

Iowa People and Events . . .

See Iowa First

The activities and objectives of a unique local group in central Iowa deserve wider recognition and could well be extended throughout the state. The See Iowa First Club, composed largely of business women in Des Moines and surrounding area, was organized in 1946 to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the State of Iowa. Restrictions on travel at the end of World War II had already directed new attention to the vacation and recreational possibilities within our home state, and the Iowa statehood centennial in 1946 stimulated further interest. Thirty women met in Des Moines November 24 that year and organized a club devoted to the study of Iowa art, history, education, wild life and industrial advantages.

The See Iowa First Club has grown to a membership of over 250. Monthly dinner programs are held at the Hoyt Sherman Place emphasizing different aspects of the state's past, present and future. Special workshops on wheels have been held each summer, and one or two chartered bus tours taken every year to most of the scenic and historic points of the state. The founding and guiding spirit of the organization since its inception has been its executive director, Mrs. Ethel Gregory of Adel.

County Historical Societies Active

The Mills County Historical Society dedicated a new museum in impressive ceremonies at Glenwood August 29th. The new building in Glenwood Lake Park is the gift of the Mintle family, eminent Mills County pioneers. A group of Pottawattamie Indians from Mayetta, Kansas presented a program of dancing, setting up a tepee and cooking a meal. W. C. Rathke, who prepared the article

on the Pottawattamie Indians in this issue, was master of ceremonies. The featured speaker was Albert Wabaunsee, principal of schools at Fort Thompson, South Dakota and a member of the Pottawattamie tribe. He is a great-grandson of Chief Waubaunsie. Otha D. Wearin, president of the Mills County Historical Society, accepted the keys to the new museum, on behalf of the Society, which will operate and maintain the building. It will house historical displays and manuscript material illustrating the history of Mills County and will be formally opened to the public when these are properly in place sometime this spring.

It has been a notable year for the Marshall County Historical Society. The Susie Sowers Memorial Museum was dedicated in May, and the fiftieth anniversary of the organization was celebrated at the last autumn meeting October 18. Attention was drawn to the growth and accomplishments of the group since Professor Benjamin Shambaugh addressed their first meeting in 1909. President Brice Springer reported that there now are 112 members. The guest speaker for the occasion was Dr. William Houlette, associate professor of history at Drake University, who described interest in the historical development of the state as a "Challenge to Iowans."

A Wapello County Historical Society was formed by a number of interested residents of the county at a meeting in Ottumwa October 14. The following officers were elected: Charles Ayres, Ottumwa attorney, president; Joe W. Griffin, vice president; Mrs. Mabel Hollenbeck, secretary; and Baxter Smith, treasurer. The objectives of the twenty-five members who have joined to date are: to collect and exhibit items of interest and significance in the historical development of Wapello county; to mark historical sites in the county, to cooperate with the Iowa State Department of History & Archives and the State Historical Society; and eventually to obtain a suitable museum.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.