

Historic Gymnasiums • Basketball in Iowa • Kelly's Army • Jack London • Politics of History

Summer 2007 • \$7

Iowa Heritage

ILLUSTRATED



Front Porch

Dear Readers:

"It is a miserably dull, cloudy, rainy, muddy time."

That's how one Iowan described that fitful, stir-crazy time between late winter and early spring. No matter that the description dates to 1859, or that it was written in the elaborate style of the 19th century. Even then, Iowans held dear the tradition of ranting about winter and longing for spring.

In another story in this issue, Iowa in April and May of 1894 is the setting for Kelly's Industrial Army, a mass movement of unemployed men determined to reach Washington, D.C., to join thousands of others caught in the grip of economic depression. Led by Charles T. Kelly, the men traveled and camped across the state in Iowa's unpredictable weather.

Our big story in this issue is the sport that culminates every March—basketball. Iowans were playing the game only a few years after it was invented in the East. If they weren't playing it, they were probably arguing about it or cheering for it. So it goes in my family today. Most of us are faithful fans; two are coaches; and my son helps produce basketball programming for television.

The history of basketball is like the history of many things. You'll find elements of conflict and change, continuity and tradition. There are themes about rural and urban Iowa, the makings of a community, society's perceptions of female weaknesses, and national questions of sex discrimination. Far more than a record of who beat whom, basketball history is rich with complex and shifting notions about identity, competition, and commitment.

And then there is the ephemeral nature of the sport. Think back to a high school game. Try to recapture the atmosphere of



March 1955: Frieda Serr of Royal bends back gracefully as she tries to tip the ball away from Marian Waldron of Coin.

the gym: that particular quality of lighting, the yellow sheen of the floor, the squeak of shoes pivoting and twisting. Call to mind the nervous pacing of the coaches, the spontaneous rising up of the fans. Ear-splitting buzzers, blaring school bands, referees' whistles, cheerleaders' chants. The emotions and excellence witnessed on the court are the climax of months of exhausting, inspiring commitment.

As ephemeral as basketball is, there are ways the game has been captured, and we share some of them here: a reminiscence of a "basketball girl" in 1906; a visual tour of gymnasiums built between 1906 and 1935 showing the changes in both community priorities and American architecture. And then there are the photos—proud poses of 1920s teams and split-second dramas in 1950s tournaments. Such photos remind us of the grace, humility, exertion, and heart behind the Iowa tradition of basketball.

—Ginalie Swaim, editor

Iowa Heritage Illustrated

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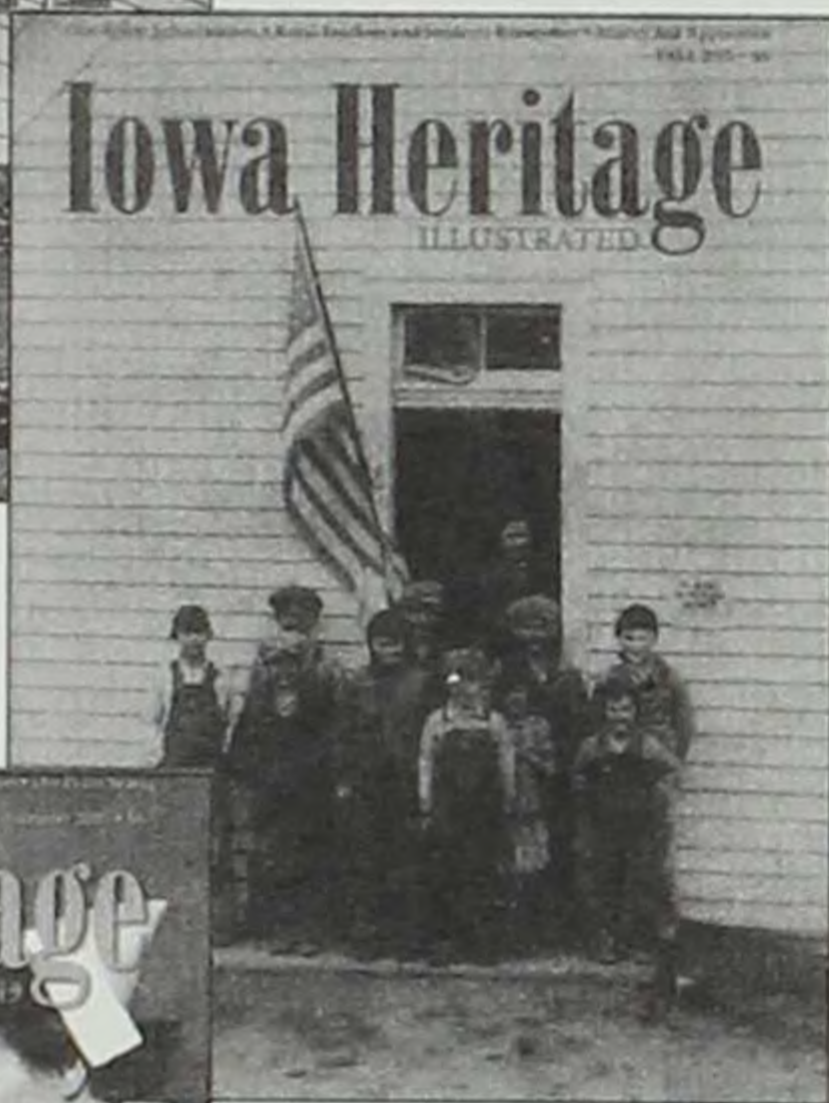
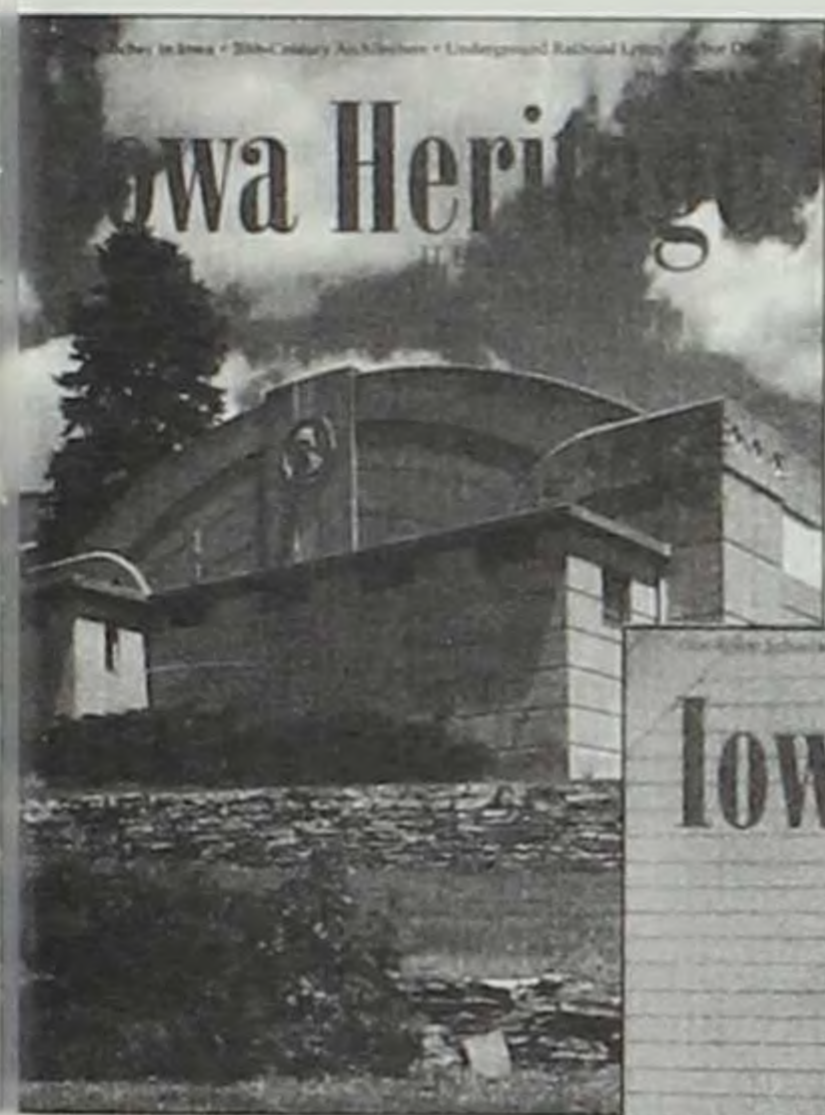
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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of IOWA

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Summer 2007, 88:2

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Basketball

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Lived Through: Kelly's Army on the March

es Iowa: Jack London and Kelly's Army



SHS (DES MOINES)

You're holding
the best tour guide
you can find
for traveling into
Iowa's past.

Iowa Heritage

ILLUSTRATED

Rare photos
and rich history
in every issue.

Lou Suntken sinks a shot on the Cedar Valley team. Meservey team. Inside, we of the century. One big the cover photo with the op right, this page).

Iowa Heritage

ILLUSTRATED

The Magazine of the State Historical Society of Iowa Summer 2007, 88:2

- 50 **The Petersen/Harlan Award**
by John Liepa
- 50 **The Politics of History**
by Richard H. Thomas
- 52 **March Mud: 1859 Reflections on Surviving Till Spring**
from our collections
- 54 **Basketball in Iowa**
by Clare L. Kernek and Leah D. Rogers
- 84 **Basketball Girl**
by Vivian (Morgan) Ulan
- 86 **Laminated Timber Arches Grace WPA Gymnasium**
by Barbara Mitchell
- 88 **Opera Houses, Armories, & New Deal Gyms:
Historic Sites in Iowa Basketball**
by Clare L. Kernek and Leah D. Rogers
- 90 **Kelly's Army Crosses Iowa
Soldiers of Misfortune**
by Carlos A. Schwantes
- Historic Events I've Lived Through: Kelly's Army on the March**
by Annie Braniff
- The Big Read Crosses Iowa: Jack London and Kelly's Army**
by Susan Jellinger



SHSI (DES MOINES)

On the Cover



SHSI (DES MOINES)
DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE

March 1958: High schooler Bonnie Lou Suntken sinks a shot over Mary Jo Bassett, who played on the Cedar Valley team. Suntken made 38 points for the Meservey team. Inside, we trace basketball back to the turn of the century. One big change: girls' uniforms. Compare the cover photo with the Cornell College players in 1912 (top right, this page).

The Petersen/Harlan Award

EVERY YEAR, the State Historical Society of Iowa presents the Petersen/Harlan Award to recognize an individual, group, or organization that has made significant long-term or continuing contributions to Iowa history. The award is named in honor of William J. Petersen, long-time director of the State Historical Society in Iowa City, and Edgar Ruby Harlan, the second director and curator of the Historical Department of Iowa in Des Moines.

On May 21, 2007, the State Historical Society of Iowa presented this award to Richard H. Thomas of Mount Vernon, Iowa. For the past 40 years, Thomas has been an outstanding advocate for the study, appreciation, and accessibility of Iowa history. In 1974 he became the first chair of the Iowa

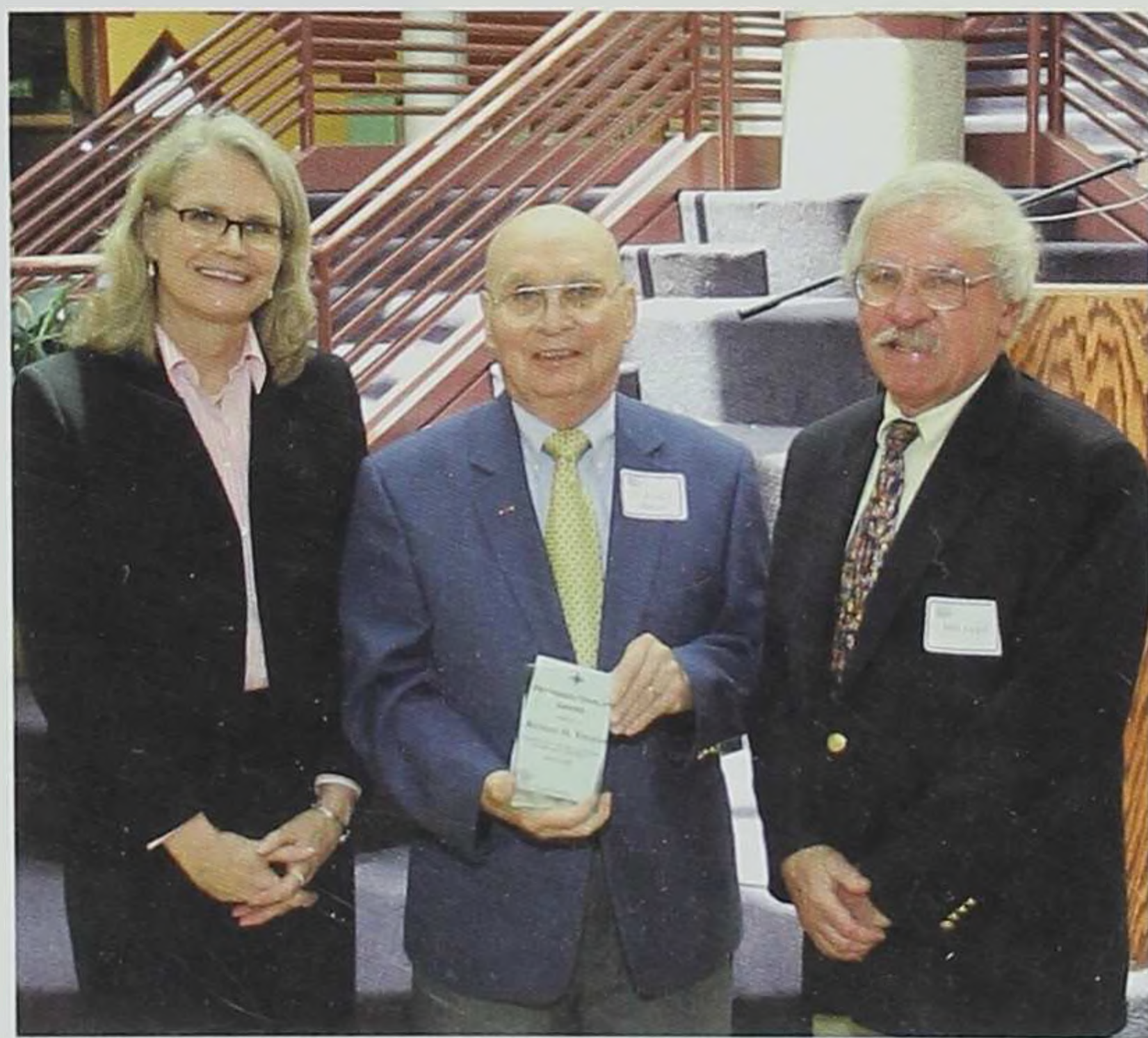
State Historical Board, playing a major role in directing the consolidation and operation of the three state agencies related to Iowa history. Three years later Governor Robert Ray appointed him as the first chair of the Terrace Hill Authority, which transformed Terrace Hill into one of the nation's best examples of adaptive reuse of a historic building. From 1974 to 1988 he performed yeoman service on the State National Register Nomination Review Committee.

As a history professor at Cornell College in Mount Vernon from 1967 until 1996, Thomas taught courses on architectural history. Some of his students have gone on to careers in history and historic preservation, while others have certainly taken a greater

appreciation for history and architecture into their daily lives. A champion of local historic preservation, he prepared the nomination of the Cornell College Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places, and served as founding chair of the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission as well as chair of both the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and the Linn County Historical Society.

Today Thomas is professor of history and chaplain emeritus of Cornell College. Although he retired in 1996, he continues to teach, and in 2004 he authored Volume 2 of *Cornell College: A Sesquicentennial History, 1853–2003*.

—John Liepa, Board of Trustees
State Historical Society of Iowa



Richard H. Thomas (center) receives the 2007 Petersen/Harlan Award from Cyndi Pederson, executive director of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and John Liepa, representing the State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees.

The Politics of History

by Richard H. Thomas

Receiving the Petersen/Harlan Award from the State Historical Society of Iowa genuinely humbles me. It means a great deal to me, and I thank all those who supported it for me. It is hard to realize that I am now part of a company of former colleagues and friends I have long respected and admired as major contributors to Iowa history. As I stand here I sense the presence of many colleagues and friends over these past 40 years—those who taught me, nurtured me in the ways of Iowa history and the workings of Iowa politics. I have been blessed with wonderful mentors and supporters—too many to mention in these brief remarks. I gladly admit that I would not be here if

Governor Robert Ray had not been willing to take a political risk and use one of his appointments to the then new State Historical Board for this son of South Dakota, a "Roosevelt Democrat" who was anxious to serve the cause of the people's story. I owe him much and gladly acknowledge him and others who gave me gifts of great and lasting value.

Indulge me in a few remarks as I begin to draw one phase of my professional life to a close. It would be fun to rehearse the past but I want to share a few observations about the future based on the past.

I see my career as a historian and public servant divided into decades—the first being dedicated to studying and writing the history of politics. Then the next ten years were invested in the politics of history as I became engaged in all the details of managing, collecting, and preserving Iowa history. How we understand our past has political overtones, most evident in frequent debates about what to teach our children about the making of our national story. Interpretations in textbooks, editorials, and news reports assume some perspective about our past. The issue of perspective will be forever a subject of public discourse. My reflections here are not about historical perspective but rather about the agencies that support the serious study of history and are the structures for gathering and preserving historical material.

My last two decades working at the national, state, and local level on behalf of history have taught me much. I quickly learned that all my graduate degrees did not mean much when dealing with elected officials. They meant more in the classroom but not much in the legislative halls. Public support for funding for all forms of history must contend with critical social and economic needs such as sewers, social welfare, security, police, education, et cetera. All these needs have constituencies that involve strong economic interests that profit from legislative appropriations. Iowa history lacks a broad support base or aggressive lobby that is willing to engage in serious politics. This is true of the arts as well.

When reflecting on my past experience, I come to several observations about the future. First, any serious and quality historical agency requires bright, well-trained professionals who know both the discipline of history and how to effectively manage a historical enterprise. Volunteers are indispensable to almost every historical agency, but they cannot accomplish the professional tasks essential for the care and preservation of historical resources.

Second, to secure adequate public support and appropriations, we must engage more than a few genuinely sympathetic legislators. We need a bipartisan "history caucus" composed of supporting legislators and representatives from historical organizations to set goals for each legislative session and design strategies to accomplish those priorities.

Third, without making history a commodity or cheapening its intrinsic value, we should point out the economic benefits of adequate historical programs. Businesses are finding that having their own historical archives is an excellent management tool. We must be more effective in "making the case" for history. Simply saying history "enriches our quality of life" is not enough! The current success of historical or heritage tourism is one immediate ally in this effort. However, we must be careful that what passes as historical tourism not become very little history and a lot of tourism. Creating romantic notions of our past with touches of Walt Disney may be good tourism, but it is very bad and misleading history.

Point four follows from the previous observations. Historical groups need to build partnerships with the economic sector to take quality history to new constituencies in effective ways, and possibly in new places. I wonder if the days of the large central museum are coming to an end. Large museums tend to wait for the people to come to them, and across the nation admission statistics show dramatic decline even in institutions of great prominence. We must be more proactive and find new, imaginative ways to take history to the people.

And last, the preservation of historic structures needs economic incentives. Tax incentives are necessary to stimulate investments and keep important landmarks on the tax rolls. We need tax incentives at all levels of government to make preservation "good business." Governor Culver's signature on the historic preservation tax incentive bill is truly an act to be celebrated. It means that the State of Iowa is willing to encourage the preservation of our built environment. The evidence is clear from many years of experience that such public policy is good for everyone and is an effective way to preserve important elements of our past.

