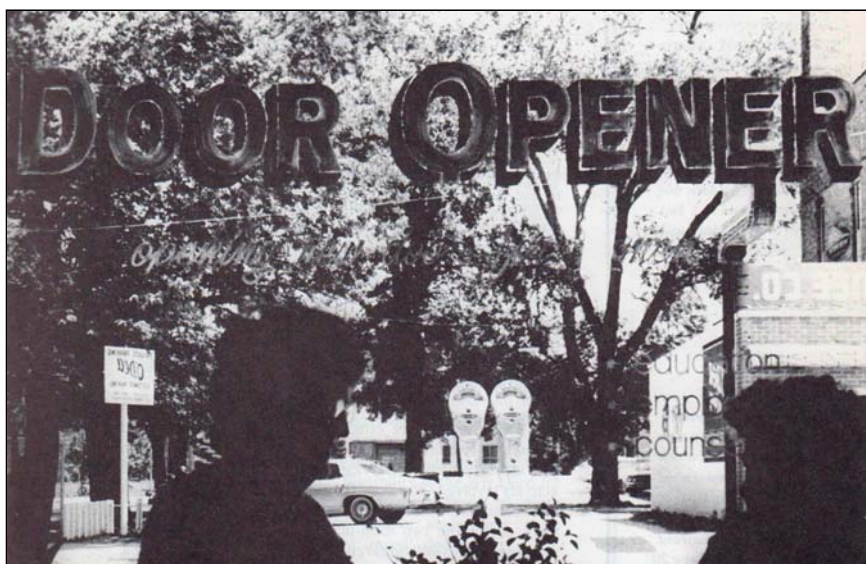


The Annals of Iowa

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In This Issue

KATE HOEY and JOY SMITH analyze the context and consequences of an important legal case decided by the Iowa Supreme Court in 1956, *Acuff v. Schmit*. The case established a wife's right to claim loss of consortium. The authors show, however, that although the decision did extend married women's legal rights, it rested on a traditional cultural commitment to marriage and did not represent a fundamental change in the courts' view of the hierarchical relationship between husbands and wives.

ANNA L. BOSTWICK FLAMING describes the programs of The Door Opener, a center for displaced homemakers in Mason City. She shows, in particular, that, in a place and time marked by skepticism of both feminism and state-run antipoverty programs, The Door Opener's success depended on a strategic use of government funds and feminist critiques to better the lives of former homemakers in Iowa.

MARVIN BERGMAN reviews two new books about the Midwest by Robert Wuthnow, one about the fate of midwestern communities since the 1950s, the other about religion and politics in the region.

Front Cover

Two women, perhaps Shirley Sandage and Margaret Garrity, co-founders of The Door Opener, meet inside the center's front window. For more on The Door Opener and its role in providing resources for displaced homemakers in Mason City and surrounding communities, see Anna L. Bostwick Flaming's article in this issue. Photo from Shirley M. Sandage Papers, Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City. (Image reversed to show lettering in word order.)

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