

The PALIMPSEST



The Chicken Vendor and his Assistants.

Dutch Tulip Festivals in Iowa
Published Monthly by
The State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
APRIL, 1964

SPECIAL TULIP FESTIVAL EDITION — FIFTY CENTS



The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Illustrations

All pictures of the Pella Tulip Festival were provided by the Pella Historical Society. The Orange City May Festival pictures were provided by the Sioux County *Capital*.

Authors

This is a reprint of the April, 1954, issue of *THE PALIMPSEST*, with revised and enlarged content and the addition of eight pages of black and white pictures and the addition of eleven color pictures. The original article by George Ver Steeg, retired editor of the *Pella Chronicle*, was brought up to date by Henry Vande Kieft. The article by James H. Treneman, former owner and editor of the *Sioux County Capital*, remains unchanged. William J. Petersen is Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

THE PALIMPSEST is published monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City. It is printed in Iowa City and distributed free to Society members, depositories, and exchanges. This is the April, 1964, issue and is Number 4 of Volume 45. Second class postage has been paid at Iowa City, Iowa.

PRICE — Included in Membership. Regular issues, 25¢; Special—50¢

MEMBERSHIP — By application. Annual Dues \$3.00

ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa

THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. XLV

ISSUED IN APRIL 1964

No. 4

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Tulip Time in Pella

Midway in the nineteenth century, in August of 1847, a band of Hollanders, more than seven hundred, under the leadership of Dominie Hendrik Peter Scholte, sought a new home and religious freedom on the divide between the Des Moines and Skunk rivers. With bag and baggage, and with their gold in a great brass-bound chest, they crossed the Atlantic in four sailing vessels and landed in Baltimore. Thence they traveled inland and went by boat and barge down the Ohio to St. Louis and up the Mississippi to Keokuk, Iowa. From Keokuk they made their way by wagon and on foot to the site chosen by their leader and named by him "Pella," meaning "City of Refuge."

Among these colonists were tradesmen, artisans, and farmers; together they built a substantial community that grew and prospered. Their reverence for God, their Dutch habits of industry and thrift, and their good citizenship won them the respect of the pioneers of Iowa. They established churches and good schools, and in response to

their invitation to the Baptists, Central University — now Central College — was founded in Pella in 1853. Pella's founders encouraged the development of small enterprises, mills, and factories; this kind of foresight they passed on to succeeding generations.

From a desire to commemorate the sacrifices of these founding fathers and to keep alive the ideals which they cherished, the citizens of Pella came to celebrate Tulip Time. An operetta, presented by the students of Pella High School in April of 1935, was the direct inspiration for Pella's annual festival. The colorful Dutch costumes and the tuneful melodies of the production, *Tulip Time in Pella*, made a hit with the audience.

Among the listeners were Lewis W. Hartley, business manager of the *Pella Chronicle*, A. B. Warmhoudt and Tunis Kempkes, clothiers and members of the Chamber of Commerce. Alert to opportunities for community promotion, the three men saw in the operetta a perfect "natural" for Pella with its background of Dutch ancestry and tradition. They interested other businessmen, and at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on April 25, 1935, plans were made for the first Tulip Time, a one-day affair to be held in May of that year. Since Pella was not yet a tulip town, the planners decided to use potted tulips and have wooden tulips made by George Heeren, a Pella cabinetmaker. However, it was resolved at the

meeting that in the fall of 1935 thousands of bulbs would be planted to provide the natural color for future festivals. A delegation of five businessmen was dispatched to Holland, Michigan, to observe the festival there. On their return, they brought back many ideas that were later incorporated into the planning for an annual Tulip Time.

Thus this historic first Tulip Time, though on a smaller scale, set the pattern for the festivals presented thereafter. The Town Crier appeared on the streets with his long Dutch pipe and handbell to open festivities. Citizens appeared on the scene wearing wooden shoes and Dutch costumes. Antique displays in the store windows attracted much attention from the crowds that jammed the streets. The formal program began in early afternoon with a Maypole drill by the young people in Dutch costumes. This was followed by an address of welcome by the Burgemeester (Mayor), T. G. Fultz, a Dutch drill by school children, a dialogue in Dutch dialect, the singing of Dutch psalms by a choral group, and duets in the Dutch language by two couples who were beautifully costumed in garments that had been brought from the Netherlands. The evening program, presented in the high school auditorium, was the operetta, *Tulip Time in Pella*, with Dutch dance specialties between the acts. At the end of the day enthusiasm ran high. Pella must have an annual Tulip Time.

In anticipation of the next year's festival, thousands of bulbs were planted in the late fall of 1935 in lanes along the curbs and in mass plantings in the parks. In February of 1936, John Res, a bulb grower and broker from the Netherlands, came to Pella to advise the citizens in the planting and care of tulips.

Early in 1936, civic leaders, recognizing the need for an organization to assist businessmen in conducting Tulip Time, and wishing also to provide for the housing and preservation of heirlooms, revived a dormant historical society. Named as officers and directors of the society were A. B. Wormhoudt, president; Hugo Kuyper, secretary; Tunis Kempkes, treasurer; Dr. J. J. Sybenga, curator; P. H. Kuyper, B. F. Vander Linden, Arie Schilder, and H. P. Van Gorp, directors. Memberships from enthusiastic Pella citizens enabled the society to finance its activities, which included the establishment of a museum.

The society purchased the Wolters Building, a residence which in pioneer days had been a store. The building was remodeled, under the supervision of Dr. J. J. Sybenga, as a museum, with the exterior painted white with Delft blue trim. Included in the furnishings were a four-poster bed and a built-in fireplace, exactly as in a Dutch home, along with metal cooking utensils and Bibles and old books, some dating from the sixteenth century. Many beautiful examples of Delft

art in porcelain were placed in glass-enclosed cases to be viewed by Tulip Time visitors. Since 1959, the museum building has again been used for commercial purposes, as in Pella's early years. It retains its distinctive character, however, and a number of antiques remain on display there.

Through the years, officers and directors of the Pella Historical Society, with officers of the Chamber of Commerce and other service groups, have directed Tulip Time activities. Members of these organizations have rendered countless services to Tulip Time and the community.

In 1936, huge crowds attended the festival, now extended to five days. Features of the first day, designated as History Day, were the opening of the Pella Historical Society's Dutch home and miniature Dutch Village, the scrubbing of the streets, and the colorful parade welcoming Queen Wilhelmina and her provincial attendants (enacted by young women of Pella) to the city. Then came the coronation of the Tulip Queen, Lenora Gaass, great-granddaughter of Dominie Hendrik Peter Scholte, the founder of Pella. Her four attendants were Virginia Van Gorp, Martha Intveld, Betty Lankelma, and Ruth Heerema. The afternoon ended with an address by John S. Nollen, president of Grinnell College, and a grandson of Pella's patriarch, Dominie Scholte. The evening's highlight was the performance of the operetta, *Windmills of Holland*.

The second day, Church Day, was given over to religious observances and sacred choral programs in which the singing of Dutch psalms was a noteworthy feature. On the third day, Neighbor Day, musical groups and officials from neighboring towns brought greetings from their communities to Pella. The fourth day, Central College Day, consisted of programs, including a pageant of *Hansel and Gretel*, given by the students and faculty of the college. On the last day, Pella Day, trips were taken through the Tulip Lanes and the Dutch Village, the school children were paraded, and there were Dutch drills and folksinging on the streets. The festival ended with a final presentation of *Windmills of Holland*.

From all over Iowa and from surrounding states, thousands have journeyed to Pella's Tulip Time. For a visitor, a day of Tulip Time begins in the morning with tours of the points of historic and local interest: the Memorial Garden at the Home for the Aged, the Sunken Garden with its lagoon and Dutch mill, the campus of Central College, the Tulip or Floral Show, and the miniature Dutch Village, displayed in what is now the junior high school gymnasium. Visitors are carried in large wagons drawn by tractors to all of these points of interest. Downtown the shopwindows are filled with treasures from the homes of Pella. In one large display window, a typical Dutch shoemaker carves shoes to order from blocks of

cottonwood or maple with old hand tools such as were used for centuries in Holland. Crowds gather about this window all through the day.

At noon, the restaurants offer special foods prepared in the Dutch manner: *snijboontjes* (green beans cut on the bias and with a distinctive flavor); *erwten soep* (pea soup); *boonen soep* (bean soup); hot bologna made from recipes unknown except to Pella bologna makers and famed far and wide for its flavor and texture; "letters," a baked delicacy with almond paste filling in a crust that melts in the mouth; Dutch *Sinterklass Koekjes* (Santa Claus cookies); walnut and chocolate bars; Dutch cocoa and much more — all of these along with standard American dishes. Women of several church organizations set up shop in downtown buildings and in church social halls to supply the visitors with hearty Dutch fare.

Shortly after the noon band concerts, crowds of visitors begin to fill the bleachers erected on Broadway, on Central Park's west side. Then at 1:45 sharp, the Burgemeester, dressed in a colorful red and gold robe, and the preceding year's Tulip Queen, dressed in Dutch costume, mount the large stage. They are followed by representatives of the Dutch provinces. It is the Burgemeester's first function as Master of Ceremonies to present these eleven ladies to the Queen and to Pella's guests. Each of the eleven is attired in the authentic dress of her province. The beautiful and

varied costumes all include lace caps and gold head ornaments, waists and blouses ornamented with lovely embroidery and lace, colorful shawls, full skirts, and knitted stockings. As each provincial representative is presented, she walks to the front of the stage and curtsies to the audience. The Burgemeester then tells of the province she represents.

As this ceremony ends, the sound of trumpets is heard. The Queen and her attendants are coming! With measured step and to the accompaniment of *Pomp and Circumstance*, the royal party mounts the stage. The young women, all in colorful Dutch costumes, are preceded by uniformed heralds and pages.

At this point, on the first day of the festival, the coronation takes place. The Burgemeester takes the crown from the head of the preceding year's Queen and places it on the head of the newly-elected Queen. He presents to her a beautiful loving cup which will be hers for a year and upon which her name will be inscribed, along with the names of the Queens who have reigned before her. To each attendant he presents a gold pin as a memento of the occasion. The Burgemeester presents each young lady to the audience in turn, with the Queen greeting her subjects and festival visitors. On succeeding days of Tulip Time, the newly-crowned Queen and her attendants again will be presented to the audience.

Before leaving the stage, the Queen directs the Burgemeester to make preparations for the Volks Parade (people's parade). After he and De Stadtsraad (City Council) have inspected the street, they declare that it must be scrubbed so that not a particle of dirt will remain when the Queen and her retinue pass in the parade.

The Burgemeester calls for street scrubbers, and sixty to one hundred or more men and women, young people and children appear in a solid phalanx — the women carrying large scrub brushes and the men bearing on their shoulders yokes to which are attached two large pails. They scatter and at the command of the Burgemeester, they scrub the pavement diligently, the Burgemeester inspecting all the while. Pails are refilled from large metal tanks on the curbs and the scrubbing continues until every inch of pavement in the block has been washed thoroughly. The scrubbers then leave in a body to join the parade which is forming several blocks away.

At 2:30, the sound of distant music is heard; the parade is coming. By this time the curbs and sidewalks in six downtown blocks, including those around the Square, are massed with spectators — thousands, standing from three to thirty deep and seated on the bleachers on Broadway.

