

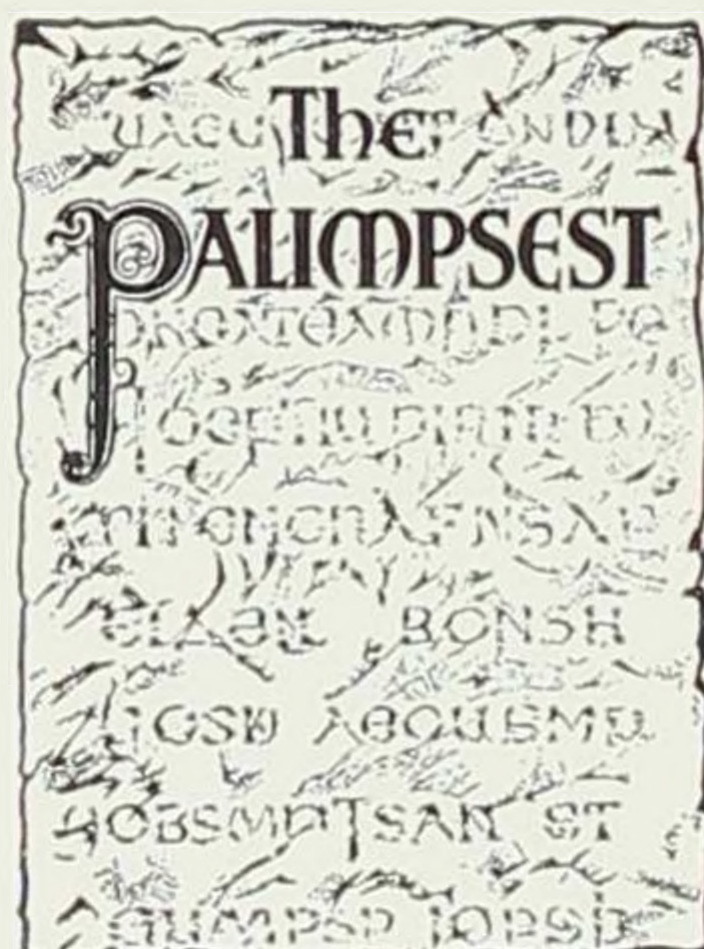
The PALIMPSEST



CLEGHORN FARM GIRL AND HER CHAMPION STEER

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J U L Y 1 9 5 3



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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IOWA IN 1952

ROBERT RUTLAND

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Cover

Front — Faye Mugge of Cleghorn exhibits her prize-winning Angus steer, Shorty, at the International Livestock Show in Chicago.

Back — Top: General Eisenhower, campaigning for the presidency, is greeted by centennial celebrants at Denison.

Bottom: Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson (right) confers with gubernatorial candidate Herschel Loveless at Fort Dodge.

Pictures — Photographs of the 1952 political campaign, facing page 304, were made available by the Cedar Rapids *Gazette* and Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune*. The aviation photos were furnished by the Douglas Aircraft Company and the United States Air Force. All other pictures were loaned by the Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune*.

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THE PALIMPSEST

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Weather Chart: 1952

Masked behind Iowa's 1952 weather records, which on the surface indicated little deviation from the normal rainfall or temperature averages, there lay a dramatic chapter in the endless story of man struggling against the unleashed forces of Nature. Floods and droughts, snowdrifts and dry wells, miry acres and sweeping grass fires left their imprint on men's minds and on their soil. The mightiest works and plans of men were put to a severe test as Nature left a pathway of watery destruction on one hand, and scorched prairies on the other.

The chain of events which led to the tragedy of devastated farmlands, flooded homes, and property losses calculated in the millions of dollars began far from Iowa. Unusually heavy snows in the Northwest had blanketed the vast region which forms the upper drainage basin of the Missouri River. To the east, snow and ice clogged the tributaries of the Mississippi. Army engineers warned that conditions would be hazardous if the

snow and ice melted rapidly. Ominously, the skies brightened late in March, and rapid thawing was soon under way. Western Iowa felt the impact of these early thaws when the Floyd, Big Sioux, and Rock rivers began overflowing their banks late in March, finally reaching record crests.

By April residents of Sioux City's lowlands were preparing to evacuate their homes as the flood waters of the Big Sioux bore down on them. The crest, highest in sixty years, washed away sections of railroad tracks, then inched toward homes and business offices in the area. The havoc created by the turbulent Big Sioux was only a preliminary, however, to the chaos which the Missouri floods brought for a hectic two weeks that began April 8. Warm weather, with mercury readings above normal for early April, increased the danger of a serious flood along the Missouri. Reports from upstream convinced army engineers at Sioux City that the river crest there would be the highest recorded since 1881.

Meanwhile, the unseasonably warm weather created a grave situation along the Mississippi, where the rising water indicated that a flood crest above the 1951 record was in prospect. At Davenport river experts predicted a crest of 14.5 feet. Residents at Sabula recalled their efforts to keep their community high and dry during the 1951 floods, and readied themselves for more trouble. At Dubuque, Clinton, and Muscatine preparations

to hold back the anticipated flood were also undertaken.

