

The
PALIMPSEST
AUGUST 1936
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Iowa in 1935

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

Superintendent

THE MEANING OF PALIMPSESTS

In early times palimpsests were parchments or other materials 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 records 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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THE PALIMPSEST

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The Weather

Weather cost Iowa millions of dollars in 1935. The farmer who had looked ruefully at his sunburnt fields of the previous summer was encouraged by the excess rainfall in the autumn of drought-stricken 1934. Although in the following spring copious showers fell over much of the parched central and southern section of the State, precipitation was below normal in most of the western and northern counties. The heavy rains delayed corn planting nearly a month. Instead of being "knee-high by the Fourth", much of the corn was scarcely six inches above the ground. According to estimates at that time the crop was thirty-one per cent below normal — the worst condition reported at that time of the season during the forty-six years that records have been kept. To make matters worse the growing season was four days shorter than usual and about a fourth of the corn crop was damaged by frost. Despite these adverse conditions, the corn yield was over

a bushel per acre above the ten-year average. The crop was very poor in quality, however, containing the greatest amount of moisture ever recorded.

The excess rainfall also resulted in destructive floods. Farmers viewed with apprehension the high stages on the Iowa and Cedar rivers early in March. In May floods occurred on the Grand, Little, and Middle rivers. But it was the Des Moines Valley which experienced the most damaging floods. Beginning on June 3rd with a stage of 15.2 feet at Tracy, four consecutive crests bankful or higher collected below Des Moines and moved down past Ottumwa. The third and highest crest passed Tracy with a stage of 20.1 feet on June 27-28th. The river did not fall below the fourteen-foot flood stage until after the fourth crest of 18.5 feet on July 5th. At Eddyville a hundred men worked frantically building a levee of 14,000 sand bags to protect the town. Relief workers came from Oskaloosa to aid in the fight, while scores of volunteers trooped in from surrounding communities. So serious was the flood threat that every one in Eddyville was prepared to move on a moment's notice. If the water had risen four inches higher it would have broken over the sandbag barrier and flooded all but twenty-three residences.

At Ottumwa cots and tents were provided for

eighty families driven from their homes. A train of cars loaded with coal held down the Milwaukee railroad bridge across the waterworks channel. At Eldon, where all roads south were overflowed, a doctor and nurse reached the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cole by rowboat just in time to usher a baby boy into a home marooned. Forty thousand acres of land were inundated between Des Moines and Eldon and the damage to crops, livestock, and property was conservatively placed at almost a half million dollars.

Billions of chinch bugs that survived the winter of 1934-1935 became a serious menace to Iowa crops. This was particularly true in southern and east-central counties where the ground was "alive with them". Fortunately, adverse weather conditions greatly reduced the hosts of chinch bugs which had threatened to take practically all the small grain and seriously damage many cornfields in half the counties of the State.

The grasshopper scourge in some of the western counties was reminiscent of the locust plagues of the seventies. Fremont County and the region round Ida Grove, Denison, Harlan, and Logan suffered most. Fields of alfalfa and sweet clover were the favorite feeding grounds. Entomologist A. D. Worthington urged farmers to use the 600 tons of poison bran available to eradicate the pest.

At best he feared that another dry fall and spring might result in the "worst infestation" in Iowa history. The prospect for 1936 was gloomy, indeed, when the grasshoppers survived September rains.

Dust from the southwest filled the sky and discolored the snow on February 23rd. A month later, on March 20th, a dense cloud of dust covered the whole State. Visibility as low as a hundred feet was reported in southwestern Iowa. A brisk wind carried the dust high into the air. During April, dust-laden atmosphere dimmed the sun's rays and diminished visibility. But dust storms in 1935 did not match those of 1934 either in number or severity.

Violent local storms were uncommon. Loss from wind and hail was consequently less than half that of 1934 and far less than usual. A small tornado near Alton on March 20th did some damage. Much more serious was the tornado four days later in Mahaska County which unroofed buildings, leveled barns, and caused damage estimated at \$60,000.

Two earthquakes were felt in Iowa in 1935. At five o'clock in the morning on March 1st a tremor of short duration was felt in southwestern Iowa. The quake in the extreme southwest was of sufficient intensity to move furniture. Window panes rattled, dishes jingled, and light sleepers

were disturbed. Farmers reported that their stock became restless and excited when the tremor occurred. Des Moines, Kansas City, Wichita, and Council Bluffs bordered the area affected.

At Dubuque sometime between midnight and 1:10 A. M. on November 1st at least seven people in two different buildings reported a "sudden quivering shock" that caused mirrors to swing and chairs to rock. The Dubuque tremor was apparently a phase of the severe shock that originated in North Bay, Ontario, and rocked eastern Canada and the United States at 1:03:45 A. M. The time definitely associates it with the North Bay rather than the Helena tremors. Measured by the distance it was felt, the quake was of greater severity than that at San Francisco in 1906 and twice as great as the Long Beach earthquake of 1933, though not nearly so destructive. Dubuque is at least one hundred miles farther from the center of the disturbance than any other point mentioned in the preliminary government survey.

The average temperature in Iowa for 1935 was 48.6° compared with the sixty-three year average of 47.9°. For the sixth consecutive winter the temperature during December, January, and February was above the long-time norm, while precipitation was below average for the tenth winter in the last twelve. The lowest temperature was re-

corded at Northwood and Osage where the thermometer fell to 30° below zero on January 23rd.

The worst snow storm occurred on February 25th, when a blanket of snow averaging four inches in depth covered the State. Drifts of snow fifteen feet deep were reported. The Iowa Highway Commission had the primary road system cleared in forty-eight hours but many country roads were blockaded for days. Busses and trains ran far behind schedule, airplanes were grounded, and many automobiles were abandoned in the drifts. Hundreds of men worked overtime with shovels, teams and scrapers, trucks, and all available clearing equipment. The Iowa Weather Bureau estimated 2,024,727,912 tons of snow fell.

