

DEDICATION OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA CENTENNIAL BUILDING

By *William J. Petersen**

This issue of the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY contains the speeches and papers read at the dedication of the State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building on August 31, 1960. In addition, there are included some of the papers read at the 20th Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History held jointly with the State Historical Society of Iowa on the occasion of the dedication of the Centennial Building and continuing through September 3. It is unfortunate that the Association does not prepare abstracts of all the papers and discussions read during the course of the convention as several good ones might have been summarized herein. Happily, enough were made available so a fairly well-rounded picture can be given of the program.

Dedication of the Centennial Building

The dedication of the first home of the State Historical Society of Iowa after 103 years of service to the State of Iowa took place at eleven a.m. on August 31, 1960. It was truly an historic event for the Society and several hundred were on hand to brave the sweltering heat of an unusually warm August day. A brief summary of the steps leading up to this event are well worth recording.

The governing body of the State Historical Society, which is made up of a Board of Curators, had been confronted with the problem of finding a permanent home on a half dozen occasions since the Society was founded in 1857. It was not until 1954, however, that the first real effort was made to interest both the General Assembly and the people of Iowa in such a dream.

In June of 1954, officials of the State University of Iowa, finding themselves badly cramped for space, suggested that the State Historical Society of Iowa might like to move its offices into the Peter A. Dey home on North Clinton for administrative purposes in exchange for the rooms it occupied in Schaeffer Hall. If the idea met with favor on the part of the Board of Curators, the University officials declared they would endeavor to secure

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\$200,000 from the General Assembly to build a storage place behind the Dey property to house the books, newspapers, manuscripts, and other valuable holdings of the Society which had been accumulated over a century of time.

Investigation disclosed that the Dey home was structurally unsuitable for the Society's business offices. Furthermore, it was felt the library would be less accessible for historical research on the part of graduate students and visiting scholars, and thus would prevent the Society from performing its prescribed services to the people of Iowa. Since the Society was already hampered in the collection of material because of lack of space, the Board of Curators accepted the suggestion of the Superintendent and proposed to the University officials that the Historical Society would undertake to raise \$100,000 on its own and ask the General Assembly to match this sum with \$200,000 for a completely new home. Although the very idea seemed fantastic to some and virtually unattainable to most, the action seemed reasonably appropriate in 1954 because of the approaching centennial of the Society. The new home, by unanimous agreement, would be called the State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building.

Professional solicitors, it was found upon inquiry, were unwilling to solicit funds for such a project, even at three or four times the amount usually charged for hospital, Y.M.C.A., or church fund-raising campaigns. The Board of Curators, therefore, hit upon a happy idea. They appointed William J. Petersen, the superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, to secure the \$100,000.

Strong Legislative Support

Fortunately for the Society this seemingly wild dream met a warm response from press and radio, from citizens representing every walk of life, and from the General Assembly itself. Using his *News for Members* as a vehicle for publicity, and by personally contacting key citizens, the superintendent had already collected almost \$25,000 before the 56th General Assembly convened in Des Moines in January, 1955. An important role in making this dream become a reality was played by Iowa newspaper editors. Their whole-hearted support played an important part in influencing both citizens and legislators.

Fortunately for the State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building there had been a steadily increasing interest in the Society among the legis-

lators, resulting in a phenomenal increase in membership within the group since 1947. Such men as Fred Schwengel, Clark McNeal, Bill Tate, Bill Lynes, Wendell Pendleton, Jack Schroeder, and De Vere Watson, had been especially active in promoting this phenomenal membership growth. Since he had increased General Asembly membership in the Society from less than ten per cent to almost ninety per cent in the previous eight years, the superintendent found sympathetic ears and a heart-warming understanding among these men. In a hundred years of legislative history the General Assembly had not encountered a single state employee who was willing in his spare time to solicit one-third the cost of a building for his own department.

Those were anxious days for the Superintendent as he solicited legislative support in Des Moines. In the closing days of the session the 56th General Assembly passed its Appropriation Bill which included acceptance of the offer to match the \$100,000 raised by the Society with a \$200,000 legislative appropriation for a new Centennial Building. Senator D. C. Nolan and Representative Scott Swisher of Johnson County played leading roles in securing the appropriation.