But Nature, which had dealt severely with Iowa's eastern border in 1951, was now switching her worst elements to the western slope. The rampaging Missouri forced its way through new channels, dashed at the existing levees, and pounded at sandbag barricades with fury. Threatened areas in Sioux City were abandoned to the silty, brown-yellow waters which soon lapped at the outskirts of the metropolitan business district. By April 12 the town of Blencoe, 45 miles to the south, was inundated. Eight National Guard companies were ordered to the stricken area for flood relief duty, and almost 6,000 persons were homeless in the Sioux City area alone. Bulldozer operators worked feverishly at Onawa to build an earthen dam to protect their city. High school gymnasiums were hastily converted into emergency relief shelters where food, bedding, and typhoid inoculations were made available to evacuated families.

To the south of Sioux City, 400,000 rich acres were covered with water. Farm homes were surrounded by the Missouri, and helicopter service was used to rescue families isolated by the raging river. Mondamin, Modale, Pacific Junction, and Onawa were evacuated. Businessmen, teachers, youngsters, and even retired citizens sweated shoulder-to-shoulder with the guardsmen in pre-

paring sandbag levees to curb the flood waters. Sandbags became a symbol of security as men sought to protect the structures which represented a lifetime of sacrifice, ranging from simple farm homes to the \$3,000,000 Sioux City municipal auditorium.

The magnitude of the Missouri flood was recognized by President Harry S. Truman on April 13, when he allotted \$250,000 in emergency flood relief funds to Iowa sufferers. Business in Sioux City was brought to a standstill. Then, on April 15, the flood crest at Sioux City began to drop, and the anxiety which her citizens had known now gripped residents at Council Bluffs. More than a million acres of rich land in the Missouri and Mississippi valleys were already under water. Cloudless skies in the flooded areas seemed to portend better days for the hard-pressed flood victims even as they strained with the next row of sandbags.

By mid-April, more than 8,000 soldiers and civilians were fighting "Big Muddy" from Sioux City south to the Missouri border. An additional 2,800 soldiers were on their way to Council Bluffs from Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and President Truman had personally visited the area to determine the extent of the flood damage to crops and property. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of corn in government bins were offered for sale without restriction in an effort to save the grain from the flood's destruction. Governor William

S. Beardsley called for additional funds after \$40,000 had been used by the state in flood relief, and the Des Moines *Register* started a private campaign for flood relief that soon had brought over \$25,000 in contributions from generous Iowans. Thirty thousand persons in the Council Bluffs area were forced from their dwellings into emergency shelters set up by local and state relief agencies.

Along the Mississippi the flood threat was imminent by April 17, but far less pressing than the situation in western Iowa. Flood barriers were erected at Davenport and Muscatine as the Mississippi continued to rise, and 1,000 families in the Muscatine area were advised to move to higher ground. The Red Cross helped 100 Dubuque families move from their threatened homes, and by April 22 nearly 5,000 persons were homeless because of the Mississippi's rising crest. Seven National Guard units were called into action to assist flood victims from Dubuque to Clinton, and an emergency inoculation station was set up in the Dubuque city hall. Soon four more companies of guardsmen were on duty along the banks of the Mississippi. Railroad tracks were swept away between Sabula and Clinton. Guttenberg reported a flood crest of 20.2 feet, slightly higher than the 1951 mark, and officials of the \$15,000 Quad Cities Open Golf Tournament cancelled the affair — the course was under water. A week later the

Mississippi showed definite signs of receding at Muscatine and Davenport. Roads and railroad tracks had received less damage than during the 1951 flood.

Relief for the flood victims came from every quarter. The Iowa legislative interim committee earmarked \$350,000 for emergency flood relief. A share of a \$55,000,000 Congressional appropriation was scheduled to bring some aid to Iowa farmers whose crops had been destroyed. Lieut. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, chief of army engineers, said "The worst is past" when he viewed the scene at Council Bluffs on April 19. The Missouri flood crest had moved farther south, swamping half of Hamburg with its crest of 30.24 feet. Soon the wrath of the Missouri had passed. Early in May most of the families forced from their homes by high water on Iowa's borders had returned to their dwellings.

The flood news had dwarfed the importance of other weather happenings that occurred during the same period. On April 9 southwestern Iowans noticed a strange earth tremor that worked its way to Des Moines, rattling dishes and windows. A St. Louis geophysicist said the earthquake was one of the strongest shocks ever recorded in the Midwest. Five other states also reported a mid-morning disturbance. A Red Oak resident claimed his office walls shook for thirty seconds, and women employees in the new state office building at Des

Moines became dizzy and faint during the rumbling.

Bad as the floods were, the ungoverned rivers did give a warning. No such warning came to farm families in the Buck Grove community in Grundy County when a tornado whirled through a three-mile path on June 2. One youngster was killed, and two other persons were injured. The local school building was destroyed, and the ballots deposited there on primary election day were never found. A second tornado struck northern Cherokee County late in June, with winds clocked at ninety miles per hour. High lines were blown down along the thirty-mile route of the destructive whirlwind, fifty-three farm buildings were damaged or destroyed, and four persons were injured. The property loss was estimated at over \$1,000,000.

Floods continued to plague Iowans months after the great damage of the spring had been partially repaired. Flash floods and heavy rains forced the Des Moines River out of its banks on June 23. Extremely heavy rains fell in Monona County a few days later, and an observer declared that "10,000 acres of the best farm land in the Whiting area was covered by five and a half inches of rain." Another 5,000 acres near Onawa was inundated in an unwelcome reminder of the recent Missouri overflow. The freakish weather was marked by a 23° temperature drop at Sioux

City in a two-hour period, followed by heavy rains and flooding of railroad tracks in Woodbury County.