We are all makers of history. The big question is, Will we become careful, passionate caretakers of our rich past? I pass the torch of leadership to you! ❖

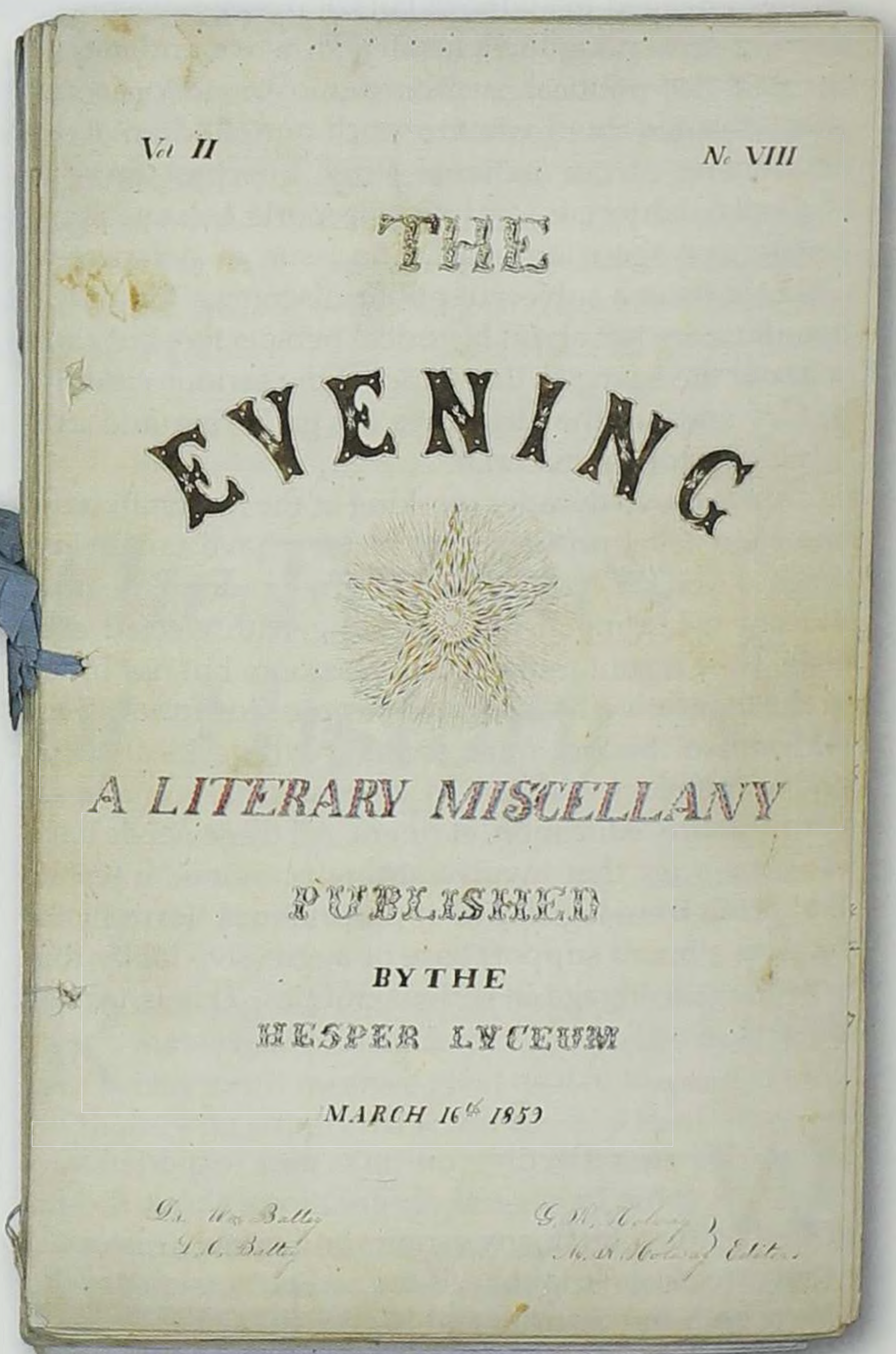
March Mud

1859 Reflections on Surviving Till Spring

*From our Home Correspondent.
Hesper March 14th /59*

It is a miserably dull, cloudy, rainy, muddy time. The sun has scarcely made his appearance for days. The water lies in little ponds and rivulets, scattered over the surface of the ground. Just now Aquarius has put up his watering pot, and old Winter is shaking his few remaining snow clouds over us, just to remind us that we are not quite beyond his reach yet, covering the trees with a white evanescent foliage, half concealing the brown autumn grass, and making one continuous bed of slush for the luckless pedestrian. But the sun is on the track of winter (like a star after a comet) and his end is sure —

Nobody can step out of doors in comfort, save the man with India rubber encasings. Woman, if she goes beyond the threshold, lifts her foot catlike, and makes a spring for the nearest tiny island, which does not always prove a safe dependence; as one may see by the high mud mark, encircling her shoe. Though she be no "woman's rights woman" she is pretty nigh convinced that she has either a right to a pair of water tight



The untitled essay reprinted here is one of several in this ribbon-bound booklet, preserved in the State Historical Society of Iowa Special Collections (Iowa City).

boots, and a convenient dress, or a right to keep her slippered feet upon soft carpets or dry boards — where she may know little difference between the sunshine and the rainfall —

But we are not going to discuss that subject, this weather Messrs Editors. We, like every body around us, are darker, and duller and stupider than usual. The weather affects us, as though we were so many barometers, but tomorrow, or the next day, when the clear air, and sunshine comes again, you can mark the difference.

Now the men folk are lounging about the house in the intervals of chore doing, drying their feet, and yawning over the paper that is no longer a news paper, or striving to sleep away some of the tedious hours. Those who, like a bad chimney, are given to smoking apply themselves with double diligence to their favorite diversion — Now and then one gazes out of the window to see if any signs of clearing away are perceptible, perhaps envying the in-door mechanic whom no rainy day prevents from following his accustomed employment.

Only the little ones, in the blessed unconsciousness of childhood, are as busy, nay, their mother thinks busier than usual, for the superabundance of animal spirit, whose outpourings are in sunnier times spread over a wide extent of outer air, now reverberates with double force through the limited area of the dwelling. They have no fear of the rain, or the snow or the mud, so, escaping from parental watchfulness, they rush delightedly out, and when their absence is discovered by the great calm which succeeds, they are called back with wet feet and muddy garments —

Women look at their floors, and view the periodical reinforcements of mud, with a sort of desperate resignation — and when a neighbor, pausing at the door, hesitates to enter with his muddy boots. They tell him “walk in, never mind, we are just as dirty as we can be now.”

More fortunate than man, woman is never stopped in her industrial career by opposing elements. Storms and darkness are no hindrance to her. There never comes an hour when she cannot work unless physical ability is wanting — or the lights are all gone. Happy woman! we have

nothing to say to her, she can get along if she is patient and cheerful, even in this disagreeable weather.

But the laboring man — he who has acquired no taste for reading, and don't know what to do with himself when he is neither working, eating or sleeping, or smoking. What shall be done with him? Verily for him who is too old to learn, we have no remedy — But there are very few who would come under that head, if they chose to make the necessary effort.

Let all remember that no organ of body or mind can be developed without exercise. No man becomes athletic and vigorous who is sitting down in idleness. Just so when the mental powers are lying dormant, they grow weaker and weaker, till even a trifling exertion of the intellect seems a great effort.

The class of persons to which we refer are, we are sorry to say, numerous, and are not found alone on this side of the Mississippi. Some are so little accustomed to reading, that only the simplest subjects, such as anecdotes or songs, interest them. Others read silly novels, and similar trash — which are about as efficient in nourishing the mind as poisonous weeds would be in sustaining the body. It is a subject of regret that any American boy of Northern extraction should grow up with so little cultivation.

Fathers, heads of families, see to it that your own boys and others whom you employ, have some means of improvement besides the two or three months of schooling they may get in the winter. Furnish them with books and papers — a library in the neighborhood might be made of much service if supplied with suitable books. But this subject expands before me and I must close for the present. ❖

Basketball



SHS (DES MOINES)

in Iowa

by Clare L. Kernek
and Leah D. Rogers

Basketball—unlike other team sports played at the turn of the century in Iowa—did not have its origins in a historical tradition nor did it spread from Europe. Rather, the sport often referred to as being truly the “American game” was invented, literally overnight, by a young YMCA instructor in Springfield, Massachusetts. In the winter of 1891, James Naismith was in charge of a physical education class at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield (later Springfield College). Vocal complaints about the school’s program of rote calisthenic exercises had already caused two frustrated instructors to quit the class. Naismith tried adapting various field sports such as rugby, soccer, and lacrosse for play inside a gymnasium, but without success. Then one day, after attending a psychology lecture on the process of invention, in which the formulation of a game was used as an example, he became

Invented in 1891 in Massachusetts, basketball soon spread to Iowa. Left, a Muscatine team, 1898. Right: Simpson College players, 1902.



SHSI (IOWA CITY)

inspired to try to create a completely new indoor sport for his students.

The game Naismith worked out that night was based partly on aspects of lacrosse, although with a larger ball; partly on a children's game called Duck on a Rock, in which players used small stones to knock a larger stone off a platform; and partly on the indoor practices of his rugby team, where the players had fun aiming the ball into boxes used as goals. Another consideration was how to eliminate the roughness that had resulted from his earlier experiments with indoor games. He wanted to avoid hard-thrown balls and crowding around the goal as in rugby, and he had the idea of suspending the goals from the balconies, which were ten feet high. That would later become (and still is) the regulation height of baskets for the sport.

Naismith wrote out 13 rules for the new game, which were typed up the following day and posted on a bulletin board in the gymnasium for the students to study. For all the careful thought Naismith put into his new game, however, a key feature resulted entirely from chance. The school's superintendent of buildings, Pop Stebbins, couldn't find the boxes Naismith had requested for goals, so he brought the teacher a couple of old peach baskets instead. "And that," as one writer concludes the legendary tale, "is how James Naismith almost invented boxball."

Upon seeing the posted rules for the new game, Naismith's students greeted his latest idea with their usual lack of enthusiasm. Naismith recalled, "I asked the boys to try it once as a favor to me. They started, and after the ball was first thrown up there was no need for any more coaxing."

By all accounts, the game was an instant success. That first game resulted in a melee as the players fiercely scrambled for possession of the ball and charged en masse into the gallery above after shots that had missed their marks. The game was immediately popular with spectators, too. Students who heard about the fun in Naismith's class crowded the balconies during the noontime games and got in on the action by kicking at the ball through the railings. After a few days of this, Naismith solved the problem with another innovation: the first backboards.

Although many aspects of Naismith's original game would be tinkered with in years to come to allow for smoother and more fluid play, all the elements were there for an enjoyable indoor sport that filled the void between football in the fall and baseball in the spring and summer. Naismith objected to his students'

suggestion that the game be named for its inventor, saying he believed that would ensure its quick demise, and so word soon spread of the new sensation called "basketball."

The new game emerged at a time when industrialization was providing more time for recreational activities, and the network of YMCAs around the world facilitated its rapid spread. Students at the Springfield school went on to become instructors at health clubs in different regions and countries, and took the new Y game with them. A *New York Times* article from 1893 noted "more than ordinary elements of interest" and reported that the sport was already being played at Oxford and Cambridge, and had traveled as far as Australia and Japan.

Amos Alonzo Stagg and H. F. Kallenberg introduced Naismith's invention into the Midwest when they took positions for the 1892/93 school year at the University of Chicago and the State University of Iowa. Kallenberg, the director of physical education at the University of Iowa YMCA, organized the first known basketball team in the state (which was soon followed by the formation of a YMCA team in Cedar Rapids). The first basketball game in Iowa was played between these two teams on April 26, 1893, in the gymnasium in Iowa City's Close Hall, where the Y was located. As was often the case with athletic events in those days, the match was part of a program of other entertainments, such as exhibitions on the parallel bars and the flying rings.

The University of Iowa was one of the first three colleges in the United States to have a basketball team, and a game organized by Kallenberg against the University of Chicago team is generally considered by sports historians to be the first ever intercollegiate basketball game with five on a side. (That game was also played at Close Hall, on January 16, 1896.)

The team at Iowa continued to play irregularly scheduled games against other YMCA and town teams, as well as the occasional college team, until 1902, when the university had its first official intercollegiate schedule, competing against teams from Grinnell, Upper Iowa University, and, reportedly, "a college at Wilton Junction, Iowa," as well as schools in Kansas and Minnesota.

Basketball was distinguished from many other team sports by the fact that it was, from its earliest days of existence, also a women's sport. Just a couple of weeks after the game got started in Naismith's class, a group of female teachers from a local grade school asked if they could play; they enjoyed the new game so much that they formed the first girls' team at their



African American athlete Sol Butler and his teammates at the Dubuque College and Seminary, 1917/18. The school's first black student, Butler also excelled at football, baseball, and track and field. He was twice named All-American broad jumper.

school. Senda Berenson, physical culture teacher at Smith College, taught the game to her students in 1892, and by the winter of 1893 it had been enthusiastically adopted by the women of Wellesley College and Mount Holyoke. Women were also taking up the game at Iowa's colleges. A physical culture instructor from New Haven, Connecticut, had introduced the sport at Grinnell College by 1894. At the State University of Iowa and Iowa Agricultural College in Ames (now Iowa State University), women learned along with the men at their schools' YM-YWCAs. In Ames, women students played men students on a grass court in the center of campus.

Basketball was also spreading rapidly to the high schools and academies across Iowa. Oftentimes a college student returning home would teach the new game to siblings and friends. Although it seems to have been popular wherever it was introduced, some have speculated that midwestern rural communities (especially in Indiana and Iowa) embraced it particularly enthusiastically. One reason was that the long winter months between fall harvesting and spring planting left people eager for social and recreational activities, especially when diversions offered by cities were distant. In addition, basketball seemed especially well suited to smaller towns because the equipment needed was minimal, and only five players were needed for a team. In the larger towns, high schoolers learned the game at their local YMCAs and then requested that their schools start programs. Between 1898 and 1902, Fort Dodge, West Waterloo, Ottumwa, Boone, Sioux City, and Cedar Rapids all formed teams.

Both boys and girls took up the new sport with enthusiasm. As early as 1893, girls were playing basketball with boys at the Dubuque YMCA; by 1898 they had formed their own team, as had Marshalltown High School girls. By 1900, girls' basketball had also taken root in Algona, Boone, Centerville, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Le Mars, and Ottumwa. In some places, such as Spirit Lake High School, the girls picked up the game first and then taught it to the boys. Teams from high schools played each other, as well as teams from YMCAs and sometimes nearby colleges. Towns without YMCAs or school gyms played in church basements, opera houses, and armories.

By the second decade of the new century, the sport was so popular that schools felt the need for gyms of their own, with room for spectators as well as players. By 1914, Boone, Sioux City, New Hampton, Spirit Lake,

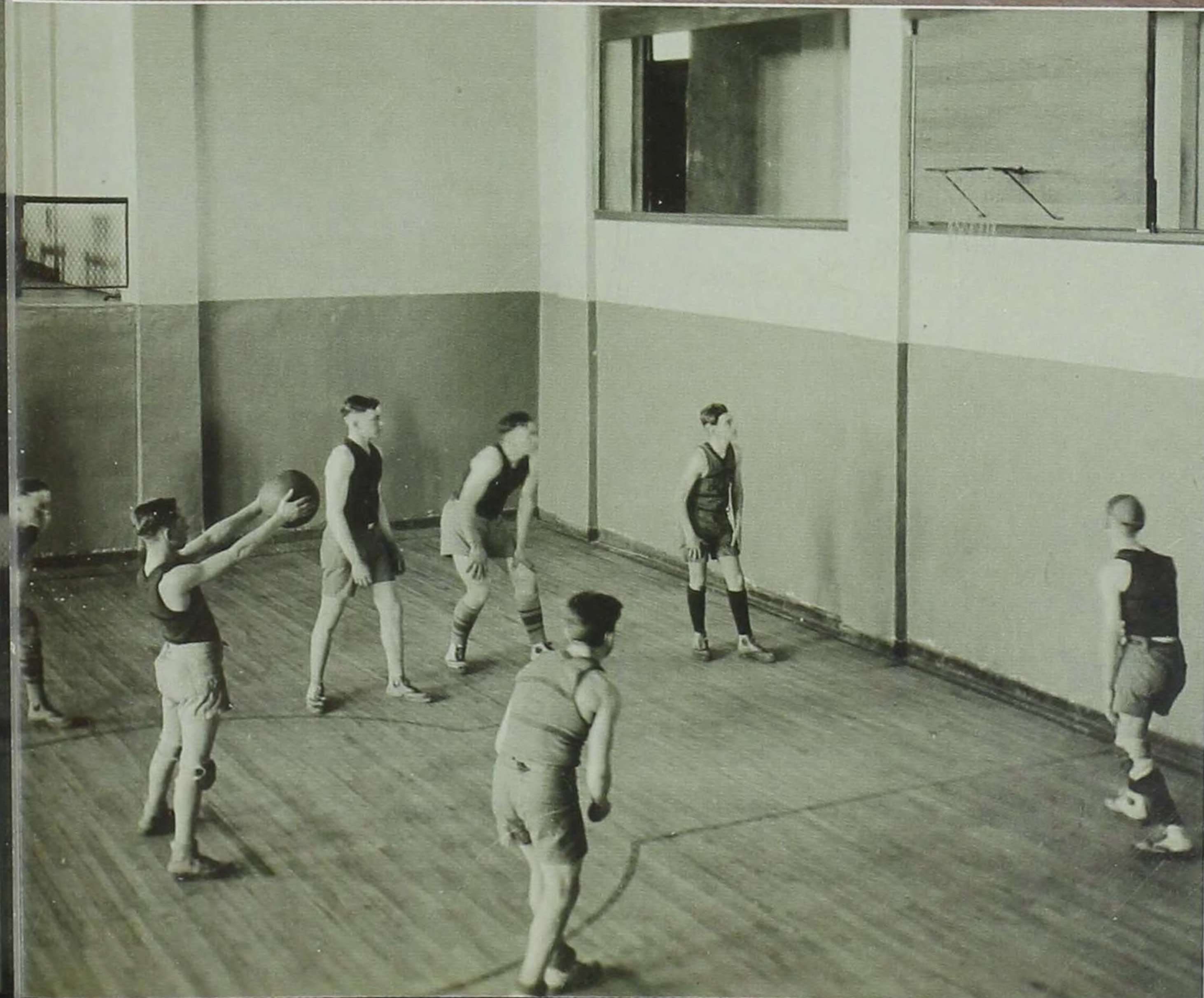
and Diagonal were among the earliest high schools with gyms, built primarily for basketball. In 1917 in Onawa, a school editorial called for the construction of a high school gymnasium: "Basketball for both boys and girls has been practically impossible in Onawa because of the lack of indoor room. . . . In such a building rooms could be provided for amusements as well as for religious purposes that would serve the needs not only of the boys and girls of the High School, but of all the young people of the community."

As early powerhouse teams developed, particularly at the larger schools, proud claims to the title of "state champion" began popping up, based on team records or various invitational tournaments. For example, in 1904, the Muscatine girls made such an unverifiable claim, as did the boys in Ottumwa. An organized, statewide competition was needed to prove which schools actually were Iowa's best. An official tournament for boys was organized first, in 1912 (girls would have to wait until 1920). The boys' invitational was sponsored by the University of Iowa, and the Iowa High School Athletic Board selected four regional teams: Sioux City, Grundy Center, Wilton Junction, and Ottumwa (which won, beating out Sioux City, 38-31). Two years later the tournament changed to a sectional system of preliminary tournaments, in Ames, Des Moines, Grinnell, and Cedar Falls. Beginning in 1923, the boys' tournament came under complete control of the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), which had been formed in 1904 by school principals and superintendents to impose order and standardized rules on high school athletics. Throughout the 1920s and '30s the tournament grew to become one of the largest in the nation, and the IHSAA expanded from a board of part-time members to a full-time staff with its own offices, first in Des Moines, then in Boone.