Seventeen Senators had placed their names on Senate File 191 and twenty-six House members had signed their names to House File 248, the original bills asking for the \$200,000 appropriation. The names of these men deserve to be recorded in the history of the Society.

Senate File 191		House File 248		
Anderson	Molison	Buck	Kosek	Sar
Boothby	Nolan	Burtch	Loss	Smith
Dewel	O'Malley	Colburn	McNeal	Swisher
Elijah	Schroeder	Darrington	Mensing	Tate
Grimstead	Van Eaton	Falvey	E. A. Miller	Vermeer
Lucas	Walker	Frommelt	Mooty	J. F. Walter
McFarlane	D. Watson	Hendrix	Novak	P. M. Walter
McManus	H. Watson	Hoth	Peterson	Voigtmann
Weiss	Hultman		Pim	

Few legislatures had been faced with more difficult problems than the 56th General Assembly. On the one hand, the members were confronted with a large section of their constituents who favored "holding the line" and opposed raising taxes in any form. On the other hand, an equally vocal number of their constituents cried out for better roads, greater aid to schools, and more support for institutions under the Board of Education and the Board of Control. With such giant appropriations to be determined it

took wisdom, courage, and leadership to see that the modest request of the Society was not shunted aside. Happily, the 56th General Assembly was well represented with men possessing these qualities. It accordingly met the challenge to the delight of 5,000 members of the State Historical Society.

On December 8, 1955, the Board of Regents transferred to the State Historical Society of Iowa the 80 x 150-foot lot at the corner of Iowa Avenue and Gilbert Street on which were three University buildings. Two large frame houses used by University music students stood on the front of this lot facing Iowa Avenue. The University laundry was located on the rear of the lot facing Gilbert Street.

It should be pointed out that succeeding legislatures, impressed by the hearty support rendered the Society by citizens, by press and radio, and by clubs and patriotic organizations, followed the original appropriation of \$200,000 with two additional appropriations to the Society, swelling the total contributed by the State to \$304,178. The two sums added to the original appropriation were \$85,000 for furnishings and equipment by the 58th General Assembly, and \$19,178 needed to complete payments due on the Centennial Building, and which was voted by the Budget and Financial Control Committee of the 58th General Assembly.

Raising Funds Through Private Contributions

Several large and especially heartening gifts got the fund-raising campaign off to a good start. The first such contribution resulted from a conference with Craig Sheaffer, himself a Life Member of the Society. It came in the form of a check for \$5,000 from the Sheaffer Memorial Foundation. Close on the heels of this gift came another \$5,000 from Robert E. Vance, President of the Maytag Company Foundation. Governor William S. Beardsley pledged \$500 to this "meretorious program" affording the Society the "safest and finest facilities."

The year 1955 had been a highly productive one for the State Historical Society. The General Assembly had voted \$200,000 for a Centennial Building in May and the Board of Regents had transferred an 80 x 150-foot lot to the Society in December. It only remained for the Society to raise its \$100,000. Throughout 1956 interest in the Society mounted on an ever-increasing crescendo. Steamboat trips on both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers helped focus attention on the Society's varied activities. Publications (including the William Boyd Allison book) became increasingly popular.

Membership continued to grow at an amazing rate. All these forces combined to stimulate interest in the proposed Centennial Building. Before the year 1956 had come to an end the building fund had reached the \$100,000 cash available and entitled the Society to the \$200,000 appropriated by the General Assembly. Among the first and largest contributors were the following:

Frank C. Allen	\$ 9,500	\$500
Sheaffer Pen Co.	5,000	Des Moines
Maytag Company	5,000	Yunker Bros., Inc.
Lee Papers & Families	5,250	Meredith Foundation
Hanford MacNider	5,000	Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Co.
Dorothy Musser	5,000	James M. Pierce Corporation
Arthur Cox Family	2,250	Iowa City
	<hr/>	James E. Stronks
	\$37,000	Sam T. Morrison
		Plumbers Supply
Carl Weeks	\$ 1,000	Iowa City <i>Press-Citizen</i>
Mrs. Mina J. Way	1,000	Frank J. Zeithamel
Cedar Rapids <i>Gazette</i>	1,000	Iowa State Bank & Trust
Waterloo <i>Courier</i>	1,000	Frank L. Thompson
Dubuque		L. C. W. Clearman
Carr, Adams & Collier	\$ 1,000	Richard K. Adams
Wahlert Foundation	1,000	First National Bank
Keokuk		<hr/>
Hubinger Foundation	1,000	F. O. Block, Bettendorf
Keokuk Electro-Metals	1,000	O. D. Collis, Clinton
Hoerner Foundation	1,000	Taft Unitarian Foundation
	<hr/>	Charles Gilchrist, Davenport
	\$ 9,000	W. A. Logan, Keokuk
22 \$500 contributions	11,000	Kent-Stein Foundation,
	<hr/>	Muscatine
Total large contributions		Burlington <i>Hawk-Eye Gazette</i>
in 1956	\$57,000	Ralph C. McCague,
		Marshalltown

Thousands of other contributions, ranging from one dollar to \$300, helped swell the total to the \$100,000 mark by the time the 57th General Assembly convened in Des Moines in 1957.

1957

On April 9, 1957, bids were opened for the removal of the two frame houses but the laundry was still in use pending the completion of its new

building. Meanwhile, the centennial of the State Historical Society of Iowa had been observed at a commemorative dinner in the Iowa Memorial Union at Iowa City on February 7, 1957. It was attended by more than 120 members and guests, including eighteen Curators, thirteen of whom were serving on the Board at the time. Congratulations poured in from heads of sister institutions all over the United States. Curator William R. Hart served as Master of Ceremonies and Superintendent William J. Petersen gave the address of the evening.

Dean Allin W. Dakin brought greetings from President Virgil M. Hancher on the occasion of the centennial and felicitously extended his own personal good wishes. Curator W. Howard Smith introduced the nine elected Curators, present and past, many of whom had traveled long distances to be present for the historic occasion. The lighting of the huge Birthday Cake was a happy feature of the dinner. Dr. J. A. Swisher, former Research Associate of the Society, read some original poems. The Superintendent presented an *Award of Merit* from the American Association for State and Local History to Philip Adler of Davenport in recognition of the outstanding service of the Lee Papers in promoting state and local history over the years, and in substantially supporting the Microfilm Room of the Centennial Building. An *Award of Merit* was also given the State Historical Society of Iowa for publishing the William Boyd Allison biography.

Perhaps the most fortuitous tribute came from Dr. Paul M. Angle, Director of the Chicago Historical Society, who in a series of one-page essays that had appeared in *Publishers' Weekly* over a period of several years, had paid special tribute to the State Historical Society of Iowa on February 4, 1957, by including the Society with twenty-three great institutions forming "Doorways to American Culture." Seven of these twenty-three institutions were state historical societies, who "through their publications, have made available a vast resource of national intellectual wealth." In his tribute to the Society Dr. Angle concluded:

States older than Iowa may have larger historical literatures, but no state has had its past so thoroughly explored and so widely disseminated by its own historical society.

It was announced at the Centennial Dinner that the Society had \$105,000 in cash on hand, not counting pledges. Rising building costs were a matter of genuine concern, however, and the superintendent pointed out that once the building was completed additional funds would be needed for furnish-

ings and equipment. He noted six gifts alone totaled \$31,250 and urged broader participation in the venture, particularly among the 700 Life Members.

On June 24, 1957, the Society held its Biennial meeting on the grounds of the Lucas Home in Iowa City. On this historic spot those attending looked back over the period of a century and noted the tremendous strides that had been taken. The membership stood at 5,250, publications were being issued regularly, the steamboat trips remained as popular as ever, and the Society had just conducted a record-breaking tour of the Amana Colonies for the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs. This group of women, with its membership of almost 35,000, was destined to contribute a total of over \$8,000 to the Centennial Building for an Iowa Women's Heritage Room. This proved to be the second largest cash contribution made to the Centennial Building.