Apart from the areas visited by floods and high winds, the weather picture for 1952 began with promise for the farmer. Corn and soybean crops were favored by almost ideal growing weather, although the oats crop was hit by blight in southern counties. The weatherman and the farmer cooperated marvelously as the fall approached and dry weather was needed to mature and harvest the major crops. After a wet spring and summer (unfortunately interspersed with damaging hailstorms in July and August), dry weather permitted farmers to pick corn and complete other harvesting operations with a minimum of delay.

A definite change in the weather became perceptible to most Iowans by mid-September. After September 2 a drought began which robbed parts of the state of the usual autumn scenic beauty, created a fire hazard on many farms, and caused alarm in several communities threatened with serious water shortages. During September only .88 of an inch of rain fell in Iowa, less than one-fourth the usual amount. Many Iowans saw no rain between the beginning of September and November 16, when rains of torrential proportions came. For seventy-five days farm ponds grew smaller, the water level in wells went lower, and over seventy major grass fires threatened wildlife and farm

property. The shortage became so acute in some cities that voluntary water rationing was considered, bonfires were prohibited because of the tinderbox condition of fields and lawns, and newspapers carried accounts of farm machinery and mechanical corn pickers that had been damaged by cornfield fires.

The drought not only created a fire hazard and hence delayed the opening of the pheasant hunting season — it also reversed the favorable trend of the summer weather for the farmer. The lack of moisture parched orchards, delayed plowing and planting, and forced cattlemen to bring water in tank trucks for their stock. Rivers and streams in widely scattered parts of the state reached their lowest stage on record. Much speculation centered around the possibility that freezing weather might come and stay without sufficient moisture in the ground to aid the 1953 crops. Iowans heaved a collective sigh of relief when the November rains came after .02 of an inch of rain in October, the driest ever recorded.

The rains which broke the drought measured up to six inches at Knoxville and Bedford. Snowfall followed, thus indicating that the weather was back to normal in Iowa. The snow was heaviest in the north central area, with seventeen inches recorded at Bancroft. Traffic was disrupted, highway travel made difficult or impossible, and many motorists left stranded in farm homes. Six high-

way and exposure fatalities resulted directly from this drought-breaking series of storms.

After the many gyrations of the barometer in the first eleven months of 1952, Iowans probably should have expected more unusual weather in December. The prevailing sentiment was that cold weather had come, the drought was over, and a normal period of dampness and snow was ahead. No pattern of conformity bound the weather, however, and with a 63° reading at Fort Madison on December 8 it seemed that spring was in the air. A heavy ice storm hit the state on the 19th and convinced Iowans that anti-freeze and a full coal bin were still worth the investment.

When weather bureau statisticians compiled their final report on 1952, "normalcy" among the averages belied the violent day-to-day chartings. The precipitation average was 29.80 inches, only 1.57 inches below the normal amount. Similarly, the average temperature was 49.1° , which was only $.5^{\circ}$ above normal.

Although the weather played many tricks with Iowa in 1952, few of the scars left by Nature's whimsies seemed permanent. Despite the heavy property damage, Iowans were thankful that the loss of life was surprisingly small. Man's harnessing of Nature appeared to be well under way, and Iowans on the western slope were cheered by reports that Fort Randall dam upstream from Sioux City was nearing completion. By using its skills

and talents, America was planning to end at least a part of the threat which had made the memory of 1952 weather unpleasant for thousands of Iowans.

ROBERT RUTLAND

Religion and Education

The little log cabin schoolhouse of yesteryear was an historic relic on Iowa's prairies in 1952. Gone, too, was the hewn log church which had once symbolized the state's religious institutions. Both had gradually given way to more modern structures of stone and brick, glass and steel. As cities and towns grew, their requirements in classrooms and church auditoriums multiplied apace. But even though the outward signs of religious and educational strength had changed, the sustaining spirit of the two forces in Iowa was essentially unaltered.

Iowa's increasing population was reflected during 1952 in both church and school attendance gains. The public school enrollment of 494,542 pupils was a rise of some 20,000 over the figures for a decade earlier. In Keokuk, for instance, 430 youngsters enrolled in kindergarten, while only 425 pupils were registered in the entire three grades of senior high school. These figures presaged a triple enrollment in the high school within ten years' time in normal circumstances, without allowing for an increase of the city's population. Significantly, the new school construction in Iowa seemed to be particularly noticeable for elementary

schools. Among the efforts made by various Iowa communities to solve the problem of consolidation and overcrowded classrooms was the \$460,000 elementary school at Audubon, and a \$528,000 structure at Ankeny which replaced two rural school buildings. In Iowa colleges enrollment was down slightly from the 1951 total, but 29,132 students still trod campuses.

The increase in church membership was encouraging to ministers who had been alarmed by the 1950 census reports of widespread indifference toward organized religious movements. One of the fast-growing denominations in 1952 was the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, which added 2,881 Iowans as new members to its church rolls, bringing the total membership to 90,434.

