



Floyd County Heritage

Introducing the New Director

My name is Mckenna Lloyd and I am excited to be here in Charles City as the new Floyd County Museum Director. I moved in to town the same week as RAGBRAI with help from my parents who moved me here from Oceanside, California in San Diego county. Earlier this year I graduated from George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon with a Bachelor’s degree in History and English. For two years while I was in school I worked at the Hoover-Minthorn House Museum , the historic home of President Herbert Hoover, who, ironically, originally hailed from West Branch, Iowa. Now I can say that I lived in all the same states as President Hoover did in his childhood.

As I take over the role of Museum Director I cannot wait to become integrated into the Floyd County community and continue to help it thrive, especially where historical preservation is concerned. So far Charles City has been a great place to live and I have had only positive experiences with its residents.

If you want to know more please feel free to drop in at the museum or give me a call there and I would be happy to connect with you. I hope to continue the important work Jennifer and Sarah did before me and the work Mary Ann and Elaine did before them.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Basement Electrical
- Museum Happenings
- Strikes at the Oliver
Plant

STATUS OF PROJECTS

Exterior Masonry Renovations:

Have raised \$46,597.79 of the \$103, 289 needed.

Still need to raise \$56,691.21 of \$103,289

Basement Stewardship:

Have raised \$56,000 of the \$132, 273.11 needed. We have ordered supplies including museum grade storage racks and storage containers. We have hired Scott Galliard for the first year of the contract.

Still need to raise \$76,273.11 of \$132,273.11

Basement Electrical:

Have raised all \$19,917.97 needed for this project! Work on the basement electrical began September 19th and is projected to take around 2 weeks to complete. Thank you to all who made this project possible! And thank you to Perry Novak for doing the work!

Raised \$19,917.97.

Museum Happenings

FALL 2022

SEPTEMBER

17TH, 10AM:
CONSTITUTION DAY
GUEST SPEAKER

ANNUAL BUDGET
MEETING

OCTOBER

22ND, 10AM: GUEST
SPEAKER

24TH, 5-7PM:
SPOOKWALK—COME
SEE THE FCM BOOTH!

NOVEMBER

17TH, 10AM: GUEST
SPEAKER

DECEMBER

ANNUAL MEETING
AND CHRISTMAS GET
-TOGETHER

Special Exhibit

On September 14 we opened a new special exhibit in the Tractor Room. The exhibit is called “Behind the Scenes at the Oliver Plant” and showcases artifacts used on an everyday basis at the Oliver plant. Come see objects such as the original spray paint used for Oliver tractors, injury reports, the employee handbook, and more behind-the-scenes paraphernalia.

Chautauqua Talks: Guest Speaker Series

October 22nd, 10am: TBD

November 17, 10am: Heidi Reams, Floyd County Naturalist

December 17, 1pm: Linda McCann, Lost Towns of Iowa

Check out our social media pages and website for more updated content!

Found in the Basement!



We recently found original spray paint that would have been used on Oliver tractors produced at the Charles City plant in our basement archives. Had we not stumbled upon these by accident, we would have no idea they were sitting on a shelf in the room we call our tractor archives. These spray paint cans are now on display as part of the “Behind the Scenes at the Oliver Plant” special exhibit. The cans range in age with one being from the 1950s to some of the others being from potentially the late 1970s.

Volunteers wanted!

Interested in volunteering at the museum? Volunteered previously but have not been back in a while? Signed up to volunteer but never started? If you answer yes to any of these questions please consider giving the museum a call to inquire about volunteer opportunities we have available. Right now we are highly interested in volunteers who would be willing to act as the front desk person at the museum. If you enjoy guest interaction this would be a great fit for you.

Rummage Sale—September 30th-October 1st

The museum will have another rummage sale as we continue to go through our archives. This rummage sale will feature only museum items and not donations from the community. If you pick up an item from the rummage sale, thank you for supporting the museum! If you are not able to attend the rummage sale, please feel free to reach out and see what kind of items we have available for sale. Much of what we are selling includes amazing antique furniture and home décor.