Beautiful floats, built by civic organizations, service and veterans' clubs, churches, and schools, appear in the parade. Behind them march the

street scrubbers and all of the children of the public and parochial schools, all in colorful costumes and wooden shoes. Uniformed bands give the parade a truly festive air. Visitors, however, find the Dutch specialties the most interesting parade elements: *De Kippenboer* (chicken vendor), a Dutchman carrying on his back a wicker basket in which are his live wares; the organ grinder with his monkey; *De Schaarslijper* (scissors grinder) with old and patched clothing, pushing a cart with hand-operated grinder; *De Kaasman* (cheese vendor) with a large chest carrying his cheeses mounted on a tricycle; vegetable vendors; the milk man with a small two-wheeled cart drawn by a large dog, just as was done in the Old Country; and the shoemaker busily carving shoes. All the vendors hawk their wares in the Dutch vernacular.

In the parade, too, are unusual groups: the baby section — mothers pushing ancient carriages in which little children ride; the whole Dutch family — father, mother, and twelve to fourteen children from tiny infant to high teens marching in orderly line behind the parents — portraying the love of Hollanders for large families; and the orphans, a group of little children clad in severe black and white costumes and marching, with eyes downcast and looking neither right nor left, behind their supervisor, a woman dressed just as they are. All of the parade features are described over a sound system as they pass through the downtown streets.

With the parade over, attention shifts again to Broadway where Dutch dancers perform before the bleachers. Dressed in costume and wooden shoes, the dancers go through intricate routines to organ accompaniment. Band and drum corps drills follow the Dutch folk games to complete the afternoon program. Visitors then may resume their tours of featured exhibits or they may choose to view the window displays and the mass plantings in the parks, which are lighted for nighttime viewing and enjoyment.

After the evening meal, the street scrubbers again appear. Their task completed, they retreat and are followed by the day's second parade. Floats for the evening parade are beautifully illuminated to highlight their distinctive features. Following the parade, the Dutch dancers again perform, and a variety show on the stage facing Broadway brings a close to "a day in Holland."

The outbreak of World War II brought with it rationing of gasoline and other restrictions. Consequently, plans for the 1942 Tulip Time were undertaken with some misgivings. However, a three-day festival was held, during which a patriotic pageant, *Defenders of the Flag*, was given each evening. A few days after the close of the 1942 festival, H.R.H. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands, who had taken exile in Canada after the fall of the Netherlands, visited Pella. She spoke to a huge assembly in Garden Square about

her country and its plight, winning the hearts of everyone with her democratic and unassuming manner.

In 1943 and 1944, despite wartime difficulties, one-day celebrations of Tulip Time were held. There were no floats in the parades as in previous years, but once again a patriotic pageant, *The Four Freedoms*, was presented on the evening of the 1943 festival. No festivals were held during 1945 and 1946. Instead, in 1946, a giant auction was held in downtown Pella, the proceeds of which — over \$7,000 — were devoted to the relief of the people of Holland. During 1946, however, plans were busily being formulated for a revival of Tulip Time, the community's greatest asset. The 1947 festival which resulted, commemorated Pella's centennial and was in the pattern of pre-war Tulip Time celebrations.

Total attendance for recent festivals has been, on several occasions, well over 100,000, with additional thousands touring the town in their cars on the Sundays prior to and immediately following Tulip Time. Inclement weather has decreased attendance in some years to about 50,000. What the presence of such holiday crowds means to a town of 5,200 population can hardly be imagined — every facility is taxed to the limit. But Pella's crowds are good-natured and orderly. They endure minor inconveniences without complaint; instead, their enthusiasm for seeing and photo-

graphing the flowers, costumed Dutchmen, the street scrubbing, and the parade overcomes any such trifles.

A top attraction for camera fans at Tulip Time is the Sunken Garden with its Dutch mill. This came into being through the efforts of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. A natural depression was converted into a lagoon with a retaining wall in the shape of a wooden shoe. A replica of a windmill in the Netherlands was erected, financed by public subscription. The park is beautifully landscaped with shrubs and trees; large plantings of tulips make bright spots of color in the area.

The Memorial Garden is a formal planting. Located on the grounds of the Home for the Aged, its blooms — more than twenty-five thousand — are a riot of color. The original bulbs for this planting were a gift from the bulb growers of Holland in recognition of Pella's contribution of more than \$100,000 in food, clothing, and money to the people of Holland after the expulsion of the Germans in World War II. The garden was dedicated in 1948 by Dr. J. B. V. M. J. van de Mortel, Dutch Consul General in Chicago. Both points of interest, the Sunken Garden and the Memorial Garden, are within easy walking distance of the downtown area.

For flower lovers, identification of the many varieties of tulips at both gardens is made easy by stakes bearing the names of the blooms.

At the Tulip Show, exhibits are tagged and numbered. This facilitates visitors' selecting and ordering tulip bulbs for fall delivery; this service is usually offered by one of the local civic organizations. The Pella Historical Society, of course, buys bulbs by the thousands from time to time for new plantings and to replant lanes and parks.

Always in the public eye at Tulip Time are two gentlemen in most distinctive costumes, the Burgemeester (honorary mayor) and the Town Crier. Dr. T. G. Fultz was major of Pella in 1935 when the festival was inaugurated and later was named honorary Burgemeester for life. A jovial and capable man, he enters into the spirit of Tulip Time wholeheartedly. He is a formidable figure in frock coat, long stockings and buckle shoes, high hat, and carrying his handsome gold-headed cane, and appears everywhere at once and acts as Master of Ceremonies at all formal functions. Professor George Francis Sadler, a local teacher of music, was the First Town Crier and continued as such through 1952. A living symbol of Tulip Time in picturesque velvet costume—knickers, long stockings, buckle shoes, and broad hat with feathers—he greeted thousands of visitors on the streets, welcomed them, answered their questions, posed for myriad pictures, and announced the various Tulip Time events to the accompaniment of his clanging handbell. Since Professor Sadler's passing in 1953, his place has been very ably taken by

several local individuals; he will always be remembered by many people — both local citizens and visitors alike — however, as “the Town Crier.”

Preparations for Tulip Time begin in July when Historical Society leaders name the chairmen and members of the key committees. Overall direction is assigned to the steering committee, whose chairman is the president of the Historical Society. In February of the following year, the budget is set up, guarantee funds are raised by businessmen and allotted to each committee. Receipts from bleachers, tours, and other attractions are later balanced against the budgeted fund. A Tulip Time budget will frequently run to \$10,000.

In March, Pella citizens elect their Tulip Queen and her four attendants, and all are honored at a coming-out party before the festival. Preparations continue as brochures listing the program events for the three days are prepared and distributed. Float building, begun earlier, continues apace, Dutch dancers rehearse their routines, and plans are made for the accommodation of overnight visitors in Pella homes. All of this activity increases to a rapid tempo as the festival date approaches.

Visitors to Tulip Time will find the answers to their questions about food, lodging, and entertainment at the downtown headquarters of the official hostess. In addition, of course, Pella citizens — always friendly and anxious to help — stand ready to direct and assist festival-goers. Many

families may wish to bring picnic lunches; to them the parks and many lawns are open — no questions asked. Pella's streets and parks, of course, are open, too, to flower lovers, and thousands of garden club members from Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, and Minnesota will arrive in chartered buses. People from far and wide, almost all of them seemingly camera fans, will enjoy a holiday of simple festivities, with complete absence of carnival atmosphere. Tulip Time may not be commercialized; this is the ideal adopted in 1935 and strictly adhered to ever since. As a result, there are no stands and no hawkers. Souvenirs of the festival can be bought only through Pella's legitimate merchants and service organizations.

The cloppity-clop of wooden shoes is music to the ears, camera shutters click, crowds surge through Garden Square and around the park to see the window displays, scores of people walk in happy mood to the mass plantings and troop into the building where the city's finest blooms are on display, bands play and costumed dancers appear in the streets. It's Tulip Time in Pella — a day long to be remembered and to be recorded in countless albums in black and white and projected on numberless screens in color — a holiday with no regrets. Pella's door is wide open to you — to everyone.