The highest temperature recorded was 107° at Sac City on July 28th and at Corning and Lenox on August 9th. This was eleven degrees below the all-time high established at Keokuk on June 20, 1934. Although few records were broken, the year was marked by many unique phenomena. May of 1934 was the warmest on record with an average temperature of 69.6° whereas in 1935 May approached an all-time low with an average of 55.0°. But Iowans have learned to accept such variations of nature with calm solicitude. Providence is, after all, beyond human management.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Agriculture and the AAA

The typical Iowa farmer had cause for rejoicing on New Year's Day of 1935. Only two years before, his corn had been selling at ten cents a bushel, his oats at twelve cents, and his hogs for less than two and a half cents a pound. Moreover, in January, 1933, the Iowa farm products price index stood at 40 per cent of the 1910-1914 average, the lowest in twenty-five years. Depression census figures revealed a sharp decline in the number of automobiles, tractors, and radios on farms. Many a farmer had to store his radio because he could not afford to buy a new battery or tubes. Meanwhile, he had seen unemployment reach Gargantuan proportions in industry.

Political scientists and economists, Democrats and Republicans, philosophers and fools — all presented their own theories as to why the Iowa farmer was more optimistic in 1935. Some said it was because of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the New Deal, and particularly the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Others hotly denied such an explanation — and none more vigorously than Senator L. J. Dickinson and Milo Reno. Most people, however, were willing to admit times were better.

By means of government aid, Iowa farmers had been able to hold their crops and get the benefit of higher prices. Corn was worth five times as much in 1934 as in 1933, and by January, 1935, the index of Iowa farm products prices had soared to 111 per cent of pre-war prices. In the short space of one year the value of sheep had risen 35 per cent, cattle 77, eggs 55, butter 68, and oats 89 per cent. Bitter arguments arose as to the cause of this increase but it was generally agreed that the drought of 1934 and the AAA reduction program, together with the rising tide of business prosperity, had combined to accomplish it. It is significant that the price of corn had risen 135 per cent and hogs 153 per cent during 1934. Parity for farm products, the goal of the AAA, was reached in September, 1935, when the price indexes of farm products and things bought by farmers both stood at 128 per cent of the 1910-1914 level.

Cash income is supposed to be the best measure of the economic well-being of the farmer. During the first quarter of 1935 the cash income of Iowa farmers showed a 43 per cent gain. The total figure was \$117,000,000, compared with \$82,000,000 for the first quarter of 1934, or \$53,000,000 for the same period in 1933. A survey of 726 farms showed an average cash income of \$1700 in 1935 compared with \$1485 for 516 farms in 1934.

Although Iowa farmers took in more cash, their net incomes were actually slightly lower when their decrease in inventories was counted.

Nevertheless, the increase in ready cash was reflected in the farmers' buying power. On January 1, 1936, there were 69,835 tractors on Iowa farms, an increase of more than 11,000 over the previous year. The number of automobiles remained stationary, but the number of new cars sold showed the greatest percentage of increase in the distinctly rural counties. A radio census revealed 107,320 sets, the highest number ever recorded. For the first time over half of Iowa's farmers could hear Major Bowes's amateurs.

The year 1935 proved to be crucial for the AAA in Iowa and the nation. Polls of opinion were taken and politicians fired their heaviest oratorical artillery in opposition or defense of the measure. That the AAA was popular in Iowa was demonstrated by the enthusiasm of the farmers. Between eighty-five and ninety per cent of Iowa farm land came under its varied programs. Although the total benefit payments dropped during 1935, the great gain came from the increased prices for corn and hogs. Moreover, most of the work of administration was done by committees of farmers themselves. The average cost of administration by these neighborhood volunteers was

slightly over three per cent of the benefit payments. Furthermore, committees performed their work so fairly and efficiently that very few complaints were registered. Well might the *Lansing Journal* declare: "The AAA has not been administered by partisans, and there is nothing about it that suggests partisanship."

Less than three per cent of the contracts forwarded to Washington from Iowa were found to be inaccurate, compared with errors ranging from fifteen to twenty-five per cent in other commodity programs. The State committee maintained an audit section where the contracts and related forms were carefully checked and each county's expenses approved before final payment was made. This service cost less than two-tenths of one per cent of the benefit payments received in Iowa.

In the fall of 1935 the Federal government determined to find out whether the farmers favored "a corn-hog adjustment program to follow the 1935 program which expires November 30, 1935". The Belle Plaine *Union* thought this unnecessary: "Asking the farmers whether they want to continue the AAA is just like asking labor if it wanted more wages and shorter hours." Iowa farmers endorsed crop control by a vote of 160,653 to 26,791. In Kossuth County the vote was eighteen to

one in favor of the AAA. Senator L. J. Dickinson declined to comment. "Knocked speechless, perhaps", observed the *Spencer News-Herald* slyly. Nationally the poll revealed that farmers supported the program in the proportion of approximately six and one-half to one. "The east may not like the AAA", the *North English Record* declared, "but they will have to take a little of their own medicine for a time to come."

The united strength presented by this test of agrarian opinion was apparent to keen observers. "For the first time in history, American agriculture is organized and is able to deal with its problems collectively", declared the *Manchester Democrat-Radio*. According to Harlan S. Miller, a farmer in northwestern Iowa was asked whether he would be a bulwark of the Republican party during the ensuing year. "Well," he replied, "I have in my pocket a request from the G. O. P. chairman for my usual \$25 contribution, and also an AAA check for \$260, & I think the grand old party will have to get along without me this year."

Although the farmers of Iowa had heartily endorsed the AAA, a poll of a sampling of voters of the State by the American Institute of Public Opinion during December showed only fifty-five per cent in favor of the AAA. Nationally this same poll revealed that fifty-nine per cent of the

people opposed the AAA and only forty-one per cent favored it. Only three midwestern agricultural States — Iowa, North Dakota, and Kansas — voted in favor of it. Iowa's affirmative vote was explained by the fact that rural farm families comprised about one-third of the total number of families and that the equivalent of \$216 per farm family had been paid out by the AAA during the first nine months of 1935.

Those favoring the AAA did so because they felt that farm prosperity made for national prosperity, that the farmer deserved help, that the AAA was the most workable plan available, that it had increased employment in both farm and industrial areas, and that it had helped the average farmer out of a "bad hole". Those who opposed the AAA believed that it raised the cost of living, that it was a false approach to the farm problem, that it was sinful to restrict production, that it robbed the farmer of his freedom, and that it favored one class at the expense of others. In a speech at Waverly in October, Senator Louis Murphy admitted that the AAA had defects, but observed: "No man with sense would pull down a house simply because he does not like the door knobs."

