

HAWARDEN...HOW IT ALL BEGAN

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Chapter 35

By: Mary Truesdell Johnson

By the time this story is printed, Labor Day 2012 will be a memory. Memories that will be forever be a part of our lives.

The various Fire departments will have their results from the Scott Fire Fighter Combat Challenge, winners will proudly display their rewards, and other teams will go back to their departments with renewed determination to “do better next time.” You can be sure that each squad of Fireman will continue to give their best to keep their communities safe

The three farm business that invited tours to view their successful farming and livestock operations, will return to normal daily activities and plans to prepare for the fall harvest, and approaching winter weather.

The Hawarden Public Library will continue to offer the citizens of Hawarden and surrounding towns and area the most advanced and convenient resources available in this digital age. It has become a social outlet for many community members, book clubs, weekly movies, visiting authors, home delivery for shut ins, classes for computers, and other activities that encourage people to join in groups that encourage companionship, conversation, and great adventures through books. In this age of texting, Face book, and e mails, we need to be reminded that face to face contact is the medium that sends us home with thoughts and experiences that enrich our lives and keep us connected. Those of us who were able to visit at the Face book Coffee over Labor Day are going home to our computers feeling just a little closer to those we enjoy visiting with.

Hopefully, the Alumni Artists that came to share their work and creations with us will realize how much we enjoyed seeing their beautiful designs and visiting with them about their art, lives, families and hometowns. It always amazes me how much talent originates in our community, and how each generation continues to develop their abilities to higher and higher levels.

We not only saw talent revealed in wood, steel, pottery and art, but the quilts at the Methodist Church Quilt Show were works of Art in themselves. Art in design and hundreds of hours devoted to making the design a priceless possession, one stitch at a time.

Was there anyone at the Style show that didn't chuckle at the styles of clothing worn through the years? How many of the spectators shed a tear when they saw their mother's or grandmother's wedding dress or “house” dress walk across the stage? Did you recognize your prom dress, and wonder how you ever fit into that small waistline? Thank you to the models and committee for giving us such an enjoyable afternoon.

The Tractor Poker Run was a popular event returning from last year. This event was sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion, and proceeds were earmarked to bring the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Hawarden.

This was the second year for the 5k/10k Calliope Challenge. Calliope Village will not rest on their laurels. I am sure they are already starting to plan for next year. Calliope Village has developed into one of the major tourist attractions in the area. Its historical value is immeasurable to this area. The devoted volunteers that work countless hours to keep the village maintained and improved could never be paid the wages that they deserve. The Big Sioux River Valley Historical Society is also responsible for the museum quality contents of the Historical House. If you missed visiting this interesting home full of historical photos and memorabilia, then you will need to plan a return visit to Hawarden. It is worth the trip.

The Hawarden Chamber of Commerce started celebrating Hawarden's 125th birthday last November with a Living Windows celebration on the evening following Thanksgiving when Hawarden traditionally turns on their Christmas

lights. Stores on Main Street filled their windows with scenes depicting 125 years of Christmas. This event was followed by the Festival of Trees which also carried out the Birthday of Hawarden theme. Every event sponsored by the Hawarden Chamber of Commerce in 2012 carried the theme of Hawarden's 125 years.

The Parade, the activities in the park, the advertising, the brochures, the entire weekend was co-ordinated by the Hawarden Chamber, as they do every year for Big Sioux River Days. Now that this year's event is over the Chamber will begin work on the Holiday Season, Lighting Ceremonies, and Festival of Trees, a Home show for 2013 and another busy year.

Joel and Debra Fluit are probably the most relieved people in Hawarden now that the weekend is over. Joel and Debra are not natives of Hawarden and have only lived here for a few years. They showed a huge interest in the 125th Celebration and had many good ideas from the very first meeting. They graciously agreed to co-chair the 125th Committee and their organization and dedication were indispensable ingredients necessary to make the weekend a success. They will go down in Hawarden's History as valuable assets to our community.

The West Sioux Educational Foundation has been working continuously on the All School Reunion of 2012. Their mailings, dedication and planning are responsible for many facets of the weekend. The WSEF not only sponsors All School Reunions, but they are a Foundation to support our schools. Their goal is to reach One-half Million dollars by the end of 2012 and they are close to their goal. Let's hope that it will soon be reached or hopefully has been reached at the climax of this weekend. If you did not have an opportunity to support the Foundation now, remember that your support to the WSEF is tax deductible.

No one could ever thank all the people or organizations involved in Hawarden's 125th Birthday Celebration. I hesitate to mention names of people or organizations because I know that I will never be able to remember them all. Hopefully, now that the weekend is over everyone that had a part in making it possible will have the knowledge that their part, large or small was a gift of love to our community and those who gave their time and talent will feel the reward that they justly deserve.

The people who came "home" for the weekend are the invaluable components that made all the meetings and planning worthwhile. We will always consider you as a part of our Hawarden Family and are anxious to have you return as often as possible. If you were neighbors, class mates, family, friends or just visiting, you made the weekend SPECIAL. You were the catalyst that drove the committees and chairpersons to do everything within their power to make the old saying "You can't go Home again," untrue. "Home" is a relative term. Nothing stays the same. Hopefully your stay in Hawarden revived some precious memories and helped you realize that the town may change; main street no longer needs center parking, the Sioux theatre and Wigwam are gone, Emil Schoenrock and his popcorn stand are only memories, but the same mid western values and quality of life in this small town is surprisingly similar to what you remember from the years you spent in Hawarden. We are proud to know that most of you do still think of this small, northwestern Iowa town as HOME.

To the volunteers and tireless workers of Hawarden and to the many visitors and returning Alumni, thanks for the memories!