Teams from the larger towns tended to dominate the boys' state championships. Sioux City, Boone, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Ottumwa, and

SHS, IOWA CITY





Early physical education classes and teams played basketball in crowded facilities, like the small room above. In this class line-up for a photo, the shortest girl holds the ball. In the corner, a metal screen protects the window from high-flying shots.

Left: Seating for fans was often confined to stages and balconies. Here, a player prepares to shoot a free throw underhanded.

SHS (DES MOINES), MARIE TURNER HARVEY COLLECTION

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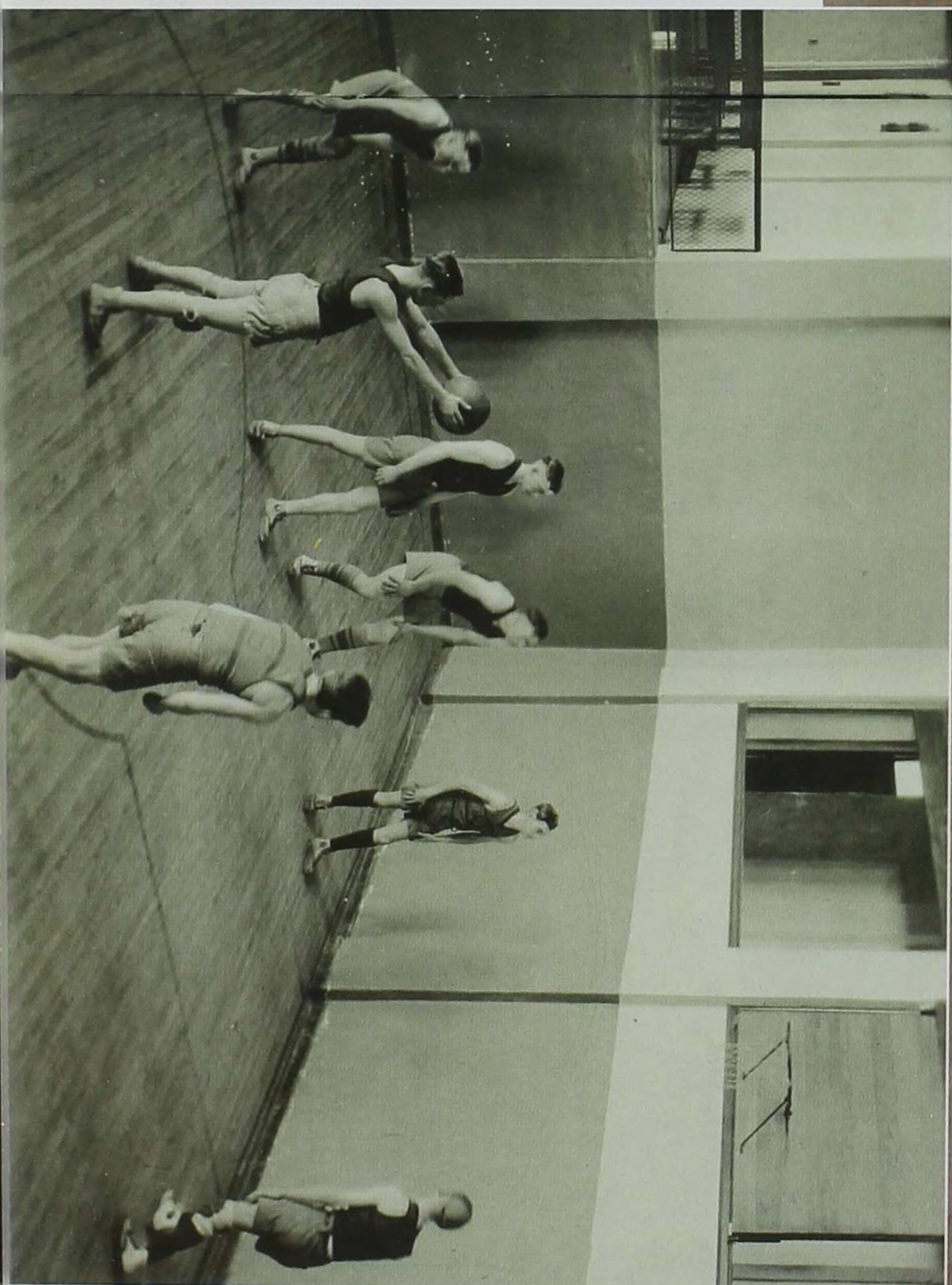
and Diagonal were among the earliest high schools with gyms, built primarily for basketball. In 1917 in Onawa, a school editorial called for the construction of a high school gymnasium: "Basketball for both boys and girls has been practically impossible in Onawa because of the lack of indoor room. . . . In such a building rooms could be provided for amusements as well as for religious purposes that would serve the needs not only of the boys and girls of the High School, but of all the young people of the community."

As early powerhouse teams developed, particularly at the larger schools, proud claims to the title of "state champion" began popping up, based on team records or various invitational tournaments. For example, in 1904, the Muscatine girls made such an unverifiable claim, as did the boys in Ottumwa. An organized, statewide competition was needed to prove which schools actually were Iowa's best. An official tournament for boys was organized first, in 1912 (girls would have to wait until 1920). The boys' invitational was sponsored by the University of Iowa, and the Iowa High School Athletic Board selected four regional teams: Sioux City, Grundy Center, Wilton Junction, and Ottumwa (which won, beating out Sioux City, 38-31). Two years later the tournament changed to a sectional system of preliminary tournaments, in Ames, Des Moines, Grinnell, and Cedar Falls. Beginning in 1923, the boys' tournament came under complete control of the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), which had been formed in 1904 by school principals and superintendents to impose order and standardized rules on high school athletics. Throughout the 1920s and '30s the tournament grew to become one of the largest in the nation, and the IHSAA expanded from a board of part-time members to a full-time staff with its own offices, first in Des Moines, then in Boone.

Teams from the larger towns tended to dominate the boys' state championships. Sioux City, Boone, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Ottumwa, and



SHSL (IOWA CITY)



SI (DES MOINES); MARIE TURNER HARVEY COLLECTION

Early physical education classes and teams played basketball in crowded facilities, like the small room above. In this class line-up for a photo, the shortest girl holds the ball. In the corner, a metal screen protects the window from high-flying shots.

Left: Seating for fans was often confined to stages and balconies. Here, a player prepares to shoot a free throw underhanded.



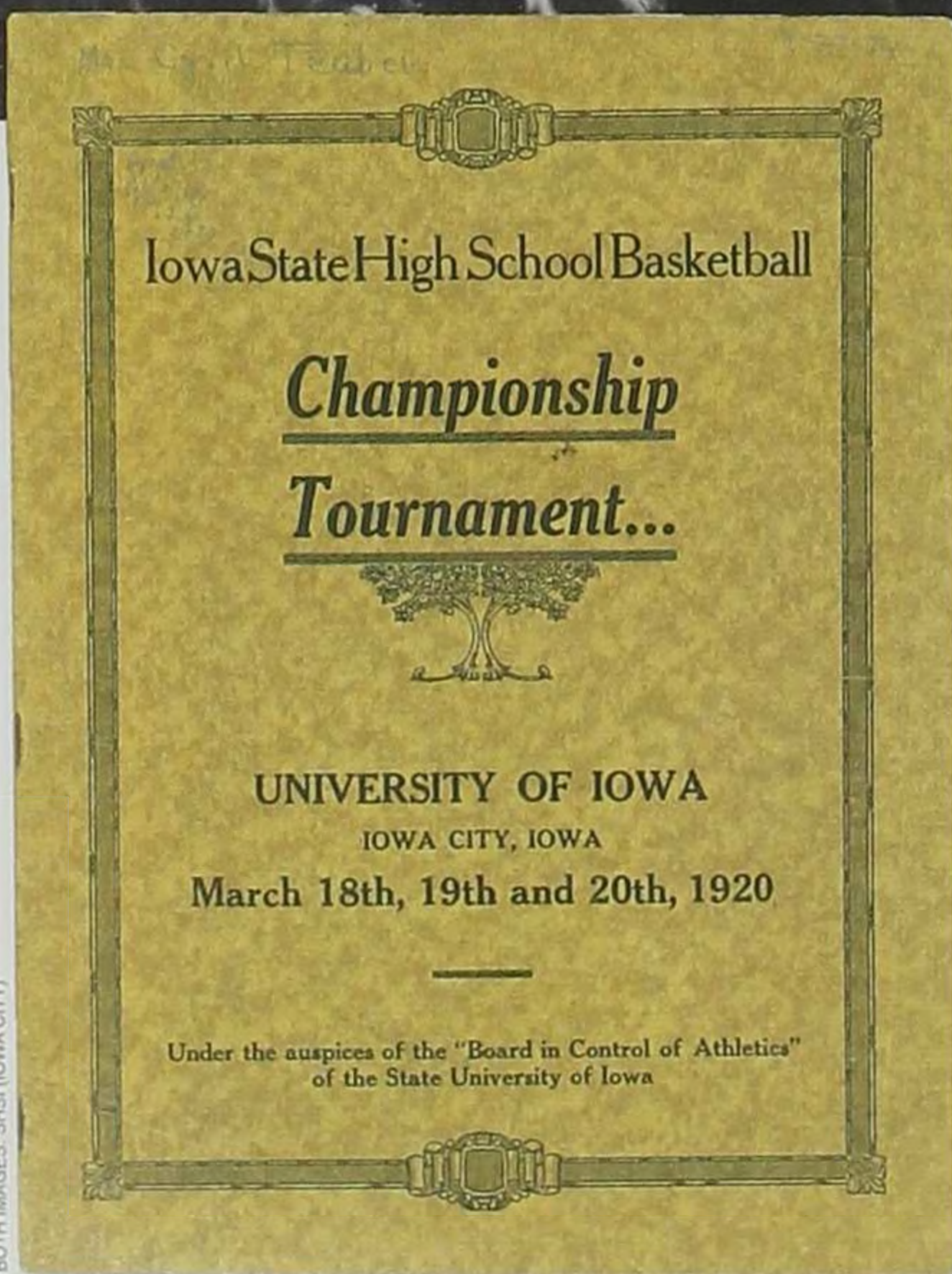
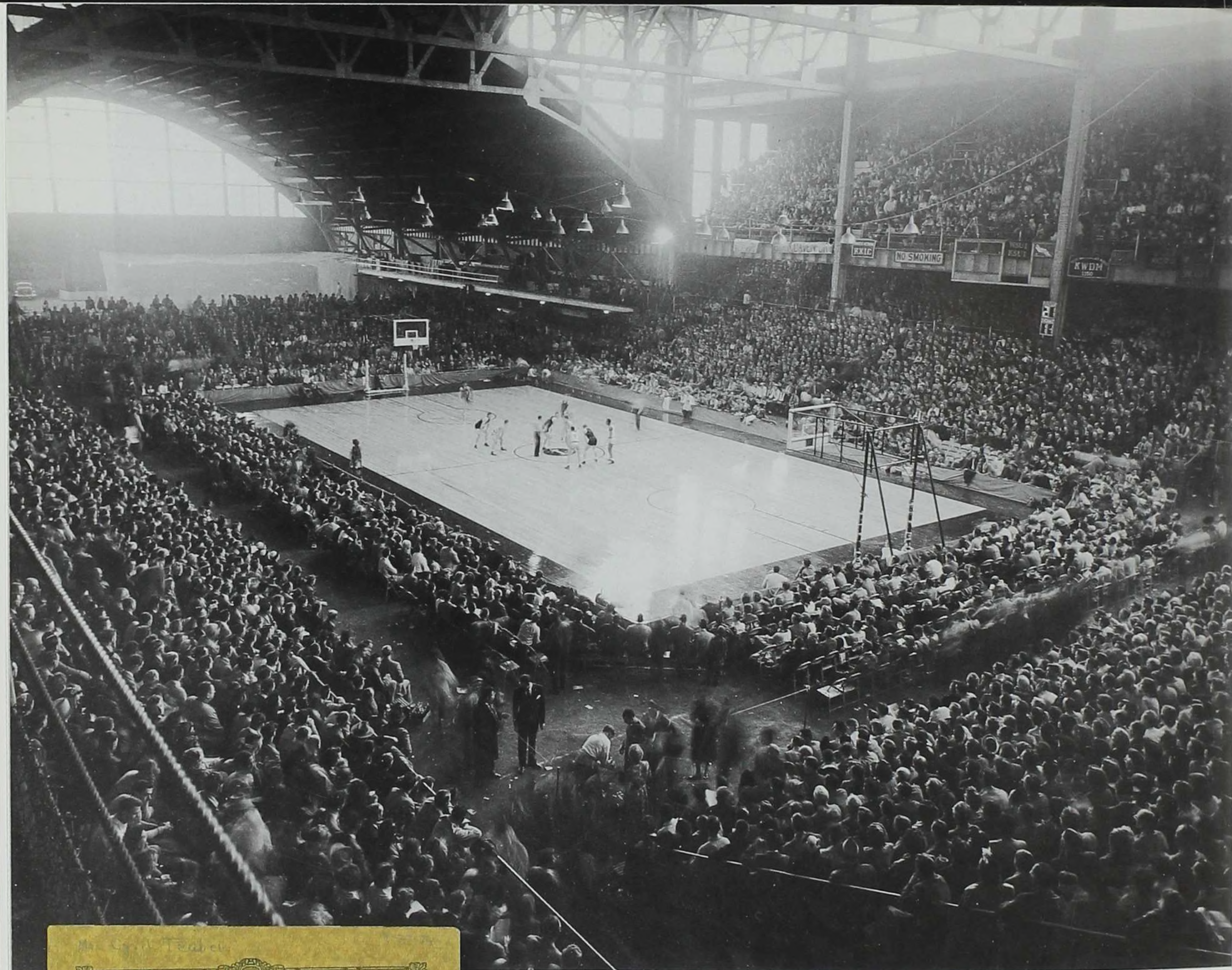
SHS (DES MOINES); MARIE TURNER HARVEY COLLECTION

The team and coach of the consolidated school in Early, Iowa, 1921/22. The boy holding the ball seems particularly stalwart.



SHS (DES MOINES), MARIE TURNER HARVEY COLLECTION

With slight smiles, the girls' basketball team and coach of the considedated school in Early, Iowa, pose for the camera.



BOTH IMAGES: SHSI (IOWA CITY)

Above: All eyes are on the tip-off at the Iowa boys' tournament, about 1949.

Left: A program for the 1920 boys' tournament in Iowa City. The Davenport Blue Devils edged out Springville, 21-20.

Fort Dodge made regular appearances in the finals and on the All-State teams.

However, the team that ruled from the 1920s through the '50s was without question Davenport High School (now Davenport Central). Although the Blue Devils were successful from the start, their heyday is associated with Coach Paul Moon, who arrived in 1928. The very next year, Moon coached his team to a championship win. Davenport became the first program to win titles in four consecutive decades. Sports editor Al Grady remarked, "Any recollection of the state tournament brings Davenport to mind first, because in those days Coach Paul Moon and the Davenport Blue Devils virtually owned the state tournament. . . . When Davenport DIDN'T win, or came close to losing, that was big news!" Moon's zone defense and fast-break offense became the Blue Devils' trademarks. Before retiring in 1954, he had won 7 state championships (a record number of titles

under the same coach) and made 16 tournament appearances, yet another record.


State tournament fans loved to root for the little schools that from time to time defied the odds and progressed all the way through sectional and district meets to get a shot at the state title. Such Cinderella stories made for particularly dramatic and emotional climaxes, and stand out in the reminiscences of fans. According to veteran sports broadcaster Bob Brooks, the three most famous small schools were Roland, Melrose, and Diagonal. Diagonal, with a population in 1940 of 600, was "always a sentimental favorite of the crowds," according to one sports publicist. In 1938, Diagonal beat out Cedar Rapids and Ames, among others, to capture the championship.

One of the most exciting tournaments

WE HAD TO COME

1942 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

PLAY-BY-PLAY
DESCRIPTION
BY
GENE SHUMATE
AND
ANDY WOOLFRIES



You see, there are thousands of sports fans throughout Iowa who couldn't attend this great basketball event. They're at home by their radios for the play-by-play account of the games brought to them by the Iowa Dairy Industry Commission.

You can depend upon these stations for sports news always!

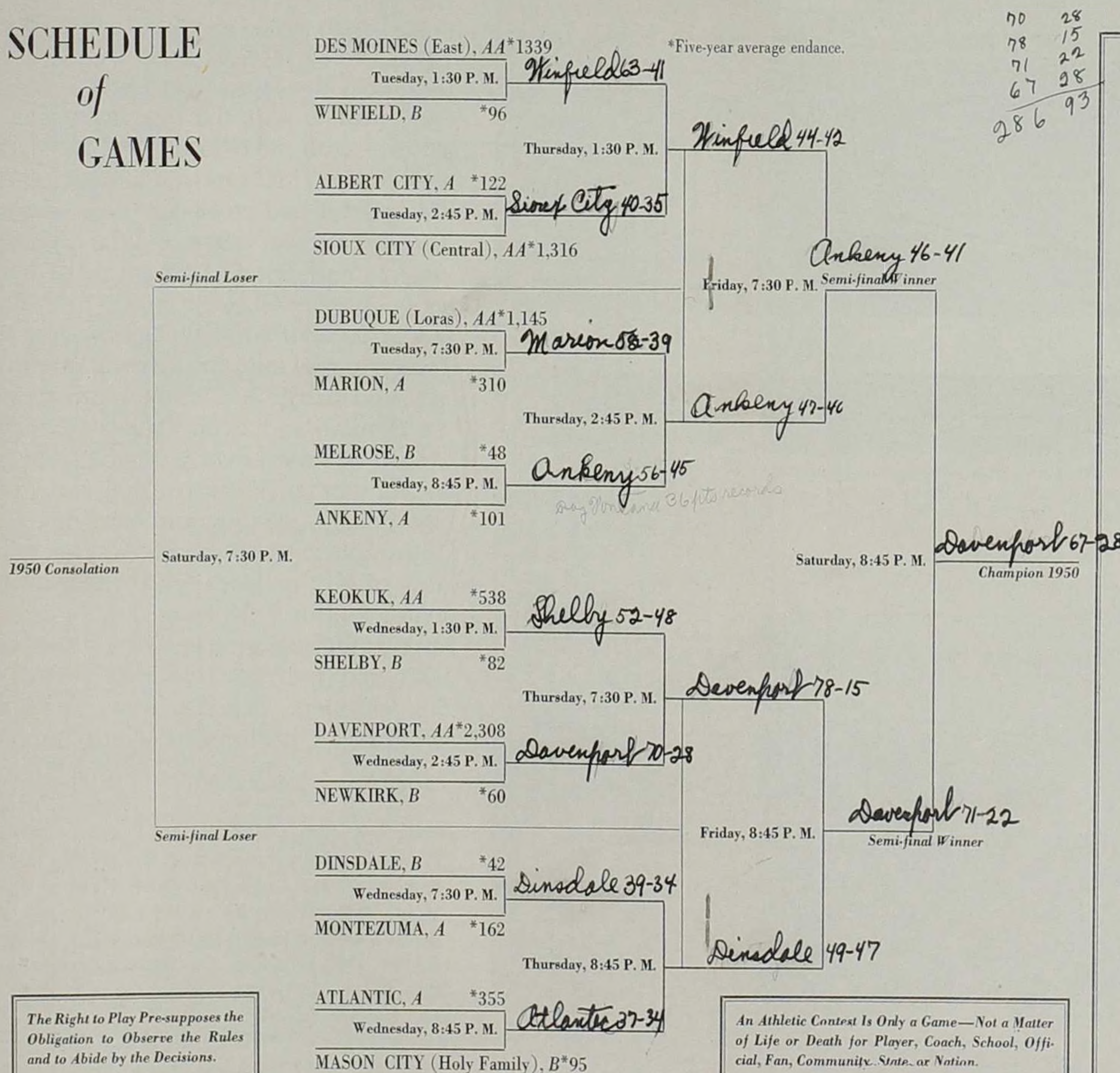
KRNT—Des Moines
1350 on your dial

WMT—Cedar Rapids-Waterloo
600 on your dial

WNAX—Sioux City-Yankton
570 on your dial

Above: An ad in the 1942 boys' tournament program urges fans to follow the games on the radio. On another page the program notes that while 923 teams "started their quest" for the championship, "scores of young men are . . . now fighting a much bigger battle." Below: In 1950 the Davenport Blue Devils again took home the trophy.