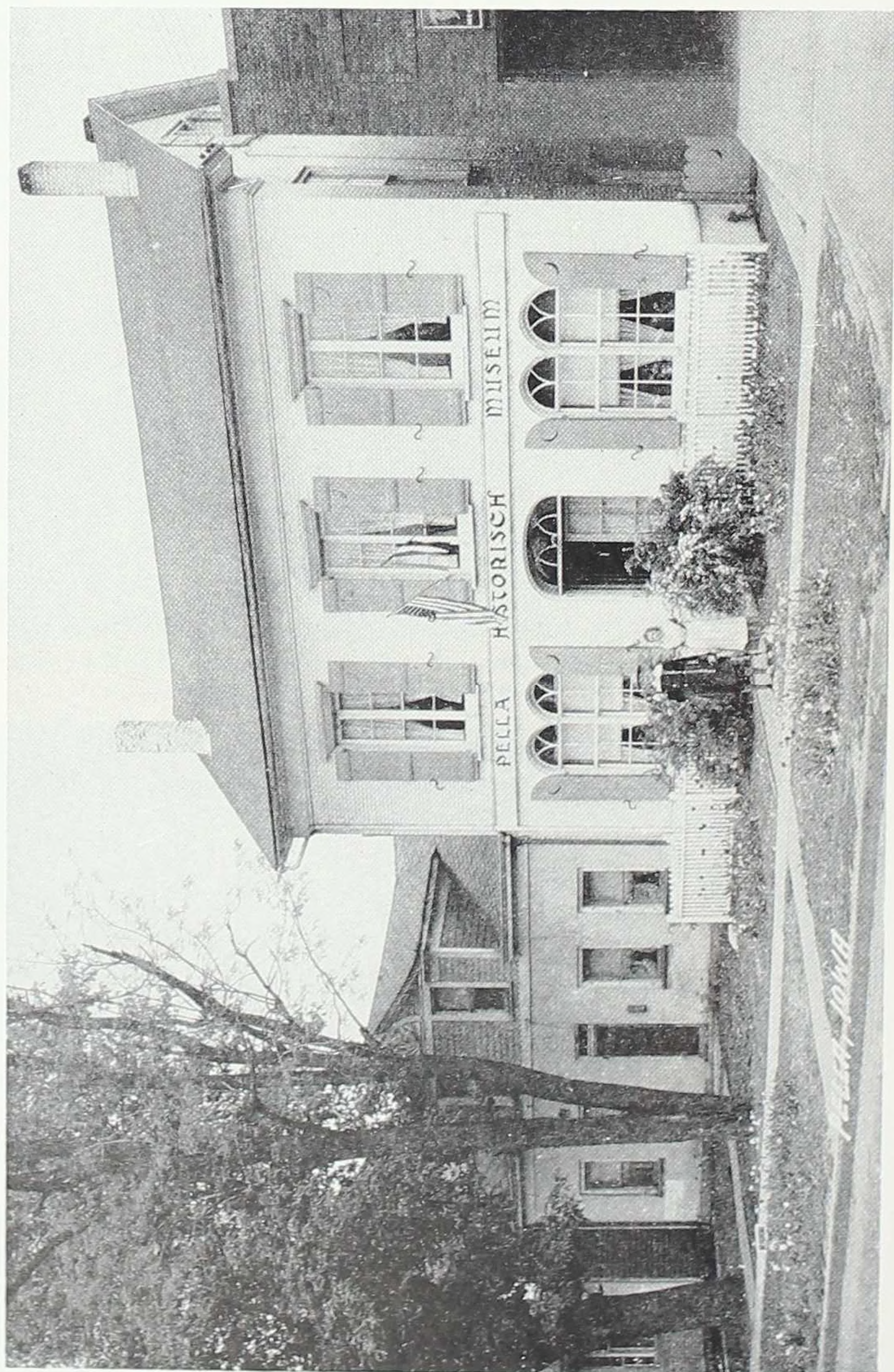
GEORGE VER STEEG
HENRY VANDE KIEFT



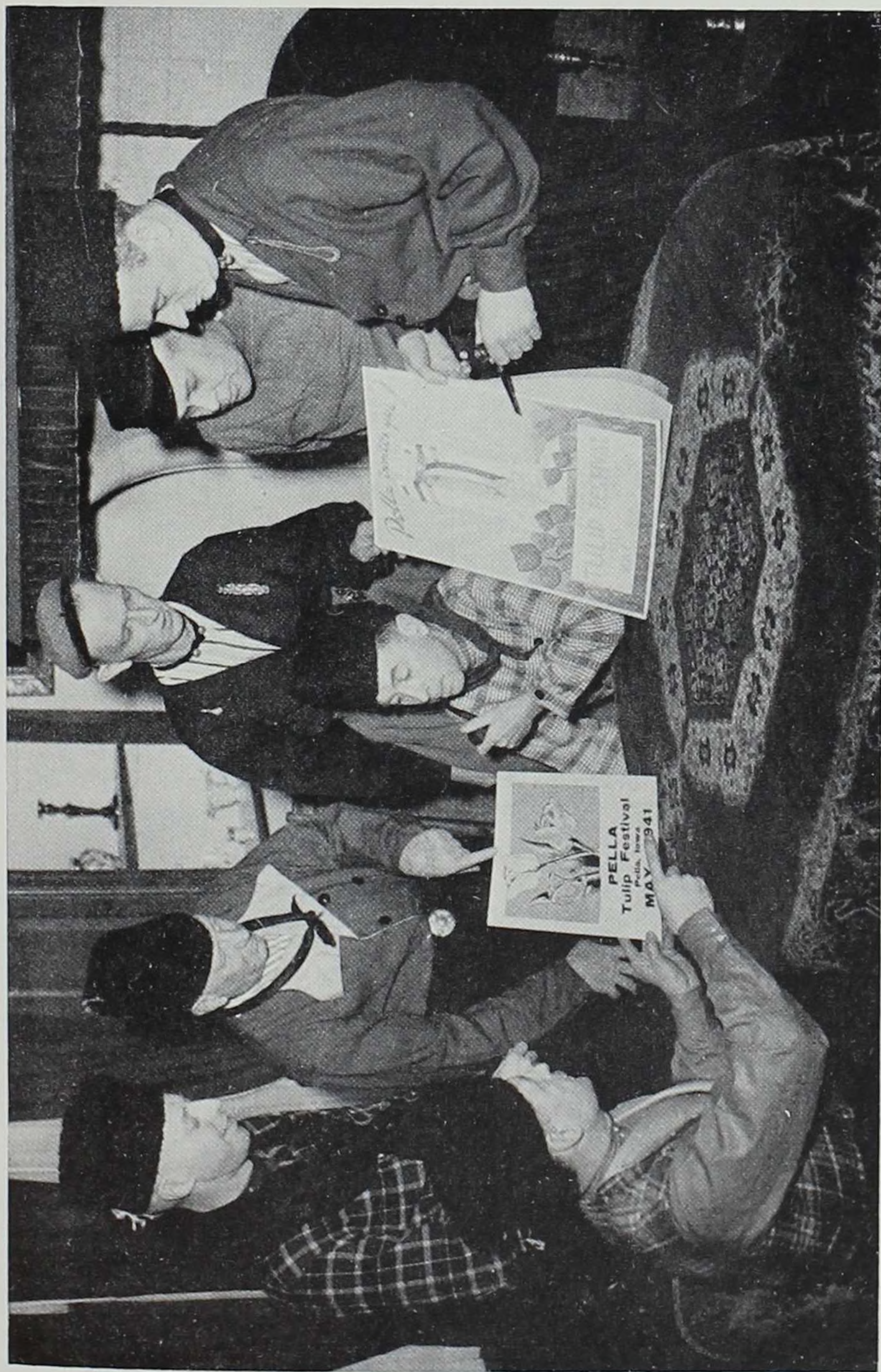
Princess Juliana (new Queen of Holland) visits Pella on May 17, 18, 1942, and is greeted by Mrs. Leonora Scholte, daughter of the founder of Pella.



Lovely heirlooms are housed in the Historical Museum in Pella.



The Famous Pella Historical Museum.



Members of the Pella Historical Society met at the Museum in 1942 to discuss the Festival. Standing (left to right): Lon B. Wormhoudt, William D. Van Sittert, Harve P. Van Gorp, Robert C. Lautenbach, Bernie F. Van der Linden. Seated: Tunis Kempkes and Dr. J. J. Sybenga.

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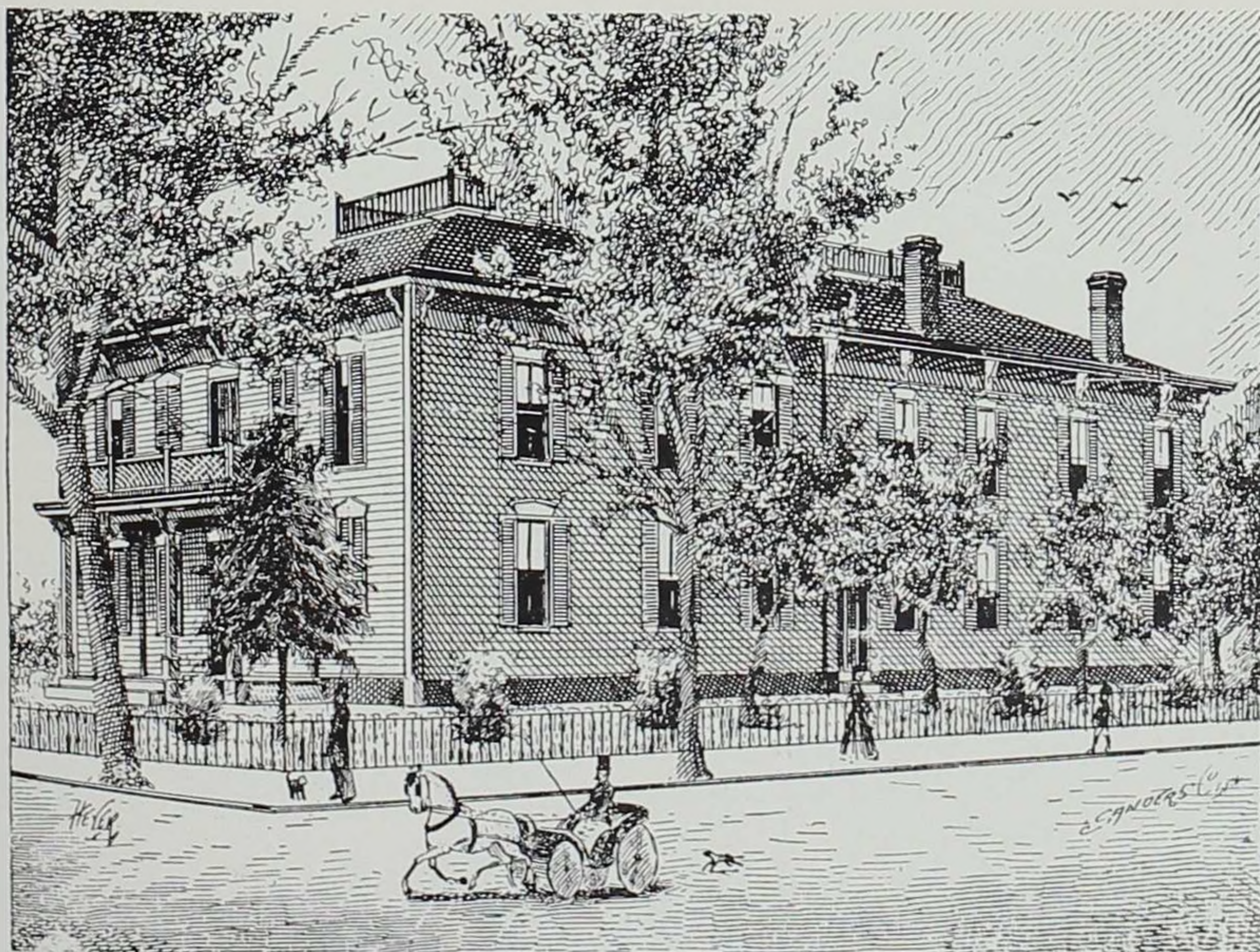
JOHN STUART, B. D. Ph. D.,

President. PELLA, IOWA

Illustrations from *The Central Ray*

Central College was founded by the Baptists in 1853 and acquired by the Dutch Reformed Church of America in 1916, since when its athletes have been affectionately known as the "Flying Dutchmen." The school is co-educational and had an enrollment of well over 400 during the 1960's.

SOME EARLY BUILDINGS AT CENTRAL COLLEGE





The Dutch Mill, tulips, and lagoon at the Sunken Garden at Pella.



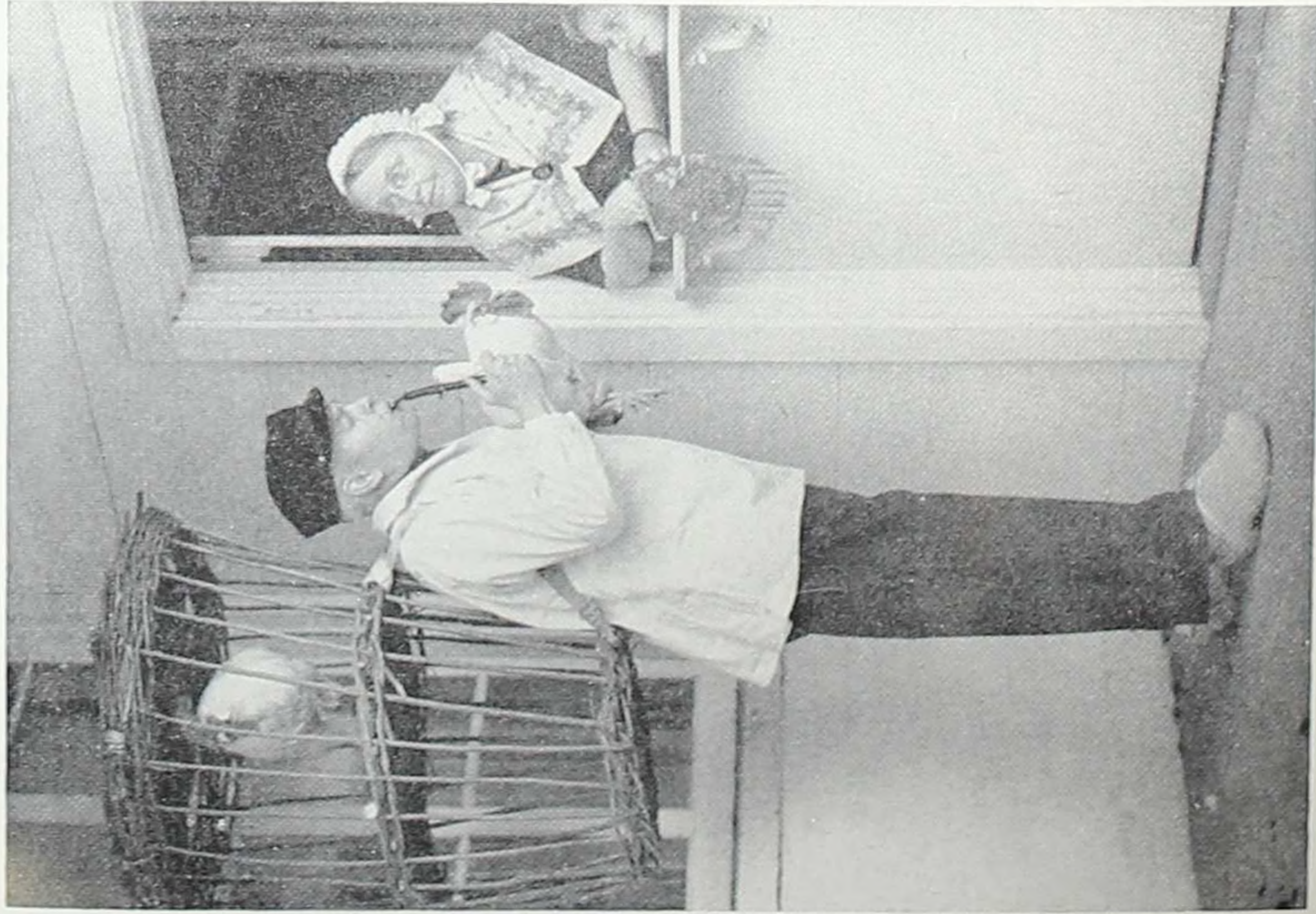
Memorial Garden on the grounds of the Home of the Aged at Pella. Dedicated in May, 1948.