Equally important were the religious views expressed in Iowa during the year. Seventh-day Adventist campers at Nevada were told that "present events and conditions constitute a positive evidence that the coming of Christ to establish His eternal kingdom is imminent." At their annual convention held in Boone, the Iowa Baptists adopted a resolution urging pastors and churches to lower segregation bars in local churches, state associations, and national conventions. The Iowa Unitarian Association condemned the controversial loyalty oaths as "a canopy of protection for the disloyal to whom perjury is no

deterrent." The Ottumwa Ministerial Association asked newsdealers to remove voluntarily from shelves books and magazines that they themselves "would be ashamed to be seen reading." The State University school of religion celebrated its silver jubilee in May. F. C. Waples, president of the school's trustees, attributed its success to acceptance of the idea that all religious groups can cooperate "on their common meeting grounds."

Varying philosophies of education were voiced in Iowa during 1952. Dr. Samuel N. Stevens, president of Grinnell College, declared that so-called progressive education "in the elementary, intermediate and secondary levels has done more harm than any other single idea ever perpetrated in the body-politic of education." John Dewey, said Stevens, had never intended that his ideas on education should be so perverted as to make "baton twirling, because an individual is interested in it, as important as the study of Latin."

W. F. Johnson of Spencer, president of the Iowa State Education Association, defended progressive education by saying that the public schools still spent most of their time on the three R's. "Ours is a great profession and I hope that the current wave of criticism that engulfs the schools does not weaken your sense of values," Johnson told the state teachers' convention. He urged them to face critics "with the calm that comes from knowing that, while we do not for a

minute presume to be perfect or beyond any criticism, we do know there is much that is right in American education. . . ."

The impact of science on education reached Iowa through various media, the most obvious of which was television. Iowa's third television outlet was being constructed at Sioux City after the Federal Communications Commission ended the "freeze" on television station construction and assigned 59 channels to 38 cities and towns in the Hawkeye State. While there was scattered agitation for the development of a state-supported TV educational network, school officials at Boxholm actually began an in-school viewing program for pupils in the third, fourth, and eleventh grades.

Church and college building continued at a noteworthy pace in Iowa throughout 1952. Members of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Volga aided their building program in a unique way by planting and harvesting eighty acres of corn. The St. Luke's Lutheran congregation at Ricketts solved their housing problem by moving a vacant church from Schleswig, fifteen miles away, and adding a new chancel and pastor's study. Eighteen independent colleges and universities organized during the spring and launched the Iowa College Foundation, to gather funds for "non-tax supported four-year liberal arts colleges of Iowa." The University of Dubuque reported on its cen-

ennial year that \$1,268,027 had been raised in its development fund drive. Parsons College at Fairfield had raised \$285,000 toward a \$360,000 development fund goal, and Drake University's \$1,600,000 drive had brought in \$1,153,000 by September. Iowa State College built a new agronomy building, and the University of Iowa campus was enriched with the addition of the Danforth Memorial Chapel.

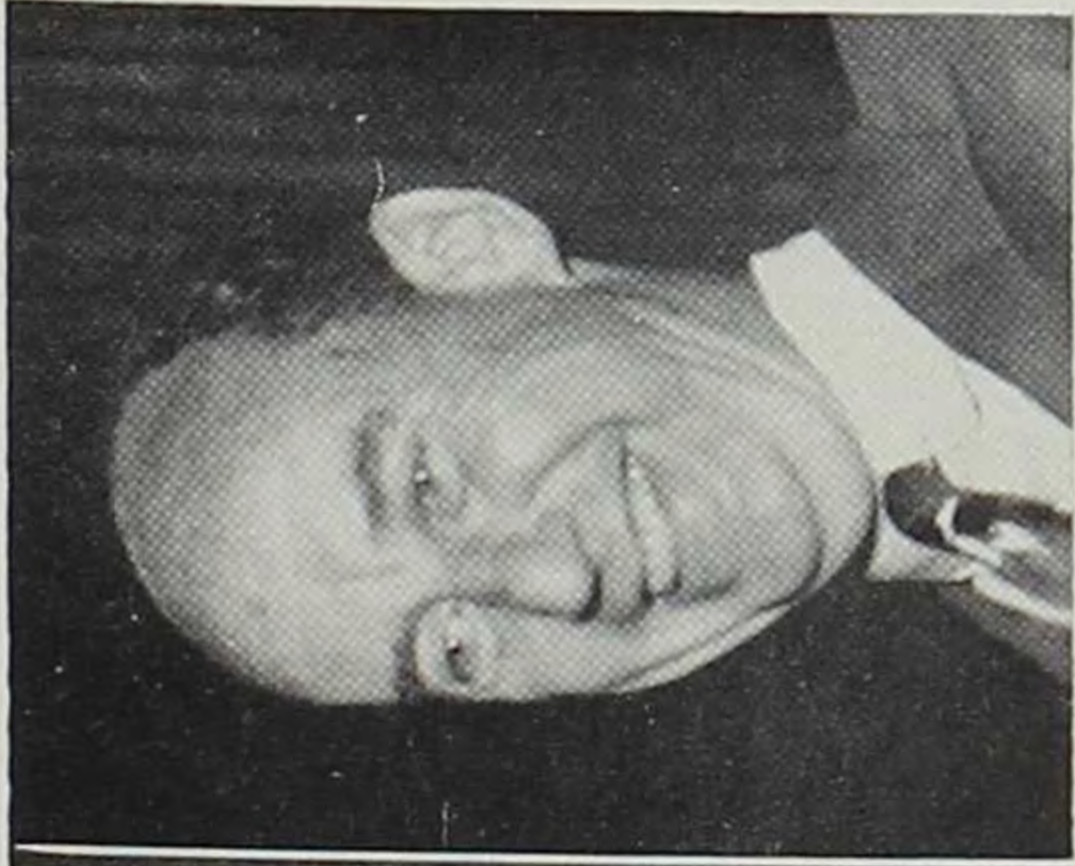
College campuses provided their usual variety of news items. Ralph Neppel, a double amputee veteran who wore the Congressional Medal of Honor, walked to the commencement at Buena Vista College for his degree. Sixty members of the University of Iowa famous Highlander band went to Europe on a good-will tour that ended in Scotland, where the coeds were received with enthusiasm. Several hundred male students at the State University held a "panty raid" on a girls' dormitory seeking lingerie souvenirs. Fourteen of the students were placed on probation, and the Des Moines *Register* commented: "Just wait until they settle down to married life and find the towel racks, bathtub, medicine cabinet, and every other available spot in their bathrooms *loaded* with panties, stockings, brassieres, slips — and goodness knows what else!"