SCHEDULE of GAMES



- ### TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS
- ***
- Referees*
- EVERETT BARR
Algona
 - BENNIE BECKERMAN
Des Moines
 - RALPH HIBBS
Leon
 - KEN KOCH
Manning
 - RICHARD LEYES
Burlington
 - M. M. ROGERS
Sumner
 - BILL RYAN
Stuart
 - KENNETH WELLS
Ames
- Scorer*
- WALTER BARNARD
Des Moines
- Assistant Scorer*
- EMMET MOWERY
Ottumwa
- Timer*
- H. G. SCHMICKLEY
Dayton
- Assistant Timer*
- C. T. MAU
Charles City
- Public Address*
- FRED WINTER
Cedar Rapids
- Tournament Manager*
- LYLE T. QUINN
Boone

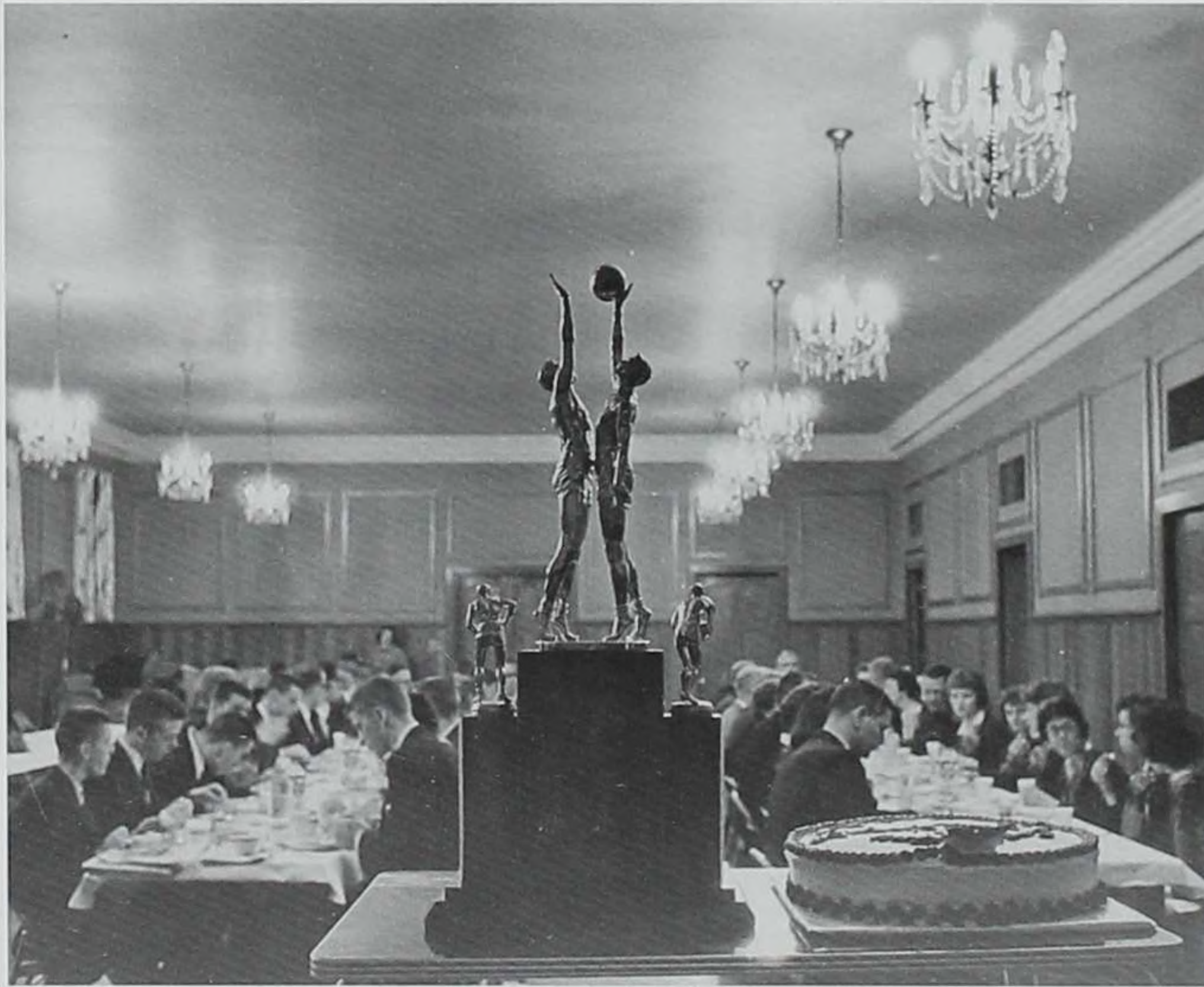
The Right to Play Pre-supposes the
Obligation to Observe the Rules
and to Abide by the Decisions.

An Athletic Contest Is Only a Game—Not a Matter
of Life or Death for Player, Coach, School, Official,
Fan, Community, State, or Nation.

involved Roland, in 1951. The defending champions, the Davenport Blue Devils, were at the height of their reign and once again charging towards another state title when, for a heart-stopping moment, it looked like the Roland Rockets might stage a remarkable upset. It would have been the first time Davenport had ever lost to a Class B team. Although the Blue Devils rallied and brought home the second of what would be

three consecutive state titles, Roland sophomore Gary Thompson, the lead scorer, went on to make both All-State and All-American three years in a row, a feat that hadn't been repeated since Mike McMichael (Des Moines Roosevelt) was chosen four times in the 1930s.

Such David-and-Goliath tournament games didn't actually happen very often, but they added to the suspense and romance of the boys' state tournament. Division of the classes into different finals in 1967, while giving the smaller schools a fairer shot at a title, removed the possibility for such games, which have become part of Iowa folklore.



BOTH PAGES: SHSI (DES MOINES) DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE

Basketball was in its earliest years a rougher game than now and "more nearly resembled an indoor football scrimmage than the fast-flowing game it has become," writes historian Glenn Dickey. Within a few years, "the YMCA simply couldn't reconcile the form the sport was taking—the all-out effort to win, the roughness, the fan abuse—with the overall YMCA program, and so, the YMCA moved to deemphasize the sport it had created, by discouraging the formation of teams and the holding of tournaments." In fact, the origin of professional basketball is attributed to YMCA's withdrawal of support. Teams were then forced to rent auditoriums and other venues, and charge admission to cover costs.

Similar and even stronger concerns would be raised over basketball's propriety for women. Within only a few years of basketball's introduction, female physical education instructors who had first taught it at eastern colleges felt the responsibility for "taming" the game to make it more appropriate for women. Senda Berenson, who had first introduced basketball to Smith College, believed that "rough and vicious play is almost worse in women's

Top: The Marshalltown boys' team dined in style after they took home the trophy in 1961. **Bottom:** Telegrams from home cheer on the Waverly high school team before they take on Sioux City in the 1958 tournament. **Right:** At the 1962 tournament, Marshalltown's Jerry Gazaway shoots a backward lay-up.





Iowa girls and women embraced basketball with the same fervor as did their male counterparts. In spite of their sometimes demure or fetching poses (above), girls were often described as aggressive and passionate players, on courts both indoors and out (see center).

than in men's play." Berenson helped form the National Committee on Women's Basketball, which included other physical education professors at eastern colleges. Another reason for establishing standardized rules for women was the fact that the game was spreading so quickly and to so many places, that there seemed to be no one version. Developed in 1899 and published in 1901, these standardized rules divided the court into three parts, and players did not travel outside their section. This was meant to encourage teamwork and to make the game less strenuous on women, who were believed to be less capable of prolonged exertion than men, due to their physiognomy and smaller hearts. Teams consisted of five to nine players (in Iowa six was the typical number by the 1920s). A team comprised two forwards, two guards, a jumping center, and a side center. To limit roughness, players could not grab or bat the ball away from an opponent. A limited dribble of three bounces before passing or shooting was instituted to ensure that the ball kept moving in this more sedentary version of the men's game.

Although many schools quickly adopted the new rules for girls and women, others chose not to. In Iowa, the men's rules continued to be used in some places for several years. It took time for the new rules to spread to Iowa, but it also appears that basketball for girls was generally less controversial here than in the East, par-





BOTH PHOTOS: SHSI (IOWA CITY)



ticularly at the high school level. The new rules seem to have been instituted at the college level first, where many instructors were from eastern schools. One Iowan recalled that when she played basketball at Algona High School in the early 1900s, the girls “played all the way up and down the court. There was no three division court as there was when I was in college at Iowa Agricultural College in 1907-1911.”

Eventually most high schools switched to the new rules, and the three-division court game was played at the first girls’ state tournament, in 1920. This invitational was sponsored by Drake University in Des Moines and held at the Drake Field House. In all, 24 teams participated. The team that became the first ever girls’ state champions, Correctionville, had almost missed its chance to compete when the school refused to pay for the trip to Des Moines. But the community of Correctionville was eager to see their undefeated girls’ team—which hadn’t lost a single game in three years—compete at the state level. Fans and local businesses donated enough money to cover the team’s expenses. During the depression of the 1920s and ‘30s, many Iowa communities held fund drives to support their girls’ teams. Such financial backing demonstrated the support for girls’ competitive basketball in Iowa, especially in small towns.

Just as Iowa girls’ basketball was entering a new phase of statewide competition, the question of whether women should be competing against each other grew more controversial across the nation. “The increasingly vocal debate in the ‘20s focused on . . . how dangerous the win-at-all-costs spirit was to the proper development of girls, both physically and mentally,” writes historian Joanne Lannin. Alarmed critics “did not see hundreds of healthy girls have a wonderful time. Instead, they saw an intense, highly charged atmosphere inhabited by young women who had lost all dignity and refinement.” Some feared that the girls were exploited by playing before spectators and by being influenced by male coaches. Others thought the focus on competition between schools excluded girls who were not on the teams “from the benefits of physical activity and team play.” Instead only intramural games should be played.

At Drake University, when the women students started a basketball team in 1905, they met with strong disapproval from Mary Carpenter, the dean of women. At first Carpenter allowed women’s intramural play (provided they wore modest outfits, with long sleeves and bloomers) but later declared that the sport “was



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BOTH PHOTOS: SHEL (OWA.CIV)

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not appropriate for women" and banned it outright.

At the high school level, attitudes about girls competing also began to shift in Iowa's larger towns. By 1914 in Dubuque, for example, the girls were limited to the less competitive games between classes. Sports historian Janice Beran believes the "real reason" behind restricting competition between larger schools was simply because of limited gym space. "In the city schools with their larger enrollment the boys' sport

had top priority, and the girls' basketball teams interfered with their gym practice and game time. So it was natural for the boys' coaches to agree with the leading physical educators around the nation who were saying that basketball competition between schools was too strenuous for girls."

In Iowa's small towns, however, there was apparently little concern, and much support, for competitive girls' basketball. Beran suggests several reasons for this

PHOTO COURTESY OF *OUTSIDE IN: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IN IOWA, 1838-2000*



Thelma Howe (back row, second from left) played on Bedford's integrated basketball team in 1923/24. Images and accounts of African American girls in Iowa who played high school basketball are seldom discovered by historians.

perspective in rural Iowa. She believes that girls from a farming culture were accustomed to physical exertion, and that other community members were used to seeing them in such roles and did not consider them physically fragile. Many rural girls came from ethnic backgrounds (such as German, Czech, Danish, and Swedish) that emphasized gymnastics and physical activity for women. For example, Beran points out that Audubon, a 1920s powerhouse, was associated with the Danish component of the community. Girls' basketball also provided an outlet for community pride and a welcome entertainment in the winter.

In 1925 the controversy over competition in Iowa girls' basketball came to a head at the annual meeting of the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA). The Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Foundation had passed a resolution against competition between schools, as well as any gate receipts from or promotion of women's games. The National Association of Secondary School Principals supported the resolution and urged U.S. high schools to stop organizing tournaments for girls and to end their interscholastic games. Many schools, especially in the East, complied, and in Iowa, at the IHSAA meeting, a 259-member majority of the superintendents, coaches, and teachers voted against sponsoring any more girls' state tournaments. This outraged a minority, mostly from rural schools. John W. Agans, of Mystic, declared, "Gentlemen, if you attempt to do away with girls' basketball in Iowa, you'll be standing in the center of the track when the train runs over you!"

Agans and some 25 school officials gathered in a corner and decided to found a separate program dedicated to supporting organized basketball competition for girls, including the state tournament. The board of this new organization—the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU)—comprised representatives of each quadrant of Iowa: M. M. McIntire, of Audubon; Claude W. Sankey, of Ida Grove; the outspoken Agans, of Mystic; and A. W. Clevenger, of Waverly. Because all of these men were from small towns where basketball for both boys and girls enjoyed strong support, they could be confident that their schools and communities would back their action. Audubon perhaps had particular reason to be proud of its girls' team. Coached by school superintendent McIntire, the girls had won the state championship for four consecutive years, 1921 through 1924. Beran calls McIntire "the real father" of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

Thanks to McIntire and the other IGHSAU founders, girls' competition between schools continued in Iowa at a time when much of the nation was doing

away with it. In a few other states, including Texas and Oklahoma, there was resistance to the movement to end girls' basketball; they, too, were largely rural states where the sport was an important part of community life and identity. Iowa, however, is the only state to have continuously had an annual state basketball tournament for girls since 1920, and is, to this day, the only state with a secondary school sports association devoted solely to girls' athletics.

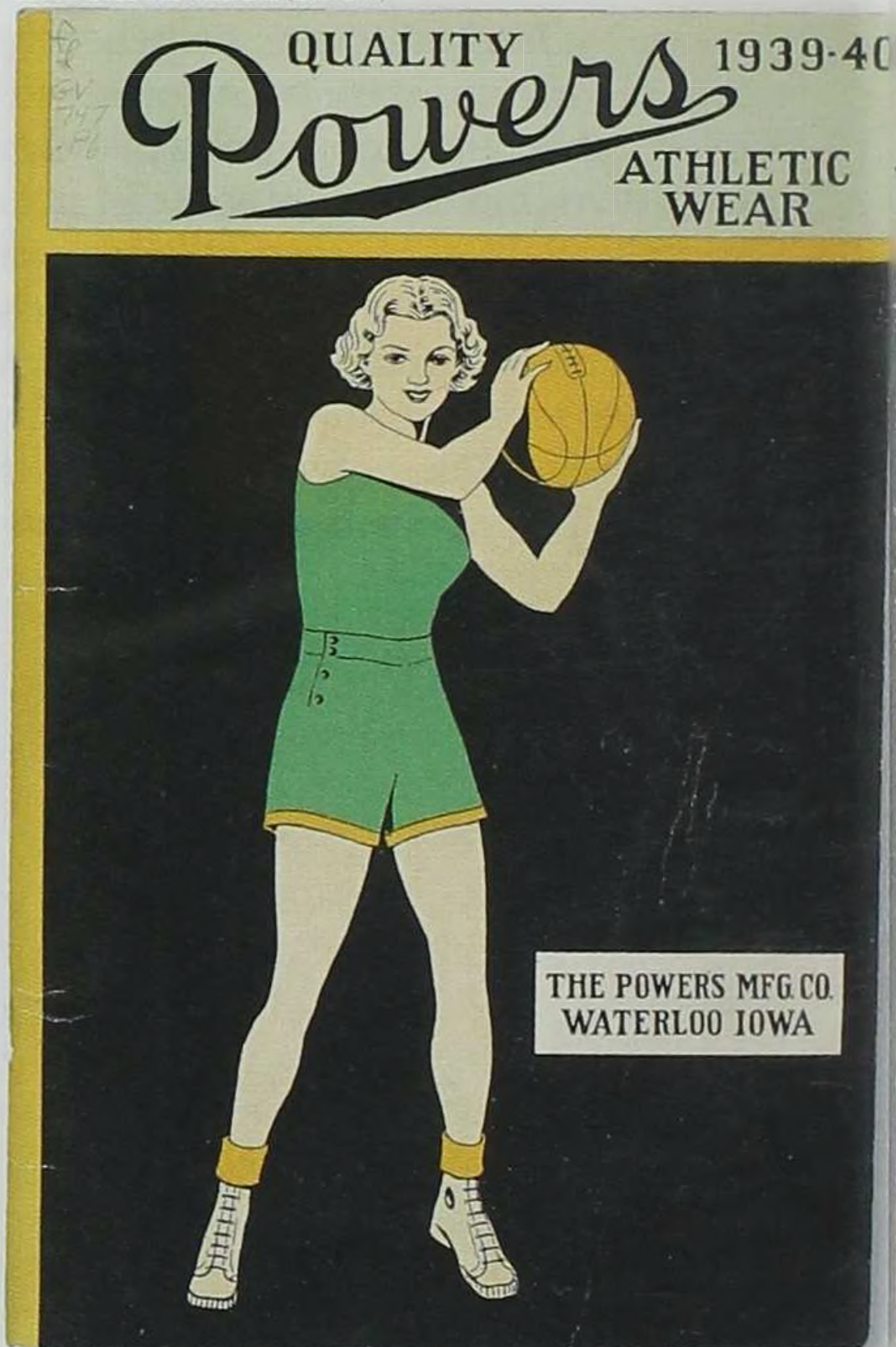
The first state tournament sponsored by IGHSAU was in 1926 at Hampton High School. Of the 159 schools fielding girls' teams that year, 16 district tournament winners competed for the state title. Hampton was victorious in the round-robin final, defeating Audubon, Mystic, and Ida Grove. Over the next few years the state tournament was held in various sections of the state, and was hosted and attended by many of the same small towns that had participated in the earlier invitationals. At each location the size of the venue and limited number of spectators made for a rather modest end-of-season climax. But in 1931, Bert McGrane, the nationally known sports writer for both the *Des Moines Register* and *Tribune*, was brought on board as manager of the event. (He would remain influential in staging the tournament into the 1950s.) McGrane and the IGHSAU board chose a venue with a large seating capacity—the Drake Field House. This was also the first time many of the girls—used to playing in what Beran describes as "cracker box size gyms"—played on a boys' regulation-size court. The next year, the dimensions were cut back down.

Unfortunately for the promoters of the 1931 tournament, the players were not the only ones who might have been overwhelmed by the size of the gymnasium. The 2,500 spectators at Thursday's competition and the 3,000 at the finals "were almost lost in the grandstand seats," wrote one IGHSAU official. Basketball was simply not yet a huge spectator sport. Beran writes that "although the players thought playing basketball was vigorous and exciting, it was not a crowd pleaser." Particularly before the 1920s, as an IGHSAU official remembered, a basket "was cause for a civic celebration." For example, the highest scoring game of the girls' first state tournament was 24-8; the lowest was 3-2. More typical scores were 15-0 and 12-11. This was not, as Beran explains, because of an emphasis on waging a strong defense, but because play then was "a slow, almost stately game with careful passing and deliberate shot selection from an almost statuelike pose." Movement of the players was limited by the court division;

Long hair, long black hose, full length sleeves, and full bloomers of woolen material for the basketball girls in 1918. Uniforms were a sorry sight at the end of a game; ribbons missing, hair streaming, hose torn, bloomer legs hanging to the ankles because of ripped elastic. The players from left to right are: Esther Wedel, Olga Gilbertson, Marie Falb, Joyce Grath, Georgia Mae Schori, Florence Lehman, Hulda Meyer



BOTH PHOTOS THIS PAGE: SHSI (IOWA CITY)



until 1934 the court was still divided into three parts. The running center and jumping centers were restricted to the center third. A center jump to determine ball possession followed every basket, further slowing the pace of the game. As girls gained shooting and handling skills, the game become more fluid.