Just as partisan opinion was crystallizing, the United States Supreme Court declared that the

processing-tax feature of the AAA was unconstitutional. "There are brains enough in this country", stormed the *Sheldon Mail*, "to devise some acceptable manner of giving to the farmer the same protection accorded the manufacturer and both of the great parties should join hands in such an effort." Said the *Rolfe Arrow*: "Now we have the whole farm proposition to go all over again, for it won't die until there is more justice".

An incident in Iowa which attracted nationwide comment was the hanging in effigy of the six Supreme Court justices who ruled against crop control by means of a processing tax. Greatly incensed, the *Marion Sentinel* declared that the perpetrators "may have thought the act smart, but they were sadly mistaken."

While politicians warmly praised or condemned the high court, a calmer note was struck by Dr. T. W. Schultz of Iowa State College. "The adverse AAA decision of the Supreme Court is merely an incident in the history of agriculture's attempt to find ways and means of acting collectively in an economy where virtually all other major economic groups have succeeded in attaining semi-monopolistic positions. The decision is likely to change only the form that this collective action will take."

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Economics and Alphabeticals

From a slough of economic despondency Iowa rose in 1935 to within about fifteen per cent of the pre-depression level, according to George R. Davies of the University of Iowa Bureau of Business Research. Business activity increased fully twelve per cent over 1934, which was mainly due to higher prices for farm products. The same tendency was observed in other parts of the country. Even the gloomy United States Chamber of Commerce admitted "failures in 1935 were the fewest and liabilities the lightest since 1919". From Albany, New York, a stationer sent out the cheering news that the sale of red ink was declining.

The Maytag Company showed a net income of \$2,581,096 in 1935 compared with \$1,960,836 for 1934. Preferring to "let the figures speak for themselves", the directors of the Amana Corporation reported total sales had increased from \$536,524 during the first nine months of 1934 to \$703,927 during the same period in 1935. Unable to secure "sufficient cash grain of milling quality" at their Cedar Rapids and Saint Joseph mills, Quaker Oats reported a decrease in earnings from \$5,478,956 in 1934 to \$4,552,501 in 1935.

A survey of Iowa by the magazine, *Sales Management*, revealed the average Iowan's "spendable income" was \$504 in 1935. Des Moines ranked third among the cities of the United States as a market area, while Polk County stood fifth among the 3074 counties with an average spendable money income of \$868. Scott County stood second to Polk in Iowa with \$817, while Monroe County was last with only \$235.

There were other encouraging evidences of the triumphant emergence of Iowa from the depths of the depression. New car registration increased 149 per cent over 1933: March sales actually topped the "boom days" by four per cent. Automobile registration rose from 592,350 in 1934 to 619,658 in 1935, and trucks reached an all-time high with 83,836 registered in 1935.

Using 100 per cent as the base in 1933, employment increased to 119.7 per cent while pay rolls advanced to 133.3 per cent. Wages for farm hands improved considerably. Teachers' salaries increased for the third consecutive year, though they were still approximately twenty-five per cent below normal. Strikes, the most serious being among the mill workers at Dubuque and the bakers in Des Moines, indicated that industrial wages were not keeping up to the rising prices.

Bank deposits increased 87.6 per cent, a condi-

tion which few Iowans would have been willing to prophesy during the gloomy days of 1933. There were 122 national banks in Iowa, 307 savings banks, 237 State banks, and four trust companies. Fifteen new banks were established during 1935. At the close of business on December 31, 1935, State Banking Superintendent D. W. Bates reported an increase of \$54,831,319.28 in deposits over 1934. Loans and discounts had increased \$36,141,850.85. The *American Banker* listed the Iowa-Des Moines National Bank & Trust Company as 146th among the banks of the nation with \$35,804,724 in deposits. Bank clearings in Des Moines were the highest since 1930 and twenty-four per cent ahead of 1934. Throughout the year closed banks continued payments to depositors — the citizens of Bellevue rejoicing when the First National Bank completed its final payment in full in time for Christmas shopping.

While prognosticators sought to read the future and economists endeavored to interpret the past, Senator Louis Murphy estimated on April 19, 1936, that the Federal government had distributed \$553,000,000 in cash in Iowa during the three years beginning with March, 1933. Although Richard Wilson, Washington correspondent for the *Des Moines Register*, believed these figures “apparently were prepared for propaganda pur-

poses", he considered the total estimate to be conservative. "The half billion distribution", Wilson pointed out, "includes loans and grants of federal funds to individuals, organizations and the state." It more than equalled Iowa's farm income in 1935.

Senator Murphy listed the disbursements in Iowa to the principal Alphabeticals. Over \$200,000,000 had been provided for farm credit loans during the three years. AAA benefit payments and corn loans accounted for \$160,000,000 more. The RFC loaned \$73,000,000, relief cost \$25,000,000, and the CCC absorbed almost \$20,000,000. A total of \$21,000,000 had been expended by the PWA compared with a paltry \$5,000,000 by the WPA. Approximately \$120,000,000 of the huge sums loaned to Iowa had been returned to the government. Repayment on corn loans was virtually one hundred per cent, while \$56,000,000 of the \$73,000,000 borrowed from the RFC by banks and private agencies had been paid back.

Most Iowans have been accustomed to associate the alphabet with elementary education or soup. With the inauguration of the New Deal the capital letters began to march and assumed a very commanding position. Their arrangement acquired an esoteric significance about as comprehensible to the average Iowan as cosmic rays.

According to Senator Murphy's compilation the

Farm Credit Administration was the principal government lending agency in Iowa. In 1935 Iowa farmers borrowed \$53,000,000 through the Federal Land Bank, the largest and oldest of the four permanent farm banks grouped under the FCA. Compared with the hectic rush of refinancing during previous years, General Agent Frank O'Connor thought the 1935 figures indicated a return to normality in farm financing. "Instead of being driven to the land bank by threat of foreclosure," O'Connor pointed out, "the great majority of applicants now are attracted by the low interest rate and the long term repayment plan. The four per cent rate on new land bank loans, temporarily reduced to 3.5 per cent, is the lowest rate in American farm mortgage history."

He explained that the "general purpose of the Farm Credit Administration is to provide a complete, permanent credit system for agriculture. The four major units are intended to be self-sustaining and independent of government capital. They now operate with part of their capital advanced by the government. Ultimately the coöperative credit institutions will return all of these funds to the public treasury, and these farmers' banks will be owned entirely by the borrowers themselves."