1958

By January, 1958, the University laundry was transferred to its new building. On March 20 bids were opened for the demolition and removal of the old laundry within thirty days. One month later, on April 17, bids were opened for the construction of the Centennial Building. Over fifty bidders were present to listen to the figures quoted by nine bidders for the General Contract, four bidders for the Mechanical Contract, four bidders for the Electrical Wiring Contract, and six who sought the Service Elevator Contract. Architect Burdette Higgins, of the firm of Tinsley, Higgins, Lighter & Lyon of Des Moines, read the bids in the presence of the Superintendent and five Curators — William R. Hart, James Nesmith, and James E. Stronks of Iowa City, John Mohl of Davenport, and Ransom McKee of Muscatine. The successful bidders were:

<i>Contract</i>	<i>Successful Bidder</i>	<i>Home Address</i>	<i>Amt. Bid</i>
General	Frantz Construction Co.	Iowa City	\$215,400
Mechanical	Darragh & Associates, Inc.	Cedar Rapids	98,850
Electric	The Home Appliances, Inc.	Iowa City	22,217
Elevator	R & O Elevator	Minneapolis	16,929

Once the contracts were let, work began in earnest. On June 7, 1958, ground was broken by President Sam T. Morrison and a small group of Curators and friends, including Provost Harvey H. Davis of the University;

Will J. Hayek, Treasurer of the Society; Mrs. Arthur J. Cox, Representative Scott Swisher, and former Senator LeRoy Mercer.

Once started, General Contractor Frantz fairly kept things humming. By October 16 the second floor and half the roof had been poured and bricklayers were busily engaged with their trowels. It was a bitter cold day on November 26 when a score of hardy souls gathered to lay the cornerstone of the Centennial Building.

Fortunately the General Contractor, Mr. Frantz, had installed salamanders to take some of the chill off the interior of the building. The entire concrete superstructure had been in for some weeks and bricks were laid to the second floor. President Virgil M. Hancher, President Morrison, members of the Building Committee, and Curators William R. Hart, W. Howard Smith, James E. Stronks, Ransom McKee, and William Houlette were present at the laying of the cornerstone together with Representative Scott Swisher, LeRoy Mercer, Bruce E. Mahan, J. A. Swisher, and Frank Zeithamel.

The contents of the copper box inserted in the cornerstone included the following:

- A. Miscellaneous Records, Reports, and Data Published by the Society.
 1. Constitution and By-Laws of the State Historical Society.
 2. *Some Information* (January, 1942) — List of members, etc.
 3. *Some Information* (January, 1951) — Historical publications.
 4. Membership List by Counties and States (October, 1948).
 5. Membership List by Counties and States (January, 1952).
 6. Program for Centennial Birthday Dinner (February 7, 1957).
 7. Society Steamboat Excursion (1951) — Menu of the *Rob Roy III*.
 8. *Looking Backward on Hawkeyeland*, by William J. Petersen.
 9. Biennial Reports of the State Historical Society of Iowa for the following: 1947-1949; 1951-1953; 1953-1955; 1955-1957.
- B. Representative Publications of the Society.
 1. *News for Members* — October, 1954, through October, 1958.
 2. *The Palimpsest* — June, 1955; August, 1955; May, 1956; March, 1957; June, 1957.
 3. *Iowa Journal of History* — April, 1957.
 4. Books.
 - a. *A Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, by J. B. Newhall (SHSI reprint).

- b. *Iowa History Reference Guide* (1952), by Wm. J. Petersen.
 - c. *The Constitutions of Iowa* (1934), by Benj. F. Shambaugh.
- C. *Contemporary Iowa Newspapers: Iowa City Press-Citizen, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Des Moines Register, Davenport Times, Waterloo Courier.*

1959

As the Centennial Building neared completion excitement mounted among the Curators and friends of the Society. By mid-February the building was substantially finished on the outside, the rooms inside had been roughed in, a good deal of the electrical and plumbing equipment installed, the elevator ready to operate, and the plasterers awaiting warmer weather.