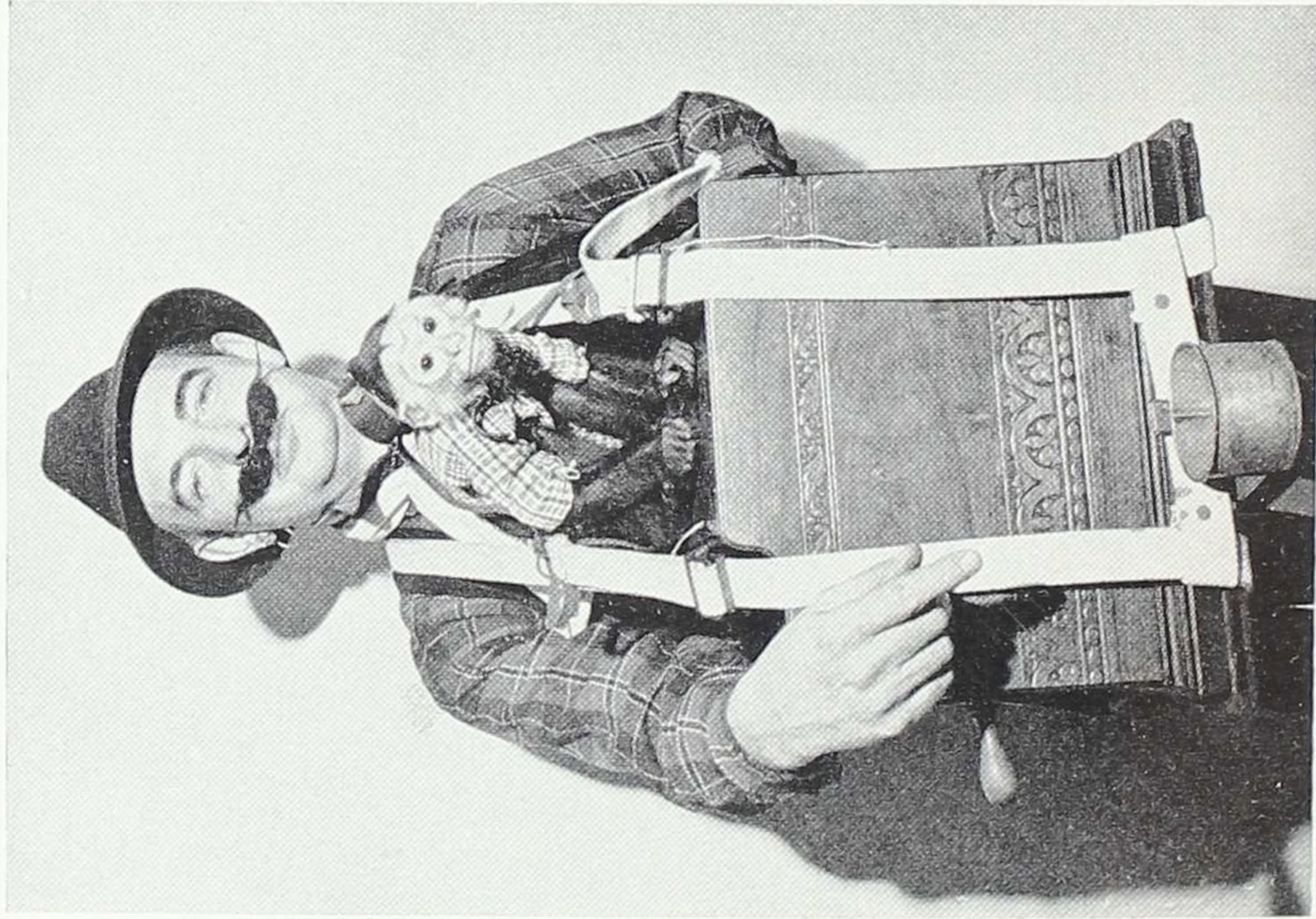
Pella street scrubbing scene under direction of the Town Crier and the Burgemeester.



Burgemeester Tom G. Fultz points out a tiny speck of dust on Pella Street which must be removed before the Queen passes.



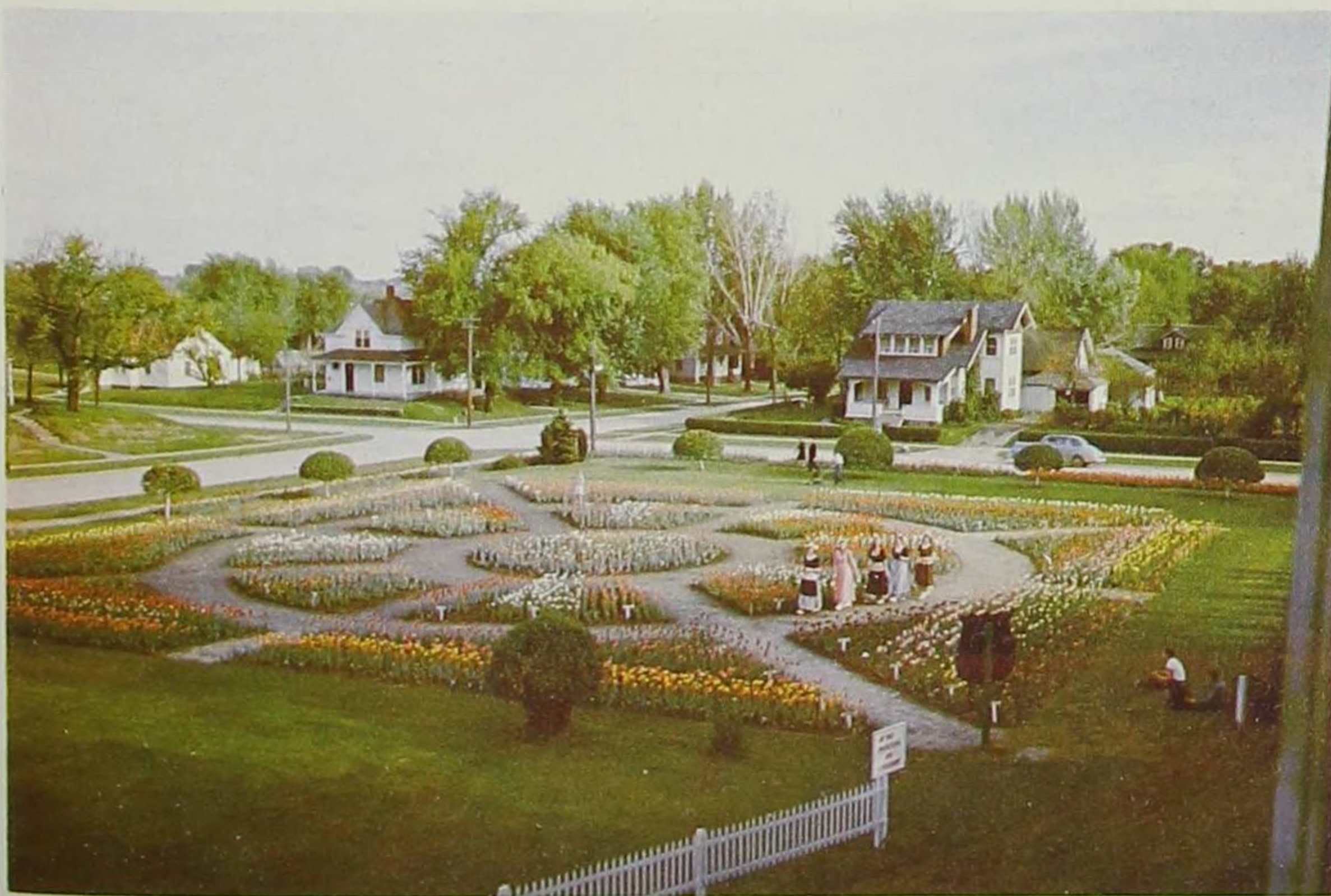
A Dutch Door and a Dutch Custom—Doing Marketing
on a Stoep at Pella



Organ-grinder Lester Liter is Part of the Street Scene at
Pella's Tulip Festival



Scrubbing Pella Streets at Tulip Time.



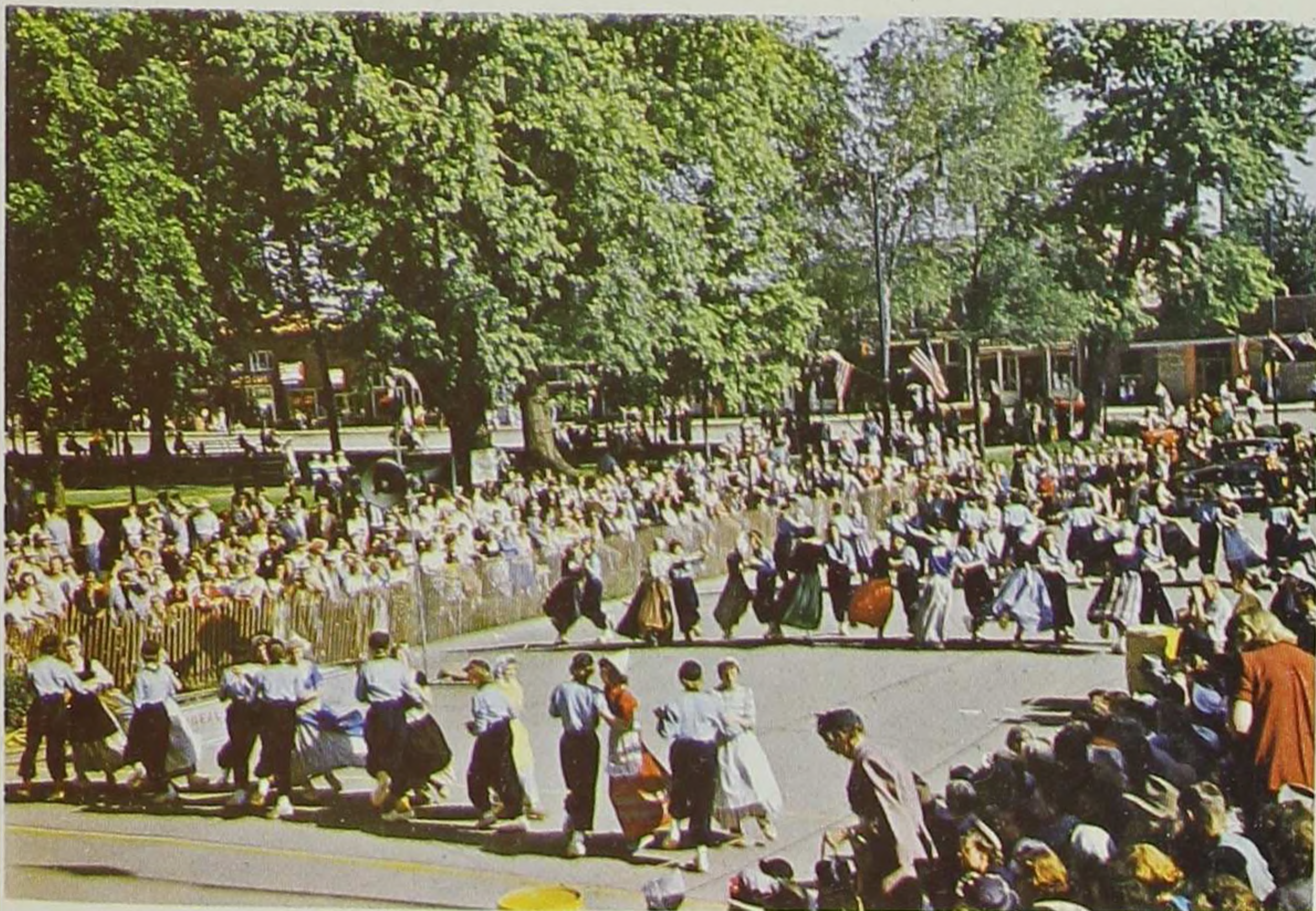
Memorial Garden on grounds of Home of Aged at Pella.