Then, in 1934, an important change in the rules transformed the pace of play. At a coaching clinic held by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) in Des Moines, coach R. C. Bechtel persuaded the superintendents present to officially adopt the AAU's game of two-court division basketball. More than 200 officials voted to adopt the change by a wide margin, and from then until 1994, the six-player, two-court game was the official girls' game in Iowa. (Following Iowa's example, the two-court game was adopted nationally as the official girls' game in 1938.) Beran explains that the 1934 change eliminated "the positions of running center and jumping centers." Now there were three guards and three forwards, with one playing center. Eliminating the center jump after every basket speeded up the game. Players had greater room to maneuver and could shoot on the run. The result was a more exciting game for both players and fans.

The game itself was evolving. The jump shot, introduced to boys' basketball in 1937, was soon taken up by Iowa girls. The new seamless ball introduced in the mid-1930s made ball handling easier, and its inflatable air pouch meant that it did not lose its shape or bounce irregularly. The pivot shot, the lay-up, and the bounce pass became widespread.

Girls' uniforms had evolved, too. The earliest "costumes" – voluminous bloomers (sometimes with long skirts over them), heavy stockings, and high-collared blouses – covered nearly every inch of flesh. Throughout the 1920s the outfits became gradually less restrictive, and by the late 1930s, the more modern uniforms were appropriate to the more active game. Indeed, they consisted of so much less fabric, Beran writes, that they "would only have served as foundation garments for the players of the 1890s-1920s."

Throughout the 1930s and '40s basketball's popularity grew among players and fans. According to Beran, the number of schools with programs continued to increase. By 1950, "700 of the state's 834 schools offered basketball." Girls' basketball continued to be a

BOTH PHOTOS THIS PAGE: SHSI (DES MOINES)



Opposite page: A photo caption from an Elgin, Iowa, scrapbook bemoans the girls' uniforms, a "sorry sight" by the end of a game. The team's record in 1918 was 9-1.

Center: As this 1939 catalog cover illustrates, girls' uniforms eventually lost their multiple layers and needless bulk. Powers Manufacturing in Waterloo also made uniforms for several other sports.

Left: Cedar Valley's Ruth Wallestad and Betty Carlson demonstrate weight-lifting exercises that increased their stamina and jumping power (March 1957).

phenomenon in small towns, which enjoyed the recognition they received through their winning teams. Tournament participation was regarded as an opportunity for the girls to travel and meet new people. Those who played basketball were often following in the footsteps of older sisters and mothers who had also played, and so felt part of a tradition, another reason behind the strong community involvement. Beran notes that "as one out-of-state journalist wrote, it is only in Iowa that middle-aged men would sit by the fireplace reminiscing about the basketball play of their wives—or that a high school boy would have been said to have inherited his mother's basketball skills."

Powerhouse teams were a great source of community pride, and, Beran writes, "the smaller the community and school, the greater the pride." Wellsburg made it to the state tournament five times—1920, 1922, 1928, 1930, and 1932—before capturing the title in 1934. The team did not win another championship until their famous victory in 1949, resulting in a resounding homecoming. Before the girls' bus even reached their hometown, thousands of excited citizens in towns along the way turned out to greet the team and ask for speeches, and then joined the caravan. By the time the bus reached Wellsburg, a line of cars six



Suited up and ready to go, two players from the Iowa State School for the Deaf, in Council Bluffs, use sign language to perfect their game, January 1942.





SHSI (DES MOINES) DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE

miles long stretched behind it, reaching all the way to Grundy Center. A newspaper account described what happened next: "At Wellsburg, things broke loose again. The entire town of 700 people was waiting on Main Street, and each girl blushing spoke her piece via loud speaker. They aren't over it yet, up Wellsburg way. Probably never will be. Best of it is that everyone else is just as happy about the whole thing as is the town of Wellsburg. The team with the toughest row to hoe, the team that beat most of the state's best clubs sometime during the year, the team that everyone agrees is the best in Iowa, came from a little school with 83 students, 36 of them girls."

Other perennial girls' teams at the state tourney included Hampton, Centerville, Waterville, Mallard, and tiny Wiota, population 275. Seymour went to the state tournament every year in the 1940s, and made it to the finals each of those years but two. In 1947, the year they won it all, fans sent the players flowers and congratulatory telegrams, and accompanied the team home in a 400-car caravan. Seymour holds the record for most trips to the state tournament of any team through 1960, 16 in all (Wellsburg, with 10, was the runner up). One

SHSI (IOWA CITY)



Left: 1958 boys' tournament—Roland beats Saint Mary's of Iowa City 72-60, and the fans explode. Above: As the high school tournaments burgeoned, so did the media coverage.



SHS IDES WOMEN'S DES MORNES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE

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SHS IOWA CITY

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factor in Seymour's success was the Cole "family dynasty." In the years between 1938 and 1951 when the seven Cole sisters played for the school, Seymour's win-loss record was an outstanding 341-41-2. (The most talented sister, Lois, went on to play for the Davenport-based AAU team, the Stenos, which won the national title in 1942/43.)

As Joanne Lannin has pointed out, however, while the state title was the ultimate prize for every basketball-playing girl in Iowa, the trip to the tournament in Des Moines was an event in itself. She described it as the "thrill of a lifetime" for the girls from Hansell, the 1940 state champions, who stayed at a fancy hotel downtown, ate breakfast with the governor, engaged in the tournament-time tradition of shopping for their prom dresses, and were featured in *Life* magazine. It wasn't uncommon for most of the population of a small community to travel to the tournament to give hometown support to their girls. Even the occasional March snowstorm could not keep the crowds away.

Throughout the 1940s the girls' tournament garnered increased attention from the media and spectators. Most of the newspapers in the Iowa Daily Press Association and several radio stations were covering the tournament and the games leading up to it. The press association began selecting All-State teams, a practice pioneered by Jack

Left: Driving in for a shot, Royal's Bonnie Hagedorn fouls Grafton's Clarise Kruger, March 1955.

BOTH PAGES: SHSI (DES MOINES); DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE

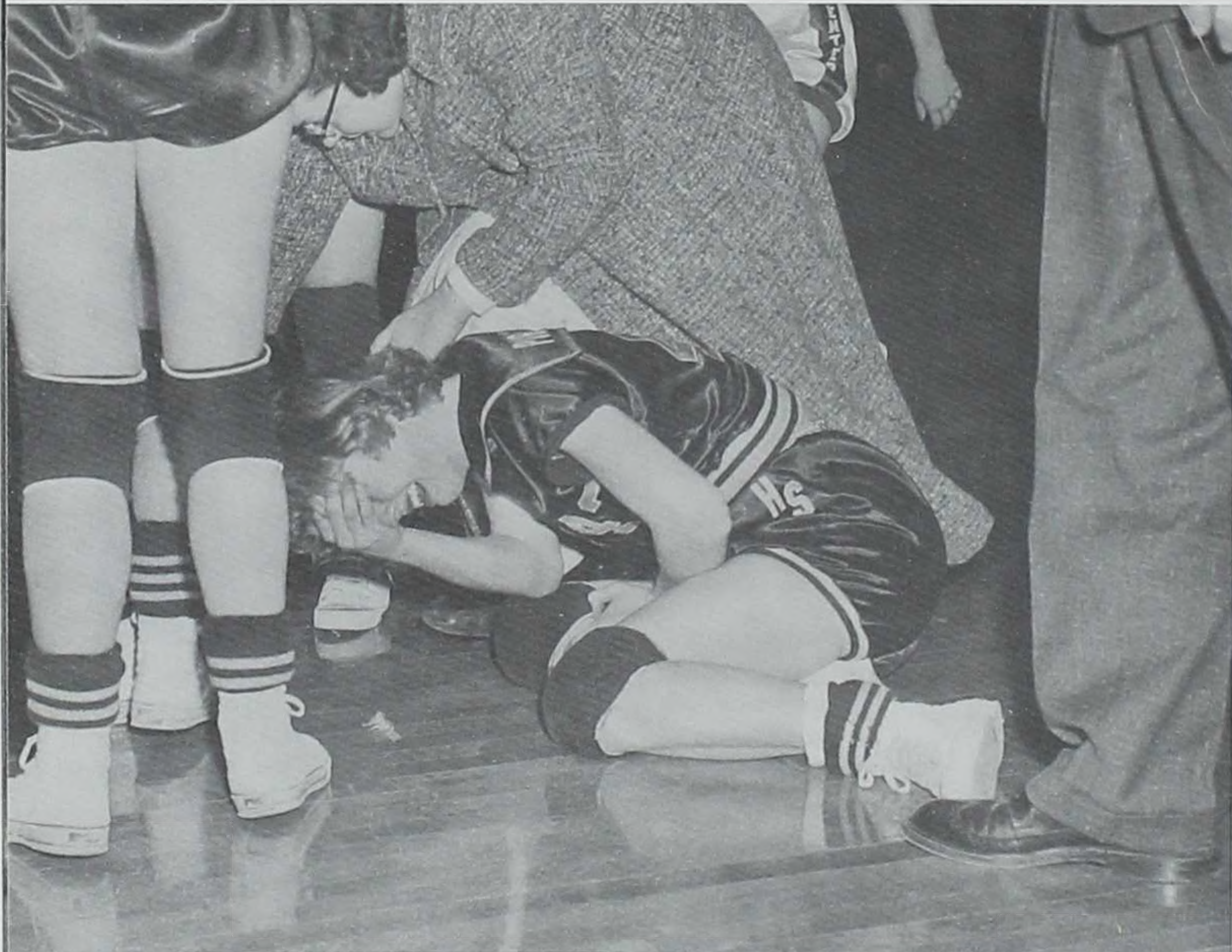


Tournament time sometimes means the pursuit of both trophies and prom dresses. Below: When the Goldfield girls won the 1955 state championship, 2,400 supporters welcomed them home.



North in 1939. Two years before, he had started a syndicated column on girls' basketball, "With the Queens of the Court," carried by 16 Iowa newspapers. Tournament organization improved when R. H. Chisholm became IGHSAU's first full-time executive secretary in 1947. According to Chisholm, attendance "jumped from around 3,000 for all games in 1926 to 40,000 in 1949." In 1951 demand for tickets exceeded the supply, and that tournament was Iowa's first high school athletic event to be telecast live. Media coverage soon was expanding into out-of-state newspapers and *Sports Illustrated*.

SHSI (DES MOINES): DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE



March 1958: Jan Hansen of Twin Rivers shows what it feels like when the rival (State Center) overcomes a five-point deficit in the final minute.

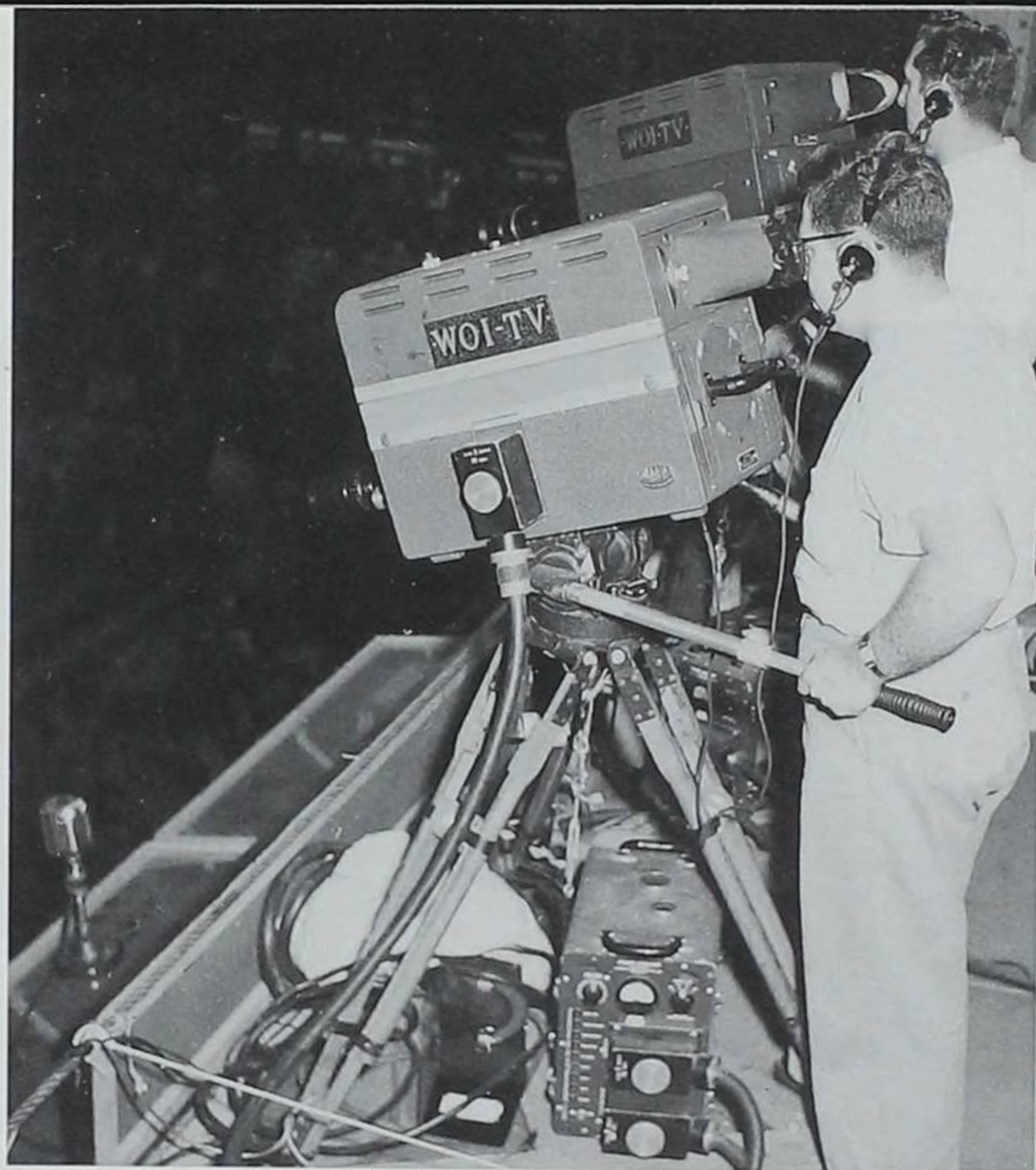
Fortunately, Des Moines was building a huge auditorium and convention center, and in 1955 the girls' tournament, along with the boys', moved into the still-unfinished Veterans Memorial Auditorium. More than 15,000 fans watched the final game, nearly 2,000 more than the combined populations of all 16 towns participating that year.

The first championship game to be televised in color was the unforgettable 1968 "shoot-out" between Denise Long of Union-Whitten and Jeanette Olson of Everly. The stars of the top-seeded Everly and second-seeded Union-Whitten had already set records at that

year's tournament: first Olson, with 74 points in a game, topped a day later by Long with 93. The meeting of the players in the final game, eagerly anticipated by both the crowds and the media, resulted in one of the most exciting moments ever in Iowa sports. Although Olson outscored Long 76-64, Union-Whitten upset Everly 113-107 in what *Sports Illustrated* called "a delirious overtime." "If the madcap struggle between the state's two top ranked teams wasn't the best title game in history," declared the *Des Moines Register* the next day, "it will do until someone figures out a better one."

The IGHSAU's new executive secretary, E. Wayne Cooley, whose arrival coincided with the move to Vets Auditorium, made the most of the new venue and television coverage by turning the sporting event into a circus-like spectacle worthy of P. T. Barnum, with whom he has been compared. *Sports Illustrated* once described the week-long extravaganza as "a state fair and world series rolled into one." Cooley, who explained in 1979 that "Americans are still spectators, they look for entertainment," is credited with adding much of the fanfare now associated with the event, such as the half-time performances by bands, drill groups, and dancers, and, on the final night, the elaborately staged Parade of Champions.

School consolidation in the 1950s and '60s and enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments in 1972 brought about major changes in girls' basketball in Iowa. In fact, one of the reasons small communities often fought school consolidation was because of pride in their high school basketball teams. In 1940, 70 percent of teams at the tournament came from schools with less than 100 students; by 1977 many of those small-town teams had been absorbed into larger, consolidated schools. Title IX prohibited sex discrimination in education programs that received federal funds. The objections against girls playing competitive sports were dying away, and with the passage of Title IX, larger schools that had banned girls' competitive teams now fielded such teams and joined the IGHSAU. The first large school to send a girls' team to the tournament, Cedar Rapids Kennedy, in 1972, had an enrollment that exceeded the total en-



THREE PHOTOS: SHSI (IOWA CITY)



Camera men and announcers for WOI-TV capture and comment on tense moments at the 1953 state tournament.



Emerson High had the only girls' team with male cheerleaders in the 1958 tournament. Here cheering for the girls are Trent Cole, Bob Winders, Ray Seipold, and Gary Shelley. Each also played on the boys' team. Seated on the sideline, a nurse maintains her professional composure. Opposite: Iowa's smaller towns and consolidated schools reigned at the 1960 tournament.

rollments of all 16 schools that had competed in the tournament in 1957.