Meanwhile, the 58th General Assembly was rolling along under a full head of steam. Members of that august body were mindful of the Society's needs, for in February, 1959, both houses of the legislature approved a bill appropriating \$85,000 to furnish and equip the Centennial Building. It was truly a grand vote of confidence, a confidence resting on the fact that the Society had met its own challenge by raising substantially more than the \$100,000 promised in order to be eligible for the \$200,000 appropriated by the General Assembly in 1955. Legislators, many of whom were members of the Society, had read regular reports of the progress on the Centennial Building. By March, 1959, they could see the completed structure with bricks being washed down on the outside; by April 15 the sod had been laid around the building and all construction equipment hauled away; by May 16 it was estimated that the inside work was approximately 90% complete.

Biennial Meeting

On June 29, 1959, the 51st Biennial Meeting of the Society met in the Unitarian church across the street from the Centennial Building. After a brief business meeting and the election of Curators, those present crossed Iowa Avenue to inspect the progress of work in the interior of the Centennial Building.

Meanwhile, during the summer of 1959 steel shelving was being installed in the sub-basement to store the almost 4,000 cartons of the Society's publications dating back to 1863. The gigantic task of moving these cartons, weighing an average of sixty pounds each, began on September 11. Iowa Citizens, University faculty and students, and members of the Society

watched for months what the *Iowa City Press-Citizen* described as the "biggest moving job to be undertaken in Iowa City this year — and one of the largest ever." It is estimated that the back publications moved into the Centennial Building weighed approximately 120 tons.

By October, 1959, the inside was fast nearing completion: the tile floors were laid, plumbing and electricity installed, and painting and air conditioning completed. The installation of steel book stacks and other equipment was under way and probably one-third of the move into the new quarters consummated. By October, too, it became apparent that, because of the rising costs, the Society would need an additional \$19,178 to pay for the Centennial Building when completed.

A historic step was taken when the Board of Curators met in the Centennial Building for its regular monthly meeting on November 24, 1959. The members present were Hart, Mohl, Nesmith, Smith, Stronks, and Swisher. Although the bookstacks had not been erected and moving of back publications was still going on into the basement, everyone expressed much pleasure with their new quarters.

The question before the Board was — where can it raise \$19,178? Fortunately, a way appeared when Superintendent Petersen had an opportunity to discuss the problem briefly with members of the Budget & Financial Control Committee during a historical tour. A week later a formal request for the amount needed to complete the building was made in the Old Stone Capitol by President Hart and Superintendent Petersen. The request was granted without a dissenting vote.

On December 16, 1959, the Board of Curators was informed that University officials had been notified that the entire basement in Schaeffer Hall had been cleared of newspapers and back publications. This would allow the University to begin converting the area into classrooms and offices for use in the fall of 1960.

1960

The most painstaking part of the move into the Centennial Building was completed during the first four months of 1960 when 80,000 books, 30,000 pamphlets, and a vast amount of manuscripts, pictures, maps, and miscellaneous material was moved from Schaeffer Hall under adverse weather conditions. It took two weeks and seven truck-loads, averaging approximately 2,000 books to the truck-load, to transport 14,000 volumes out of Room

305 in Schaeffer Hall. During the early stages the books were carried in heavy crates (called coffins) down the eighty-six steps. Later a hoist and pulley was used to let the crates down the first two flights of stairs. Finally, the University set up an elevator outside the building which greatly facilitated moving, although, because of the very nature of the material transported, it still was slow work. By mid-April the move from the third floor of Schaeffer Hall was finally completed.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent had moved his office into the Centennial Building in mid-January of 1960. The Business Office followed over in mid-February and the Associate Editor and Library Associate in April. By May a number of outstanding historians and researchers were working in the Centennial Building including such men as William Mokray, vice president of the Boston Celtics, who was writing a history of basketball in the United States; Dr. James I. Robertson, editor of *Civil War History*, and Pulitzer Prize winner MacKinlay Kantor, deeply immersed in his forthcoming historical novel on *Spirit Lake*, centering on the bloody Spirit Lake Massacre. Dick Lamb was also delving into the rich records of the Society that were destined to place Gordon Locke in the Football Hall of Fame. J. C. "Buck" Turnbull was making frequent visits on his *Iowa Conference Story*.