Miniature Dutch village in high school gymnasium



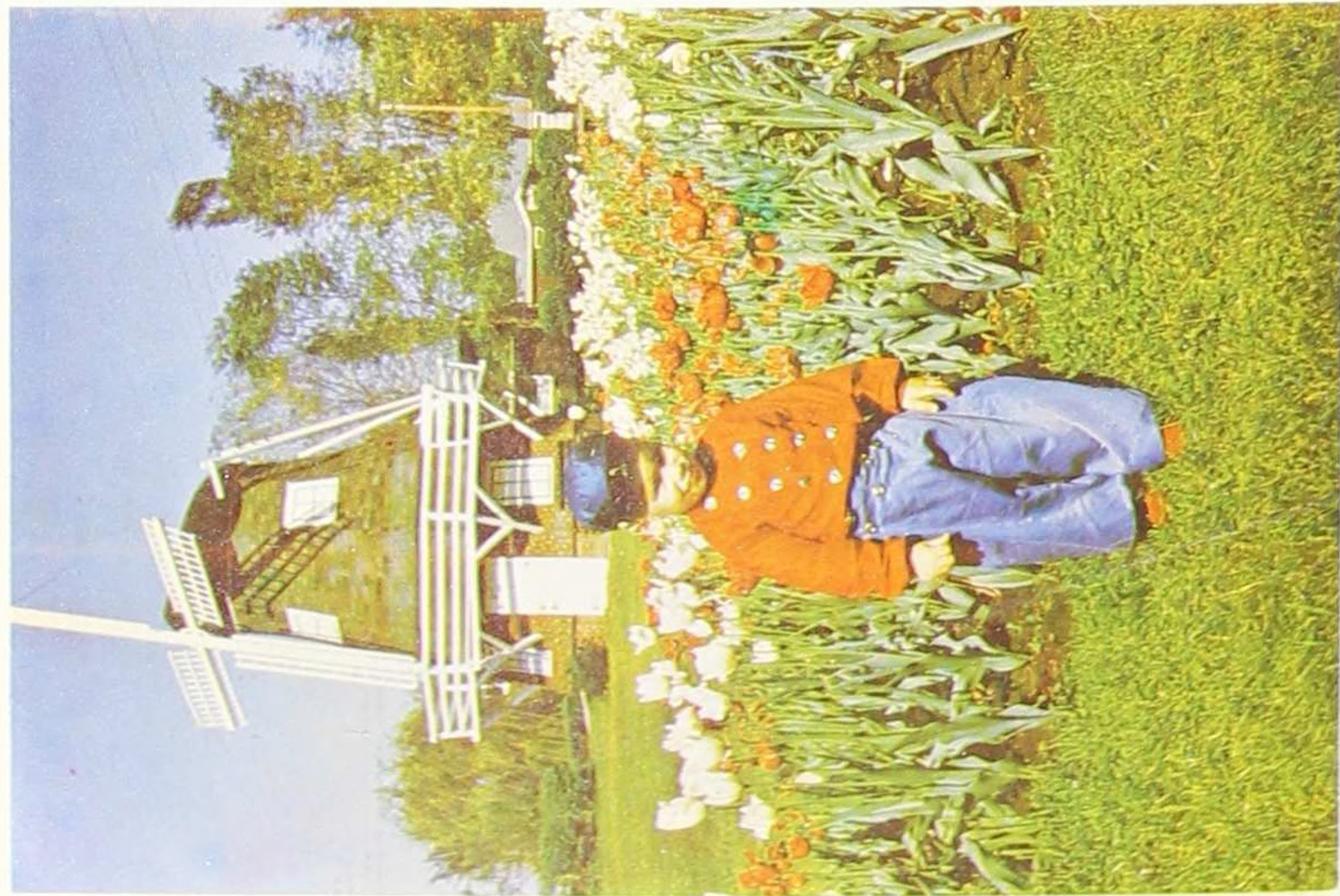
Authentically costumed ladies represent the Dutch Provinces.



Dancing in the streets of Pella.



Dancing in front of stage presided over by Tulip Queen.



The Old Dutch Mill at Pella.



Cobbler making Dutch shoes at Pella.