Title IX brought about another major change in girls' basketball—the end of the two-court, six-player game. Some believed that Iowa schools, by keeping the six-player game, were depriving girls of being competitive for college scholarships. In 1972, five-player, full-court basketball became the official women's game nationwide, and Iowa was one of a handful of states

still playing by the old rules. In 1984 a lawsuit was brought against the IGHS AU by three girls from larger schools that were not a part of the tradition of girls' basketball. Title IX provided the legal basis for the suit, on the grounds that having a separate version of basketball for girls was not equal treatment. The IGHS AU managed to avoid the lawsuit by deciding that each school could decide which version of the game to play. While most larger schools quickly decided on five-on-

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IOWA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC UNION

35th Annual

GIRLS' STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Douds-Leando
(DOUDS)

Wales-Lincoln
(EMERSON)

South Page
(COLLEGE SPRINGS)

Bondurant-Farrar

Seymour

Senral
(FENTON)

Pekin
(OLLIE)

Corwith-Wesley

Valley
(ELGIN)

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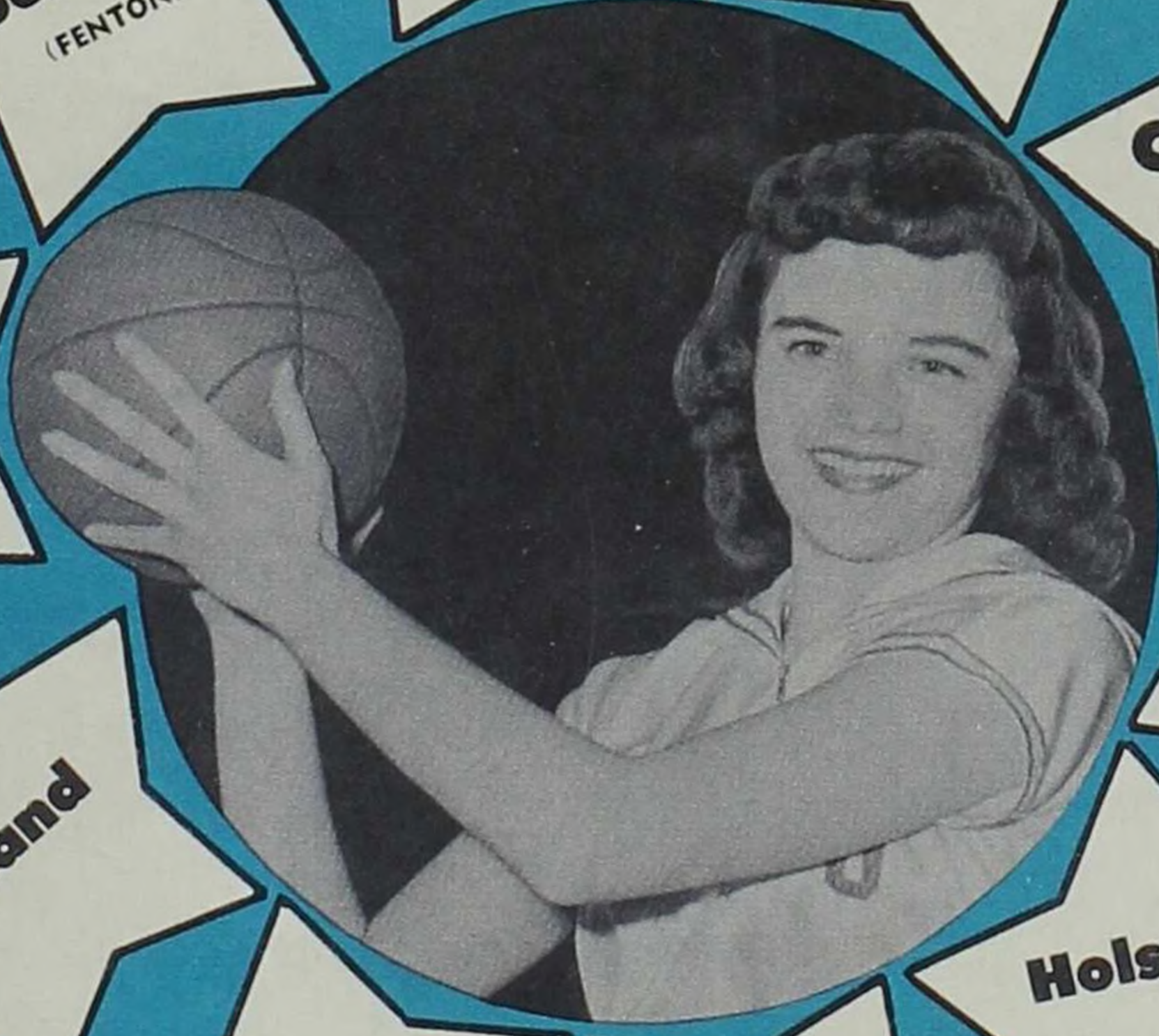
Holstein

Ida Grove

Gladbrook

Eldora

Grand
(BOXHOLM)



MARCH 8-9-10-11-12, 1960

official program

25¢

VETERANS AUDITORIUM DES MOINES, IOWA





five, the majority of schools did not switch. However, more schools were adopting five-player ball every year, and IGHSAU's executive secretary E. Wayne Cooley, seeing the eventual outcome, made a decision that shocked many, including the board of the IGHSAU. "For all that six-player basketball has done for us, we cannot let it die a second sister," he told the board in 1993. That year IGHSAU announced the official end of six-on-six basketball in Iowa following the 1994 tournament.

Reactions were strong on both sides of the issue. Some players were excited about the prospect of no longer being limited to playing only defense or offense. Others felt that six-on-six was what had made girls' basketball special in Iowa and were saddened at the loss of a 60-year tradition. "I love six-player basketball," a 1990 All-State player explained. "You had to use your wits. You had to do what you could with the two dribbles and out-think people. It was really a thinking game. Five-on-five, it's like who can out-strengthen who." Many were concerned about the effect the switch would have on girls' basketball, both for the experience of the players and the enjoyment of the fans. Some coaches decided to quit rather than make the switch.

Since the change in 1993, there has been a marked decline in both the number of girls playing basketball in Iowa and the number of fans turning out to watch them. By 2001, the number of girls playing on high school teams had dropped below 11,000,

The exuberance of these Twin River fans will turn to despair as the last minute ticks away and the State Center girls win by one point (March 1958). The enormous support of fans has always characterized Iowa's high school tournaments.



PHOTO BY (DES MOINES); DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE

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down from 16,000 in 1993, the last year of six-on-six. Because players no longer specialize, they need to be more skilled in all aspects of the game, and many believe this has limited the number of girls who are able to participate. In addition, the more physical game requires increased stamina and thus harder training and a greater time commitment. Players in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, for example, were expected to participate in a wide range of school activities. In earlier decades, teens on farms were also expected to help with farm chores. Today's school athletes are required to devote long hours to their sport.

It seems that former *Des Moines Register* columnist Donald Kaul was right when he commented in 2003 on the inevitability of the change, for better or worse. "It was essentially a small-town phenomenon," Kaul wrote. "When small-town Iowa began to die, so did six-girl basketball." ❖

March 1955: Victory has been declared, and the referee's job is over—if only he can get off the court before he's trampled. A. W. Vanderwil squeezes through the rejoicing Royal team, which had just beaten Graton 66–62.

NOTE ON SOURCES

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SHSI (DES MOINES) DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE

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SHSI (DES MOINES): DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE

Basketball Girl

by Vivian (Morgan) Ulan

Until she was 13, Vivian Imogene Morgan lived in Clarence, Iowa. The daughter of a school superintendent, James H. Morgan, she climbed trees, hunted rabbits, and skinned snakes. Her family's move to Sigourney when she was 13 coincided with the end of her tree-climbing days, and, as her daughter remembers Vivian recounting, "I tried my best to follow my sisters and be totally female. It was hard until basketball arrived. It was my salvation. We played to win. No one ever preached to us about good sportsmanship. We played with all our hearts, always with a regard to the rules so we wouldn't foul out."

In 1967, Vivian's daughter, Mrs. B. J. Wilson (of Riceville, Iowa), decided to write down her mother's description of growing up—from climbing trees to dating boys to playing basketball. Wilson wrote in first person, as if her mother were speaking. She sent the manuscript to the State Historical Society of Iowa (Iowa City) in 1967. Excerpted here are Vivian's memories of basketball. —The Editor

I was a basketball girl myself. . . . I played center in my senior year of 1907-1908 [at Sigourney]. . . . Our team was started because our high school superintendent was also the coach of the boys' first football teams and being athletic-minded, when two lady teachers [Lillian and Ethel Cunningham of Malvern, Iowa], who had played basketball in college, wanted to or-

ganize a girls' basketball team he gave permission. Volunteers were asked for. I loved any activity of that kind and properly volunteered.

There was a loud outcry from many mothers. It would keep their daughters from bearing children or it would do so much harm that if they were fortunate in bearing a child they would never be able to nurse it. . . .

Uniforms were carefully considered by not only the teachers but the school board itself. Skirts [rather than] bloomers were discarded because the school board felt if we were ever in a position where the skirt might flop over our heads, that it would not only be embarrassing but most immodest. Uniforms were chosen of a heavy, light, gray cravanette with a darker gray stripe in it. They were one-piece suits. The top had elbow sleeves and a sailor collar. A black silk tie went under the collar and tied in a bow held in place by a loop at the front where the end of the collar sides met. Our bloomers were very full so as to not reveal the female form. They came below the knee where they were held taut by rubber bands. We wore heavy, black, cotton ribbed hose that came above the knee so that no space showed any bare skin. We wore black, high-laced tennis shoes. Underneath our suits we wore long cotton vests. What decent girl was ever without one? Some were

heavily embroidered at the top. We wore a garter belt to hold up our long hose. Thank goodness the years of the long, beruffled, white pantaloons were over so our panties were short—coming only to our knees and each pant leg was ended usually with a number of rows of tucks edged with embroidered ruffles or heavy lace.

We had no gym so our games were played outdoors on grass each fall and spring. I never will forget the disappointed look on the boys' faces when we walked on the courts garbed as we were. Every boy or young man in the vicinity was seated on the grass in a circle around the court. One boy in my class aroused my anger by gazing at us in wide-mouthed amazement. At the time I thought since we wore our dresses to cover our shoe tops that he was surprised to know that girls had legs—and what legs we must have displayed with those awful hose on. As I look on the girls who play today with their freedom from extra clothing I often wonder how we ever played as we were garbed without being overcome with the heat. Because we played just as hard as the girls of today. . . .

Way back in the early 1900s basketball was played in many

communities over the state. Our group of girls all married and nursed their babies in spite of the dire prophecies of the few alarmed mothers. We rode in hacks to neighboring teams or went by train to play other schools.

It's a real treat for even my tired old eyes to watch the basketball girls of today.

The following are high school yells we gave. The seniors were bitter enemies of the juniors in Sigourney High in those early days. The seniors took the freshmen under their wings, and the sophomores and juniors sided together. There were really battles between those classes. Each class had its own pennant and they vied with each to place either junior or senior pennants on the highest building in town.



The Sigourney High School takes on South English, in southeastern Iowa, 1907.



Hiro biro diro dum
 Ruma stick a
 Bum a diddle
 Fee fo fum
 Rip rap flip flap
 Zip zip zeven
 We're the class of 1907.

Juniors, Sophomores
 O! What lubbers
 O! Slush! Get your rubbers
 O! Scissors! Cut it out
 O! Joy! Hear us shout.

Ring-a-rung-a!
 Ring-a-rung-a!
 Ring-a-rang-a-ris
 Sigourney, Sigourney
 1906.

Hippity, hippity, huss
 We're not allowed to cuss
 But never the less
 We will say this
 There's nothing
 The matter with us.

Hulla balloo
 Balla Balli
 Basket Ball-o my oh my
 Record breakers
 Sakes alive
 Sigourney High School
 Still we thrive.

Oh, thee thy thou
 Ali ca ze ca zi ca zou
 Sigourney High School
 Wow wow wow.



Many New Deal construction projects were gymnasiums, like this one in the Webster County town of Harcourt (population 300). Whether arches were glued or mechanically fastened, the labor to prepare the planks and bend them into the shape of the rafters was extensive. The Harcourt gymnasium still stands.

Laminated Timber Arches Grace WPA Gymnasium

by Barbara Mitchell

Built in 1941/42 by the New Deal's Work Projects Administration, the school gymnasium in Harcourt, Iowa, was an example of a new construction method, laminated timber arches.

The graceful curve of laminated timber arch construction lends itself well to spanning large open spaces. By the late 1800s a few barns began to feature rafters with sawn curves. Bent laminated rafters, bolted or otherwise mechanically fastened, became popular

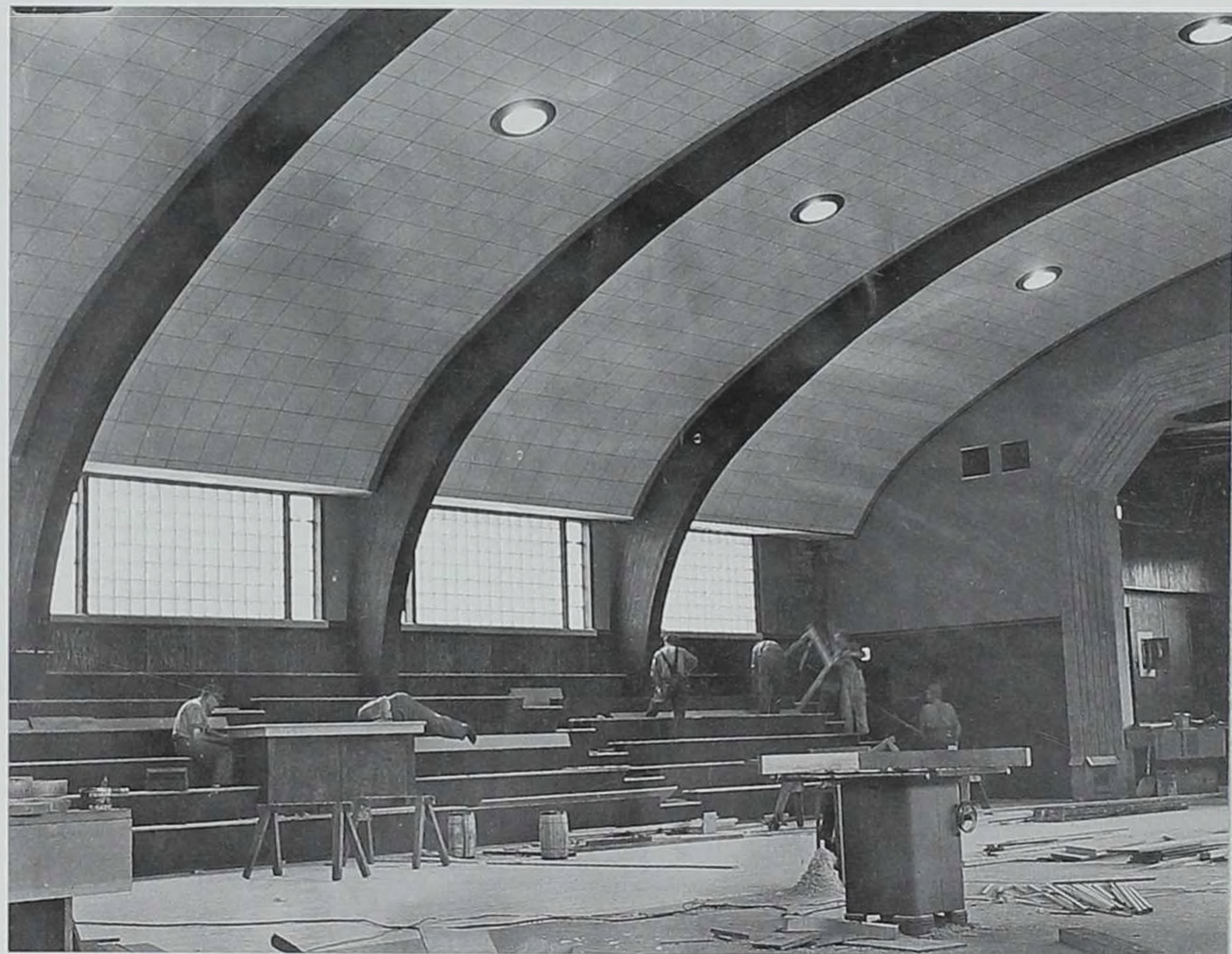
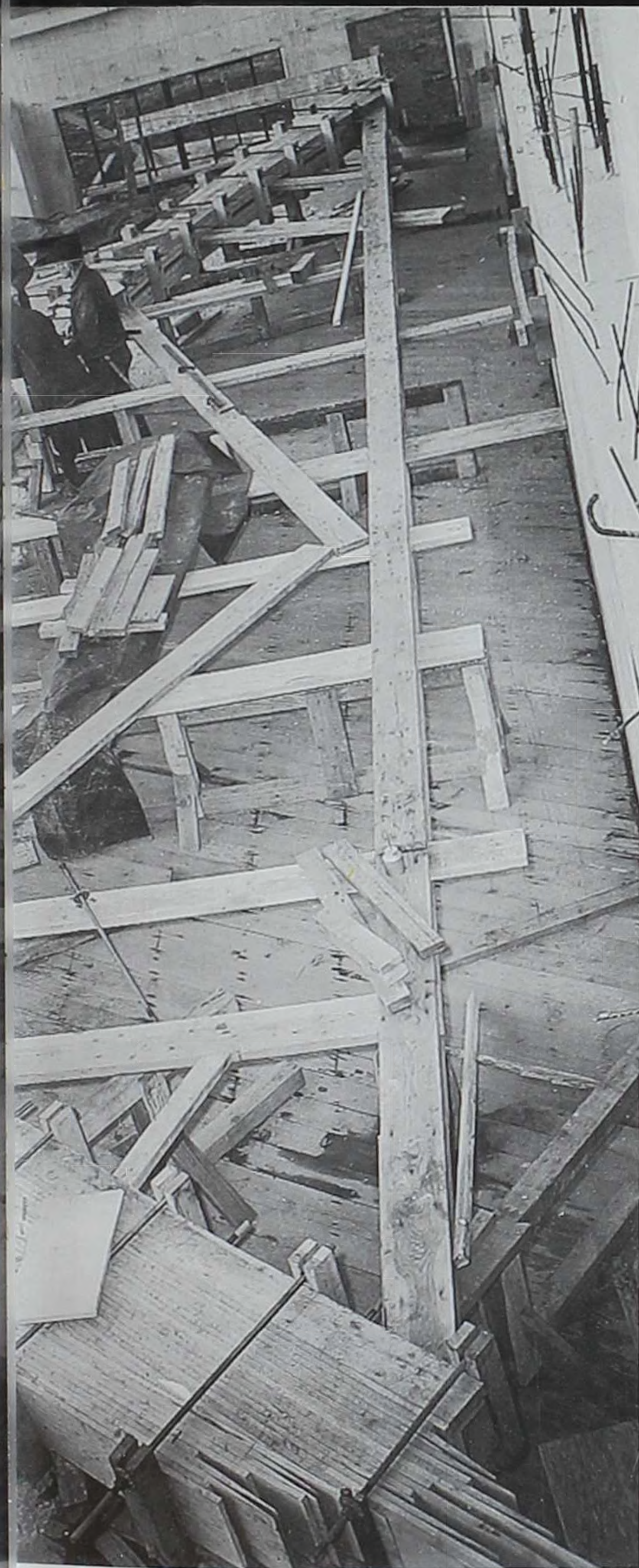
in the late 1910s. But bent laminated rafters were not as strong as the sawn curved rafters that preceded them. The solution found for this dilemma was glue.

Glued laminated timber arch construction originated in Germany. Otto Hetzer, of Weimar, received the first patent for a curved laminated beam in 1906. The "Hetzer system" included multiple layers of long wood planks, carefully bent into the proper shape, clamped, and bonded together us-



ing casein adhesive for strength. The glued lamination allowed roofs to span large open areas without the use of columns or other supports. By World War I, the use of timber arches had spread through Germany, Switzerland, and Scandinavia.

Max Hanisch, Sr., an employee of Hetzer's firm, brought the construction technique to the United States in 1923. Hanisch teamed up with the Thompson Brothers Boat Manufacturing Company in Peshtigo, Wisconsin,



to begin building laminated timber arches. The boat builders' familiarity with woodworking made them perfect partners for the business, which incorporated as Unit Structures. The first building to use the arches in North America was a Peshtigo school gymnasium, designed by Hanisch in 1934.

Unsure the glued arches were strong enough, the Wisconsin Industrial Commission required reinforcement with bolts and straps. In late 1934, however, Unit Structures and the

USDA-Forest Products Laboratory in Madison began research to prove the strength of the arches held together by glue alone. They also demonstrated that short pieces of wood could be glued together to form long arches.

In Iowa around the same time, Henry Giese worked with the Rock Island Lumber Company on similar tests at the Iowa State College in Ames. His work, in particular, improved the design of the rafters for use in Gothic-roofed barns. By the late 1930s, glued

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Barbara Mitchell is an architectural historian in the State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society of Iowa (Des Moines).