More purposeful was the rocket research project at the State University, which sent twelve-foot missiles forty miles into the skies over Greenland

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



Republican
DWIGHT EISENHOWER



Democrat
ADLAI STEVENSON

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGNERS



RICHARD NIXON

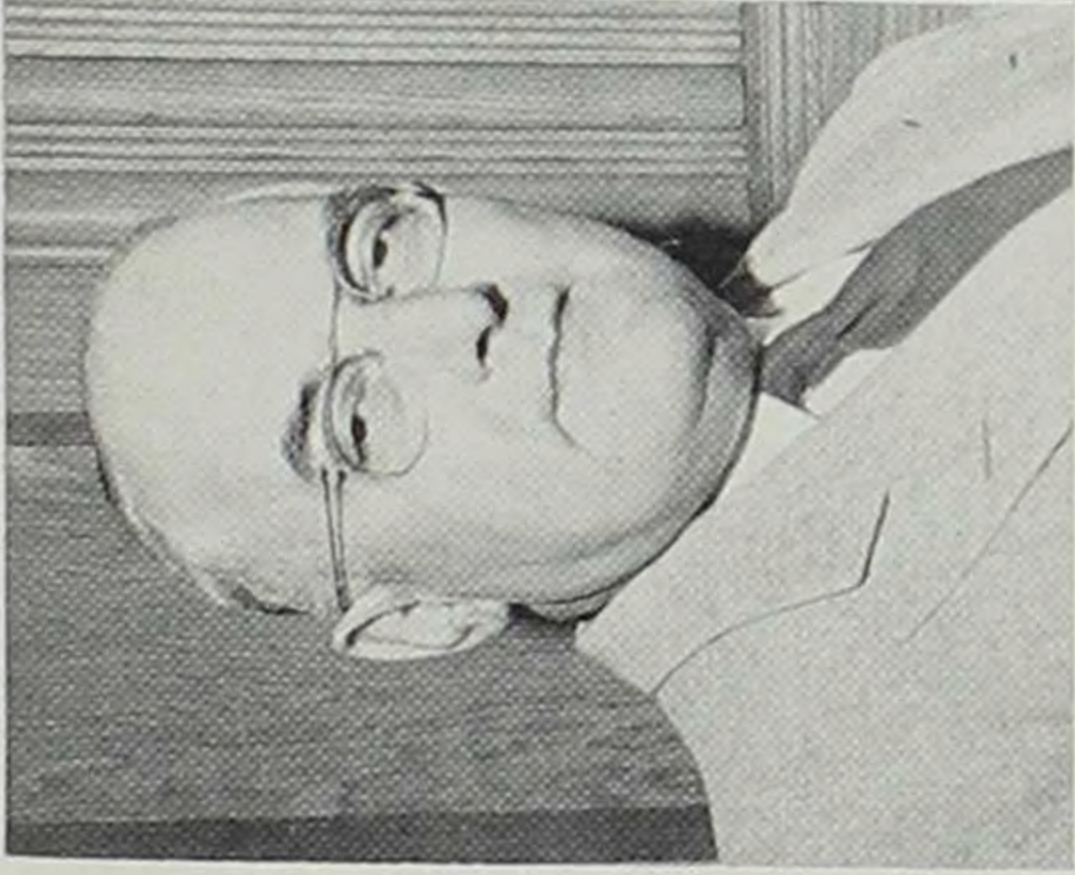


ROBERT TAFT



EARL WARREN

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES



Republican