Tea for Two



Then Some Dutch History

Little Robin Rieckhoff Calls on Ruth Jean Oordt in 1954

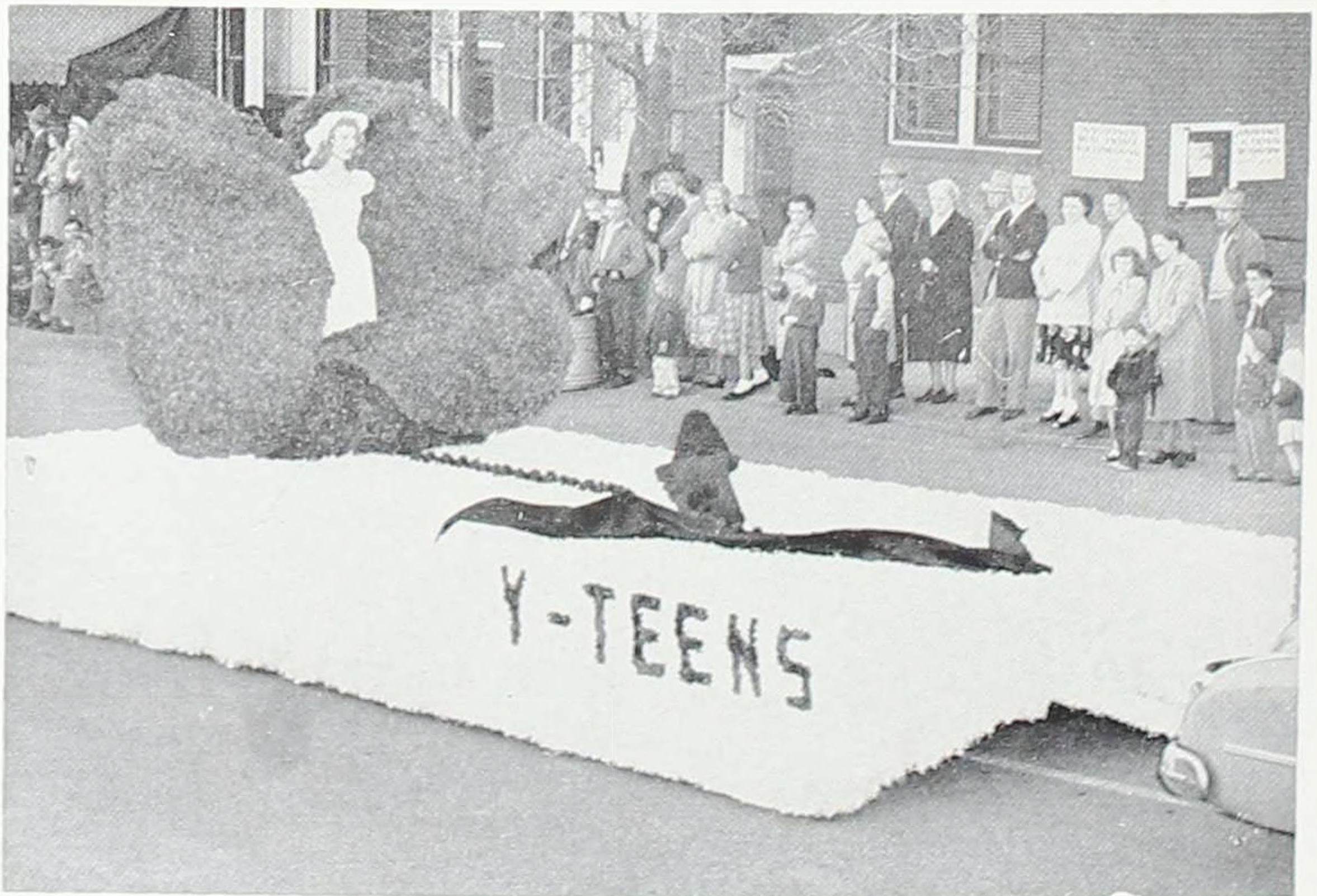


The Streets are Scrubbed at Orange City's May Tulip Festival

ORANGE CITY



Orange City Tulip Queen and Attendants in 1952 Festival Parade



Typical Float in Orange City Festival Parade

MAY FESTIVAL



Folk Dances Are Practiced for Months

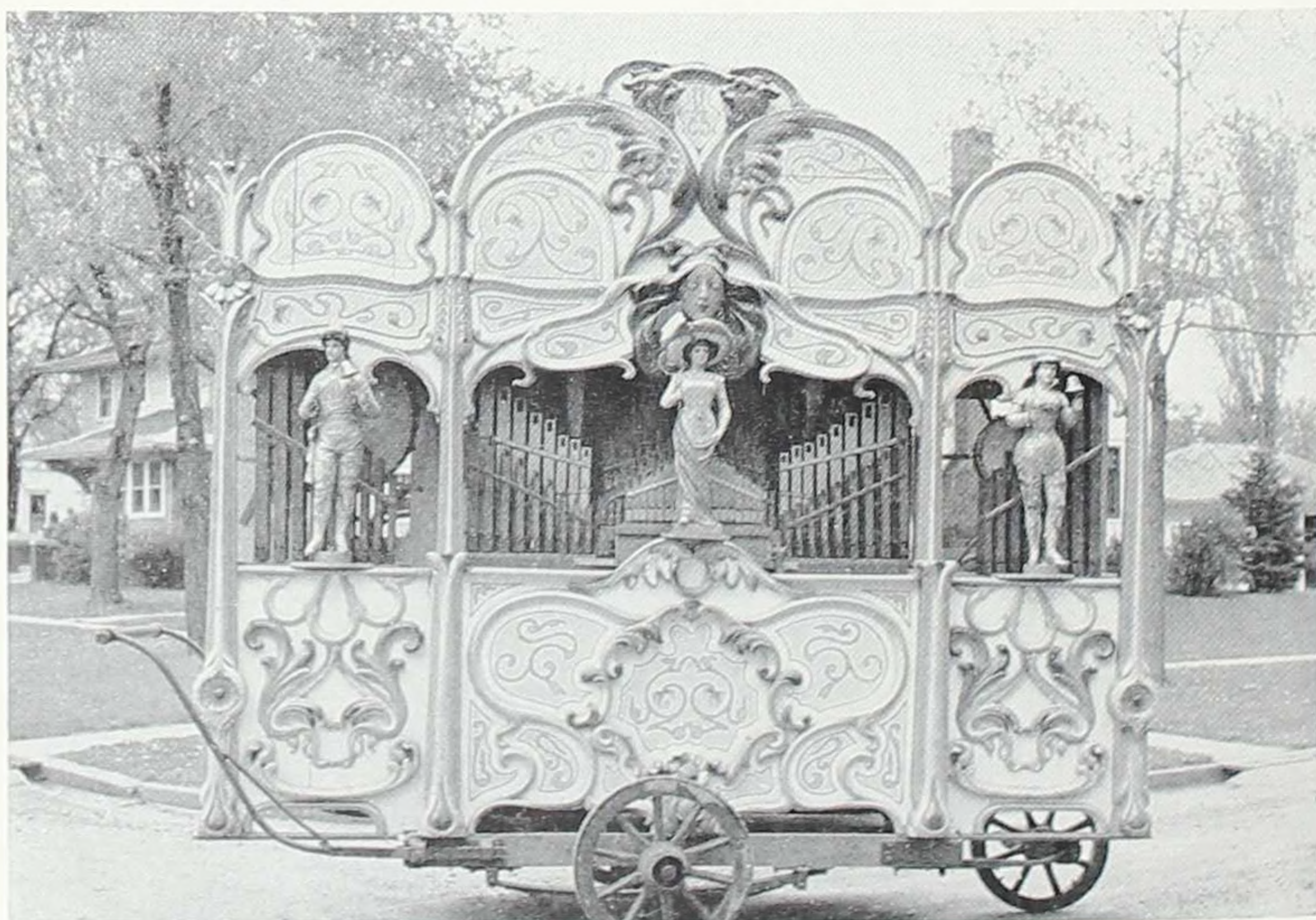


The Family Pet Becomes a Beast of Burden

ORANGE CITY MAY FESTIVAL



De Schutter's Boat, First Entered in 1937 Parade

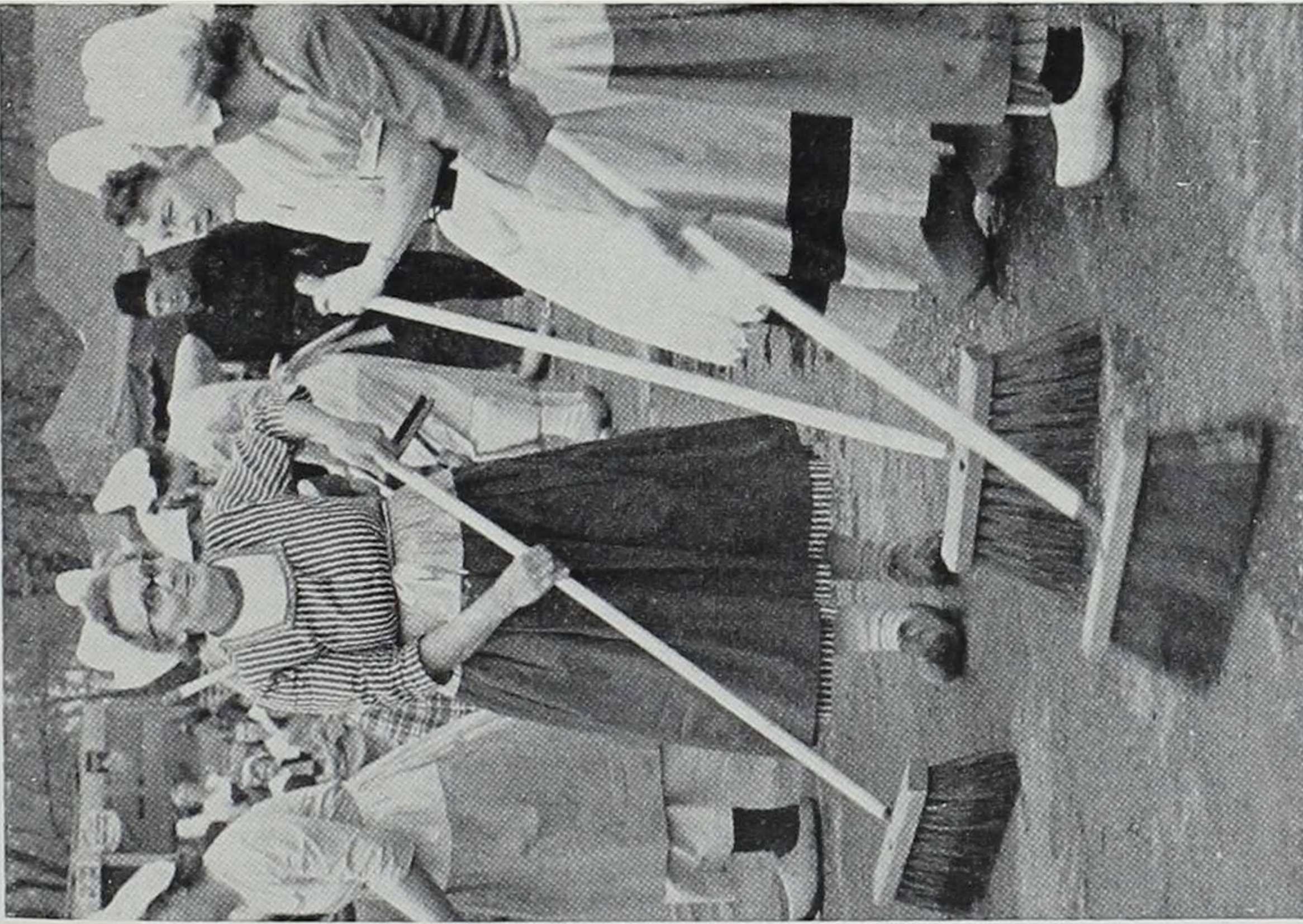


Orange City's Dutch Street Organ

ORANGE CITY MAY FESTIVAL



Dutch Vice-Consul T. E. Klay Crowns May Queen



A Little Gossip During Scrubbing at May Festival

Favorite Dutch Recipes Selected by Mrs. Elmer H. Vermeer from the 1905 Pella Cook Book Compiled by the L.B.A.S. Ladies Baptist Aid Society and Sold to Benefit Central College.

ERWTEN SOEP (Pea Soup)

Take 3 cups of peas, 1 pig's foot (2 lbs. pork) and 3 quarts of cold water. Boil three hours, then add 1 lb. of bologna sausage, 3 medium sized sliced onions and a potato. Season to taste and boil one hour longer. Strain when ready to serve.

MRS. B. H. VAN SPANKEREN

Erwtens soep is frequently referred to as the Netherlands' national dish. It is often the main course of the meal served with thin slices of buttered pumpernickel or fresh home baked white bread followed by fruit and cheese.

HUTSPOT

One quart of potatoes, 1 pint of carrots, 2 onions, 1 cup of white beans, mess of pork or corned beef. Freshen pork or beef by boiling. Cut carrots and onions in thin slices. When meat is sufficiently freshened put on to cook with the beans in boiling water, enough to cover. When about half done put in carrots and onions and when nearly done add potatoes. Let simmer till nearly dry, or pour off what liquor is left; if using corned beef, add beef or pork drippings to taste.

MRS. G. G. VAN DER ZYL

Historians record that "hutspot" has been the featured dish on the third of October for nearly 400 years. It is the legend that "the tradition began in 1574 when the Dutch fleet drove the Spanish besiegers from Leiden. The siege was raised on October 3, and the town's famished citizens and their rescuers supposedly dined on a hastily abandoned kettle of stew, similar to "hutspot," that they found simmering over a Spanish campfire."

GEHAKT (Sausage Balls)

One pound of beef and a half a pound of pork; chop fine; and add fine bread crumbs, 2 cupfuls; 2 eggs, salt and pepper to taste. Make up into balls, fry brown in butter.

MRS. J. NOLLEN

SAUCIJSJES (Pigs in Blanket)

4 cupfuls of sifted flour; 3 tsp. of baking powder; cup of butter. Chop very fine. Add water (about 1½) cups and mix with the hand until a rather fine dough. Roll out dough and cut into squares. Roll the sausage meat into rolls about an inch thick and about four or five inches long. Place each one separately on the little squares and roll them up. Bake in moderate oven, till light brown.

MRS. H. VAN DER MEULEN

ROODE KOOL (Red Cabbage)

Cut up 1 medium sized head of red cabbage. Add 1 cup of sugar and 1 cup of vinegar. Salt to taste and boil slowly until cooked.

MRS. M. P. VAN GORP

ANDIJVIE (Endive)

Take off the green outside leaves and hard tips. Wash each plant thoroughly; then with a very sharp knife cut it as fine as excelsior; then put to soak in fresh water for 2 or 3 hours; when ready to use drain very dry; have ready some hot, boiled potatoes, using five or four plants of endive. Crumble potatoes, and put a layer of them in a warmed crock, then a layer of endive and so on till all is used. Moisten the whole with hot vinegar and butter, ¼ butter and ¾ vinegar. Season with salt and pepper. Sit it well and serve immediately.

MRS. D. KRUIDENIER

SNIJBOONEN (Salted Beans)

Pick beans when very tender, without a sign of bean on them. Wash and let dry. Chip in a slanting way with a sharp knife; have ready a jar that will hold four or five gallons. Put in a layer of the sliced beans then a layer of salt, about one-third as much salt as beans; press down firmly when jar is full, cover over

with a clean cloth and woodenplate, and press down with a stone or brick; keep this on to prevent spoiling on top. These will be fine in winter; as green as can be and as fresh and sweet as one could wish; be sure to use enough salt or they will be yellow and tough. When wanted to cook, take out what you need, cover with boiling water; boil some time, and pour off water; put on more (always boiling) water till suitable to taste. Now add a piece of bacon or ham; when nearly done add one half as much sliced potatoes, and boil till done and nearly dry; add a little ham drippings according to taste; and you will have a dish fit for a hungry man, even if he be a king.

MRS. G. G. VAN DER ZYL

VETBOLLEN (Fritters)

Two eggs, 1 teaspoon of salt, 1 tablespoon of sugar, 1 cup seeded raisins, 4 cups of flour, 2 heaping teaspoons of baking powder, enough milk to make a stiff batter. Drop from spoon into hot lard.

MRS. J. DE VRIES

BOTERLETTER (Butter Letters)

Crust — one pound of butter, 1 pound of flour, 1 teacup very cold water. Chop the butter and flour thoroughly together, add a little salt and the water, keep chopping till it comes together as dough; never use the hands; roll out and double over at least three times, roll out thin, cut into strips, put in the filling and form the strips into the letters of the alphabet.

Filling — One half pound of sweet almonds, 1 ounce bitter almonds, yolks of six eggs, a cup of white sugar, flavor of rose water. Blanch the almonds with boiling water, pound them fine in a mortar a few at a time with the sugar, add the yolks and flavor. Take a strip of dough about 1½ inches wide, put some filling along the center of the strip, fold over the sides and form into any desired letter or in simple strips and bake in a quick oven. Short strips of crust filled with apples are also fine.

MRS. P. C. LANKELMA
MRS. J. NOLLEN

KLETSKOPPEN (Lace Cookies)

Five oz. of flour, 10 oz. dark brown sugar, 1 large teaspoonful of butter, 5 oz. of chopped almonds; bake in a moderate oven until light brown; do not roll, but drop a teaspoonful of the mixture about 4 inches apart on well buttered tins.

ARTIE J. M. WORMHOUDT

SINTER KLAAS (Santa Claus Cookies)

Six cups of flour, 3 of brown sugar, 2½ of butter, ½ of water, 1/3 teaspoon of soda, 2 of cinnamon, 1½ of allspice and 1 of cloves. (Mould on Santa Claus cookie board or form into a roll and slice when chilled. Bake 10-12 minutes at 350° degrees.)

