

The
PALIMPSEST

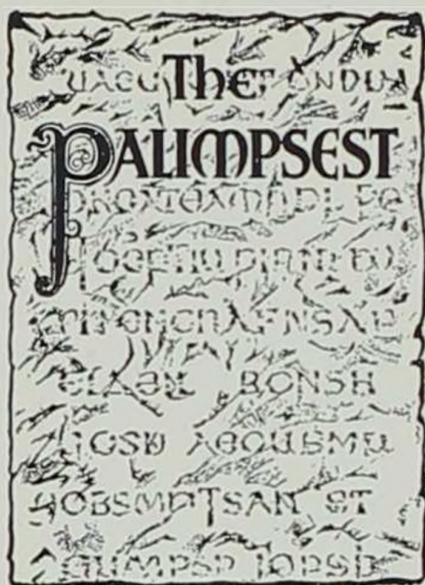


Russian farm delegation in Iowa

IOWA IN 1955

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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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Cover

Front — One stop of the Russians was at the George Hora farm in Washington County. Left to right: Keith Hora, Mrs. Hora, Kathy Hora, V. V. Matskevich (suit and tie), Alexander Tulupnikov holding straw hat), and George Hora (holding cap). (Courtesy Iowa City *Press-Citizen*)

Back — *Outside* (Top): New Mississippi River lock at Keokuk. (Courtesy *Des Moines Register and Tribune*) (Bottom): Dedication of the new Broadway Viaduct in Council Bluffs. (Courtesy Council Bluffs *Nonpareil*)

The pictures of Howard R. Bowen and Millard G. Roberts were furnished by Grinnell College and Parsons College, respectively.

Author

George S. May is Research Associate with the State Historical Society of Iowa.

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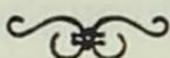
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The Weather

Since 1838, when Theodore S. Parvin began making systematic observations of eastern Iowa's weather, many new instruments and techniques have been developed which have enabled modern weather bureaus to chart and predict climatological conditions more accurately. In 1955 a new 72-inch radar antenna made it possible for the six observers at the Des Moines weather station to plot the course of storms throughout Iowa and to give residents in the path of severe disturbances several hours advance warning.

On the night of July 9-10 the radar sets showed thunderstorms converging on Sioux City. Over six inches of rain fell in that area within four hours. Although there was no flooding from streams, some 700 homes and many stores suffered heavy water damage. Total loss was estimated at \$1,500,000. Fortunately this was the most severe storm to hit the state during the year. For once Iowa got through a year without any serious losses due to tornadoes or floods.

A combination of high temperatures and low precipitation, however, caused far more damage than any storms or floods could inflict. For the fourth year in a row thermometers registered above normal readings. It was slight comfort to those who suffered through the summer months to learn that the average annual temperature for the state was the lowest in the four-year period.

Beginning on July 26, the mercury went above 100 in most of the state for ten straight days. On July 30, Sac City had a temperature of 109, a figure which was repeated there and at Onawa on the following day. These were the hottest readings reported in the entire country on these days. This heat wave, the most prolonged at such high temperatures since 1936, was broken by the arrival of cool air from Canada on August 4, but before it passed some 31 deaths were blamed on the weather.

Iowans continued to suffer from the heat throughout July and August. July was the fourth hottest month since state records began to be kept in 1873. Only July of 1936 and 1901, and August in 1947 had higher average temperatures. Glenwood had only three days during the month when the thermometer did not climb above 90. August was the fifth hottest August on record. Missouri Valley equalled the year's high reading with 109 on August 27. As late as September 15, Sac City was recording a temperature of 101.

While city dwellers sweltered, farmers watched their crops dry up. The year was one of the driest on record. Only in February and April did precipitation average above normal. Beginning in May all the state received less than normal amounts of rainfall every month for the rest of the year. June was cooler than usual but dry, and prospects loomed for a bumper crop of corn and soybeans. But the very hot, dry, and frequently windy weather of July and August wrecked havoc with crops, especially in the western part of the state. During August alone corn prospects dropped an estimated 140,000,000 bushels, representing a dollar loss of around \$200,000,000. The moisture content of corn on November 20 was the third driest in the 28 years records had been kept. The state's corn crop when finally harvested was 12 per cent less than in 1954 and 8 per cent below the ten-year average. Soybean production was the poorest since 1947.

Tests by Iowa State College agronomists on November 1 showed soil in parts of western Iowa contained virtually no moisture as far down as five feet. November provided no relief for these farmers, as the state received only 13 per cent of its normal precipitation for that month. It was the driest November since 1914, while December was the driest since 1929.

Once again, as wells and ponds ran dry, farmers in southwestern Iowa were forced to haul

water from nearby communities. With new industries entering the state at an increasing rate the question of water rights and priorities also entered the discussion of Iowa's water problem. In addition, the rapid expansion in the use of air conditioning presented a new and vast drain on the water supplies of towns and cities. To study some of these matters the General Assembly appointed a special committee headed by Representative Wendell Pendleton of Storm Lake. It was hoped that the committee's investigations would pave the way for legal clarification of drainage and water rights.

GEORGE S. MAY

Agriculture and Industry

On February 10 the Des Moines *Register* carried a short editorial suggesting the desirability of an exchange of American and Russian farm delegations. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev had complained of lagging Russian farm production and had urged Russian farmers to adopt American methods in order to increase feed-livestock output. The *Register* invited Khrushchev to send Russian farmers to Iowa "to get the lowdown on raising high quality cattle, hogs, sheep and chickens." None of the Iowa farmer's "secrets" would be withheld, the paper promised.

We ask nothing in return. We figure that more knowledge about the means to a good life in Russia can only benefit the world and us. It might even shake the Soviet leaders in their contention that the United States wants war; it might even persuade them that there is a happier future in developing a high level of living than in this paralyzing race for more and more armaments.

The *Register* had little hope that anything would come of its suggestions, but a short time later the official Soviet farm publication expressed a readiness to send a delegation to "Aiova." Formal invitations were soon extended and accepted by the two governments with the result that the

two countries exchanged 12-man delegations in July. Among the Americans who spent a month inspecting Russian agriculture were Lauren Soth, editor of the Des Moines *Register's* editorial pages, Herb Plambeck, farm director of stations WHO and WHO-TV in Des Moines, and four Iowa farmers: Charles Hearst of Cedar Falls, Herbert Pike of Whiting, Ralph Olsen of Ellsworth, and Marion Steddom of Polk City.

Meanwhile, on July 17, the Russian delegation, headed by Soviet Deputy Minister of Agriculture V. V. Matskevich, arrived at the Des Moines Municipal Airport to begin a 12-day tour of Iowa. Secretary of Agriculture Clyde Spry and Dean Floyd Andre of Iowa State College, together with 2,600 spectators, welcomed the visitors.

Iowa was the center of the nation's attention during the ensuing days. Reporters, photographers, and cameramen from the country's big newspapers and news magazines trailed the visitors wherever they went, reporting everything they did, whether it was attending lectures by farm experts at Ames or services at the First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson, stopping at a dairy bar outside Oskaloosa, joining in the singing of the Iowa Corn Song at a Chamber of Commerce meeting in Cedar Rapids, or making scheduled or unscheduled stops at innumerable farms throughout the state to inquire first-hand about farm production methods.

Everywhere the Russians were treated in a courteous, friendly manner, while in turn the visitors impressed Iowans both by their amiability and by their desire to learn all they could during their visit in the state. Although nobody expected the Russians to be won over to the free enterprise system, there was no doubt that they were greatly impressed by much of what they saw. At a time when Western and Soviet leaders were meeting at the "summit" in Geneva it was generally felt that the greatest importance of the exchange of farm delegations was the opportunity it gave for contact between the peoples of America and Russia. While the majority of Iowa newspapers felt that the visits could be a means of creating greater understanding between the two countries, some were frankly doubtful as to the real good that would come out of them. The fact that the Russian delegation, unlike the American, was composed, not of actual farmers, but of government officials caused papers like the *Mason City Globe-Gazette* and the *Sioux City Journal* to declare that not the common people of Russia but their bosses in the Kremlin were represented.

Nevertheless, this initial exchange between the two countries did seem to have the effect of lowering barriers somewhat as in succeeding months an increasing number of travelers went through the Iron Curtain. As a result of an invitation extended by Matskevich, Roswell "Bob" Garst, far-

mer and hybrid seed corn producer of Coon Rapids, visited Russia, Rumania, and Hungary in the fall. Late in the year he entertained a group of Russian farm technicians and made a start toward improving trade between the two countries by selling Russia some \$100,000 worth of hybrid seed corn.

The year was a difficult one for the state's farmers. The cash farm income was ten per cent below what it was in 1954, and the lowest since 1949. One cause of the farmer's troubles was the extremely hot and dry weather of July and August which ruined prospects for bumper crops. As a result Iowa had to yield to Illinois as the leading corn producer. The nation's corn crop, however, was a big one, which contributed to lower corn prices. Iowa farmers who had to sell their corn on the open market suffered, but those who were eligible to receive government help fared considerably better by sealing their corn in government storage and obtaining crop loans.

The main reason for the decline in Iowa farm income, however, was the sharp drop in livestock prices, especially those for hogs which furnish about 40 per cent of Iowa's farm income. In February hog prices were lower than they had been since January, 1950. Record farrowings in the spring caused farm economists to warn that unless farmers used unusual judgment in fattening and marketing their hogs the fall and winter prices

would be even lower. These predictions were more than borne out as by December prices on the hog markets dropped to their lowest level since December, 1941. Cattle prices also fell, although not so sharply.

President Howard Hill of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, a man not given to making reckless statements, called the price situation "terrible," and declared that "many farmers cannot remain in business at present levels." An effort was made to relieve the problem by a campaign to increase meat consumption. Vice-President J. M. Foster of John Morrell & Company declared that the oversupply of pork could be eliminated if annual consumption was increased by about six pounds per person. Washington County, Iowa's leading hog-producer, instituted "Operation Pork Lift" in December when various farm and business groups cooperated in a special drive to sell more pork. The idea soon caught on throughout the state.

Most of the proposals to aid the distressed farmer contemplated action by the federal government. With a presidential election ahead in 1956 it was only natural, too, that the discussions often took on a political flavor. In October, at the invitation of Governor Leo Hoegh, Governors George Craig of Indiana, Joe Foss of South Dakota, Fred Hall of Kansas, and Victor Anderson of Nebraska, all Republicans, met at Des Moines and

issued a statement calling upon the government to take "short-term emergency measures to restore to the farmer his fair share of the national income." Such actions were termed "politically necessary" if the GOP was not to lose votes in the farm areas in 1956. Early in December, Governor Hoegh talked with many government officials, including Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson, Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey, and Vice-President Richard Nixon, urging the spending of from \$500,000,000 to a billion dollars for pork purchases by the government. He confessed that he made little headway.

