

pellet inserted by the Japanese craftsman determines how quickly the cultured pearl can be harvested, the slower the process the more valuable the gem. Thus Japan, which helped destroy the fresh water pearl button industry, may be instrumental in reviving clam digging.

THE CHANGING FACE OF IOWA

BY LIDA L. GREENE

LIBRARIAN OF IOWA STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

A year ago Capitol Avenue east of the State House in Des Moines was a quiet aging street. Its houses had been built 75 or 80 years ago when the State House was young and its golden dome breath-taking beyond belief to the State that had raised it.

Now the street is no more. Its green grass is uprooted, its trees wrenched from the earth. Its houses with fading, somnolent facades are gone. There is only bare, brown earth and the mound where another State Office building will one day stand.

This is no memorial for a bull-dozed street, though perhaps someone should write it. It is, instead, a reminder that the face of our State is changing. Man-made behemoths gouge away hills to route a free-way. Something called urban renewal is leveling blocks of dwellings and older business houses to make way for brave, new-world structures to come. A quarter of a century from now who is there to remember a fan light above an old door? Or a country road, velvet with dust, where roadside shrubs were festooned in fall with migrating Monarch butterflies?

This is why pictures are of such importance to the conservation of history. Why, in fact, there is a special welcome for any new collections arriving at the Iowa Department of History. We thought you would like to know about three that arrived recently.

Eugene Newhouse of Rockwell City is a busy modern photographer. He is, moreover, a member of the Buena Vista Historical Society. Knowing the value of photographs to the historian, he has reproduced some of those given to the county organization and has contributed them to the files of the Iowa Department of History. A resort hotel, a hunting party, street scenes are vivid reminders of an earlier era.

Eva May Kendrick of California, along with a story of her girlhood at the turn of the century, sent pictures of Methodist parsonages in south-central Iowa. There they were—small towns, board sidewalks, frame houses with miniature porches. One look and you knew the front door of the minister's house opened into a parlor where weekly prayer meetings were held on nights too cold to start a fire in the church. There was even one print featuring the long-suffering *fleety*, a horse that had carried the Rev. Mr. Kendrick on his benevolent chores around the parish. Horse and man, a memorial to Methodist zeal!

A distinctive and unusual collection came to us from Iowa State University by way of Professor Lawton Patten and the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks. For a number of years Professor Patten of the Department of Architecture required advanced students to make reports on older and significant Iowa structures. One semester it was churches. Another bridges, houses, log cabins, court houses and other public buildings.

The student was asked to record the age and history of the structure, to provide measurements, to discover and describe anything unusual in the development or the decoration of the building. Drawings and photographs or slides illustrate the study. The result is a remarkable series of reports which will continue to make a significant contribution to the continuing story of Iowa.

We still need pictures. Remember that, won't you, when you are wondering what-in-the-world to do with a view of the old threshing crew or the one of the gang seining the bayou the summer of 1918. We'd like dates, of course, and any historical information you may have about the scenes. The address here is Iowa Department of History . . .

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