The activities of the Reconstruction Finance

Corporation were believed to have been in some measure helpful to every person in Iowa. The RFC made loans to banks, trust companies, building and loan associations, insurance companies, and mortgage loan companies, extending credit when all other sources had been exhausted. Its books on December 31, 1935, showed the purchase of \$5,863,000 worth of preferred stock from banks, a small fraction of which had been refunded. Of the \$46,778,291.35 loaned to banks, \$42,189,689.71 had been repaid. Building and loan corporations had returned all of the \$1,107,689.75 they had borrowed. Twenty-two loans amounting to \$3,500,000 to Iowa insurance companies were promptly repaid. Agricultural credit corporations had returned all but a few thousand of the \$45,000,000 advanced to them. Municipalities were not so fortunate: only \$31,000 of the \$7,000,000 borrowed was repaid. To the RFC belongs much credit for easing the shock of deflation in Iowa.

The Home Owners' Loan Corporation was created on June 13, 1933, to "safeguard home ownership as a guarantee of social and economic stability, and to protect home owners from foreclosure, tax deed or contract forfeiture, and to relieve them of the burden of excessive interest and principal payments, as well as to provide for the necessary

repairs or reconditioning of their homes." The distress of Iowa home owners was demonstrated by the fact that 31,914 applications totaling \$65,054,000 were filed in this State. Of these, approximately 12,000 were eliminated by rejection or voluntary withdrawal and about 19,000 were closed at an aggregate sum approaching \$38,000,000. With the remaining applications pending it was expected that close to 20,000 loans aggregating about \$39,000,000 would be made by June 12, 1936, when loans to individuals by the Corporation ceased in accordance with the Act of Congress. The benefits of the HOLC were far-reaching. It not only prevented the loss of homes but it actually stabilized and even increased the value of urban property.

Beginning in May, 1933, with sixteen camps, the Iowa CCC reached its peak in August, 1935, when forty-six camps had been established. At that time there were 177 officers, 6516 juniors, 909 veterans, and 736 local experienced men enrolled. During the year 1935 the CCC expended \$6,099,101.03 in Iowa. The organization has performed important work in Iowa, coöperating closely with various State and Federal agencies. Highways have been cleared of snow, assistance rendered in flood areas, artificial lakes built, depleted soils terraced, limed, and fertilized, tem-

porary and permanent dams constructed in gullies, and trees planted on badly eroded tracts.

More than \$60,000,000 was disbursed through the Iowa Emergency Relief Administration in the three years ending December 31, 1935. During this period the number of cases receiving relief ranged from 26,356 in December, 1933, to the peak of 67,043 in January, 1935. By December, 1935, however, this number had dropped almost one-half, and forty-four of the ninety-nine counties were able to carry their own relief load without assistance from the IERA. This readjustment aroused no local enthusiasm, however. "The federal government has cut into less than half its funds for Iowa relief in November and tells Iowa counties to take care of their own unemployables and pauper families", protested the *Dexter Sentinel*. "So, the dead cat is back on our own doorstep after being dragged all over the neighborhood."

Of the sixty millions expended on relief in Iowa the Federal government contributed sixty-six per cent, local governments raised twenty-seven per cent, and the State provided seven per cent. Fully \$20,000,000 were required of these three agencies in 1935 to care for those persons regarded as employables but needing temporary relief. The emergency relief load was further lightened in

1935 when the Works Progress Administration was established by executive order on May 6, 1935. Iowa's quota was set at 22,000 to be employed by Thanksgiving — a figure that was actually exceeded by nearly a thousand. The constantly changing personnel of families receiving unemployment relief indicates that most Iowans are not stolid, shiftless ne'er-do-wells. Very few have refused to work when given a chance. Only a third of the families receiving aid in October, 1933, were on the relief rolls in October, 1935.

The parade of the Alphabeticals aroused opposition in Iowa as well as elsewhere. Aside from such problems as State rights, individual liberty, regimentation, and class discrimination, conservatives began to wonder in what manner and by whom the ever-mounting debt was to be paid. "It is time the administration awakened to the folly of its present extravagant spending of the taxpayers' money", warned the *Le Mars Sentinel*. The *Albia Union-Republican* was equally indignant: "One would think that eventually the administration would remember its 'planned economy' and plan a little of the same." But in 1935 most Iowans still believed strongly that times were better and many benefits had been derived from the Alphabeticals.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

The Political Potpourri

The Iowa political kettle bubbled vigorously in 1935. Undoubtedly the principal legacy bequeathed to posterity was the work of the Forty-sixth General Assembly. Throughout the year, however, a swarm of potential Democratic, Republican, and other office-seekers hustled around Iowa, berating, proclaiming, and apologizing.

For the first time in two generations the Democrats found themselves in control of both houses of the legislature when the Forty-sixth General Assembly convened at Des Moines on January 14th. It was a typical Iowa Assembly, composed mainly of farmers and lawyers. While the Democrats had lost strength in the House of Representatives they still outnumbered the Republicans fifty-eight to fifty. In the Senate they held a favorable balance of twenty-seven to twenty-three members.

A number of vital problems faced the assembled legislators. Governor Herring proposed the creation of three new State departments: a purchasing department, a safety department, and a welfare department — none of which received legislative approval. Other problems dealt with poor

and unemployment relief, liquor control, taxation, mortgage relief, and biennial appropriations.

So difficult and vexing were the problems confronting it, so bitter and at times vituperous the debate, that the Forty-sixth General Assembly gained the dubious honor of remaining in regular session longer than any previous Assembly. When the smoke of battle cleared away and the "fighting Forty-sixth" adjourned on May 3rd, it had been in session 110 days.

One of the most controversial subjects was the chain store tax bill. Designed to handicap that type of merchandising as well as to provide needed revenue, the act levied an unusually heavy tax upon the gross sales of each chain in addition to a specific tax upon each unit. The gross sales feature aroused much opposition and in November, 1935, a United States District Court declared it to be unconstitutional.

The solution of the liquor problem has perplexed Iowans since pioneer days. The Forty-fifth General Assembly wrestled earnestly with this problem following the repeal of prohibition. In 1934 a new method was authorized — the sale of all intoxicating liquor, except beer, by the State government. An experienced commission of three men was appointed in 1934, stores were promptly established, and revenues began to accrue. Before

the first year ended Chairman Harold M. Cooper had given a large number of seals to J. L. Farmer of Cedar Rapids. Farmer was fined \$1000 in February, 1935. Cooper himself was convicted of violating the State liquor law but that decision was later nullified by the Supreme Court. In March the State Executive Council demanded that Cooper explain his conduct or resign within twenty-four hours. Cooper ignored the demand.