About the same time Senator Bourke Hickenlooper proposed that the Agriculture Department spend \$150,000,000 in a sow-purchasing program in order to reduce the size of hog production in 1956 — the same kind of action Henry A. Wallace had taken in 1933 when he was the Democratic Secretary of Agriculture. Secretary Benson, however, rejected this plan. He declared, "Our hog program is working fine. . . . Farmers must adjust their breeding program to market demand."

Shortly after Hoegh's Conference of Governors, Democratic officials from twelve Midwestern states gathered at Des Moines for a party conference at which the farm question received much attention. A resolution was adopted calling for a federal hog-buying program at a price of "at least

20 cents a pound." Rigid 90 per cent price supports were called for, replacing existing flexible supports, and the extension of such supports to livestock.

The battle lines over farm supports were not drawn along strictly party lines. Thus, Republican Congressmen Charles R. Hoeven, H. R. Gross, Ben F. Jensen, James I. Dolliver, and Henry O. Talle continued to support efforts in behalf of rigid supports, and former Republican Governor Dan Turner of Corning criticized Secretary Benson as sharply as any Democrat. Turner called for much greater federal aid for the farmer, demanding price supports at 100 per cent of parity. "The farmer should not be turned out into the cold night of the law of supply and demand," he declared, observing that "nobody else is operating under that law."

Out of a series of farm protest meetings organized by Turner, Jay Loghry of Corning, Duane Orton of Atlantic, and others, including former Democratic Governor Nels G. Kraschel, developed a new group, the National Farm Organization, formally established in October with headquarters at Corning. By December it claimed 55,000 dues-paying members, principally from southwest Iowa and northwest Missouri. Among its goals were price supports at 100 per cent of parity and a floor under hogs at \$20 a hundred weight and \$30 under cattle. In December an-

other new farm organization, the G.I. Farmers of America, was formed at Webster City in north central Iowa.

The Farm Bureau Federation, with nearly 150,000 members in Iowa, although continuing to support Benson's flexible price support program, recognized the need for a new approach to the farm question. While calling for greater efforts to open up new markets for farm products, the Federation placed its greatest emphasis on the soil bank as a means of reducing surpluses. Under this plan the government would rent land from farmers. The land would be planted in soil-conserving crops and could not be used for harvesting or grazing during the rental period. The proposal gained widespread support, although it was recognized that it did not provide the immediate relief many farmers were demanding.

Early in the year Governor Leo Elthon, in his "state of the state" message, struck a note of cautious warning that Iowa should not forget "that agriculture is basic in our state." Although not opposing industrial expansion he represented an important segment of the population which felt that industry should not be permitted to usurp agriculture as the state's primary economic interest. On the other hand, Governor Hoegh, in his inaugural address, declared that "Iowa must leave nothing undone to attract industry within its borders. With what we have to offer Iowa can

double its new industries within the next four years."

From the activities during 1955 this prediction might be judged almost an understatement. Forty new industries moved into the state, nine more than in 1954, while 32 existing Iowa manufacturers substantially expanded their plants. These moves created an estimated 5,075 new jobs and added \$17,762,500 to the annual industrial payroll. Dun and Bradstreet reported 748 new business incorporations in the state during 1955, a new record and 38.5 per cent over the 1954 figure. At the end of the year, the Iowa Development Commission, whose annual appropriation was boosted by the legislature from \$100,000 to \$151,520, announced that it was paying a New York research firm \$30,000 to prepare a comprehensive study of ways in which more industry could be attracted to Iowa.

On every hand indications were that 1955 was a good year for industry, offsetting the losses suffered in agriculture. Construction contracts awarded during the year totaled a record-breaking \$271,000,000, some 43 per cent higher than in 1954. Residential construction increased by 51 per cent, business and commercial contracts were up 44 per cent, while institutional and public works contracts increased 38 per cent. Much of the latter was due to the more than fifty million dollars in highway contracts let by the State High-

way Commission, the greatest amount ever awarded under the pay-as-you-go road financing system. So great was the demand for cement that a shortage of this material developed delaying some road construction. Iowa's five cement producers all were engaged in expansion programs which would greatly increase their production capacity.

In April plans were announced for construction of a \$250,000,000 North American Steel Company mill seven miles south of Clinton. During the year Alcoa made a series of announcements calling for the spending of over \$50,000,000 to expand its huge plant near Davenport. The new Square D Company plant at Cedar Rapids began operations in the summer while multi-million dollar expansion programs were begun at the Allis-Chalmers and Wilson plants in the same city. Work on a new Procter and Gamble plant at Iowa City was begun late in the year. At Sioux City several new industries and expansions of established firms made up for the shutting down of the Cudahy meat-packing plant. At Marshalltown the Fisher Governor Company occupied its new \$2,000,000 office building. Iowa's electric companies invested \$29,011,172 during the year in new plants and facilities. Since 1949 they had boosted their generating capacity from 700,000 kilowatts to over 1,400,000 kilowatts. River traffic along Iowa's eastern and western borders hit

record peaks, with over 7,683,000 tons of freight moving through the locks at Davenport and Rock Island, 8.6 per cent above the 1954 figure, while on the Missouri the 414,225 tons transported represented a 40 per cent increase over 1954.

Of course the picture was not entirely a rosy one. The H. B. Glover Company of Dubuque, organized in 1856 and made famous as the setting of the musical comedy, *The Pajama Game*, was closed. When President F. E. Bissell, Sr., was asked if he wanted the last pair of pajamas to be produced, he replied, "I don't wear pajamas." In October, Union Pacific trains, which for decades had used the tracks of the North Western in Iowa, were switched to the Milwaukee Road, causing temporary unemployment among some North Western train men. A merger of the two roads, which run parallel to each other across Iowa, was rumored as possible.

Strikes halted production for varying lengths of time at the John Deere plants in Iowa, the Armstrong Rubber and the Western Tool & Stamping plants in Des Moines, and the Albertson Company in Sioux City. The most serious work stoppage was at the Maytag plants in Newton and Hampton where some 3,000 employees were idled by a nine-week strike in the fall. The dispute, which fortunately was not marked by the violence of the 1938 Maytag strike, finally was settled on November 6 when workers approved a new one-

year contract providing for an average 15-cent hourly pay raise, but no guaranteed annual wage or union shop as the strike leaders had originally asked.

But these disturbances were the exceptions. Non-agricultural employment reached a new record of 649,650 in December, with manufacturing employment being 2.8 per cent higher than in 1954. The average hourly wage rose from \$1.76 in 1954 to \$1.85 in 1955. The gross value of manufactured goods in Iowa was estimated at \$3,931,700,000, an increase of \$2,781,700,000 since 1945.

GEORGE S. MAY

The Political Scene

On January 13, 1955, Leo A. Hoegh was sworn in as the thirty-third Governor of Iowa. Leo Elthon, who had served as chief executive since Governor William Beardsley's death in November, thereupon resumed his duties as Lieutenant Governor. Hoegh was the sixth consecutive Republican Governor and the twenty-seventh Republican to serve as chief executive of the State of Iowa. The new Governor delivered his inaugural address to a legislature which was composed of 90 Republicans and 18 Democrats in the House and 44 Republicans and 6 Democrats in the Senate. His inaugural address and budget message contained what many considered the most ambitious program ever set forth by an Iowa Governor.

Among Hoegh's recommendations were requests for: an increase of state aid to public schools to 25 per cent of operating costs; a broad road program calling for greater regulation of highway safety, a self-liquidating toll road authority, and an accelerated pay-as-you-go road building program; more money for the state's colleges; reapportionment of the legislature; broader unemployment and workmen's compensation bene-

fits; the legalization of the union shop; a Korean War veterans bonus, and many others. In his budget message Hoegh called for the spending of \$146,073,000 during each of the next two years, an increase of almost \$24,000,000 over the previous budget. He proposed to raise most of the additional funds through a two per cent tax on services which would yield about \$20,000,000 annually.

Although the Governor was commended for his courage, observers generally agreed that he would be lucky to secure adoption of only part of the program. Democratic Representative William F. Denman of Des Moines declared that it was so close to his own party's program that if the Governor "puts it across we would like to run him for re-election on the Democratic ticket." The influential Senator J. Kendall Lynes, Republican from Plainfield, commented that Hoegh's "objectives were quite commendable in many instances but will be extremely hard to reach. . . . He can't hope to get it all enacted into law in one session." After the budget recommendations were received the Republican Senate and House floor leaders, Senator Duane Dewel of Algona and Representative Dewey Goode of Bloomfield, issued a joint statement which concluded, "This legislature will not be too anxious to levy new taxes."

The 56th General Assembly, which did not come to an end until May 4, not only stayed in

session longer than usual, but was also marked by more than the normal amount of quarreling within the legislature and between the legislators and the executive department. Senate and House leaders disagreed as to which should come first — consideration of appropriations or taxation. In the House a group of young Republican representatives objected to the failure of their leaders to call party caucuses, and they succeeded in getting two caucuses in one week toward the end of the session. Senators and Representatives alike expressed dissatisfaction with the failure of the sifting committees to report out bills.

A split within Republican ranks appeared when the Senate refused to approve a number of Hoegh's appointments to state offices, including that of his campaign manager, Russell Lundy of Des Moines, to the State Highway Commission. Lundy and three other new Highway Commissioners were finally approved at the close of the legislative session, but the reappointment of Dwight G. Rider and V. B. Hamilton to the Board of Education was rejected. Hoegh gave the latter interim appointments after the legislature had adjourned.

This wrangling was understandable when one considered the difficult problems which the legislature had to face. As Governor Elthon had pointed out in his "state of the state" message at the outset of the session, the Assembly could no

longer avoid the issue that it must either provide the state government with more revenue or cut back on its expenditures and services. The "rainy day" reserve fund of \$30,000,000 which had balanced deficits in the state's income since 1949 was now exhausted. The legislature met this challenge by boosting the sales tax from two to two and a half per cent and making beer and cigarettes subject to this tax. It also increased state income tax rates and made changes in certain other taxes. In this way an estimated \$22,000,000 in additional yearly revenues was provided. A special tax study committee was appointed to investigate means of providing a more permanent solution to the state's tax problems.