ALL PHOTOS: SHEL (OWA CITY) WPA COLLECTION

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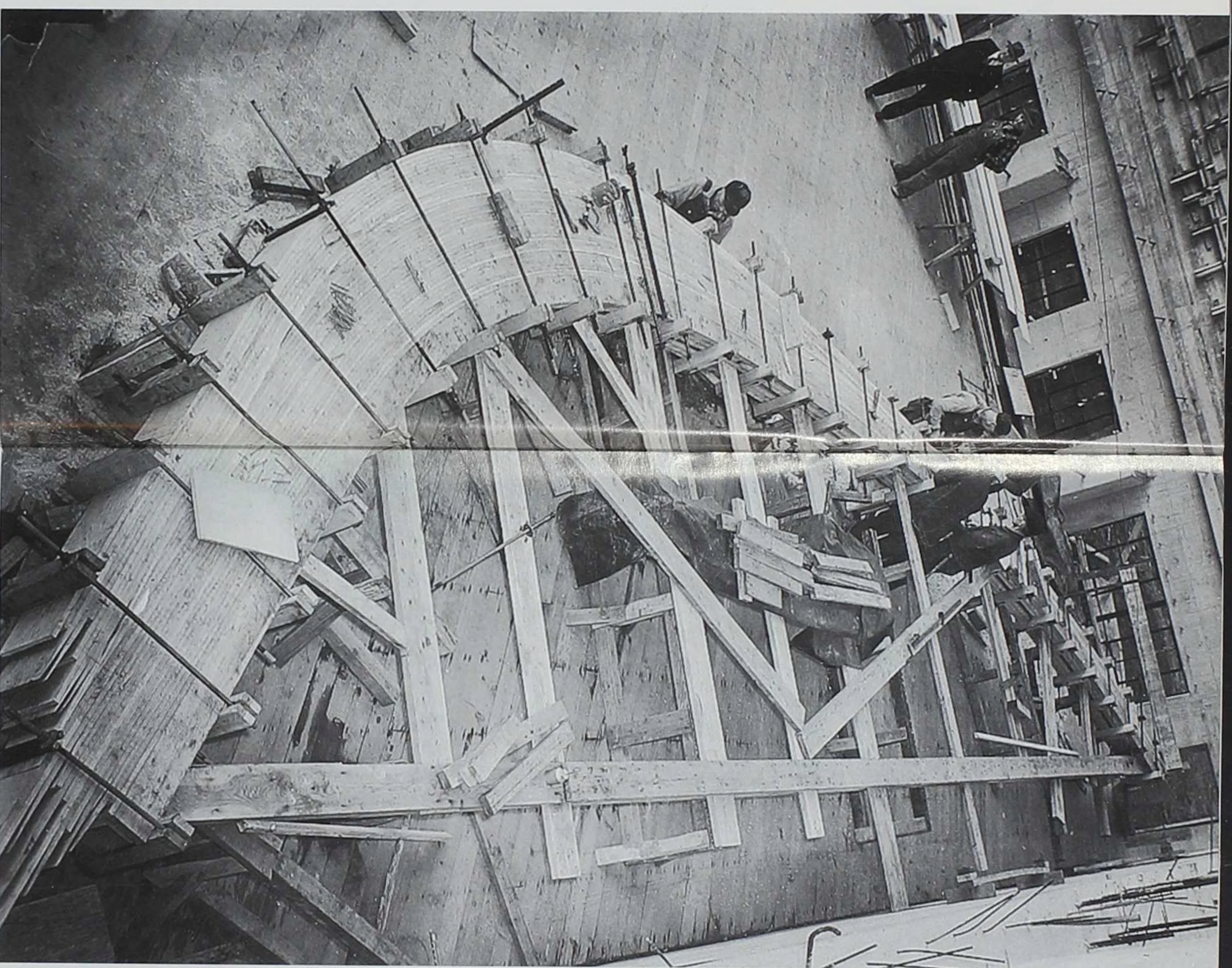
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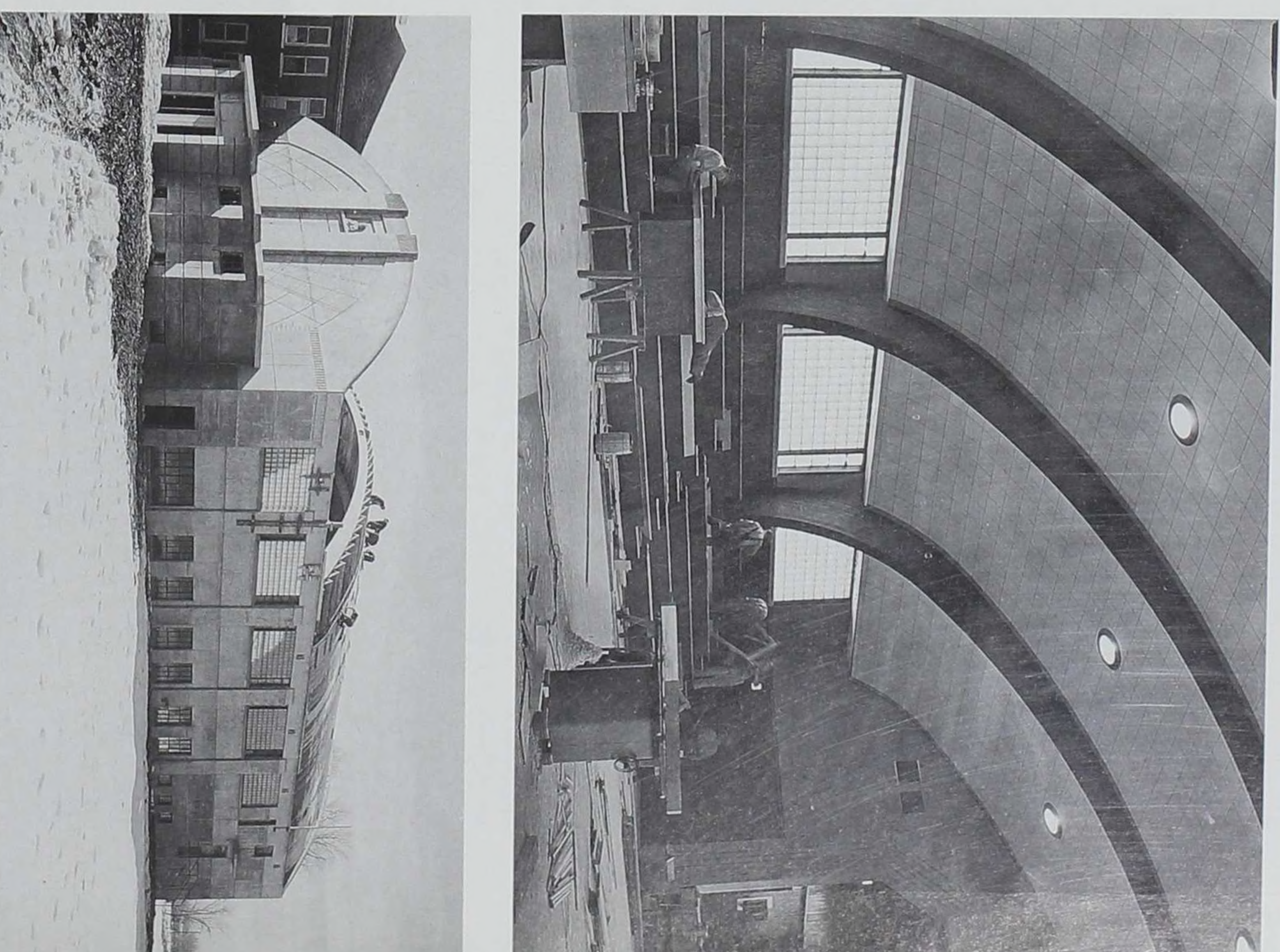


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Opera Houses, Armories, & New Deal Gyms

Historic Sites in Iowa Basketball

One would expect that it would be the rare basketball gymnasium that has seen few changes since it was built. But a state-wide survey in 2003 found that a number of basketball gyms, particularly at smaller high schools, were very nearly completely intact. More than two dozen still impart a strong sense of time and place. The gyms presented here represent all areas in the state and date from 1911 to 1936.

The survey was funded by the State Historical Society of Iowa and conducted by Tallgrass Historians L.C. Its purpose was to identify historically significant properties built prior to 1960 and that were associated with basketball in Iowa—one of the state's most popular team sports.

—Adapted from text by Clare L. Kernek and Leah D. Rogers, Tallgrass Historians L.C.



The Westgate Opera House, built in 1911, was intended for public entertainment. Like many small-town opera houses, it was also used for community and athletic events, such as roller skating, wrestling events, and basketball games. The original ticket window remains in the lobby, and the basketball goal still hangs over the entry doors. Decorative pressed tin covers the walls and ceiling. The exterior pressed metal siding mimics rusticated block or brick. Owned by the city of Westgate since 1939, it is managed by Westgate Community Club and used as a community center for meetings, suppers, musicals, parties, and similar events.



Dating to 1912, the Villisca Armory represents one of many Iowa armories originally built with basketball facilities to be used by the local community. It has changed little since 1912 and retains the original basketball court, with balcony seating and pressed tin ceiling. The Villisca High School played all of its basketball games there until 1959, when a new facility was built. In recent years, the National Guard turned the armory over to the local school district, and the gym is once again used for school athletics.



Nicknamed "the Dungeon," the gymnasium of Sioux City Central High School was the site of powerhouse basketball teams in northwestern Iowa. This was one of the early high school gyms built in Iowa specifically for basketball and was regarded as an outstanding design for the time. Built in 1913 and designed by F. E. Colby, the gym was an addition to the 1892/93 high school. Closed in 1972, the high school itself is listed on the National Register as an outstanding example of the Romanesque style of architecture. The school is under renovation for adaptive reuse.

ALL PHOTOS: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, SHSI (DES MOINES)



Completed in 1927, the Diagonal High School gymnasium still imparts the feel of a high school gym crowded to the rafters during basketball games. A stage is inset in one end, and balconies on three sides are suspended by metal rods from the roof. Diagonal High School was a small-town powerhouse in boys' basketball. The team was in 11 state tournaments in the 1930s and '40s, as well as in 1989 and 1991.

Although women students at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant had played basketball as early as 1902, this gymnasium was constructed in 1921/22, at the start of a two-decade, nationwide building boom for athletic facilities. Designed by Henry C. Ekland, it still has the feel of an old-time college gymnasium. In the 1940s, under Coach Olan G. Ruble, Iowa Wesleyan became "the first liberal arts college in the country to consistently offer intercollegiate basketball for women," writes sports historian Janice Beran, holding "clinics and tournaments for players, coaches, and officials. . . . It was the first four-year college to compete in American Athletic Union tournaments."



The New Providence school gymnasium is one of Iowa's few round gyms. The two-story building is constructed of hollow tile blocks with a brick exterior. The diameter is 85 feet. At its highest point, the low-pitched dome roof is 35 feet high and requires no supporting pillars because of the steel beam construction

(see right). The gym seated 300 in the balcony and on the bleachers, which came right to the edge of the court. The stage was originally equipped with footlights and colored border lights. Boys' and girls' locker rooms, a music room, lunch room, and kitchen filled the basement. The building is basically the same as it was in 1935/36, when it was constructed under the New Deal's Public Works Administration (PWA). Between 1933 and 1939, the PWA constructed 70 percent of all educational buildings in the nation. Designed by Keffer & Jones, a Des Moines architecture firm that specialized in PWA school buildings, it shows the excellent workmanship of that time. Unlike the other gymnasiums pictured here, the New Providence gym is already on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Seymour School Gymnasium was the home of the Seymour girls' basketball dynasty (including the seven Cole sisters), which went to the finals 15 times, 1936–1960s, and won the state title in 1938. It was built in 1935, as a construction project through the New Deal's Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

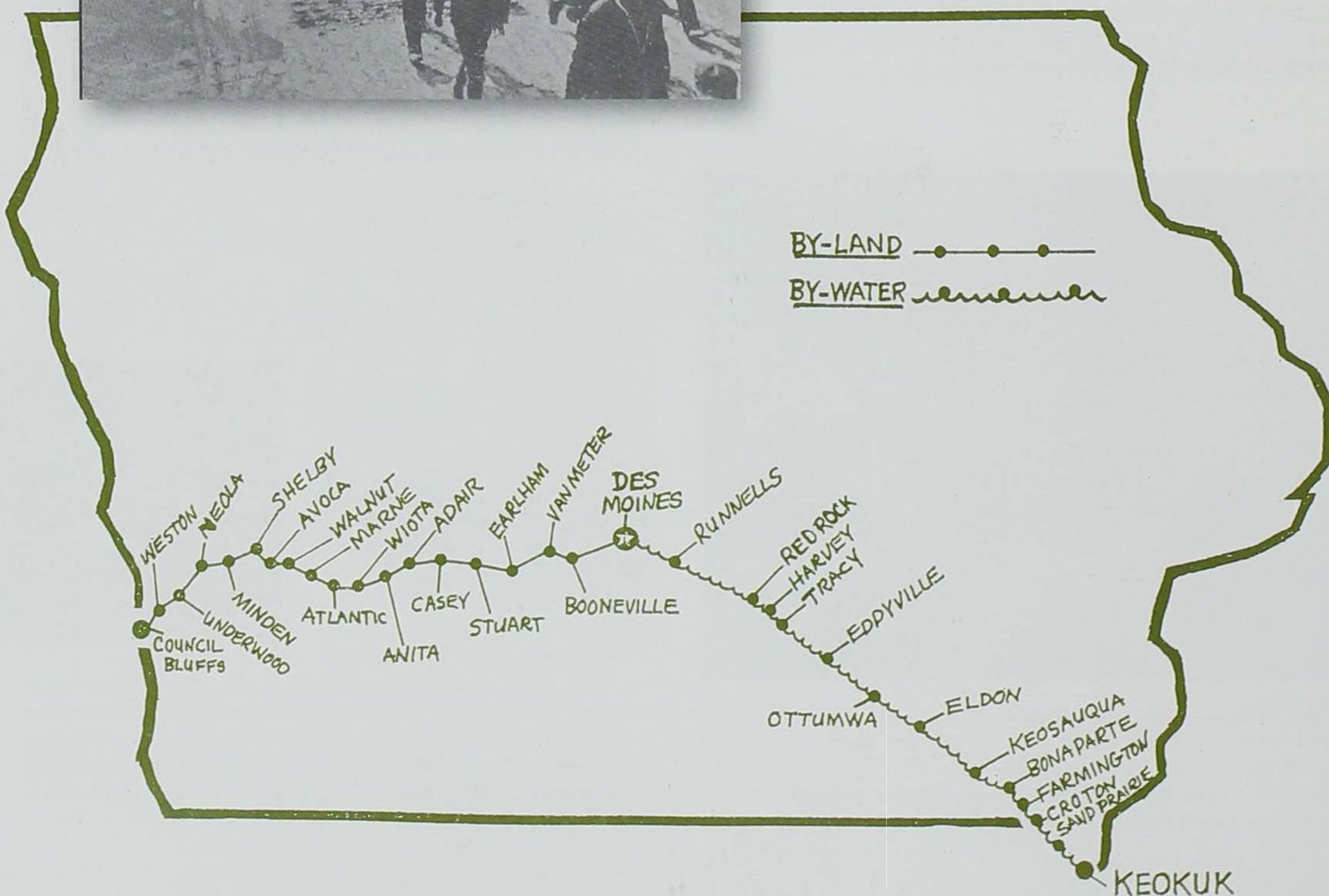
ALL PHOTOS SHSI (IOWA CITY)



Kelly's Army

The story of Kelly's Army crossing Iowa in 1894 is not widely known, but it is a compelling one. We explore the story here from three perspectives, each preserved by your State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI).

First, an excerpt from the work of historian Carlos A. Schwantes sets the scene. His fascinating, two-part article appeared in SHSI's *Annals of Iowa* in 1983, and is well worth reading again. Schwantes used daily accounts in Iowa newspapers to buttress his research, and we encourage you to also delve into SHSI's rich collection of newspapers to sample reporters' descriptions of Kelly's Army and townspeople's reactions as it crossed Iowa. More newspaper



y Crosses Iowa

accounts appear in articles published by SHSI in 1923 and 1971 in *The Palimpsest*, available through SHSI libraries.

Second, on-the-scene photos from SHSI's collections reveal rare glimpses of this "army" of out-of-work Americans and the crowds their march attracted.

Third, published here for the first time is a reminiscence of an Iowan who actually visited the army's Des Moines camp when she was 12. Written in her elder years and donated to SHSI's Special Collections, her account explains Kelly's Army in broad strokes, but her use of descriptive childhood memories gives the story a unique, first-hand perspective.

Finally, SHSI has created the opportunity for you to learn more about these events—and offer your own perspective—through programs described at the end of our travels with Kelly's Army. —The Editor



Kelly's Army arrives in Council Bluffs freight yards, April 15, 1894. Opposite: Marching to camp in nearby Chautauqua Park.

Soldiers of Misfortune

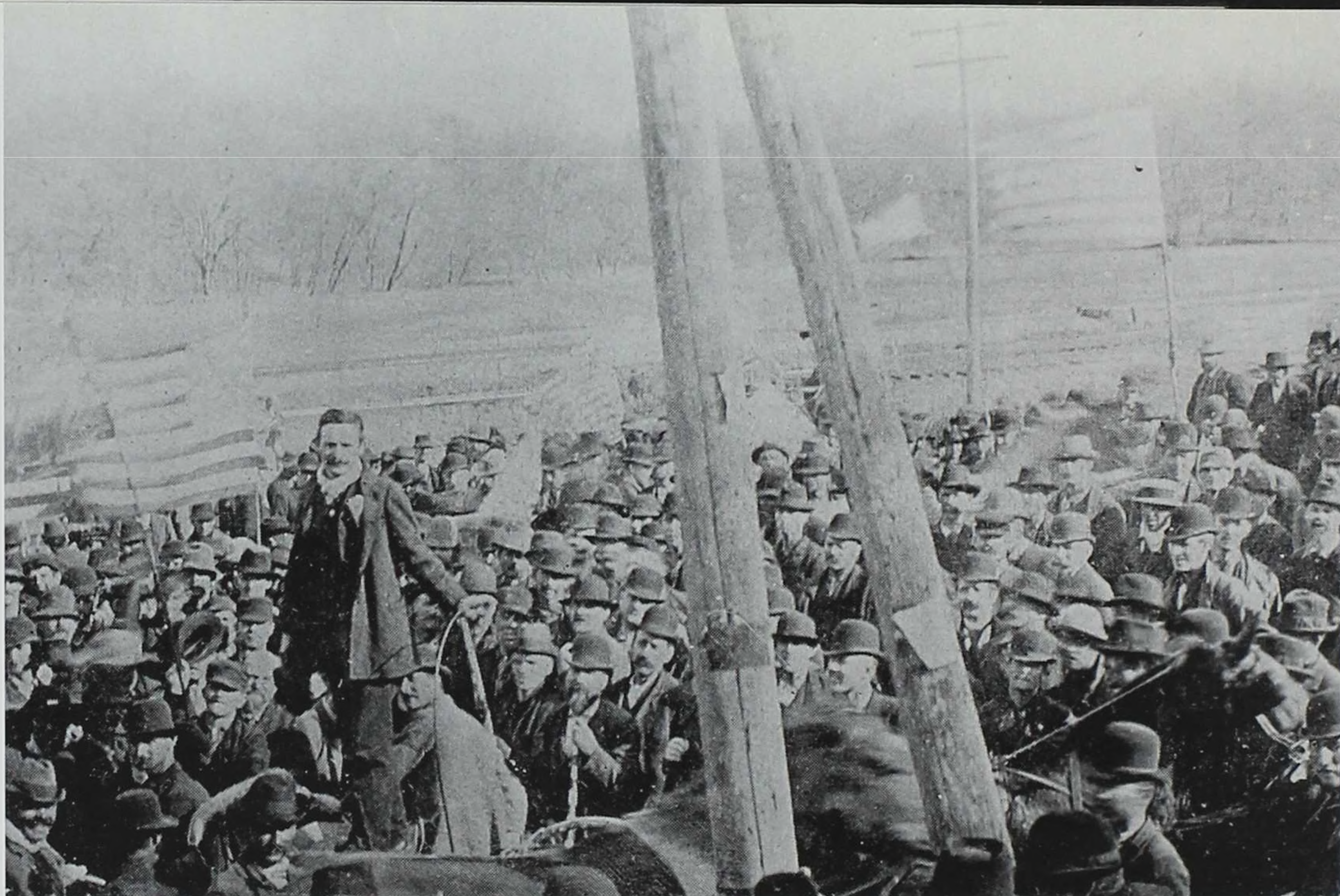
by Carlos A. Schwantes

The year 1894 was a time of severe economic depression, the worst any American could remember. Because the federal government kept no reliable statistics of unemployment, no one knew just how many people nationwide were out of work, but in many places the number was large enough to exhaust the community resources available to help the jobless. The idea that the federal government should bear part of the responsibility for unem-

ployment relief was not widely accepted and, in fact, was denounced by many as "paternalism," an undesirable state of affairs not far removed in their minds from socialism or communism. There were those, however, who believed that a mass appeal to Congress, a living petition that lawmakers dare not ignore, would bestir the federal government to create a variety of temporary public works jobs, such as building farm-to-market roads, that would

benefit both the involuntarily idled and the nation at large. . . . But when Jacob Coxey and others proposed a public works program in 1894, they were dismissed as cranks. But could their proposals be treated so lightly if thousands of their followers congregated in Washington?