Once in their new quarters both the Curators and Superintendent began to think in terms of appropriate dedication services for their new Centennial Building. Fortunately, similar historical societies around the country had been watching with ever-increasing interest the effort of the Iowa society to gain a home of its own. While attending the 18th Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in Salt Lake City in 1958, the Superintendent of the State Historical Society, sensing this growing interest, invited the American Association to hold its 20th Annual Meeting in Iowa City at the time of the dedication. This invitation was formally accepted when the American Association for State and Local History held its 19th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in 1959. It was agreed that August 31, 1960, would be Dedication Day for the Centennial Building and that the American Association would open up its four-day session in Iowa City at the same time in order that all might participate in the historic event.

Once agreed upon, every effort was made to have the building in readiness. Members of the Society, as well as officers of county historical soci-

eties, were alerted to the fact that they would meet and hear directors of national, state, local, and private historical agencies from all over the country. In this race against time it may be worth recording that the air conditioning was made available one week before the Centennial Building was dedicated and the last drapes hung twenty-four hours before the big event.

Dedication Day

Dedication day — Wednesday, August 31, 1960 — arrived, hot and sticky. Members of the American Association for State and Local History had been arriving throughout the previous day in order not to miss the two programs that had been set up for 9:30 a.m., an hour and a half before the dedication of the Centennial Building. The programs arranged were most appropriate — “New Directions and Traditional Functions in Our Local Historical Societies” was held in Conference Room No. 2 and “The Historical Society Magazine — Does It Have a Future?” was the stimulating program assigned to Conference Room No. 1. Those who arrived early were delighted to find the Centennial Building completely air-conditioned — one of the few places in Iowa City that afforded them comfort from the blistering heat outside.

The dedication of the Centennial Building took place at 11 a.m. An unfortunate conflict — State Day at the State Fair in Des Moines — prevented Governor Herschel Loveless and scores of legislators from attending the dedication services. Fully three hundred were present, however, being almost equally divided between members and friends of the Society in Iowa and visiting dignitaries from over half the states in the Union and two Canadian provinces. Governor Loveless sent the following message to the Superintendent:

Since I can't be present personally, I do want to send my warm regards to those in attendance and to add my congratulations to our own State Historical Society on the happy occasion of your moving into the Centennial Building.

For the benefit of the visitors, I might say that we citizens of Iowa are deeply proud of our State Historical Society, which is one hundred three years old, this year. We are proud of our Society's outstanding publication and research program, and proud of its front rank among states in the presentation of Iowa's history.

We have long looked forward to the day when the State Historical Society's collection of Iowana — the largest in the country — could be housed in one appropriate building. That day has now

Dedication Program

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Centennial Building

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1960, 11 A.M.

PRESIDING

Curator William R. Hart, President, State Historical Society of Iowa

INVOCATION

Dr. J. Raymond Chadwick, President, Iowa Wesleyan College

GREETINGS

Honorable Herschel C. Loveless, Governor of Iowa

Dr. Harvey H. Davis, Provost, State University of Iowa

Dr. Clifford L. Lord, President, American Association for State and Local History

Dr. S. K. Stevens, President, Association of Historic Sites Administrators

REMARKS

Hon. Scott Swisher, State Representative, Johnson County

Clarence W. Moody, Past President, Iowa Daily Press Association

Dr. Leslie W. Dunlap, Director, University of Iowa Libraries

INTRODUCTIONS

Distinguished Visitors: Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent, State Historical Society of Iowa

Curators of the Society: Curator W. Howard Smith

PRESENTATION OF KEYS TO CENTENNIAL BUILDING

Presentation by Burdette Higgins, Architect, Tinsley, Higgins, Lighter and Lyon

Acceptance by Curator Jim H. Nesmith, Chairman, Centennial Building Committee

BENEDICTION

Right Reverend Monsignor C. H. Meinberg, St. Mary's Parish

arrived, and on behalf of the citizens of Iowa, I pay tribute to the Society, its Board and staff, and you, the Director.