Although the General Assembly did not go along with many of the Governor's ideas, it did enact some. Thus, it approved an annual budget of \$136,535,560 (a scant ten million dollars short of Hoegh's askings), and it increased the gas tax to six cents as requested by Hoegh. With the latter additions the Governor hoped by the end of 1956 to widen 1,000 miles of primary roads from their present width of 18 feet to 24 feet. A toll road authority was created with powers to sell bonds and build an east-west toll road as soon as a neighboring state (meaning Illinois) was definitely committed to building a similar road to Iowa's border.

The legislature also voted to submit to the vot-

ers in 1956 a \$26,000,000 bond issue for Korean War veterans bonuses. It increased weekly unemployment compensation benefits from a maximum of \$26 for 20 weeks to \$30 for 24 weeks. In compliance with new federal regulations, the county agricultural extension services were now divorced from Farm Bureau Federation control. The post of legislative research director was established to expedite the work of future General Assemblies by providing legislators with detailed information on problems they would have to meet. A controversial egg grading law was enacted which was upheld by the state Supreme Court in October. Among the lesser actions of the session was one repealing the state's century-old (but rarely enforced) "Blue Laws" which had prohibited such activities as dancing or hunting on the Sabbath.

The legislature did not go as far as Hoegh asked in the field of education, particularly in granting more aid to schools and providing more funds to state-supported institutions of higher education. Neither did the General Assembly legalize the sale of liquor by the drink, grant 18-year-olds the right to vote, establish highway speed limits, declare that grocery stores could not sell cold beer, require all public employees to retire at age 70, compel lobbyists to register in both houses and file regular expense accounts, or repeal the ban on union shop agreements.

The failure of the legislature to adopt a plan for reapportionment of its membership probably caused the greatest adverse comment. The House passed a bill which would have reapportioned the House on an area basis, with one representative for each county, while the Senate would be increased in size to 60, with its members apportioned according to population. The Senate took no action on this or other reapportionment plans. During the summer and fall Senate Majority Leader Duane Dewel, through editorials in his paper, the *Algona Kossuth County Advance*, urged Governor Hoegh to call a special session of the legislature so that it might submit a reapportionment plan to the voters at the 1956 primary election. Dewel favored reapportioning the House on a population basis, and the Senate on an area basis. Governor Hoegh, who favored the plan passed by the House, did not adopt the suggestion to call a special session in 1955.

Governor Hoegh proved a most energetic chief executive in his first year in office. Although some of his proposals had been defeated Hoegh expressed satisfaction with the work of the General Assembly. Late in the summer and fall he became increasingly concerned with the farm situation. The Midwest Governors' Conference which he called in October, although criticized by some because no invitations were extended to Democratic governors, did much to draw attention to the

problems facing the farmers of Iowa and elsewhere. In a radio debate with Minnesota's Governor Orville Freeman in December, Hoegh blamed the farmers' plight on the Democrats, but he was also critical of Republican Secretary Benson for not doing more to stabilize the depressed hog market.

In September Hoegh inaugurated a series of informal "meet-the-public" conferences whereby he traveled about the state, giving people who would not ordinarily have an opportunity to talk with him in his Des Moines office a chance to express their views. At the first of these conferences in Missouri Valley a white-haired farmer told Hoegh that one cause of the farm problem was "that too many fellows spend their time in those pool-hall hellholes when they should be home fixing their fences." Others asked about the route of a proposed highway relocation, expressed opinions regarding liquor by the drink, and inquired if the Governor could help local groups to raise money for a hospital.

Another Iowa political leader, Senator Thomas E. Martin, extended the poll of his constituents, for which he had been famous while Congressman from the First District, to include the entire state. Every twentieth householder in the state received Martin's questionnaire, and 6,599 returned it with their answers to the 35 questions. Partly as a result of the poll, and partly because of his own

changing views on certain issues, the Senator's voting record was somewhat different from what it had been when he sat in the House of Representatives. A consistent opponent of foreign aid previously, Senator Martin now voted to continue this program. "Recent developments," he declared, "have increased the importance of presenting a vigorous and united front, especially in all matters related to our world position in economic strength and defense preparedness, during our struggle to insure a lasting peace."

During this non-election year there was the usual speculation with respect to what would happen at the polls the following year. At the annual "state day" at the Iowa State Fair legislators who were present discussed the possibility that Hoegh and Elthon might tangle in the 1956 primary for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. Elthon had announced earlier that he would not run for Lieutenant Governor again, but he declared it was too early to announce other political plans. On the Democratic side Representative Emlin L. Bergeson of Sioux City reported that a poll of his fellow Democratic legislators indicated that they favored R. M. Evans of Arnolds Park as the party's nominee for United States Senator in 1956 and Clyde E. Herring of Des Moines for Governor, a post he had sought in 1954.

Democrats were encouraged when Ray Mills, president of the Iowa State Federation of Labor



Courtesy Feiler Studio

The House of Representatives of the 56th General Assembly in session.



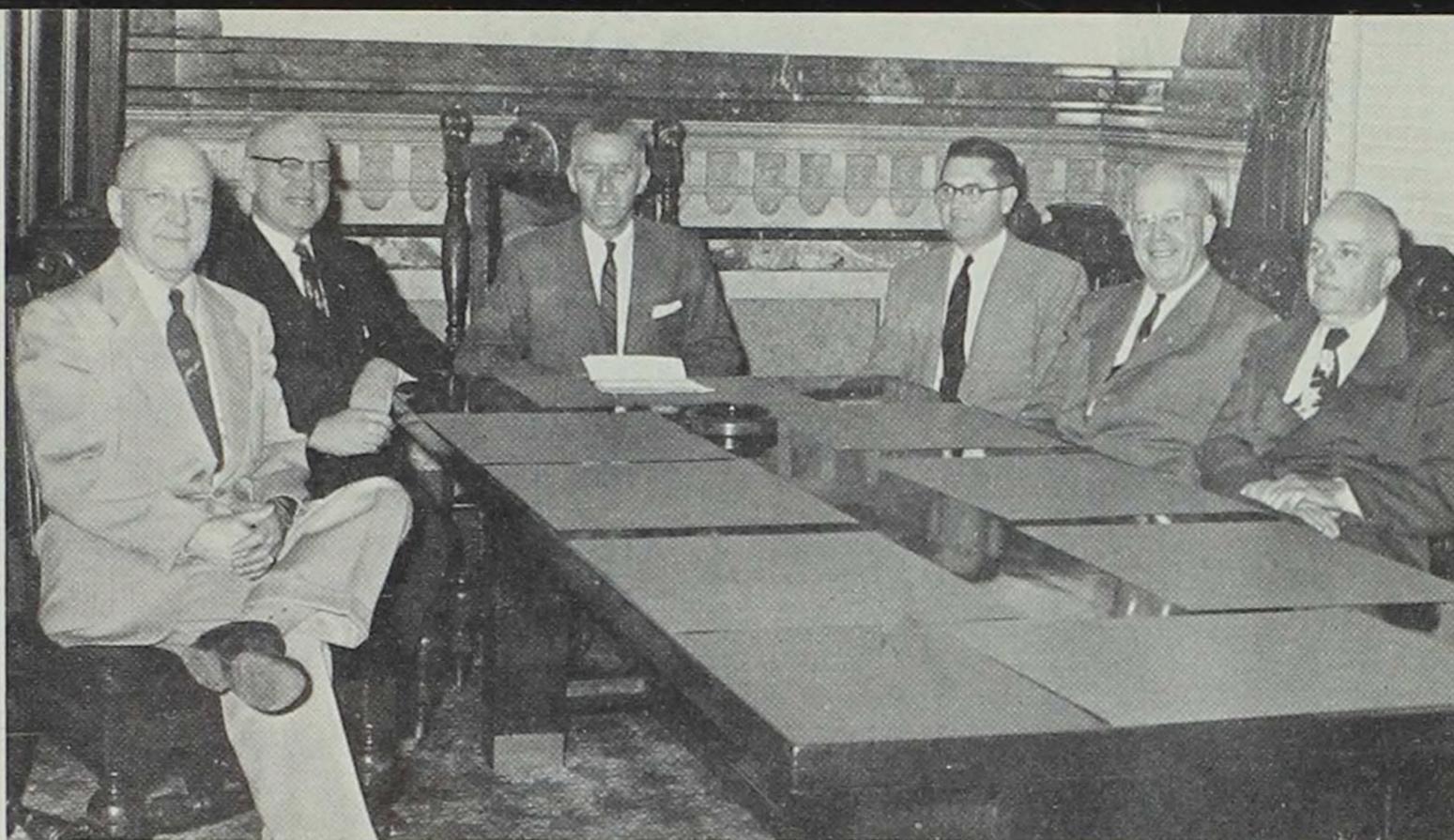
Courtesy Des Moines Register and Tribune

ABOVE: American farm delegation in Russia included Lauren Soth (right front), Marion Steddom (with glasses, next to Soth), and Ralph Olsen (third from left), all from Iowa.

BELOW: Dan Turner stands in the courthouse square at Corning, where he helped to organize the National Farm Organization.

