:30 P.M.
at the
Heritage Center.**

Arnold Pyle Paintings At Railroad Exhibit



In addition to the works of several local artists, visitors to the Railroad Exhibit have a chance to experience four paintings by Grant Wood protege Arnold Pyle.

Pyle was born in Cedar Rapids in 1908 and as an eighth grade student of Grant Wood was encouraged to take up painting. After graduation from high school Pyle became Wood's studio assistant, building frames and taking instructions. On his 21st birthday, Wood immortalized him in one of his pivotal paintings titled: *Arnold Comes of Age*. Due to the fact that his father was an engineer on the Chicago Northwestern Railway, trains and train yards became his painting passion.



The year 1930 was also be the first year in which paintings by Pyle were publicly exhibited, taking third prize at the Iowa State Fair. During the next ten years his works earned numerous awards in exhibitions from coast to coast and earning him national recognition.

Marion Heritage Center & Museum
590 Tenth Street
P.O. Box 753
Marion, IA 52302-0753