WILLIAM S. BEARDSLEY

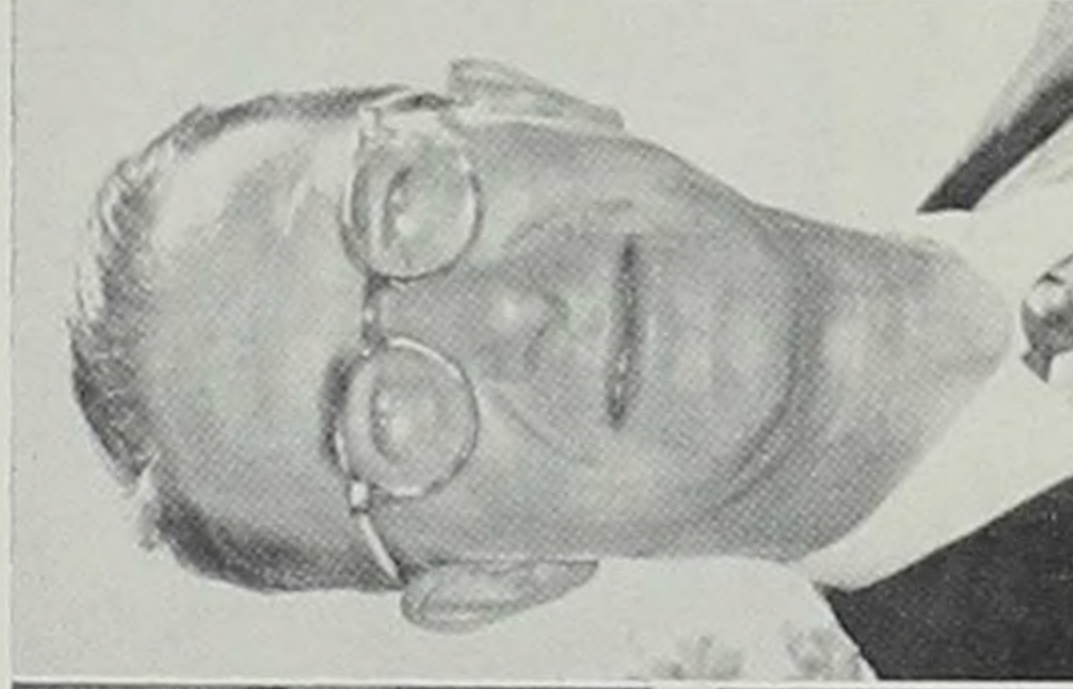


Democrat
HERSCHEL LOVELESS

DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGNERS



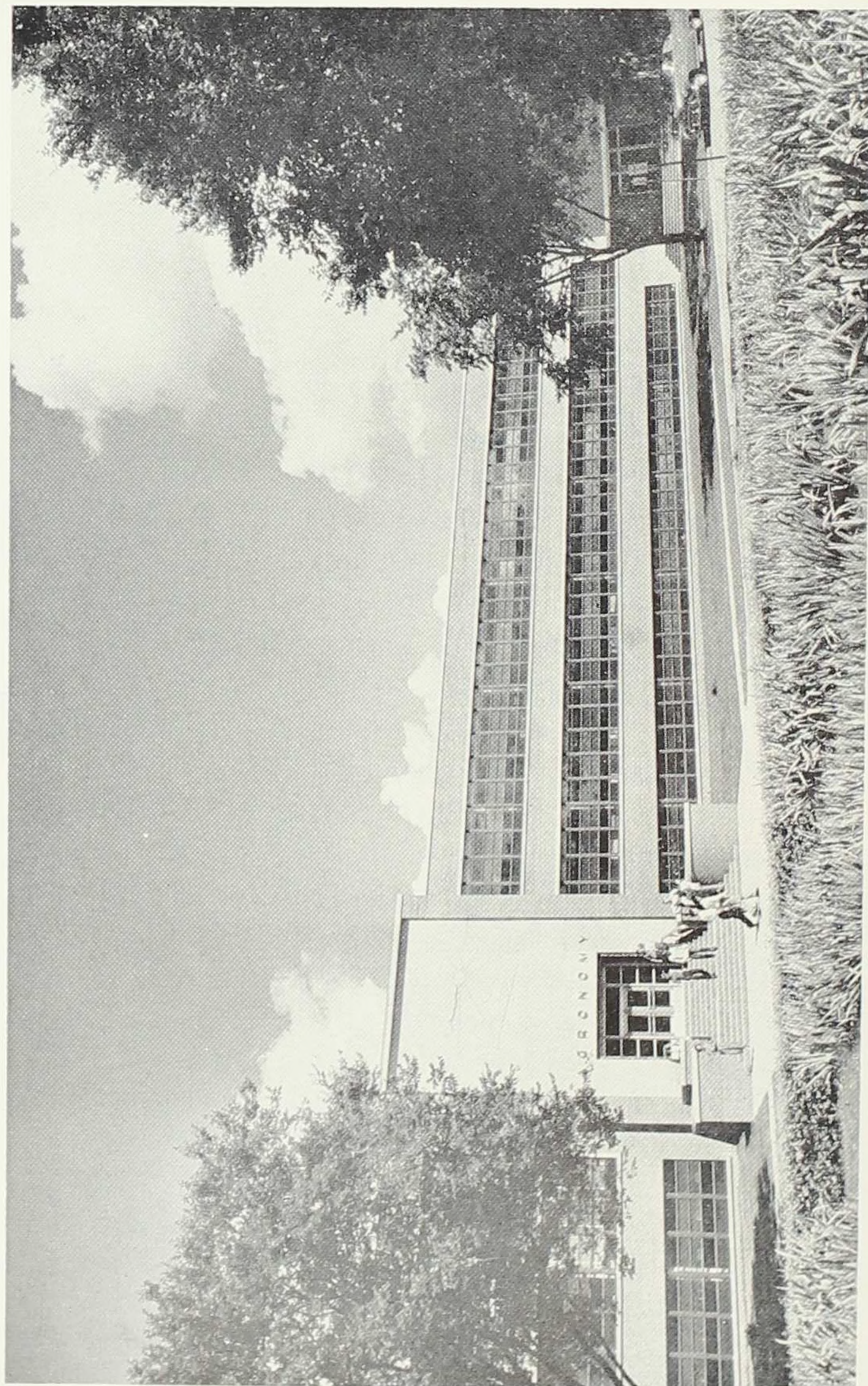
HARRY TRUMAN



ESTES KEFAUVER



AVERELL HARRIMAN



THE NEW AGRONOMY BUILDING AT IOWA STATE COLLEGE

on a navy-sponsored cosmic ray study program. At Iowa State College, a research program was aimed at the reclamation of idle strip coal lands, in the southern part of the state.