Courtesy Des Moines Register and Tribune





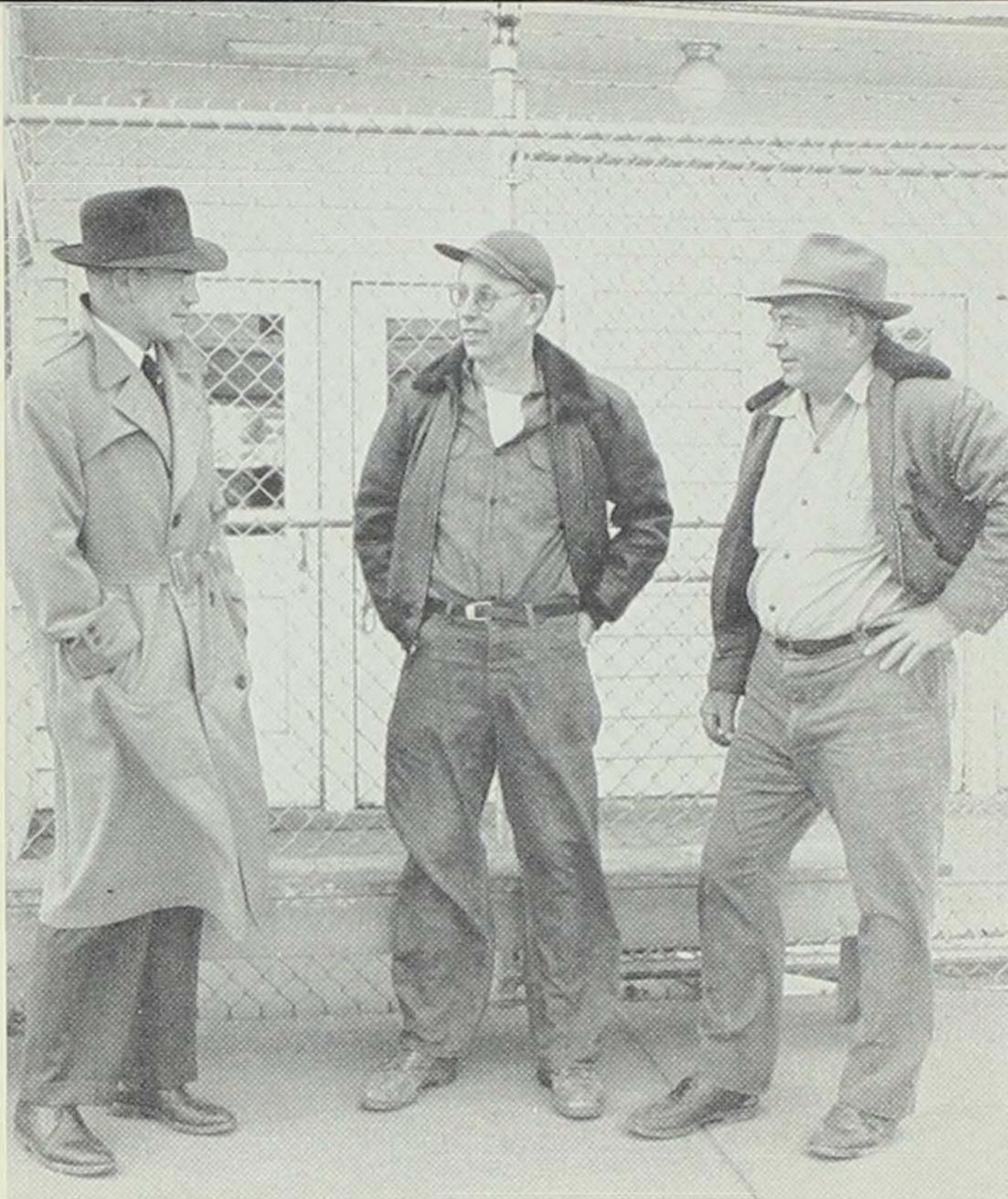
Courtesy W. Grant Cunningham

ABOVE: Governor Leo Hoegh meets with the executive council. Left to right: W. Grant Cunningham, secretary; State Treasurer M. L. Abrahamson; Governor Hoegh; Secretary of State Melvin D. Synhorst; Secretary of Agriculture Clyde Spry, and State Auditor C. B. Akers.

BELOW: On a less formal occasion Governor Hoegh chats with Paul Gregory (left), Mrs. A. W. Schwalberg of Hollywood, and Charles Laughton on the occasion of the world premiere of Gregory's movie, *The Night of the Hunter*, which Laughton directed.

Courtesy Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune*





After the Maytag strike was settled, President Fred L. Maytag talked with pickets Bert Plate (center) and Roy McKeag (right).



In Des Moines in October to address a Midwest Democratic meeting, Governor Averell Harriman of New York discussed farm problems with an Iowa farmer. At the right is Clyde Herring of Des Moines.

(Photos courtesy Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune*)

Captain Harold E. Fischer, Jr., is reunited with his son, Harold III, at the Fort Dodge airport.

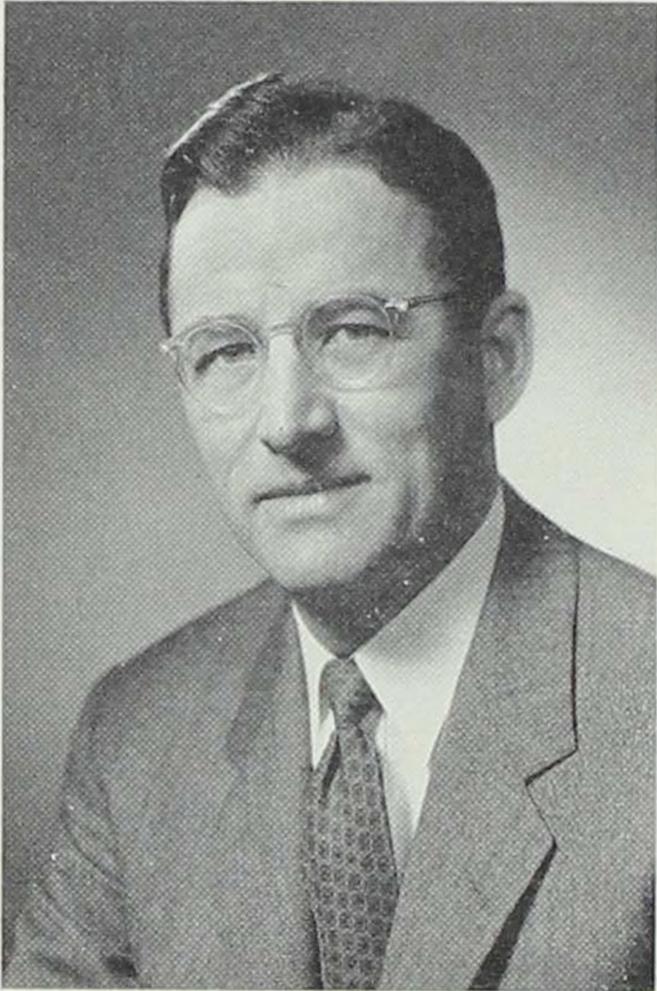


Bobby Kidney and his Hereford calf, Shorty, the grand champion baby beef at the Iowa State Fair.



(Photos courtesy Des Moines Register and Tribune)