Meanwhile legislators learned that Sioux City was a "bootleggers' paradise" and that the speak-easy still lingered in Dubuque. The *Decorah Journal* compared the "handling of hard liquor" with the "handling of dynamite". The *Nashua Reporter* believed that conditions were even worse under State liquor control than in the days of prohibition or the open saloon. "The State of Iowa as well as the federal government", warned the *Northwood Anchor*, "will find the revenues derived from intoxicating liquor sales by the drink will be bitter revenues."

In the midst of these difficulties the General Assembly appointed a special committee to "investigate the operation of the Liquor Control Act". Verne Marshall, crusading editor of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, testified before the committee that the "beer joints and brothels" of Sioux City were dominated by the "most pernicious system of crime

and racketeering ever set up in Iowa". On April 26, 1935, Harold M. Cooper resigned.

Charges of graft and corruption were brought against the law enforcement authorities of Sioux City and Woodbury County. Verne Marshall shouldered the brunt of the attack which ultimately brought indictments against Attorney General Edward L. O'Connor, Walter F. Maley, and forty-three others on charges of gambling conspiracy. County Attorney Max E. Duckworth was forced to resign and was later put in jail for contempt of court in refusing to testify. The first trial jury disagreed, 10 to 2 for acquittal of O'Connor, Maley, and eighteen others. In a second trial, in January, 1936, a directed verdict of acquittal was ordered on the grounds that Prosecuting Attorneys H. M. Havner and M. E. Rawlings should not have been present before the grand jury during the investigation of the charges. Meanwhile, Maley had appealed to the State Supreme Court to overrule the refusal of Judge Earl Peters to quash the indictment. After reviewing the circumstances, the high court held that the indictment was invalid. The day before this decision was rendered, Editor Verne Marshall was awarded the Pulitzer Prize "for the most distinguished public service rendered in 1935 by any American newspaper".

Comedy and pathos, honesty and deceit, have marked the path of the Old Age Assistance Law as its first full year of operation was completed in 1935. At least one applicant for aid was a former millionaire. An old lady in Polk County who had been on relief for ten years had her application cancelled when it was found she had property, stocks, and bonds valued at approximately fifty thousand dollars. In several instances pensioners decided to get married in order to pool their slim resources. One pensioner surrendered a Kansas farm. Others have been known to make property transfers to prevent the filing of a lien. At the end of the year 50,599 had made applications, 14,874 had received pensions, and, subtracting deaths, cancellations, and withdrawals, 29,637 applications were still pending. During 1935 the average monthly pension was \$13.50, the average age was over seventy, and the total disbursements were \$1,853,217.83. About a third of the people did not pay the special poll tax levied for this purpose.

The only progress in the direction of a State department of safety was the creation of the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol under the direction of the Secretary of State. The act authorized the employment of not more than fifty-three highway patrolmen who must be physically and mentally fit, citizens of Iowa, of good moral character, and

not less than twenty-five years of age. Not more than three-fifths of them at one time may belong to the same political party. The salary of the patrolmen was fixed at \$100 per month with a five dollar increase each year until the maximum of \$125 is reached. A school for instruction was begun on June 15, 1935, with ninety-seven men present. Eighty-nine completed the work and fifty were appointed. Subject to call at any time and working a minimum of seventy-two hours a week, Iowa's nattily attired patrolmen have played a conspicuous part in traffic improvement.

An index to political confusion was the varied character of the leaders who visited the State in 1935. Huey Long "blasted" Roosevelt before the Farmers Holiday Association in the State Fair Grounds. He advocated \$5000 homesteads for every family and annual incomes above \$2000.

President Glenn Frank of the University of Wisconsin delivered a lecture on "Social Decisions Ahead" at the University of Iowa in June. He was followed in July by Harry L. Hopkins who described the distribution of national income as "ridiculous" and warned that huge incomes were doomed. "We are not going back", declared the fiery head of the WPA, "to the day when the American citizen did not get his share."

Dr. Francis E. Townsend spoke at Marshall-

town and Des Moines. "Let us abandon both old parties and leave them to their nefarious devices", he told his Des Moines audience. "I say we should join hands as a brotherhood of people and do the things necessary to abolish poverty, crime, ignorance and the lack of opportunity that goes with poverty."

Speaking before a Des Moines luncheon audience, Norman Thomas expressed himself as "sympathetic" with Henry A. Wallace's claim that agriculture should have the benefits that the tariff had given industry. He disagreed, however, with "subsidizing scarcity in the name of abundance." Back home to Des Moines came Wallace himself to assail "reactionaries and hell-raising boys who claim to represent views of left-wing farmers."

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the dominating political personality in 1935. The *Decorah Journal* thought that staying in the "middle of the road" with Roosevelt was a "mighty sensible program and slogan" for Americans. The *Algona Upper Des Moines* hailed the President as a "fighter" and an "inspirational leader who refused to be dictated to by any one group or unit of citizens." While mindful of the President's great personal popularity the *George News* pointed out that "not all those who like Roosevelt like the Democratic administration."

As the year came to a close, however, a growing undertow of opposition to Roosevelt could be detected. The Afton *Star-Enterprise* attributed this to the President's "failure to carry out his pre-election program". A similar grievance was felt by the Manson *Journal* when it bitterly referred to a "lot of new promises" in Roosevelt's Atlanta address. The Pella *Chronicle* was more charitable: "We are not blaming either Hoover or Roosevelt for the conditions. They simply made promises that were not fulfilled."

Bewildered by their decisive defeat in 1934, the Republicans took inventory in 1935 to see how best to retrieve their fortunes, while the Democrats conjured ways and means for attaining their third consecutive biennial victory. The Colfax *Tribune* contended that "both parties would be better off if they would bring in some new blood." The Alton *Democrat* urged the "elimination of Ed O'Connor and Clyde L. Herring from political office" in the June primaries, and the Marengo *Pioneer-Republican* suggested that if the Republicans wanted "another terrific beating" they should "nominate some already battle-scarred warhorse such as Hoover, Borah or Dickinson".