Three new college presidents and a bishop were named in Iowa during 1952. Dr. James H. Hilton was chosen to succeed Dr. Charles E. Friley at Iowa State College; Dr. Eugene Garbee was inaugurated as president of Upper Iowa University; and Dr. William E. Kerstetter became president of Simpson College. Bishop F. Gerald Ensley succeeded Methodist Bishop Charles Brashares.

Late in September the Rev. F. L. Hanscom, pastor at Nashua's "Little Brown Church" for over twelve years, retired after having united nearly 10,000 couples in marriage. At Council Bluffs the ministerial association criticized the county board of supervisors for permitting the use of courthouse office space for civil marriage ceremonies, and hinted that some solicitation of business had been involved. Justice of the Peace Frank Larsen said he had married over 3,000 couples during his fourteen years in office, but added that he had never sought any business from would-be brides and grooms. Patrick Norton, sixty-nine years old and the father of fourteen children, was a long way from his Dubuque newsstand when he was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in Rome. Earl G. Johnson, a Harlan businessman for twenty years, entered the Episcopalian ministry.

Interdenominational services were held throughout Iowa in the fall to celebrate publication of the revised standard version of the Bible. Guttenberg used a local postal cachet to share some of the glory shed when the post office department issued a stamp commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Bible printed by Johann Gutenberg.

Interest in Iowa's public libraries did not lag in 1952. At Keota construction work was scheduled on a memorial library made possible by a bequest from the late R. O. Wilson. Two Washington citizens left money to construct handsome \$100,000 wings on the city library. The American Library Association's public libraries division chose the works of two Iowans for its "Notable Books of 1952." The selections were volumes 2 and 3 of Herbert Hoover's *Memoirs*, and Joseph Kinsey Howard's *Strange Empire*. The Drake Library at Centerville celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in November, and the Des Moines public library found its first bookmobile so popular that a second traveling branch was placed in operation.

No single incident occurring in Iowa in 1952 could be pointed out as the most important event in either religion or education. But typical of the spirit of 1952 Iowa was the dispatch of 200 Iowa pigs in an air transport bound for Korea. The animals, all registered breeding stock, were to be used in improving the quality of swine in the war-torn Asiatic republic. They were purchased by

the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Christian Rural Overseas Program — CROP — an interdenominational organization. The gift symbolized a prayer that was in the hearts of many Iowans: a thankfulness for the abundant blessings of this land, and a desire to share these God-given benefits with other men.

ROBERT RUTLAND

Agriculture and Industry

Iowa's corn crop was better than knee-high on July 4, 1952. Prospects were so favorable that farm experts were predicting that the record crop of 1948 would be exceeded, producing Iowa's first billion-dollar corn year. Such glowing prospects overshadowed other chapters in the story of Iowa agriculture. For agrarian Iowa, the corn production totals (and the market price of corn) are the best barometer of both farm and business conditions. Thus the 685,736,000 bushels harvested during 1952 spelled continued prosperity for Iowans generally.

Corn prices held up well during the year, due in part to the comparatively poor 1951 crop. March corn brought $\$1.91\frac{1}{4}$ as the year opened, and sold for $\$1.64\frac{7}{8}$ twelve months later. Hog prices, which had slumped from record highs, rallied in December and closed at Sioux City's stockyards with a $\$18.75$ top. On the other hand, cattle prices declined late in 1952. Good steers brought $\$37.00$ in January, and only $\$34.75$ in December. The old law of supply and demand was at work again, as statistics showed that the spring pig crop in Iowa had declined 8 per cent, while the beef-producing population increased.

Despite the record corn crop, the total farm income for Iowa was down in 1952 to \$2,328,845,000 as farm prices dropped to their lowest level since the Korean war began. Lower hog prices accounted for much of the decrease. The latest figures released by the Bureau of the Census ranked 14 Iowa counties among the top 100 in the United States, based on the dollar value of products in 1949. Pottawattamie County was Iowa's leader with a \$37,400,000 income, but ranked only 33rd in the nation. Iowa trailed California and Illinois in the total number of counties among the ranking 100. In corn production, however, Iowa was first and had 35 counties out of 100, with Illinois second on the basis of 23 counties.

The bumper corn crop came in spite of a decrease in the acreage planted and the damaging Missouri River floods. The muddy waters covered 326,000 acres in western Iowa at one time, causing farmers to evacuate hundreds of farms and start all over again after the floods had receded. Determination, hard work, and favorable weather after the April floods permitted farmers to harvest crops in fields that had been ten feet under water during the early spring. Farm leaders estimated that 85 per cent of the flooded land had gone back into production. Government funds helped many of these farmers by paying the cost of clearing debris, replacing fences, and repairing drainage systems with relief allocations.

A census of Iowa livestock in 1952 showed that Hereford cattle were preferred by state farmers over other breeds. Slightly more than 20 per cent of all beef cattle were Herefords, 12.5 per cent were Aberdeen Angus, and 10.7 were Shorthorns. The dairy cattle census indicated a heavy preference for Holsteins, with Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Jersey, and crossbreeds making up the other 80 per cent.