TWO NEW COLLEGE PRESIDENTS



Fabian Bachrach

HOWARD R. BOWEN
Grinnell College

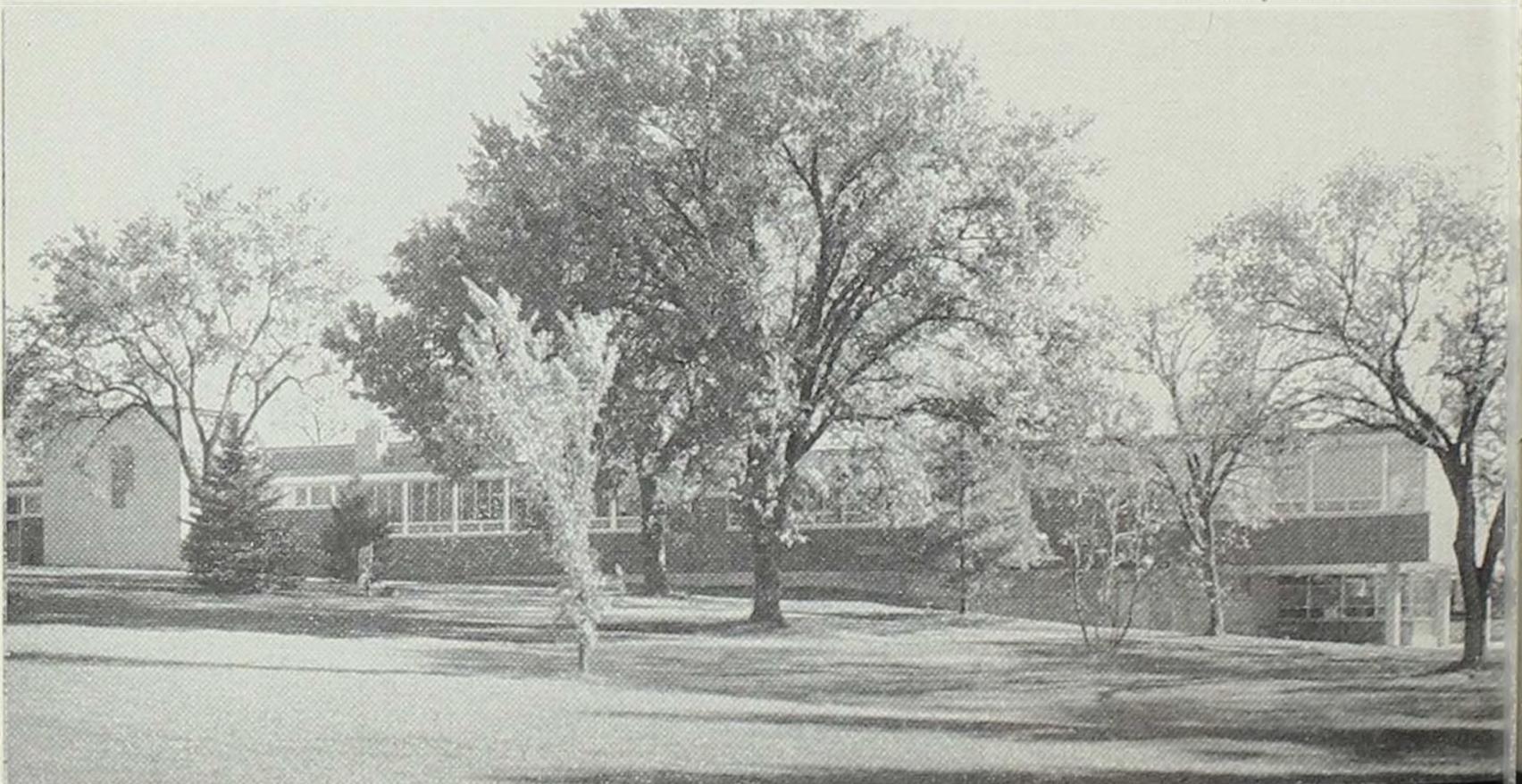


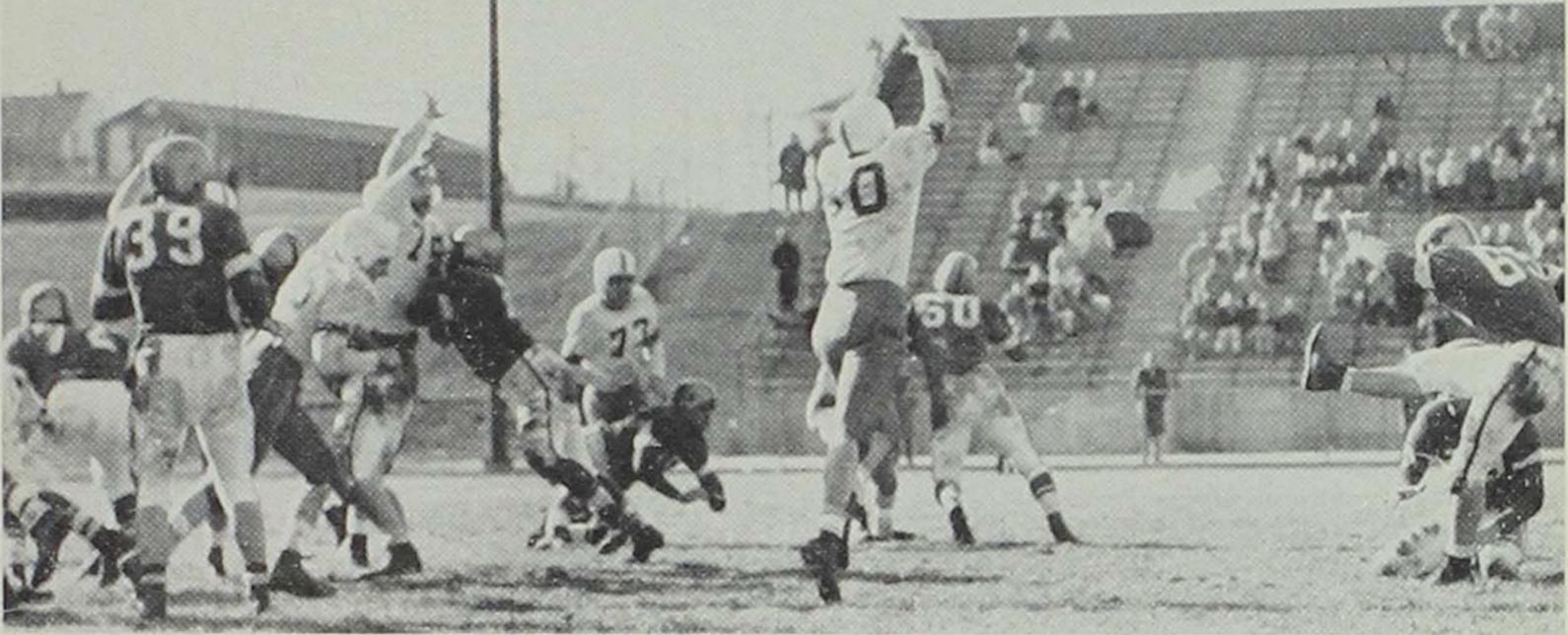
Fabian Bachrach

MILLARD G. ROBERTS
Parsons College

BELOW: The new science hall at Graceland College, costing nearly \$400,000, which was opened in 1955. The Mormon school at Lamoni has added a new building every year since 1950.

Courtesy Graceland College



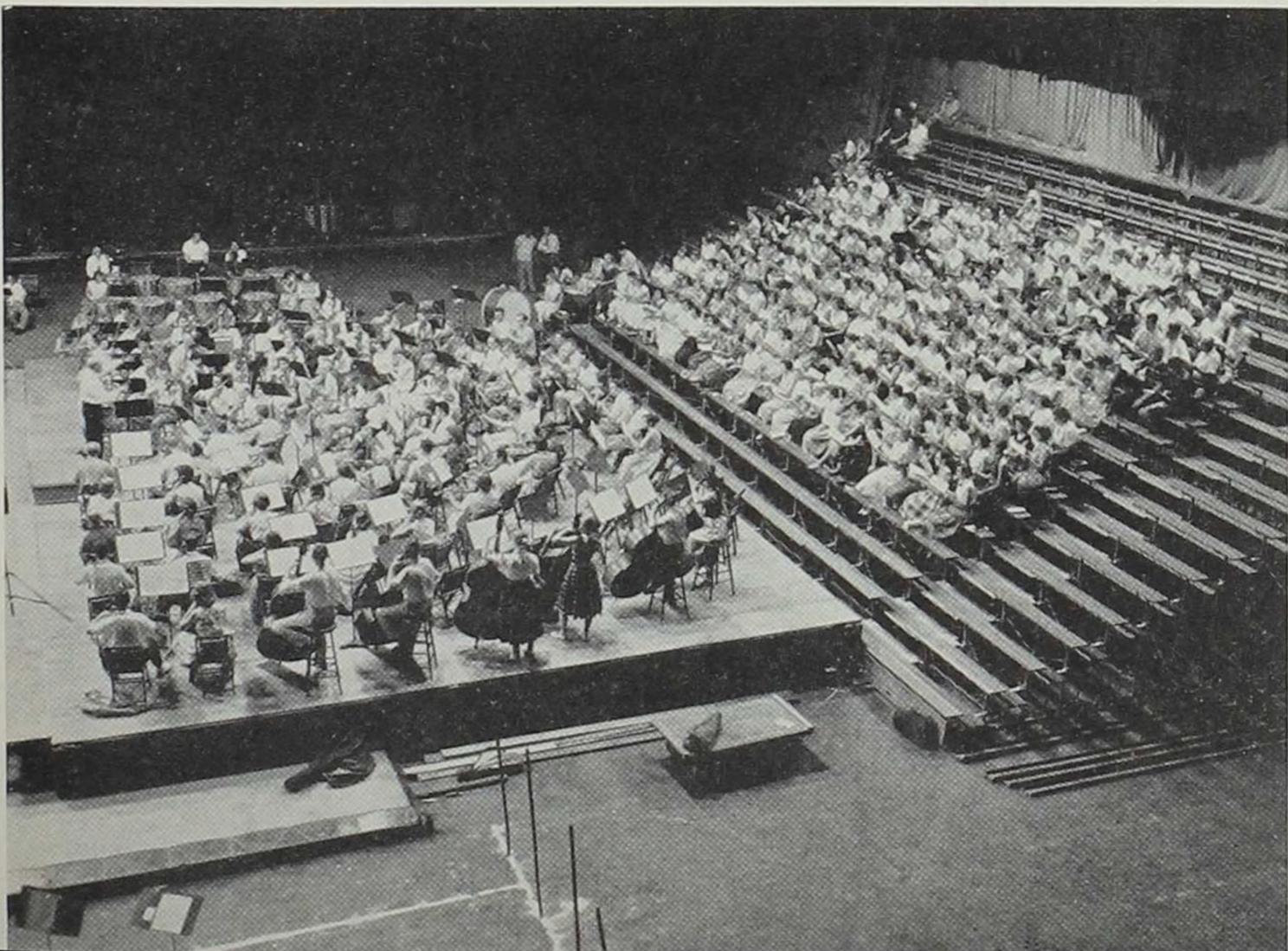


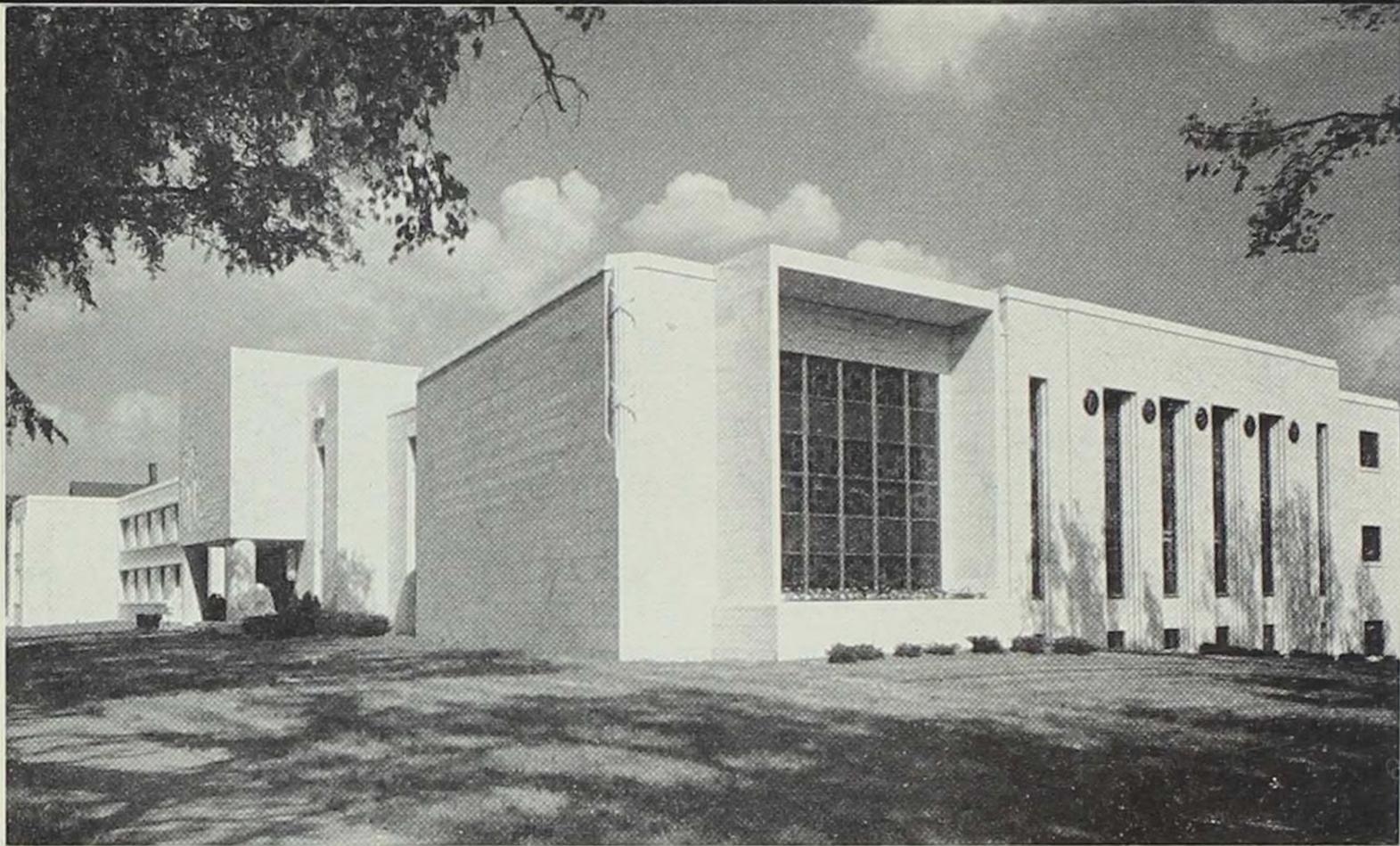
Courtesy Luther College

ABOVE: Bob Beasley of the Dubuque *Telegraph-Herald* caught this action at the Corn Bowl game as Luther College Quarterback Jack Schultz kicked the game-winning field goal against Western Illinois State.