By the close of 1935 political thought was beginning to crystallize. A poll by the American Institute of Public Opinion in December revealed

that employment, economy in government, and neutrality were considered the three great issues. Next in order came such problems as reduction of taxation, preservation of the constitution, ending the depression, less governmental control in business, repudiation of the New Deal, the Townsend plan, labor problems, farm conditions, and pensions. All these issues were debated in the Iowa press. "Sane thinking people", warned the *Toledo Chronicle* "are going to want to know what they get for their tax money and insist that they get a full dollar's value for every dollar spent." The *Bellevue Herald* branded war as "horrible". The *Clarinda Herald-Journal* feared the possibility of the Federal emergency measures becoming permanent. "Nobody", the *Humboldt Independent* assured its readers, "is against the Townsend plan except those who don't believe it would work."

There was a minimum of old-fashioned mud slinging in 1935. Most politicians had their ears to the ground listening for a shift of public opinion on the New Deal. The 1936 campaign was still too far distant to warrant committal on the Townsend plan or any other panacea. Parties and politicians were busy straddling issues.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

The Web of Life

After passing through one of the most devastating depressions, the people of Iowa must have been reminded in 1935 of Warren G. Harding's campaign in 1920 to get "back to normalcy". More new automobiles, tractors, and radios were being bought. More telephones were being installed. The movies enjoyed an increase of at least thirty per cent in attendance. Crowds flocked to parks, fairs, and athletic contests. While the CCC experimented with the face of nature, Iowa's twelve beauty schools sent out an army of 802 new beauticians to perform their magic on the faces of women. The steady upward climb in tax receipts from gasoline and cigarettes during 1935 was proof positive that the material welfare of Iowans was gradually returning to par.

It would be a mistake, however, to think only in terms of material prosperity, for Iowa has always been rich in spiritual values. In pioneer days the pantheism of Abner Kneeland fell upon sterile soil in Iowa. Most Iowans were therefore amazed to learn that Walcott in Scott County, a town of 400 inhabitants, no vacant houses, no movies, no persons on relief, and no municipal debt, was without

a church. "It is probably the only community of its size in the United States", wrote Marcus L. Bach, "without a church building, church services, or minister."

In Iowa, as in the nation, an appreciable gain was made in church membership, as well as contributions, during 1935. Nearly 10,000 persons attended the first Church and Bible School Day at Marshalltown. Twenty-five hundred marched in a parade that included thirty floats and several bands. At Shenandoah in October, over 1200 Sunday school pupils from seven churches marched through the down-town streets in the annual rally-day parade. Bibles were carried in observance of the 400th anniversary of its printing in England.

The many church conferences that met in Iowa in 1935 were confronted with the difficult problems of adjusting the services of the church to everyday life and the social order. Speaking before the meeting of the Iowa-Des Moines Conference of the Methodist Church in September, Dr. Merton S. Rice of Detroit condemned the "meaningless platitudes" that filled most sermons. "The church must do something about the problems of the day, not merely sit by in inactive complacency", he asserted. Bishop F. D. Leete defined effective evangelism as "getting the church to

know the good news of the gospel", and asserted there was "too much deadness" in most modern sermons. Dr. Forney Hutchinson of Tulsa, Oklahoma, before the Upper Iowa Methodist Conference at Cedar Rapids in September, gloomily branded the emotional life of the people as abnormal and was convinced the church could not return to spiritual ways until conditions were changed. "The modern church", Hutchinson declared, "cannot now have a revival because its prayer life is not such as to make a recovery possible." At Fairfield in December 300 Parsons College students conducted a two-day strike against compulsory chapel attendance.

The eternal quest for spiritual comfort was manifested in many ways. At Davenport H. J. Niebuhr enrolled in a correspondence course which promised to teach him how to establish a two-way communication with God. He studied hard on twenty lessons which cost him nineteen dollars. As the year 1935 came to a close he found the lessons had failed to establish a direct communication with the Deity. Greatly disturbed, he complained to the postal authorities, asking that an investigation be made to determine whether or not he had been defrauded through the mails.

Walcott may not have a church, but many of its people have doubtless sought divine guidance

in prayer. Not all Iowans, however, were successful in their supplications. Ralph Kemp, a twenty-seven-year-old Dubuquer, was stranded in Burlington. He was "hungry and cold" and wanted to return with his family to Dubuque. In his hour of tribulation Kemp invoked divine help in prayer. Almost immediately his prayer was answered when he came upon an automobile, unlocked and full of gas. When Kemp told his story to Judge James D. Smyth of Burlington, the judge was moved to admit the efficacy of prayer. He did not, however, lighten the ten-year sentence.

Great moral and political issues confronted the people. Reminiscent of the "red scare" of post-war America was Elmer A. Johnson's scathing indictment of socialism at the Upper Iowa Methodist Conference. Before the same conference spoke Dr. Clarence True Wilson of Washington, D. C., on the subject of temperance. "If we must live in a land flowing with intoxicants," he argued, "the least public schools can do is teach our boys and girls the difference between what is wholesome and what is poison. The Sunday School must put back the quarterly temperance lesson, so every three months our young people shall learn the word of God on the liquor problem. There must be a total abstinence campaign of education, persuasion and pledge-signing."

Iowans were deeply shocked to learn of the death of William A. Sunday on November 6, 1935, at Chicago. Born near Ames on November 19, 1863, "Billy" Sunday was internationally known as a great evangelist. Few men have caused more people "to hit the sawdust trail" and none was more relentless in attacking "the devil and rum".

Agnes Samuelson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was elected President of the National Education Association. Her State report showed that during the year 1934-1935, 422,052 of the 461,934 children in Iowa between the ages of seven and sixteen were enrolled in school. At the same time 541,095 of the 722,185 between the ages of five and twenty-one were enrolled in elementary and high schools. Forty thousand completed the eighth grade in June and another 25,000 graduated from high school. Rising farm income, improved business conditions, and Federal aid boosted college enrollment. In July friends and supporters of old Tabor College met on the campus to listen to plans for reopening as a non-denominational self-help junior college.

Early in May some 50,000 pupils took one or more of the standard examinations in high school subjects. About 1100 of the best then trooped to Iowa City to compete for individual scholarship

honors under the auspices of the State University. Fourteen-year-old Lois Jeanne Mayhew, a freshman in Red Oak High School, won first honors in academic achievement which gave her the title of "smartest high school pupil in Iowa". It was the fourth straight year that Red Oak has carried off highest honors, Florence Green of Red Oak having won the three previous contests.