When the various contingents comprising Coxey's army of the unemployed actually got under way in the spring of 1894, they launched a protest unlike any that Americans



Charles Kelly addresses his followers in Council Bluffs. As in a military army, order and discipline were essential. The men were organized into divisions and companies, and were overseen by officers. A commissary and camp hospital were set up, as well as a recruiting station. Men who brought alcohol into camp were court-martialed and likely to be expelled.

had seen before. . . . Whether petitioners would actually reach the nation's capital depended to a large degree on actions taken in states like Iowa.

. . . The largest armies [or contingents] arose in the urban West, in places like Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, and Denver. And no army was larger or seemed more ominous than that led by Charles T. Kelly . . . headed straight for Iowa.

Saturday, April 14, was a day of rapidly mounting tension. In Des Moines, Governor Frank D. Jackson pondered the telegrams he received from nervous officials of the Chicago and North Western Railway begging him to use the state militia to bar Kelly's men from Iowa. . . .

At about 9:30 a.m. [on April 15] the special train carrying Kelly's army rumbled slowly across the Missouri River bridge. . . . From twenty-six box-cars festooned with red, white, and blue bunting, American flags, and a large banner reading, "Government

Employment for the Unemployed, there arose a loud and sustained cheer. Faces weary and begrimed by long days on the road smiled at the swelling crowd of sympathizers. . . . The railway yards were soon packed with an estimated fifty to sixty thousand people. By foot, carriage, and streetcar they came, at least twenty thousand from Omaha alone. They donated carloads of bread and other food, bedding, and \$1,000 in cash. . . .

[In Council Bluffs and Omaha] Kelly and his men rapidly won people's hearts by their good behavior and simple appeals to basic human emotions. [But the railroads] unanimously refused to carry his men for less than full fare.

[After a week of camping and waiting in Council Bluffs, it became] obvious to Kelly that his army must walk the 180 miles to Des Moines. There he hoped that one of several additional connecting railroads could provide the long-sought train. With

twenty bicyclists from Omaha and sixty farmers on horseback providing an escort and four women sympathizers marching at the head of the column, Kelly and his troops set out for Neola, twelve miles away. . . .

[A full week later, near Des Moines] little bands of men appeared on the horizon. For the next several hours they collected on the west side and organized for a triumphal march through Des Moines. . . . The men finally reached their temporary home, an abandoned stove foundry, and at 7 p.m. ate their first real meal in twenty-four hours. ❖

The previous text was excerpted from a two-part article by historian Carlos A. Schwantes. "Soldiers of Misfortune" appeared in the Annals of Iowa, 46: 7 and 8 (Winter and Spring 1983). Copyright State Historical Society of Iowa. The complete article is available through the State Historical Society's libraries.

Historic Events I've Lived Through

Kelly's Army on the March

by Annie Braniff

In 1894 when I was twelve years old, I visited the camp of Kelly's Army. It was located in the old stove works which was a three-story building located about a mile and a half east of the Iowa State House [in Des Moines]. On this visit, three of my classmates and I were taken to the camp in a horse-drawn, one-seated buggy by our teacher, Sid Marshall, of Ground Hog School, which was a country school southeast of the fairgrounds.

It was a crowded place. Newspapers reported as many as 1,200 men. The number varied due to the addition of recruits and the loss by desertion. Some men were busy cooking food in large kettles over the campfires. Kelly was giving a speech explaining why the army was marching to Washington, D.C. He hoped to gain more volunteers in each town along the way. He also hoped to reduce the number of desertions that took place when weary, footsore marchers gave up the cause. We toured the first two floors of the building. Here men were resting. Some had their feet bandaged due to blisters from marching. We were not permitted to view the third floor as that was the infirmary.

The camp attracted many sightseers who came out of curiosity to see and to hear Kelly. His Industrial Army had started from San Francisco and was marching east to join the army of Jacob Coxey, who originated the idea. Their destination was Washington, D.C. They planned to ask Congress for legislation that they hoped would reduce the unemployment caused by the Panic of 1893. The petition asked for one and a half billion dollars in paper money to use in building

good roads throughout the country and to use in the reclamation of desert lands. They asked for a wage of \$1.50 for an eight-hour day. They had the sympathy of laboring men and farmers.

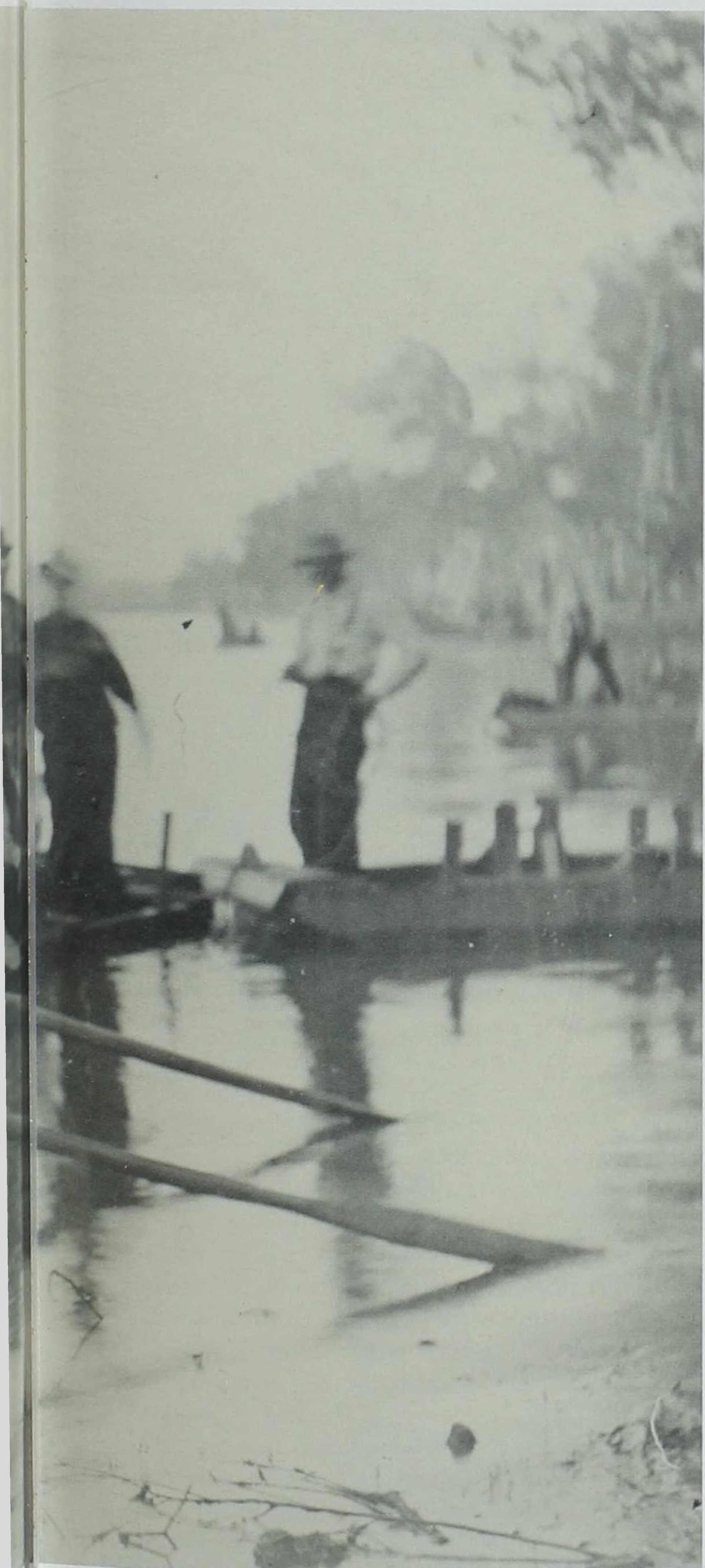
One member of Kelly's Army was Jack London, who later became a noted author. He kept a diary of the march from San Francisco, where he had joined. In his diary he praised the Iowa farmers who gave food and provided transportation for the luggage. He described the small Iowa towns along the route where the army was welcomed by the mayors and citizens who often marched with them down their Main Streets.

They expected a big welcome in Des Moines, but reports of their vandalism in the Omaha area had reached Des Moines. Although tension was growing as they neared the city, food and money were gathered for their arrival, and Mayor Hillis prepared a welcome speech. No bands or parades were allowed. The army arrived on April 29, 1894. After the speech, the mayor and city council met to discuss plans to speed them on their way.

As the food supplies dwindled, and funds ran low, and reports of unsanitary conditions were heard, and fears of pestilence were rumored, the city council asked the army to move on.

On May 3 a delegation of 300 men including labor leaders called on Governor Jackson and urged him to move the army. A plan was decided upon. The army would move out of Des Moines on flatboats. Des





Moines carpenters furnished tools and helped to build Kelly's Navy Yard at the junction of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers. Here 134 flatboats ten feet by six feet were built from trees cut in the nearby timbers.

On May 8 the camp at the stove works building was abandoned and the army moved to the navy yard in preparation for departure.

On May 9 the city fathers breathed a sigh of relief when the floating army started on its journey down the Des Moines River to the Mississippi River to Cairo, where they planned to go up the Ohio River to Wheeling, West Virginia, which is 300 miles from Washington, D.C., their destination.

Their first stop was on the sandbars near Runnells, Iowa. Once again I saw the army. This time our teacher took the entire school. We walked through Section 10 to reach the scene. We carried our lunches in little tin dinner pails. The army was using tin cups and tin plates for their food. There was much joking, laughing, and singing. My sister and I wore blue dresses that day. Several men began to sing a popular song of the day, "Two Little Girls in Blue." The banks were filled with hundreds of people who cheered the men as they once again boarded the rafts and pushed on down the river.

The march received nationwide attention. Coxe's Army reached Washington, D.C. before Kelly was able to join him. A combined army of 100,000 men had been expected. Only 500 arrived in Washington. After a disturbance on the [U.S.] Capitol grounds, the army was arrested for walking on the grass.

Kelly's Army reached Washington in July. Congress did nothing about the petition. Maryland and Washington returned all the men home by railroad. By August the strange crusade was ended.

Although I was only twelve, I remember the event vividly. I'm glad I witnessed a moment of history in the making. ❖

Annie Braniff lived in Indianola in 1976, when she wrote this account. It is part of the collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa (Iowa City).

For more on Jack London in Iowa, see The Palimpsest (June 1971), and participate in the Big Read – A Walk on the Wild Side (see details on next page).

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Young boys help men from Kelly's Army ease flatboats across a dam at Ottumwa, as the flotilla heads to Keokuk.

The Big Read Crosses Iowa

Jack London and Kelly's Army

To bring attention to the historic event of Kelly's Industrial Army crossing Iowa, the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) is holding a series of programs as part of The Big Read initiative—A Walk on the Wild Side. These programs combine history and literature because of the literary giant who was part of Kelly's Army: Jack London, author of *The Call of the Wild*.

SHSI's Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs kicks off the events April 19 with a minichautauqua, including Klondike demonstrations, a showing of the movie *The Call of the Wild*, history lectures, and a show by the Montana Mountain Musers dog-sled team. Visits from local dignitaries, a photograph display of Jack London and Kelly's Industrial Army, plus a *Call of the Wild*/Jack London trivia contest will round out the day.

Elsewhere in Iowa, *The Call of the Wild* book talks and Jack London discussions are planned in five towns along the route of Kelly's Army in the western half of Iowa (Walnut, Adair, Earlham, West

Des Moines, and Des Moines) as well as in Newton, Iowa City, and Clermont. Using the Iowa National Guard's telecommunication system, guard members in Iraq and Afghanistan will also have an opportunity to participate.

Additional presentations by humanities scholars will take place in Des Moines and Iowa City. Movie nights will also be held in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, and Clermont.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest.

For more information about A Walk on the Wild Side: Jack London and *The Call of the Wild*, contact SHSI staff members Susan Jellinger, 515-281-6897, susan.jellinger@iowa.gov or Jeff Morgan, 515-281-3858, jeff.morgan@iowa.gov.

—by Susan Jellinger



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One in a Million

The light and power company that placed this advertisement in the program for the 1920 Iowa boys' basketball tournament was surely targeting the women spectators in the stands. The ad includes a small photo of a basketball player, but the ad copy is all about electric appliances intended for women to use in keeping house. Although "most of the early ads for electric appliances celebrated their economy," historian Susan Strasser writes, "by the 1920s, economy no longer dominated the ads, which now celebrated electricity's ability to relieve women of burdensome chores." This ad seems to follow that trend: "Do your ironing and pressing in comfort," it reads. "Electricity will keep the Iron hot and yourself cool." In American households of the 1920s, irons were the most popular electric appliance, followed by vacuum cleaners.

—The Editor

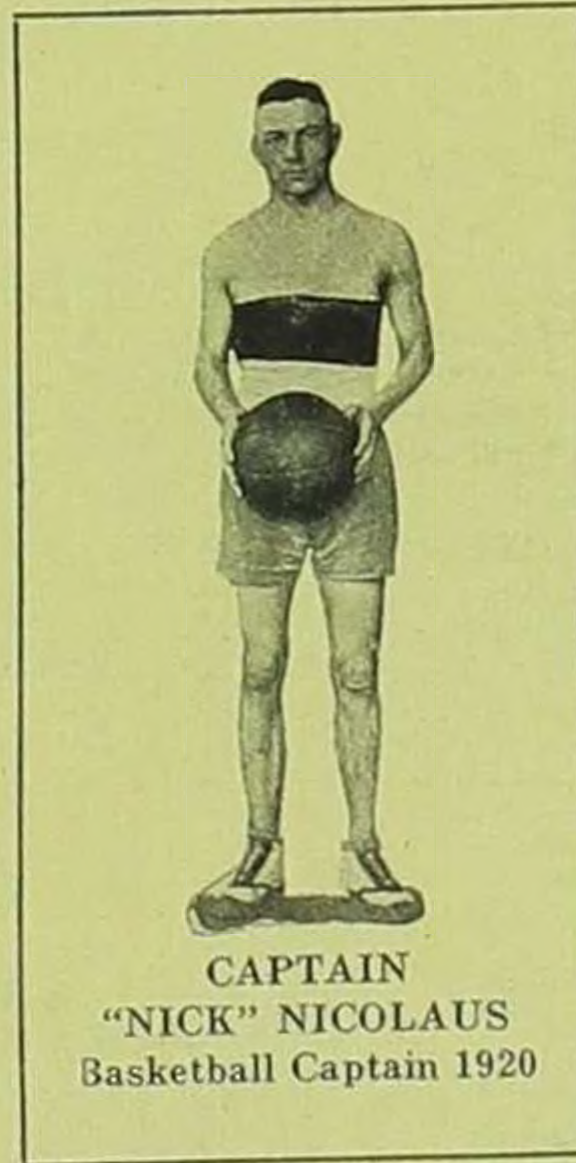
SHSI (IOWA CITY)

Do It Electrically

Have you given it a thought how an Electric Iron can be attached to any socket in the house?

Do your ironing and pressing in comfort.

Electricity will keep the Iron hot and yourself cool.



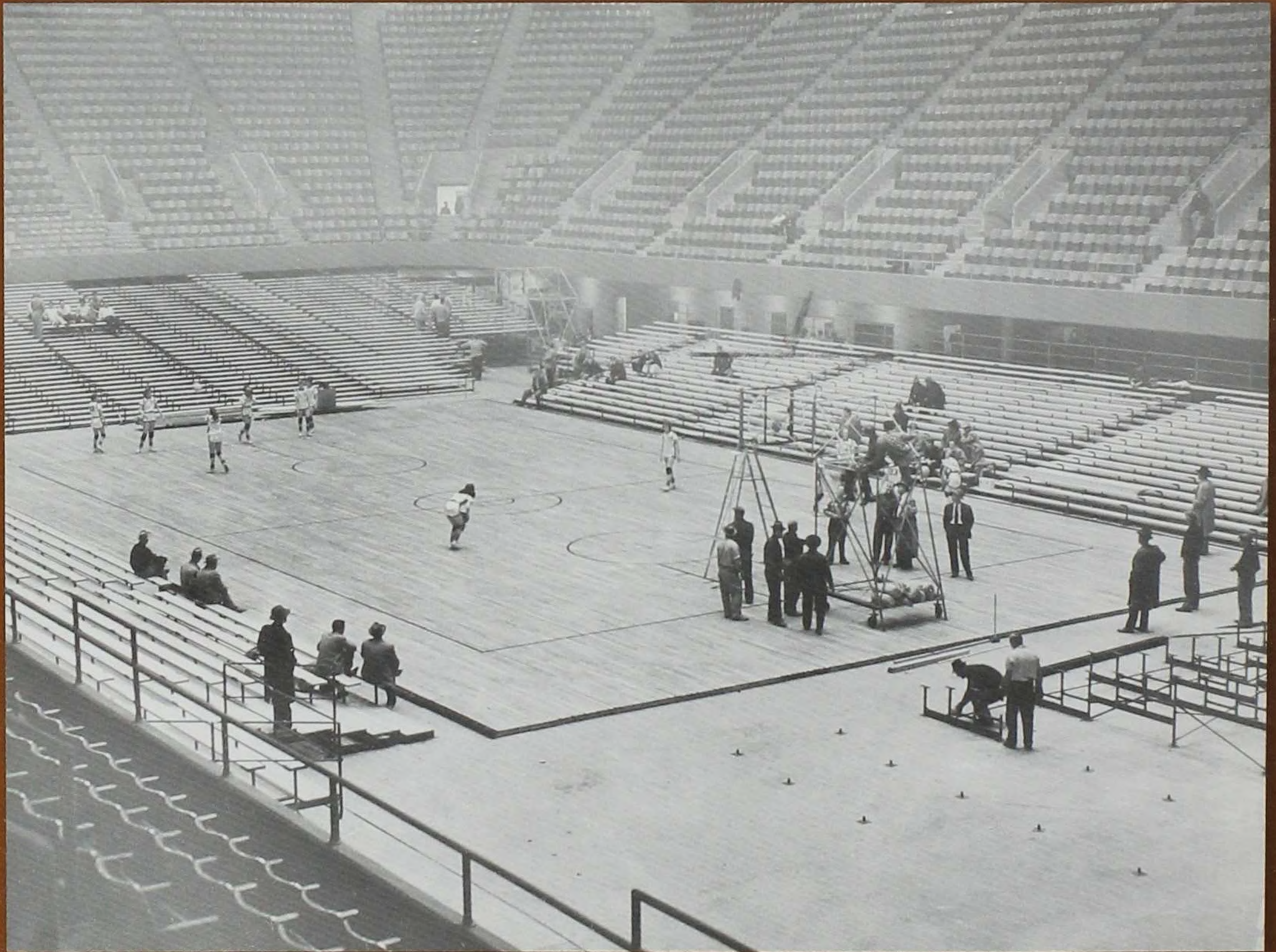
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PHONE 121



In 1955 the Iowa high school basketball tournaments moved from the Drake Field House in Des Moines to the brand-new Veterans Memorial Auditorium. Here, the girls' team from Eldora practices shots in preparation for an upcoming game.

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