BELOW: Dimitri Mitropoulos directs a final rehearsal of the Berlioz *Requiem* in the University of Iowa Fieldhouse.

Courtesy State University of Iowa



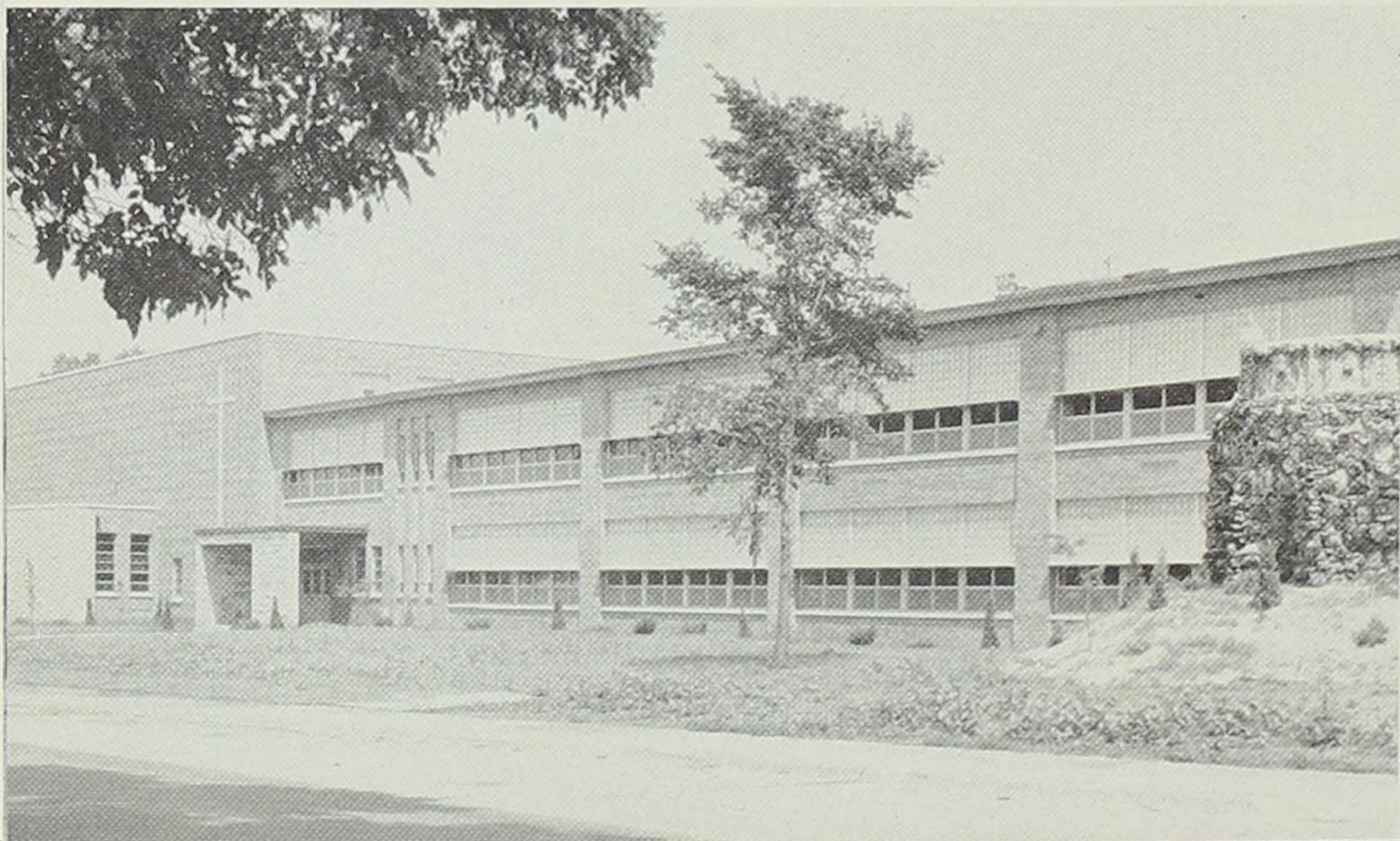


Courtesy Iowa Masonic Library

ABOVE: The new Iowa Masonic Library, Museum, and Administration Building in Cedar Rapids, which was dedicated in June.

BELOW: The Kuemper Catholic High School at Carroll, which was dedicated in September.

Courtesy Kuemper High School



and one-time Republican precinct chairman in Des Moines, announced that he was moving over into Democratic ranks. Mills gave as his reason the "failure of the Republican party to go through with what it promised to labor people." Republican state chairman Don Pierson replied that he disliked "references that legislation should be something to be bought and sold at the polls."

Few candidates had officially announced their intention to run by the end of the year, but at least two familiar faces would not be present when the 57th General Assembly convened in 1957. Senator De Vere Watson, Republican from Council Bluffs, and president pro tempore of the upper house in 1955, announced that he would not seek re-election. A similar announcement came from Gus Kuester, Republican from Griswold, who had served eleven consecutive sessions in the lower house where he had been Speaker in 1947 and 1949. Both men had long been numbered among Iowa's most respected legislators.

GEORGE S. MAY

Religion and Education

In 1952 the United States Supreme Court ruled that public schools were not acting in violation of the Constitution when they permitted so-called "released time" religious instruction. In the fall of 1952 the Delhi Consolidated School took advantage of this ruling and instituted such a program. Upon the request of parents, students are permitted to leave school, during regular school hours, for one-hour religious instruction twice a week at the church of their choice. Under this program in 1955 some 125 children attended classes at the Delhi Methodist Church, and 100 others received religious instruction at St. John's Catholic Church. School board president Howard Rentschler declared that they were "very happy about the program and we're glad we were one of the first to undertake it."

It remains to be seen whether such programs will prove a satisfactory answer to the demand that the public schools should do more along the line of religious education. A survey conducted by Principal James P. Lewiston of the Fontanelle High School in 1955 showed that 70 per cent of the high school administrators polled did not allow religious education. About 12 per cent

permitted "released time" religious classes, another 8 per cent had after-school religious training, and about 10 per cent allowed religious education classes in the school during regular school hours, a practice the State Department of Public Instruction declared was "obviously prohibited" by both the federal and state constitutions. It was apparent that school administrators had not yet arrived at any uniform solution to the question of religious training, although only 30 per cent were opposed to its inclusion in the school curriculum.

Summer youth camps sponsored by churches have become increasingly popular. In 1955 an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 young people attended Protestant education camps for periods ranging from one to two weeks. Many more would attend if there was room. To meet the growing demand the denominations were expanding their camps or building new ones. The Baptists in 1955 were working on their new camp at Forest Lake near Ottumwa, while the Congregationalists were building a new camp at Sportsman's Lake in Tama County, and the Methodists had begun development of a tract adjoining Lake Ahquabi, near Indianola. Presbyterians in northwest Iowa had purchased the Okoboji Club property on West Okoboji Lake and expected to have a camp completed by 1956. The trend in all denominations was away from rented camp facilities toward church-owned camps. Many were winterizing the

camp buildings so they might be used the year around.

The year marked the tenth anniversary of the Iowa Council of Churches, whose membership included 2,000 churches with about 650,000 members from fourteen denominations. Many churches also celebrated anniversaries. The most famous of these was the centennial of Nashua's historic "Little Brown Church." Hundreds of couples who had been married at the church returned in August as one of several features of the celebration.

The wide range of denominational interests is indicated by a recital of a few events. Mrs. Howard L. Roach of Plainfield, retiring head of the Iowa Baptist Women's Society, was elected in May to a two-year term as president of the 500,000 member American Baptist Women's organization. Delegates from the 520 churches of the Iowa-Des Moines Methodist Conference voted in favor of ending all racial segregation in Methodist churches and institutions. Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan of the Omaha Archdiocese forbade Catholics to attend a drive-in theater at Carter Lake for a 90-day period after the theater scheduled a picture not approved by Catholic censors. The same theater had suffered a similar ban earlier when it showed the films *The Moon Is Blue* and *French Line*.

Another round was fought during 1955 in the

perennial struggle to make Iowa's public schools better able to meet the needs of the modern world. The State Department of Public Instruction, with the support of Governor Hoegh, asked the General Assembly to make several changes in the school laws which would insure more efficiently run school systems. Besides asking for increased appropriations for the several types of state aid to schools already in existence, the department requested \$11,000,000 to be used as "incentive aid" which would be used to encourage the formation of larger school administrative units. The department also asked that the minimum number of pupils permitted in a reorganized school district be raised from 300 to 600. The legislature did not approve either of these two major changes, although it did grant most of the increased appropriations requested in existing school aid programs.

Advocates of the proposed school legislation were naturally disappointed. The Iowa Falls *Citizen* pointed out that the state was exactly where it had been in this matter in January. "The only difference is that now we know that it will be at least another two years before there will be any fundamental changes in our tax structure or in our school legislation." State Superintendent J. C. Wright was consoled by the fact that the legislature had seen "fit to discuss this issue rather thoroughly. This is a real gain. Perhaps in the next

session our department can prepare more pertinent facts for their consideration."

Progress was being made, however, in the reduction of the number of school districts. On July 1, 1954, there were 4,417 districts, but a year later the figure had dropped to 4,142. During the last half of 1955 the rate continued so that it was certain that the number of districts would drop below the 4,000 mark in 1956. The largest of the new districts was the one at Clear Lake which included 1,565 pupils. The new North Scott district in Scott County was next with 1,357 pupils. Superintendent Wright was greatly encouraged that about half of the new districts being formed had 500 to 600 or more pupils whereas a year before only about 10 per cent of the new districts were this large.

The National Education Association's committee on rural life and education singled out four school systems in Iowa as worthy of inspection by foreign educators. These included the Tipton Community Schools, rated the best of this type in the state, the LeMars public schools, commended particularly for its adult education program, the Fairfield Independent School District, an example of how agricultural, industrial, and business enterprises could be integrated into one educational community, and the Polk County schools, illustrating how the county could help local districts outside a large city (Des Moines)

to provide a comprehensive educational program.

Meanwhile, as school enrollment continued to rise new school construction underway in the state during 1955 was estimated at \$25,000,000. Among the schools opened was the \$3,500,000 West Senior High School in Waterloo whose central hall was as wide as a concrete highway and one and a half city blocks in length. In December voters of the Des Moines school district approved an \$8,165,000 bond issue to finance nine new schools and twenty additions to existing school buildings.