Following the presentation of the keys by Architect Burdette Higgins to Curator Jim H. Nesmith, chairman of the building committee, those present entered the Centennial Building and inspected it from sub-basement to its fifth floor — or level. The number of well-wishers was so great that, although 140 reservations had been made for the Dedication luncheon, 210 actually partook of the delicious repast at the University Athletic Club and heard splendid papers by Dr. Floyd C. Shoemaker, secretary emeritus of the State Historical Society of Missouri, and Russell W. Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Dr. Shoemaker, who served almost fifty years as head of the State Historical Society of Missouri, and who in 1960 became the Consultant and Secretary Emeritus of that Society, addressed the Centennial audience in part as follows:

This occasion is truly memorable and I take great pride in having been invited to a place on your program. We all are especially favored in being guests of the State Historical Society of Iowa at the dedication of its Centennial Building. . . .

Through the decades Iowa has ranked first in literacy in our nation in addition to maintaining its reputation for tall corn and its record contribution of citizens to Long Beach, California. Iowa has always stood high in education and in preservation of its history. It is indeed fitting that your Centennial Building should be a capstone of your cultural accomplishments. It will always be pointed to with pride by the citizens of this state, and generations now unborn will look upon it as proof of the patriotic care taken by their ancestors in the historical heritage of the State of Iowa. . . .

Most of us who believe in state and local history have rested our case on hope, pride, and work. You in Iowa have added more abundant work. There need not be exclusion of either foreign or state history, but if state history is to survive as a living force above an antiquarian and museum study, other states must follow the trail you are blazing in the State of Iowa. . . .

Dr. Petersen, you have proved yourself to be an able historian and scholar, a collector of historical materials, a successful popularizer of history, a fund raiser, and a public relations expert. You have measured up to the responsibilities of a difficult job and can take great pride in your highly successful career.

Citizens of Iowa, you have just pride in the contributions and accomplishments of your State Historical Society. Your Centennial Building is a challenge to your own people and to the people of all the states in the American nation. I hope the challenge will be met in the fine spirit you have presented it. Your Centennial Building will be a lasting *Memorial* to your great pride in Iowa and I also believe it will be a *Monument* to your future contributions to the history and culture of your great state.

The second speaker at the noon luncheon was Russell W. Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society, who spoke in part as follows:

The story of the State Historical Society of Iowa — like that of similar organizations largely supported by public funds — reflects the same initial hopes, the small beginnings, the minute first budget — in this instance only \$250 — the continuing endeavor to grow and expand in influence, the constant experimentation that met with occasional success and frequent failure, the periods of neglect and stagnation, and the all too infrequent periods of strong leadership that made possible those rare leaps forward — one of which we observe today. . . .

The Centennial Building is the first home the Iowa Society has owned. This fact in itself is likely to affect the future character of the institution. The growth of the Society in its second century will doubtless be accompanied by new opportunities and challenges. Its basic purposes — the collection, preservation, and dissemination of Iowa's history — will remain unchanged, but the means it chooses to achieve these ends are certain to differ from those employed during its first century. It is obvious, I think, that the historical society of 1960 must respond with imagination and innovation to the problems presented by an aging nation and a rapidly changing world.

The publications programs of historical societies offer one of the best and most neglected means of explaining an institution's purposes, reaching various age and interest groups, and disseminating and interpreting that which is meaningful in state and local history. But printing is expensive. This brings us to one of the major dilemmas of the historical society of 1960: how much scholarly activity can such an institution afford? How much popularizing should it do? . . .

Following the noon luncheon members of the State Historical Society of Iowa and delegates attending the 20th Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History were given a conducted tour of the Governor Robert Lucas Home in Iowa City and the Herbert Hoover birth-

place in West Branch. Curator Frank C. Allen of North English was host at a reception held in the Jefferson Hotel preceding the evening dinner.

MacKinlay Kantor delivered a powerful address at the evening dinner that held the audience spellbound. His brilliant, soul-searching speech — “The Historical Novelists’s Obligation to History” — together with those quoted in part above, will be published in full by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Mr. Kantor’s address closed a day of dedication, not only for the Centennial Building but also for the cause of state and local history.