Strikes at the Oliver Plant

The new special exhibit on display in the tractor room tells the story of life at the Oliver plant in Charles City. An element of plant history the display highlights is the history of strikes at the Oliver plant. This spotlight was inspired by original documentation from the strikes we found recently in our basement archives. An excellent resource used while curating this exhibit was John D. Culbertson's book The Tractor Builders.

Like many industrial corporations in the United States, the Oliver corporation endured its fair share of tension spurred on by union negotiations and dissatisfied employees. Union organization at the Charles City plant began in 1939. The union was Local 115 of the United Farm Workers of America initially but was later Local 115-F of the Machine Workers of America, and even later became Local 1315 of the United Auto Workers in 1956.

Strikes at the Charles City plant occurred in 1946, 1949, 1951, and 1959. The 1951 strike was referred to as the "Panther Hunt" because the 400 foundry workers who walked out sited an alleged panther on the loose spotted in northeastern Iowa as the reason for their leaving. In actuality, the foundry workers were unhappy with the discrepancies in the piece rates paid on the slinger unit. On January 19 the 400 foundry workers walked off the job and the following Monday the entire plant walked off. Eventually, in February of 1951, the strike was determined to be illegal by Dr. Clarence M. Updegraff, the arbitrator for the legal case that was submitted by the plant. The strike ended but not without leaving a lasting impact on the relationship between the plant and the union. The union would order a strike again in 1959 and that time picketers were outside on the picket line during the worst blizzard in Iowa in the last 20 years.

Union and corporate relationships at the Charles City Oliver plant represent one of the more intense elements of factory life, among other things. Nevertheless, both entities operated in support of the plant workers and the continued prosperity of the business.



Antiques available!

In the ongoing effort to update our collections, especially the collections space in the basement, the museum is experimenting with new ways of decluttering in the form of gift shop and online sales. New antiques or unique historical artifacts are put on sale in our gift shop almost daily. We have also tried selling different items via Facebook Marketplace. If you or someone you know is an antique lover feel free to call and ask what we have available for sale—straight out of the collection!

DONATIONS TO PROJECTS

Museum Exterior

Masonry:

Andres Trust
Paul Family

General Operations

Iowa Cultural
Department Building
Capacity Grant

The Mission of the Floyd County Historical Society is to keep alive an active interest in Floyd County History by collecting, preserving, and interpreting materials relating to Floyd County.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

\$100-499

Shirley Ann Winkler

Grants:

Andres Trust Grant
Hanson Family Foundation Grant
Iowa Cultural Department Capacity
Building Grant

Donated items for the Museum to use:

Barry Levey
Cambrex
Lori Aird

Welcome New Members:

Shelby Lloyd
Sandra Sweisburger
Therese Schmitt
Claire and Lucille Lane
Paul Lane
Claire Lane, Jr.

Welcome New Volunteers:

Erin Creger

**Please contact the museum if
you are interested in making a
donation!**

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Web site:
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Permit No. 186

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Board Members:

Co- Presidents:

Tony Lessin and Jody Flint

2nd Vice President:

Dean Tjaden

Treasurer:

Nancy Joerger

Recording Secretary:

Kim Rouse

Executive Secretary:

Dr. Richard Roberts

Members-At-Large:

Lynn Bauer

Colin Breckler

Becky Meyer

JoAnn Peterson

Museum Staff:

Director:

Mckenna Lloyd

Basement Contract/

Office Assistant:

Scott Galliard

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Floyd County Historical Society invites any person or group interested in Floyd County history to become a member of the Society by paying the required annual dues. Memberships renew annually in January.

Membership Categories:

Individual \$20 Family: \$40

***New members can join at a**

prorated price throughout the year

July: Individual \$11 Family \$21

August: Individual \$9 Family \$17

Benefits:

Subscription to the *Floyd County Heritage*

Free Admission to the Museum

10% discount in the Museum Gift Shop