Nineteen private colleges in the state received a mighty uplift in spirits on December 12 when the Ford Foundation announced that it was giving them \$3,335,900 as part of that group's huge half-billion dollar grant to 615 colleges in the country. Individual grants were made in amounts about equal to each college's pay roll for its liberal arts and sciences faculty during 1954-1955. Grinnell and Coe colleges were also recipients of a "supplemental" grant made to colleges which had been leaders in increasing faculty salaries. These latter grants could be used for any purpose the college wished. The regular grants were to be used as endowments to increase faculty salaries. Drake University was the largest beneficiary in Iowa, receiving \$596,400. Grinnell with \$474,400, Coe College with \$320,900, Cornell College with \$211,200, and Luther College with

\$202,600, were the others who received over \$200,000.

Although the most spectacular, the Ford grant was only one of many contributions which Iowa colleges received during 1955 to help them expand their programs to meet rising enrollments. The Iowa College Foundation, the joint fundraising organization for eighteen of the state's private colleges, which had secured a modest \$17,000 from 28 contributors in 1952, received a record \$116,514 from 137 contributors in 1955. Cornell received a gift of \$750,000 from the Olin Foundation for a new library and student social center, making a total of \$1,350,000 received in two years from this source. The Cowles Foundation also gave Cornell \$200,000. The late Glenn L. Martin, the airplane builder, and a native of Macksburg, Iowa, left Iowa Wesleyan College \$100,000 in his will. Martin's first contact with the college had occurred when he saw its girls' basketball team play. His first visit to the school was only in June of 1955. His bequest came shortly after Iowa Wesleyan had begun a ten-year, \$5,000,000 development program.

At Parsons College, where Dr. Millard G. Roberts was inaugurated in October as the school's tenth president, a drive was begun to raise \$700,000 as part of a long-range expansion program. Construction of two new dormitories was to begin early in 1956. Dr. John A. Fisher

was formally installed as president of Buena Vista, a college which had completed renovation of its gymnasium and was building a new \$300,000 dormitory. Wartburg College at Waverly opened a new student union, part of a building program which had cost \$2,000,000 since 1948. Dr. Howard R. Bowen was installed as the seventh president in the 107-year history of Grinnell College. He declared that Grinnell's task was "to repair a fatal deficiency in our American educational system, which is neglect of talented students."

College enrollments in the fall were 12 per cent higher than those of 1954. The State Board of Regents (formerly known as the Board of Education) suggested that it might be necessary to limit enrollments in the three state institutions of higher education. After the legislature failed to approve the board's request for funds for a large-scale program of capital improvements to provide the facilities necessary to handle larger enrollments, it was proposed to finance this construction through bonds to be paid off by increased tuition charges. Most of the construction completed or in progress at the three institutions in 1955, such as dormitories, and the athletic office building and addition to the Memorial Union at the State University of Iowa, were already financed by funds other than those appropriated by the legislature.

In answer to criticism that athletic coaches received expensive gifts while other college faculty members were ignored, students and friends of M. D. Helser, Iowa State College's Dean of Student Affairs and Director of Personnel, decided to prove that non-athletic achievements were also appreciated. At the opening of the college's annual Veishea festival they presented the surprised 65-year-old dean with a Cadillac and notified him that a scholarship fund in his honor had been established.

GEORGE S. MAY

The Web of Life

Crowded schools, narrow highways, low hog prices, high taxes — these were but a few of the vexious problems facing Iowans in 1955. There was, however, a lighter side to life in Iowa during 1955. In February a buxom television personality, Dagmar, was brought into the House and Senate chambers while the legislature was in session, where she kissed distinguished members of both houses. Dagmar then invaded the Governor's office, kissed the state's chief executive and ran her hand through his butch haircut, remarking that it "feels like mink." Many legislators were indignant, but the incident emphasized the fact that Dagmar was appearing at the Des Moines Automobile Show.

In April television station KGTV of Des Moines shut down because of the difficulties which have forced many other ultra-high-frequency stations out of business. Lightning knocked down the transmitting tower of KQTV in Fort Dodge, forcing that station off the air for months. In July KRNT-TV of Des Moines began telecasting, and in October Iowa's thirteenth television station, KTVO of Ottumwa, went on the air.

On the night of March 1, a special state tele-

vision network enabled basketball fans to watch Iowa's Hawkeyes defeat Minnesota's Gophers, 72-70, at Minneapolis. A week later Iowa was officially crowned Big Ten champions and went on to finish fourth in the NCAA championships at Kansas City. The team's triumph over Minnesota, however, was the high point of the year for Hawkeye fans.

Comparable to this great team performance was the individual achievement of Jack Fleck, a professional golfer from Davenport who won the National Open Golf championship at San Francisco in June. A workmanlike performer who had traveled the golf circuit for several years without success, Fleck suddenly found his game and became the first Iowan ever to win golf's most coveted honor. What made his victory even greater, however, was that he and Ben Hogan were tied at the end of the regular 72 holes, but in the play-off Fleck defeated the man rated the greatest golfer of his era. The Associated Press poll of sports writers rated this the biggest sports upset of the year.

Young Art Andrews of Iowa City was named the number one junior tennis player in the United States after his performances during the year. He reached the finals of the National Junior Tennis championships in July before losing to Mexico's Esteban Reyes. Andrews and his doubles partner, Crawford Henry of Atlanta, Georgia,

were rated the top American junior doubles team.

For the third year Calvin Jones, guard and captain of the Iowa Hawkeyes, received All-American recognition. He also won the Outland Award presented annually to the guard or tackle judged to be the best in the nation. Iowa Quarterback Jerry Reichow of Decorah, a tower of strength all season, was unanimously voted the most valuable player at the annual East-West Shrine game in San Francisco on December 31 as he brilliantly directed the East squad to victory.

Although none of the state's major college football teams had outstanding records, the performance of the small college elevens was unusually good. Coe College finished its season unbeaten and untied, defeating previously unbeaten St. Olaf, 28-14, to win the Midwest Conference title. Coach Dick Clausen was named the small college coach of 1955, and at the end of the year was appointed head coach at the University of New Mexico. Parsons College marched to its first undefeated and untied season in history and its first Iowa Conference football championship since 1936. The 1954 champions of the same conference, Luther College, stretched its unbeaten string to nineteen straight games, but its record included a tie with Iowa Wesleyan. On Thanksgiving Day Luther defeated favored Western Illinois State College in the annual Corn Bowl game at Macomb, Illinois.

Other sports highlights of the year included Goldfield's victory over Holstein for the girls' basketball title and Ames' defeat of Iowa City in the boys' final. Both tournaments were held in the new Veterans Memorial Auditorium at Des Moines. Rod Bliss of Des Moines, a 42-year-old former title-holder, defeated 19-year-old Tom Davis of Cedar Rapids to win the Iowa Amateur golf title. Iowa State College's team won the annual Big Seven Conference basketball tournament during the Christmas holidays. Drake University once again became a member of the Missouri Valley Conference.

The hot summer weather helped to bring record-breaking crowds to Iowa state parks. Through November some 5,695,000 people had visited the parks compared with 4,898,000 for all of 1954. Most popular of these recreational areas was Lake Manawa with 674,236 visitors. Clear Lake Park, Lake Ahquabi, Ledges Park, Lake Keomah, McIntosh Woods Park, Backbone Park, Rock Creek Lake, Pine Lake, and Blackhawk Lake Park were other favorite spots. July was the top month with 1,840,000 people jamming the parks in quest of relief from the heat. This was more than the total summer attendance at Yellowstone National Park.

Deer hunters agreed that hunting was the poorest since Iowa began open deer seasons in 1953. The kill was estimated at between 2,000 and 2,500

compared to 4,000 in 1953. The deer were more scattered as a result of two previous seasons of hunting, while weather conditions were also unfavorable for the hunter.

Figures from the State Tax Commission indicated that despite the blistering temperatures, Iowans spent \$4,830,600 on movies during July, August, and September, a drop of \$458,400 from the same period in 1954. However, they spent \$6,297,360 to attend athletic events and similar amusements during the summer, which was over \$2,000,000 more than in the previous year.

A notable motion picture event was the world premiere in Des Moines in July of *The Night of the Hunter*. This was the first movie produced by Paul Gregory, a 34-year-old theatrical producer from Des Moines who had achieved remarkable critical and popular success with his stage productions of *Don Juan in Hell*, *John Brown's Body*, *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*, and *Three for Tonight*. Drake University, which he had attended, honored him in the morning, while preceding the premiere in the evening 550 persons attended a banquet sponsored by the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce.

Neil and Caroline Schaffner, who for thirty-one years had delighted their tent-show audiences in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri with their portrayals of "Toby and Susie," were featured in an article in the *Saturday Evening Post*, adding to the na-

tional recognition they had received earlier on the national television program, "Omnibus." Wapello, which the Schaffners call home, honored them with a "Toby and Susie Day."

The University of Iowa's Fieldhouse, which but a short time before had echoed to the roars of basketball fans, was the scene of the year's most unusual musical event in May with the performance of the Berlioz *Requiem*. The work is rarely presented because of the large and unusual chorus and orchestra required, but university students and musicians from all over eastern Iowa assembled at Iowa City to perform it under the direction of the conductor of the New York Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra, Dimitri Mitropoulos. Preliminary rehearsals had been directed by James Dixon, a protégé of Mitropoulos, and director of the University Symphony Orchestra.

In the fall of 1955 MacKinlay Kantor's *Andersonville* became one of the most publicized best sellers of the year. It was a Book-of-the-Month Club selection, and even before it was published the movie rights had been purchased for \$250,000. Other books by Iowans included Phil Stong's novel, *Blizzard*, and a collection of Harlan Miller's columns, *There's A Man in the House*.

The Iowa State Fair attracted 505,050 people, the lowest attendance figure since 1950. Thirteen-year-old Bobby Kidney of Scranton won the grand champion baby beef award with his Here-

ford calf, Shorty. An Omaha brewing company bought the calf for a record price of \$2.20 per pound and then presented it to Governor Hoegh who turned it over to the Iowa Junior Chamber of Commerce. Temperance forces criticized the Governor for being a party to what they charged was simply a beer company's publicity stunt.

Early in January a bartender at a Polk County tavern explained that he could not sell liquor by the drink because "we've got to wait until this Countryman gets off his high horse." Attorney General Dayton Countryman had stated that he intended to make the state "cracker dry." He sent county law enforcement officers lists of places which had purchased federal retail liquor dealer stamps, observing that no club or tavern needed such a stamp unless it intended to sell liquor by the drink. Threats of periodic raids on such establishments led to many taverns surrendering their stamps. As a result of Countryman's vigorous efforts the state was, if not "cracker dry," at least less moist, the *Des Moines Register* observed.