MRS. A. N. VAN DER LINDEN

BOTER KOEKJES (Butter Cookies)

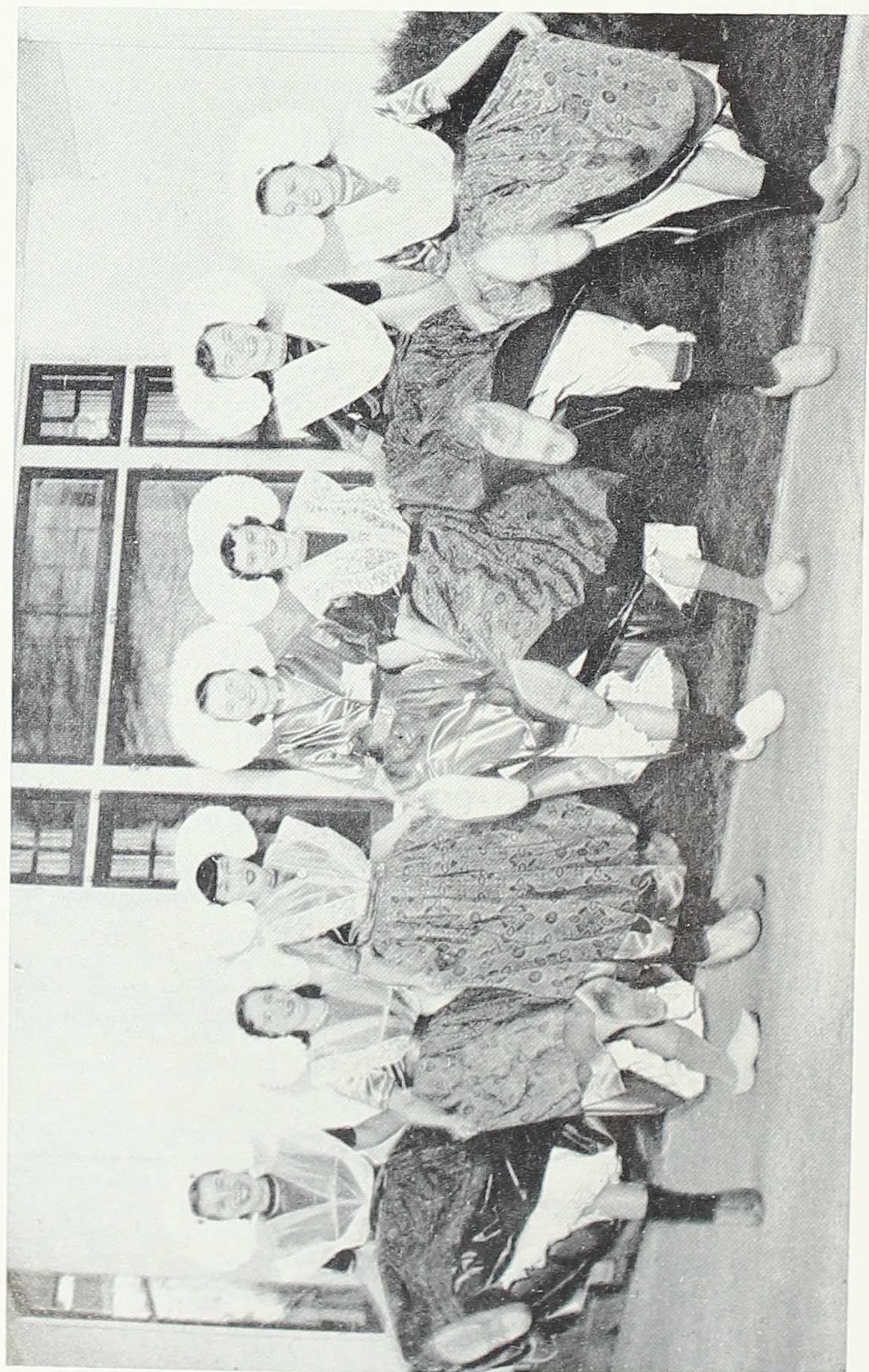
One cup ice cold butter pressed down, 1 of granulated sugar and 2 of sifted flour, ¼ teaspoon soda in ¼ cup of cold water, 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Roll very thin; slow, even oven. (Form into a roll on waxed paper. Chill and when firm, slice with a sharp thin-bladed knife. Bake at 350 degrees until lightly browned.)

MRS. ADA VAN DER LINDEN

WATER CHOCOLADE (CHOCOLATE)

Two squares of Baker's Chocolate and 1 quart of water. Boil hard for 3 minutes, then add 1 rounded teaspoon of cornstarch, wet with cold water; ¾ cup of sugar, and 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Let boil well; serve very hot. Fill teacup half-full with chocolate and on this put a cream-ladle full of whipped cream which has been slightly sweetened.

MRS. GEORGE GAASS



Pretty Orange City Girls Dance For Camera Fans

Orange City's May Festival

Each May, when the sun is warm on the clipped lawns and tulips are in bloom around the white houses of Orange City, the local citizens doff their everyday clothes and don the costumes of a distant homeland. They walk stiff-legged in wooden shoes to where the music is the loudest — down to the business district, where more and more visitors are crowding the sidewalks and the city park. It's the day of the annual May Festival.

Practically all Orange Citians are immigrants from the Netherlands or descendants of Dutch people who came from the Old Country. The handful of residents who constitute the "foreign element" cannot be distinguished from the true Dutchmen at festival time. They might appear more awkward in their wooden shoes, but their costumes are just as genuine.

For years before a tulip celebration was ever contemplated, most Orange City yards had tulips, bought from H. Geselschap, druggist. But attention was not centered on the tulip until some years after Edward Bolluyt, who had been intimately associated with tulip culture in Holland, came to Orange City in September, 1924.

Mr. Bolluyt was born in Lisse, Zuid Holland,

the Netherlands, and started work at the age of twelve for H. De Graaff & Sons, bulb growers and exporters at Lisse. When he came to America he brought a few bulbs with him and eventually planted them in the front yard of the lumber yard he managed. The bed was made larger with excess stock from the druggist *Geselschap*. Year after year more tulips were added until the flowers extended for one full block, and half around the lumber yard.

In May, 1935, Dr. Edward Fisher, Orange City veterinarian, walked into Bolluyt's office with a Tulip Time edition of the *Pella Chronicle* in his hand. "Why can't we do something like that?" he asked. "We've got lots of tulips."

Dr. Fisher took Bolluyt to a noon meeting of the Orange City Lions Club, and before the session was over, club members had purchased 20,000 bulbs at three cents each. Before fall, 50,000 bulbs had been purchased by the townspeople, and the tulip boom was on in Orange City.

The first official mention of a tulip celebration in Orange City is to be found in the minutes of the Chamber of Commerce for February 24, 1936. The record reads: "Mr. Bolluyt then gave a short talk regarding a Tulip Day some time in May and requested the Chamber get behind and push it" — a suggestion the organization approved.

But snow was drifted to the eaves that season, and for most of February the temperature was

around seventeen degrees below zero. Floods held everyone's attention during March, and Tulip Day plans were shoved aside until April 8, when the director of the Chamber arranged a program, officially named the proposed celebration the "May Festival," and announced the date for May 14.

A better day could not have been picked for the festival. The sun was bright, the tulips were long stemmed, big, and beautiful; 3,500 camera-happy visitors descended on the town and ate all the hamburgers and drank all the pop before the celebration had officially started.

The program for this first May Festival began at one o'clock with a parade of forty floats for which prizes of twenty-five, fifteen, and ten dollars were awarded later in the afternoon. After the parade came a costume contest sponsored by the Woman's Club, followed by drills presented by the Le Mars Drum and Bugle Corps. A strong man "Tom Tom" act offered light entertainment for the mid-afternoon crowd. A sing by the Friesian Society and concerts by the Northwestern Junior College and Orange City High School bands concluded the afternoon's event. In the evening the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra presented a concert at the Town Hall for which 700 high school students received free tickets.

The success of the first May Festival was reflected in the number of tulips planted in the fall

of 1936 — at least 70,000 — all of them number one Darwin bulbs of from ten to thirteen centimeters in size. Practically all of Orange City's tulips have come from H. De Graaff & Sons of Lisse, the Netherlands.

The second May Festival, held May 21, 1937, pretty well set the pattern for the years to come. Added to the previous program were several events: a Tulip Queen and six attendants were elected by popular vote from a group of contestants, twenty-six that year. Miss Elizabeth Top was the first queen. Before the parade two blocks of the main street were scrubbed by costumed "vrouwen," pushing coarse brooms, with members of the Lions Club carrying the water. Floats were elaborately decorated; advertising was subdued. Holland antiques and keepsakes were exhibited in the Town Hall under the supervision of the Woman's Club. The evening program in the Town Hall was presented by home talent. The official register for the 1937 festival recorded 2,313 visitors from 140 towns in 15 states.

Orange Citians ordered 100,000 bulbs from the Netherlands in 1937. These came direct from the port of New York in a semitrailer truck which arrived at the Bolluyt house at two o'clock one morning. When the truck was unloaded at the lumber yard the next day, bulbs in perforated paper sacks packed in yard-square boxes of rough wooden slats filled one of the lumber sheds.

The third May Festival, May 19 and 20, 1938, is recalled by most visitors for a musical comedy, *In Dutch*, written and produced, music and all, by attorney A. J. Kolyn. The cast consisted of seventy-five businessmen, who performed as chorines and soloists under blonde wigs. One of the songs was this spirited bit of verse.

The wooden shoes are out again,
The Dutchmen strut about again,
Depression's put to rout again,
You can't beat the Dutch!

The folks are here from Amsterdam,
And pretty girls from Rotterdam,
The grandmamas from Vollandam,
You can't beat the Dutch!

We're proud of Holland's history,
It isn't any mystery,
When they need land they drain the sea,
You can't beat the Dutch!

Orange City's hospitality,
And Dutch conviviality,
You're all as welcome as can be,
You can't beat the Dutch!

Mr. Kolyn wrote and produced a completely new musical comedy, *Katrina*, for the 1939 festival and this, too, was very well received.

By 1941, some outside talent had infiltrated the entertainment in the city park. Folk dances were

performed by Greeks from Sioux Falls and by Czechs from Tabor and Tyndall, South Dakota. Dutch folk dances and drills, however, were a feature of the afternoon program, performed by Orange City girls dressed as Dutch boys and girls. The crowds now averaged about 6,000 a day in good weather.

During the war years, the festival was dropped, but a unique relationship developed with the Army Air Technical School at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, which was to mark community observance of May events in 1943 and 1944. Many young men from the Dutch East Indies were in training at Sioux Falls, and it was not long until dark-skinned young airmen were speaking the Holland tongue in Orange City homes, spending most of their leave time there. Orange Citians often drove their automobiles to take the guests back to duty, and became actively interested in the Army base. They sent truckloads of shrubs and bulbs to landscape the base hospital on the bare and dusty prairie. Victory Days on May 21, 1943, and May 26, 1944, were celebrated jointly, with the Army Air Technical School bringing its band and a truck convoy of equipment to Orange City. Added to the Army entertainment were drills by the Brewster (Minnesota) Girls Drum and Bugle Corps and the Iowa State Guard unit from Sheldon. War bonds and stamps were sold in the city park.

The May Festival was revived on May 15 and

16, 1947, with the second day devoted to war veterans and featuring the marching and music of the Monahan Post Band from Sioux City. It had been impossible, of course, to import tulip bulbs during the war years, but in the fall of 1946, 50,000 new bulbs had been imported and planted in anticipation of the 1947 festival. Unfortunately, a bad storm on the day before the celebration ruined many of the flowers.

The Netherlands Bulb Growers Association sent 10,000 bulbs as a gift in October, 1949. The town purchased 10,000 tulips for planting on city property, and Sioux County bought 10,000, which were put in four big round beds on the courthouse lawn, each bed a solid color. Irises and peonies were planted with tulips in curb-side lanes.

Orange City has the only Netherlands vice-consulate in the prairie states. The first vice-consul, attorney Gerrit Klay, was knighted by Queen Wilhelmina for his work. On his death, his son, attorney T. E. Klay, assumed the duties.