In November Comptroller C. B. Murtagh presented figures to show that one-half of every tax dollar in Iowa is spent for education. Nor is the value of schooling discounted by the average Iowa student. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Becker and their daughter, Renetta, of Nashua, were visiting some neighbors when their house caught on fire. By the time they arrived, neighbors and firemen had removed most of the furniture. Suddenly Renetta remembered her high school diploma. Disregarding horrified warnings, she darted into the blazing house and emerged unharmed a few seconds later, carrying the prized certificate. "I've got it", she cried triumphantly. The next moment the upper floor crashed down.

At Boone, on the other hand, a farmer was hailed into criminal court, to explain why he had been keeping his son out of school. Testimony was presented to show that thirteen-year-old Laverne Craven had missed as many as 103 days.

How much does it cost to send a boy to college? Robert E. Rienow, Dean of Men at the State University, estimated that a student could live in the Quadrangle two semesters for \$365.50, not including spending money and clothes. Students in coöperative dormitories have managed on as little as \$255 a year, while fraternity men can go through the year for \$582. But Lee Kann, University personnel director, warned students that working their way through is not all it is "cracked up" to be. According to him, students "go hungry, fail to get enough sleep, and flunk their courses" just because they try to earn a living and go to school at the same time.

A great boon to students and colleges was the grant of \$174,135.77 by the Federal government for Student Relief Employment. Based on a quota not exceeding twelve per cent of their enrollment in October, 1934, over sixty colleges and junior colleges were able to assign part-time work paying an average of fifteen dollars a month to students who otherwise would not have been able to go to school.

The eighty-first annual session of the Iowa State Teachers Association opened at Des Moines on October 31st. Rabbi Abba H. Silver of Cleveland, Ohio, warned the 8000 teachers attending that "national disaster is in the offing unless the people

of the nation can produce intelligent and moral political leaders." The children of the nation must be "educated for a new day" and prepared for active participation in political life.

E. W. Goetch, director of the Iowa State Teachers College placement bureau, pleaded for contracts awarded on the basis of merit. "And merit", he pointed out, "eliminates political affiliations, personal friendships, blood relationships and the successes and failures of a teacher's matrimonial status." In one school a teacher failed to be reelected because of the ire of the relatives of a pupil on whom she had inflicted corporal punishment. In another school two teachers were dismissed because they gave low grades to dilatory students. Opposition to unpopular dismissals of teachers was reflected in student strikes at Muscatine, Mount Vernon, and Perry.

Meanwhile salaries remained far below the pre-depression level. During the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1935, expenses at the State University of Iowa increased \$432,739.82 despite the fact that instruction costs decreased \$31,805.83. Apparently college teachers were expected to look for more stately mansions in another world!

The tenth annual high school music festival served as a magnet for almost 5300 youthful musicians. Mason City again carried off honors

with eight superior and eight excellent ratings. Abraham Lincoln of Council Bluffs ranked second and Iowa City third. Two Des Moines schools, North and Roosevelt, trailed close behind in fourth and fifth places. The festival included thirty-three events in which a total of 285 superiors and excellents were awarded.

At the National School Orchestra Contest at Madison, Wisconsin, highest orchestral honors for Class B schools were won by Iowa City. Abraham Lincoln, Roosevelt, East Waterloo, and Mason City received superior ratings in Class A. The Sigourney High School orchestra tied for first place in Class C. It is doubtful if any State could show greater progress in musical education than has Iowa during the past decade.

The sixty-piece Cedar Falls Municipal Band again brought honor to Iowa when it was declared champion at the annual music festival at Chicago in August. Thirty-two bands competed. The Cedar Falls band won first place in 1930. It did not compete again until 1934 when it again won highest honors.

Despite the depression Iowans have not forgotten how to laugh. Sixteen-year-old Caroline Groves of Webster City won the humorous division of the National Declamatory Contest at Kent, Ohio, in May.

Genevieve Ries, twelve-year-old Alden, Iowa, girl, won the tenth annual State Spelling Bee sponsored by the Des Moines *Register*, when she correctly spelled "excoriation". The diminutive Iowa champion was nonplussed in Washington, D. C., however, when she failed to comprehend the eastern pronunciation of the word "khaki" and could finish no better than fourth in the National Spelling Bee.

Iowans could again view with pride the number of their native sons and daughters whose names were recorded in *Who's Who in America* for 1934-1935. Among the States, Iowa ranked sixty per cent better than average as the birthplace of Americans listed in this notable book. "On the basis of population", Dr. S. B. Laughlin of Wilamette University pointed out, "Iowa would be entitled to only 626 of the 31,081 names in the volume." Only five states — Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, and Delaware — ranked higher than Iowa. Dr. Laughlin believed that eugenists might view with alarm the fact that the 1010 Iowa-born persons have only 1319 children. The fact that more than half of those listed were born on farms while only two are now on farms should cause sociologists even more alarm.

Iowa journalists have always ranked high in the profession. The Des Moines *Register and Trib-*

une was awarded five first and five second places in the annual newspaper advertising contest conducted by *Editor and Publisher*. No award was made to H. W. (Willy) Brueckel, however, who besides publishing and editing three newspapers — *The Jerico Community Echo*, the *Creamery Journal*, and the *Waucoma Sentinel* — keeps well-informed about things in his community by serving as Waucoma's barber on Saturday afternoons.

Two veteran newspaper men who knew the smell of printer's ink and who had "worked hard, lived honorably, thought soundly, and influenced unselfishly" were honored with the title of Master Editor-Publisher at the annual meeting of the Iowa Press Association in April, 1935. This high distinction was accorded to John C. Hartman of the *Waterloo Courier* and M. A. Aasgaard of the *Lake Mills Graphic*.

MacKinlay Kantor, whose best selling story, *The Voice of Bugle Ann*, was described by William Lyon Phelps as a "model" among "caninical works", has not forgotten his Iowa origins. But in Hollywood Claire Dodd claimed she had forgotten where she was born in Iowa. With commendable solicitude the county clerk of Jasper County furnished both the place and date: Baxter, December 29, 1911.

Fairs and Indian pow wows, centennials, pag-

eants, and rodeos attracted record-breaking crowds in 1935. The 54,805 paid attendance at the Mississippi Valley Fair and Exposition at Davenport in August was the largest in five years. The Clay County Fair at Spencer set a new record of 156,050 persons visiting the six-day exposition. A total of 342,150 attended the ten-day Iowa State Fair: this was 80,000 more than in 1934, but 33,000 under the record set in 1930. A profit of over \$30,000 was a welcome result. Virtually all records were broken at the twenty-sixth annual Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo. A capacity crowd of over 40,000 in a single day caused the board of directors to lay plans for constructing a new and larger hippodrome in 1936.