In November, after a thirteen-week trial, Polk County District Judge C. Edwin Moore ruled that hospitals which employed medical specialists, such as pathologists and radiologists, and charged patients for their services were practicing medicine and thus violating state law. Judge Moore thereby upheld the 1954 ruling of Attorney Gen-

eral Leo Hoegh which the Iowa Hospital Association had sought to overturn in the courts. The decision was a victory for the Iowa Medical Society which had supported the contention of some medical specialists that they, not the hospital, should bill hospital patients for their services. The case was closely watched by medical and hospital officials throughout the country as an important test of many issues relating to the development of group medical care and insurance plans.

In December some 69 Iowa hospitals were granted a total of \$2,387,100 by the Ford Foundation. Largest beneficiary of the award, which could be used for any purpose except day-to-day operating expenses, was Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, which received \$205,100. Every voluntary, non-profit hospital in the state listed by the American Hospital Association received at least \$10,000. Federal aid totaling \$1,242,822 was announced the same month to help pay for eight hospital construction projects.

In April came the announcement that tests made in 1954 indicated that the Salk polio vaccine was an effective immunization agent. Of the 6,400 Iowa school children who were given the vaccine in 1954 only one was reported to have contracted polio. Under a mass inoculation program more than 113,000 Iowa children between the ages of 5 and 9 received free polio shots in 1955 and of

these only three later contracted paralytic polio.

As a result of a gift made by Howard Hall, Cedar Rapids would have Iowa's first radioactive cobalt-beam unit for the treatment of cancer. To be housed in the Margaret and Howard Hall Radiation Center, the "cobalt bomb" would enable doctors in the area to treat deep cancers more effectively than with existing x-ray facilities.

The year saw 629 people die on Iowa's highways, four less than in the peak year of 1954, making it the second worst year for traffic fatalities in the state's history. Total reported accidents numbered 54,877, over 4,000 more than in 1954, with a financial loss of \$28,924,605. The State Highway Patrol, celebrating its twentieth year of service, instituted airborne patrols, patrolmen riding in National Guard airplanes and helicopters in an effort to spot traffic violators and congested areas quickly. After thirteen persons were killed on July 3, Chief David Herrick declared a two-day emergency during which time temporary speed limits were imposed on the state's highways. The same action was taken during later holiday periods in an effort to hold down highway deaths.

Miss Dora Lee Martin of Houston, Texas, was elected by male students of the State University of Iowa as Miss S. U. I. It was the first time a Negro had ever been so chosen at the university. In a year in which segregation became an increasingly bitter issue of debate, this event at Iowa City

received considerable attention in the country.

Earlier in the year Air Force Captain Virgil A. Daniels, stationed at a radar installation near Waverly, was advised by the manager of an apartment house in that city not to move into the apartment which he had rented because several tenants had declared they would move out if Daniels, a Negro, and his family moved in. When news of this action got out most of the tenants of the apartment house quickly signed a petition apologizing for the attitude of the minority. City officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and many other townspeople welcomed the Daniels family to Waverly, a representative of the apartment house tenants presenting the Captain with the keys to his apartment. Overwhelmed by the demonstration, Daniels said happily, "Aren't the people of Waverly wonderful?" The Fund for the Republic awarded the city \$10,000 for its neighborly action. City officials decided to use the money for a scholarship to be awarded each year to a Waverly high school senior for the study of civil liberties and human rights.

In June, another Air Force Captain, Harold E. Fischer, Jr., of Swea City, returned to Iowa. Two years before the Korean War jet ace had been captured by the Chinese Communists. In the spring of 1955 he was released. His parents were flown to Honolulu, along with parents of other released fliers, where they met their son. Together

they flew back to Iowa where Captain Fischer saw his young son for the first time in three years and was greeted by thousands of Iowans.

In the summer, Asa Johnson, operator of a gravel pit at Turin in western Iowa, was loading earth for delivery as construction fill at Onawa. Suddenly he came upon a human skeleton. He called in Monona County Coroner S. N. Anderson, and the two men decided to keep their hands off the bones, which were obviously of pre-historic nature, until experts could examine them. Weldon D. Frankfurter, director of the Tiel Sanford Museum at Cherokee, and Reynold Ruppé, anthropologist at the State University of Iowa, soon arrived to direct the careful uncovering of the skeleton. Three other human skeletons, along with the bones of many animals, were found. It would be some time before tests and other studies determined the age of the human skeletons, but indications were that they might be as much as 10,000 years old. Anthropologists from all over the country came to Turin. They agreed that this was potentially a very important discovery for an understanding of early man in North America.

In October John E. Mulroney of Fort Dodge was named by President Eisenhower to the United States Tax Court in Washington, D. C. To take his place on the Iowa Supreme Court, Governor Hoegh named Henry K. Peterson of Council Bluffs. Earlier in the year the President named

Allen Whitfield of Des Moines to the Atomic Energy Commission, but the latter subsequently asked that his name be withdrawn when strong opposition to the appointment developed. Governor Hoegh also appointed Oliver P. Bennett of Mapleton to be the State Insurance Commissioner, succeeding Charles Fischer, who died in September.

Kenneth MacDonald, editor of the *Des Moines Register and Tribune*, was elected president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in April. The same month the Iowa Press Association presented Master Editor-Publisher awards to Kenneth H. Sidey, publisher of the *Adair County Free Press*, L. B. Watt, publisher of the *Grinnell Herald-Register*, and L. O. Brewer, publisher of the *Newton Daily News*.

Among the many notable Iowans who died in 1955 were men who had made their mark in industry, such as Glenn L. Martin, a native of Macksburg, the airplane manufacturer, and J. Carl Bode of Keokuk, president of the National Carbide Company. Edward A. Kreger of Keota, former Judge Advocate General of the Army, Major General Philip B. Fleming of Burlington, and retired Vice Admiral Frank J. Lowry of Cresco were prominent figures from the armed services. Frank F. Merriam, born near Hopkinton, was State Auditor from 1899 to 1903 before moving to California where he was Governor from 1935

to 1939. George W. Landers was famous as the "Dean of American Bandmasters." The famous Christian leader, John R. Mott, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946, had been raised in Postville.

Among those who died who had been prominent in Iowa were publishers Robert R. O'Brien of the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* and Dante M. Pierce of *Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead*. State officials who died included Lucius A. Andrew, former Banking Superintendent, Fred R. Woodruff, former Railroad Commissioner, Ora Williams, former Curator of the Department of History and Archives, and Clifford L. Niles, former member of both the Conservation and Highway commissions. Educators included Jay W. Merrill, district agricultural extension supervisor at Iowa State College and John T. McClintock, member of the S.U.I. medical faculty since 1897. Edwards M. Myers of Boone and Christine E. Hill of Council Bluffs were well-known figures in state medical circles. Robert M. Gunn, Black Hawk County farmer, had been an organizer of the Farm Bureau. William S. Jacobsen was the Democratic Congressman from the Second District from 1937 to 1943. Pauline L. Devitt had been a leader of the woman's suffrage movement and a former member of the State Board of Education.

Former state legislators who died included

Samuel H. Bauman, A. S. Bloedel, Charles F. Clark, John A. Graham, Elmer A. Johnson, William M. Judd, Frank D. Martin, John W. Moore, Julius A. Nelson, Ed L. Newton, George B. Perkins, Ray P. Scott, and Lorenzo D. Teter.

Each of these individuals had served his state and country to the best of his abilities. The passing of each meant to a certain extent the end of an era. So too another year had ended — another year which future scholars would seek to fit into patterns which would make the decade and the century understandable. But for Iowa there was always another year ahead — another twelve months in history's unending drama.

GEORGE S. MAY

IOWA STATISTICS

Education

	1945	1954	1955
Public school enrollment	471,639	525,300	541,000
College-university enrollment	18,205	36,104	40,493

Prices of Farm Products

Corn (bu.) .....	.98	1.42	1.31 ¹
Oats (bu.) .....	.66	.74	.64 ¹
Wheat (bu.)	1.51	2.03	2.00 ¹
Soybeans (bu.)	2.09	3.01	2.24 ¹
Hay (ton)	15.90	18.80	16.74 ¹
Hogs (cwt.)	14.00	21.00	15.01 ¹
Cattle (cwt.)	13.50	19.60	18.98 ¹
Sheep (cwt.)	6.50	5.00	4.57 ¹
Lambs (cwt.)	13.40	19.50	18.93 ¹
Chickens (lb.) .....	.24	.14	.18 ¹
Eggs (doz.) .....	.33	.28	.32 ¹

Farm Production

Corn (bu.)	476,417,000	564,462,000	495,282,000 ¹
Oats (bu.)	204,936,000	226,500,000	258,210,000 ¹
Wheat (bu.)	2,660,000	2,096,000	3,300,000 ¹
Soybeans (bu.)	35,335,000	56,154,000	40,774,000 ¹
Hay (ton)	5,630,000	6,805,000	7,088,000 ¹
Hogs ²	7,652,000	10,662,000	12,048,000
Cattle ²	5,432,000	5,868,000	6,279,000
Sheep and lambs ²	1,354,000	945,000	936,000
Horses ²	549,000	110,000	90,000
Chickens ³	50,906,000	30,359,000	24,700,000 ¹
Eggs	4,327,000,000	4,929,000,000	5,052,000,000 ¹
Total farm income	\$ 1,547,479,000	2,347,221,000	2,070,868,000 ¹

Personal Property

New passenger cars		98,534	108,294
Home owners ⁴	406,439	520,364	528,719
Farm value per acre	\$ 140	205	215

Tax Collections

Federal ⁵	\$ 321,171,000	530,513,000	534,708,000
State ⁶	80,176,461	201,587,061	220,585,735
Local	104,152,450	242,178,794	251,913,029

Financial

Iowa-owned life insurance	\$ 2,251,280,029	4,650,194,894	5,079,544,955
Retail sales	1,325,327,000	3,045,802,000	3,241,308,000
Per capita income payments:			
United States	1,150	1,770	1,846 ¹
Iowa	1,109	1,667	1,727 ¹
U. S. public debt	258,682,187,410	271,259,599,108	274,374,222,802
Per capita debt	1,849	1,671	1,661 ¹
Consumers' price index (1947-1949 = 100)	76.9	114.8	114.5

¹ Preliminary estimate.

² Number on farms on Jan. 1.

³ Number marketed.

⁴ Includes only those applying for home-
stead exemptions.

⁵ For fiscal year ending June 30.

⁶ Includes special taxes and liquor profits.