The Netherlands ambassador, Elco N. Van Kleffens, was an honored guest of the 1950 festival held at Orange City on May 11, 12, 13. The ambassador crowned the Tulip Queen and gave her an official kiss on the brow, a gesture Vice-consul T. E. Klay, who usually crowns the queen, had overlooked to his regret. The oversight has subsequently been corrected.

The Orange City Chamber of Commerce ac-

quired a cherished possession in the summer of 1950, a Dutch street organ built by Jac and Martin Minning Orgel Bouwers of Rotterdam. It was purchased, complete with music, from the Netherlands Trade Fair at Philadelphia. One of two such instruments in the United States, the organ attracts much attention at the festival.

From all over northwestern Iowa and adjacent counties in South Dakota visitors come to the Orange City festival in Sioux County, where about half the Hollanders in Iowa live. Not only these descendants of the early settlers enjoy the festival, but hundreds of non-Dutch visitors come to watch the colorful events.

The May festival is a big event for a town of 2,100. It takes the combined efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Woman's Club, the American Legion, Northwestern Junior College, and Orange City High School to stage the celebration. Of course, a small, hard-working group of businessmen and women do much of the planning and the work, but when May comes around, almost everybody in town is saying, "breng onz een bezoek" — pay us a visit.

JAMES TRENEMAN

The Dutch in Iowa

"Those Dutch are strong people," declared the eminent historian Thomas Carlyle many years ago.

They raised their land out of a marsh, and went on for a long period of time breeding cows and making cheese, and might have gone on with their cows and cheese till doomsday. But Spain comes over and says: "We want you to believe in St. Ignatius." "Very sorry," replied the Dutch, "but we can't." "God! but you *must*," says Spain; and they went about with guns and swords to make the Dutch believe in St. Ignatius. Never made them believe in him, but did succeed in breaking their own vertebral column forever, and raising the Dutch into a great nation.

The emergence of "Brave Little Holland" into a great maritime power has been vividly described by John Lothrop Motley in his *The Rise of the Dutch Republic in 1856*. The success of the Dutch East India Company was fabulous; annual dividends of 25 per cent and more were not uncommon for many years during the seventeenth century. But these profits came largely from the rich spice islands of the eastern hemisphere. The western hemisphere still lay open for exploitation.

Although the first Dutch ships had ventured into American waters as early as 1510, Henry

Hudson did not take his *Half Moon* up the lordly Hudson above present-day Albany until 1609. His objective was the discovery of a passage to China and the Indies. Failing to discover a passage to the western sea, the Dutch carried on profitable trading with the Iroquois. As a result, Albany was established in 1624 and New Amsterdam (now New York) the following year. By 1644, New Amsterdam had become a cosmopolitan community in which eighteen languages were spoken; twelve years later the census showed a village of 120 houses and 1,000 inhabitants.

Unfortunately the Dutch soon were clashing with Swedish and English traders. After intense rivalry the English captured New Amsterdam in 1664 and granted it to the Duke of York. The Dutch recaptured New Amsterdam in 1673, but were forced to restore it to the British the following year. The latter promptly renamed it New York.

For more than a century and a half after the fall of New Amsterdam, Dutch immigration to the United States ceased. At last, around 1820, the Dutch again began filtering into the United States. By 1900, the number of Hollanders residing in the United States exceeded 105,000. Of these, over 30,000 lived in Michigan, about 22,000 in Illinois, and nearly 10,000 in Iowa. Thirty thousand more arrived from the Netherlands in the next decade. The total Dutch immigration to the United States

between 1820 and 1920 reached nearly 340,000. The 1930 Census revealed 133,133 Hollanders in the United States, of whom 32,128 lived in Michigan, mostly in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Holland.

The causes of Dutch immigration to America during the nineteenth century were not unlike those of other foreign groups — economic, social, and religious. Heavy taxes, a huge national debt, low wages, and frequent unemployment, when combined with the dense population, caused thousands of discouraged and dissatisfied Hollanders to migrate to America.

The vanguard of the Dutch who arrived in Iowa in August, 1847, was led by Hendrik Peter Scholte. Frequently referred to as the Moses of the Dutch in Iowa, Scholte had gone ahead and secured title to 18,000 acres of land in northeastern Marion County. When his followers arrived they laid out the town of Pella, built log cabins, and began truck farming and dairying. It was not long before their cheese gained a reputation for excellence in the St. Louis market. Meanwhile, Scholte advertised the colony in the Netherlands, and other Hollanders soon joined the Iowa communities.

The first contingent of Dutch who arrived at Pella faced the rigors and hardships of the American frontier courageously. At a time when things looked blackest, they were saved by one of the

great movements in American history — the trek of the Forty-Niners westward across Iowa. As one Dutch farmer recorded:

We sold the trekkers to California all we had, and bought up more from our neighbors who lived farther from the road. We sold a bushel of corn for one dollar, a bushel of oats for one dollar, a bushel of wheat for one dollar, 100 pounds of hay for one dollar, everything for one dollar; that was easy to remember. A yoke of oxen brought from \$50 to \$55; a cow from \$20 to \$25. The trekkers, however, could stand it. Some had cooks and negro servants. A man from Davenport came with 350 head of cattle. He had two more herds of the same size, altogether 1,000 head, on the way.

In the years that followed the Dutch continued to flow into the Pella area. The Iowa census of 1856 revealed 2,112 Hollanders in thirty-one Iowa counties, of whom almost 150 were recorded in Keokuk, the Gate City of Iowa, which had served as a jumping-off-point for the Pella settlement. The Census of 1860 showed Iowa had 2,615 Hollanders; by 1870 there were 4,513, or one-tenth of the total number in the United States.

Land became so expensive around Pella that the Dutch sought out cheap land in northwestern Iowa beyond the frontier. Henry Hospers, after whom a town in Sioux County is named, was the trail-blazer of this group. Hospers began publishing *De Volksvriend* in Orange City in 1874. The Dutch who settled in the Orange City area came

from the crowded Pella community and from Wisconsin.

The decade of the 1870's brought to northwest Iowa one of the most devastating plagues ever to confront the Iowa pioneers. After harvesting bountiful crops in 1871 and 1872, and writing glowing accounts of their good fortune to relatives in Pella and across the sea, an appalling holocaust struck the hardworking Dutch in 1873. Suddenly, without warning, a myriad of locusts descended on their gardens, hayfields, and corn lands, devouring every edible thing in sight and scarcely leaving a blade of grass before taking flight. When the Dutch gathered in their slim harvest in the fall of 1873 they had barely enough to supply their own needs. Although some farms were not as hard hit as others, it was estimated the Dutch harvested only one-fourth of their expected crop in 1873.

Undaunted, the Dutch faced the spring of 1874 with renewed courage, purchasing additional farm machinery and sowing thousands of acres in wheat. All at once, on a Sunday morning in July while the Dutch were at church, millions of locusts once more appeared from Minnesota, feasting on a strip of land forty to sixty miles long. By Monday morning, an eyewitness recorded, "all our crops were stripped and gone." When an inventory was taken of total losses it was found that scarcely one-half of the crop remained for har-

vesting, Indian corn yielding only five bushels to the acre. One old settler, a Dutch pioneer records, "got so disgusted that he sold his 80 acres for \$225, throwing in a span of mules, wagon, and cow."

Although discouraged by their misfortunes the wise counsel and cheerfulness of Henry Hospers, Rev. Seine Bolks, and other influential men, did much to buoy up their courage. In his newspaper, Hospers wrote:

More than 400 families have settled here; more than 15,000 acres are under cultivation; fifteen neat frame schoolhouses grace various parts of our county; good roads have been laid out; the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad runs squarely across our colony. East Orange and Hospers are two flourishing stations in our settlement. Orange City, the county seat and center of our colony, has a pretty court-house, large church parsonage, five stores, two hotels, and forty residences: see there what has been done in the five years' time.

Can any other settlement offer a better record? Dark shadows, wrestlings, difficulties, adversity, and much privation also comprised a chapter in our colony's history. To deny this would be foolish, and whatever the discouragement we now experience: we had expected worse; and it is far less terrible than that of the first colonists of Pella, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The trials and tribulations of the Dutch did not end with the second visit of the locusts. The voracious pests continued their onslaught on Sioux County despite all efforts of the Hollanders to ex-

terminate them. In addition to locusts, violent rainstorms, withering drouths, and terrific hurricanes plagued the courageous Dutch. Fortunately, their stubborn heroism, which they had exhibited for generations in Europe as they fought their way upward against almost insuperable odds, finally carried them to victory in Iowa. Despite adversity, the population of Sioux County increased from 575 in 1870 to 5,426 in 1880.

The movement of the Dutch into northwestern Iowa proceeded at a phenomenal rate. As a result the number of Hollanders in Iowa reached a peak of 12,638 by 1915. The Census of 1950 revealed that Iowa ranked sixth in the nation, with 6,078 Hollanders; only Michigan, New York, California, New Jersey, and Illinois had more. The Dutch stood fourth among the foreign elements in Iowa in 1950, the Germans, Danes, and Swedes being more numerous. The number of Dutch-born (1950) and those Iowans of Dutch parentage (1930) follows:

North Western Counties			South Central Counties		
	<i>Dutch-Born</i>	<i>Dutch-Parentage</i>		<i>Dutch-Born</i>	<i>Dutch-Parentage</i>
Sioux	1,954	8,567	Marion	552	2,658
Lyon	540	2,032	Jasper	351	1,757
O'Brien	506	1,667	Mahaska	340	1,850

The Pella Tulip Festival and the Orange City May Festival are yearly reminders to Iowans of

the rich heritage of these sturdy Hollanders who more than a century ago came as strangers to a strange land and have become some of its most valuable citizens. The Dutch have an old proverb which runs: "God made the sea, but we make the shore." The courage, the diligence, and the faith which has lifted this tiny nation to one of giant stature in world history has been exemplified by its resourceful and independent descendants who carved out their homes in the Hawkeye State.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Tulip Queens Through the Years

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pella Queen</i>	<i>Orange City Queen</i>
1936	Lenore Gaass	No Queen
1937	Freda Den Burger	Elizabeth Top
1938	Virginia Van Gorp	Kathryn Lubbers
1939	Bernace Vander Linden	Anna Schoep
1940	Leona Schilder	Bertha Visser
1941	Margie Veenman	Marjorie Brower
1942	Jeanne Van Gorkum	*Victory Days
1943	Ruth Klein	*Victory Days
1944	Martha Van Berkum	*Victory Days
1945	No Festival	No Festival
1946	No Festival	No Festival
1947	Ruth Vande Geest	Darlene Vanden Berge
1948	Beverly Thomassen	Helen Beyer
1949	Lorraine De Haan	Betty Mulder
1950	Wilma Van Zee	Rita Van Steenwyk
1951	Carol Ver Steeg	Marvella Huisman
1952	Joan Schagen	Joyce Wiersma
1953	Lou Ann Le Cocq	Karen Mouw
1954	Judy Cook	Ruth Oordt
1955	Gwen Vandenberg	Joan Te Paske
1956	Sandra Cummings	Shirley Vogelaar
1957	Andrea Boat	Carol Bomgaars
1958	Hilma Schagen	Frieda Brower
1959	Sandra Sels	Audrey Korver
1960	Lois De Kock	Mary Lou Korver
1961	Glenda Steenhoek	Karen Bogaard
1962	Kathy Gosselink	Linda Van Klompenburg
1963	Mary Vermeer	Jean Miller
1964	Beverly De Cook	Judy Raak

*No Queen elected.



The Old Pella Scissors Grinder on Parade.



Costumed Ladies Representing Eleven Dutch Provinces.