The first of a contemplated series of Tulip Time Celebrations was inaugurated at Pella in May with three thousand persons in attendance. The twenty-second annual pow wow of the Meskwakie Indians was held in Tama in August. At La Porte City the following month a colorful parade featured the annual Jiggs day celebration. Thousands attended to draw their free rations of corned beef and cabbage. Hoboes from the Atlantic to the Pacific gathered in Britt on August 22nd for their national convention. Dirty politics is said to have played no small part in the *coup d'etat* whereby "Scoopshovel Scottie" supplanted "Hair-

breadth Harry" as King of the Hoboes. A crowd of more than 25,000 was estimated to have witnessed the Webster County Centennial Celebration in August. Two hundred children with pets, ponies, decorated doll buggies, and clowns paraded in the Shenandoah Fall Festival.

Gardner Cowles, Jr. purchased the body and soul of Fort Dodge's most widely renowned citizen, the Cardiff Giant, for approximately \$1500. At Newton a crowd of five thousand attended the dedication ceremonies for the swimming pool at Fred Maytag Park. Late in December it was announced that the Federal government was transferring about 500 acres of scenic land south of McGregor to Iowa for a State park.

Back in the nineties the famous quartet of Iowa farm girls, the Cherry sisters, rose to bizarre fame under nightly barrages of cabbages, tomatoes, and eggs from paying customers. In 1935 Addie and Effie Cherry came out of retirement in Cedar Rapids to appear at a night club in a "gay ninety" act. Blase New Yorkers are prone to look upon most Iowans as provincial dirt farmers. And yet, while Boston closed its doors on the production of *Valley Forge*, the State University of Iowa had the effrontery to produce the play. Again, immediately after Mayor Edward Kelly of Chicago barred *Tobacco Road* on grounds of immorality,

the show enjoyed a "five thousand dollar gate" at its first performance in Des Moines. To Iowa also came the Monte Carlo Ballet Russe, the San Carlo Opera, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and a host of other feature performances. The spirit of the play was so infectious that even A. T. Greenwood, of Charles City, relented and saw his first movie.

Iowans by the tens of thousands attended the various athletic contests. Nor was the matter of amateur or professional standing an index to interest. High school contests were supported as enthusiastically as college games. Cresco High School won the State wrestling championship from Fort Dodge. Cornell College matmen went through the season undefeated.

Iowa State College won its first basketball championship of the Big Six Conference in 1935. Fort Dodge won the junior college basketball title. Mason City defeated Grinnell 28 to 17 to win the State boys' high school basketball championship. Centerville High School won the State girls' basketball championship by beating Hillsboro 25 to 16.

The University of Iowa won the State indoor track meet, with Drake University in second place. North Des Moines High School nosed out Clinton and Davenport to win the fourteenth annual indoor track and field meet at Iowa City, but Daven-

port had sweet revenge when it won the thirtieth annual State high school track meet at Ames in May. Drake won the Missouri Valley track championship and Iowa State Teachers College won her eighth consecutive Iowa Conference track title.

The track season was made memorable by a number of brilliant performances by Iowa athletes. At the Kansas Relays the University team set a national collegiate record in the 440 yard relay with a time of :40.5 — lower than the accepted world record — and the 880 yard relay team tied the world record in the same meet with a time of 1:25.8. Mark Panther set a new Big Ten record at Ann Arbor when he hurled the javelin 219 feet $7\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Linn Philson of Drake won the high jump at the Kansas Relays with a leap of 6 feet $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

A fourteen-year-old Dubuque girl, Edith Estabrooks, was the sensation of the 1935 Iowa golf season. She won the State championship at Davenport on July 20th, thereby becoming the youngest women's champion in Iowa golf history.

A new sport was introduced at Dubuque in October when Carl "Butch" Walker became the self-styled "best beer drinker in Iowa". "Butch" fairly overwhelmed spectators as he downed two quarts of beer in forty-seven seconds. Only two

contestants could finish their beer: the others "gagged, staggered and fell by the wayside".

More laudable and far more spectacular was Elmer Carlson's brilliant victory in the annual State corn husking contest. The twenty-six-year-old Iowa farmer not only won the 1935 "Nubbin Derby" but his load of 2598.28 pounds or 37.1 bushels broke all records for the Iowa State contest and bettered the best record ever made in a national contest.

A week later near Newtown, Indiana, Carlson competed with eighteen crack huskers of the nation and won the national corn husking championship with a world's record of 41.52 bushels in eighty minutes. A crowd of between 75,000 and 100,000 watched the contest.

More laurels were won by Iowa when Cleo E. Yoder, nineteen-year-old farm boy residing near Wellman, won the grand championship with his Aberdeen Angus baby beef at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. The award was estimated to be worth \$5000. Yoder had bought the grand champion at an auction for \$75, fifteen months before the show. Feeding costs were approximately \$70. How did Yoder know a good Angus type? He learned that in 4-H work.

Lest the passing generation lose faith in the courage and unselfishness of youth, let the heroic

deed of a thirteen-year-old Oelwein boy, Clarence Steffen, be recounted. At the risk of his life, he pulled Rose Marie Boyle away from death beneath the wheels of a freight train.

In a humble dwelling at Anita benevolent Frederick A. Kauer lives frugally but gives generously to churches, charity, and the needy. Kauer gathers up discarded food from stores for his own use but buys fresh fruit, meat, and bread for the poor. In 1935, at the age of eighty-two, Anita's altruist said: "The government of the United States gave me a chance to earn my living here, so what I have is theirs when I am gone."

In 1834 Caroline Brady gave the "widow's mite" to help erect the first church in Iowa. In the lives of such characters as Frederick Kauer, Clarence Steffen, Cleo Yoder, and Elmer Carlson are portrayed the deeds and virtues that have made Iowa great in the past. It was largely through the labors of men of their character that Iowa in 1935 could boast of her schools and colleges, her hospitals and sanitariums, her libraries and old people's homes. These reflect the benevolent spirit of a people not yet far removed from their pioneer origins. While the fortunes of the Commonwealth depend upon such citizens, the good name of Iowa will remain unblemished.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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