Faye Mugge, a teen-age farm girl from Cleg-horn, made a grand sweep of livestock show honors in 1952. She won the Iowa State Fair championship, the 4-H grand championship at the Kansas City Royal Show, and the junior grand championship at the Chicago International Live Stock Exposition with her Angus steer, Shorty. The 1,040-pound animal was sold in Chicago for \$1.50 a pound. Bandolier 170th of Wilton, an Angus bull owned by Otto G. Nobis of Davenport, won the reserve senior Angus champion ribbon at the National Western Stock Show. Young Robert Schmidt of Delmar won the International reserve champion Angus honors with his steer, Black Magic, and the International reserve champion Hampshire ewe was exhibited by Roy B. Warrick of Oskaloosa. In a sale at Indianola a purebred Hereford bull, Baca Duke 1st, brought \$51,000. A two-year-old bull, Barington Imperial, won the senior and reserve grand championships in the national milking Shorthorn show at the Waterloo

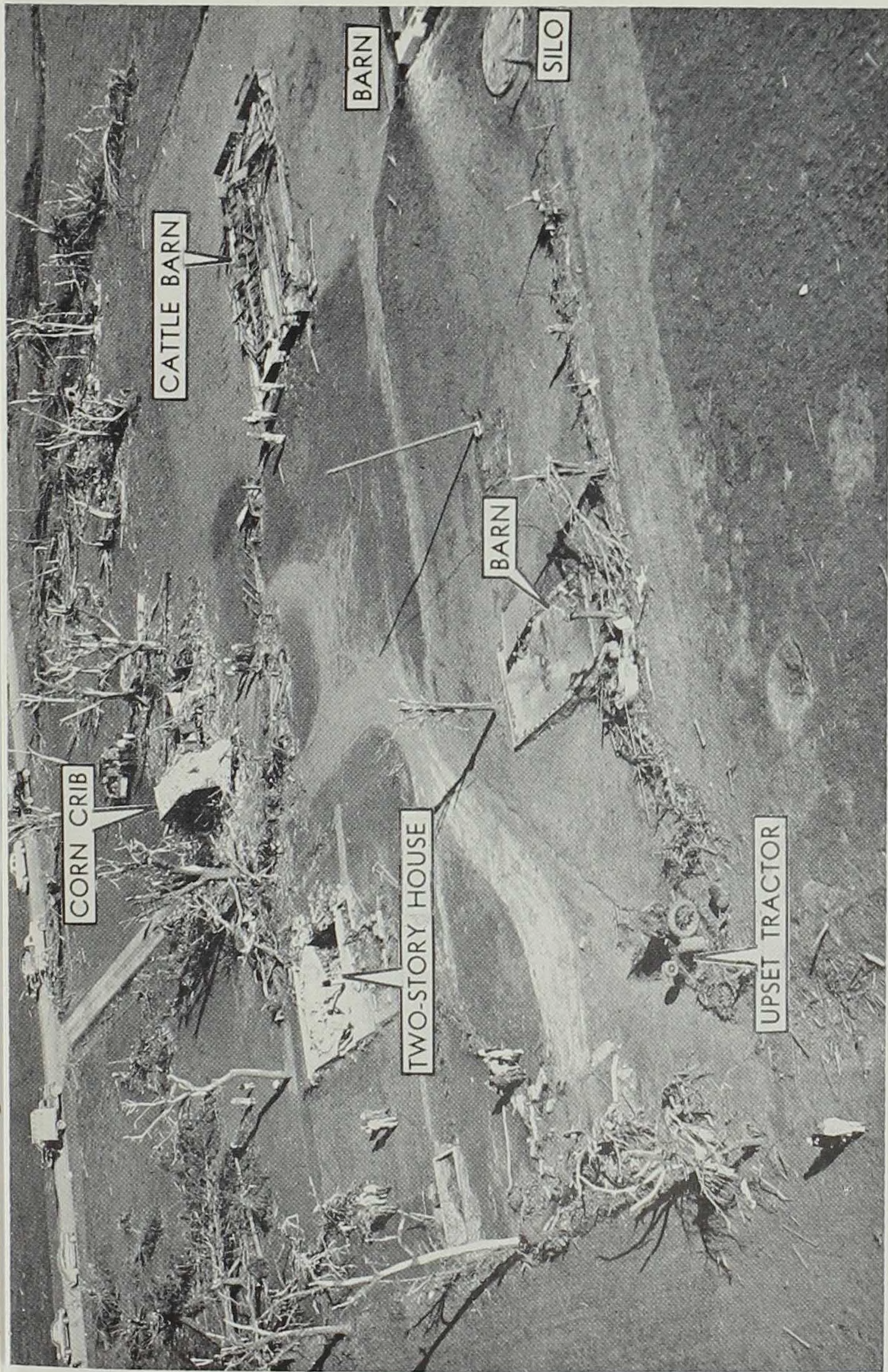
Dairy Cattle Congress for owner George W. Haines of Walker.

In addition to the warning sign to agriculture posted by the decline in total farm income, there was the checked spiral in Iowa farm land values. Professor W. G. Murray of Iowa State College reported that the average price for land and buildings in Iowa dropped from \$212 in 1951 to \$209 per acre. "Sales activity was decidedly less than in 1951 in all areas of Iowa," he added. Farms still brought much more than the \$88 per acre average of 1941, however. Near New London a 160-acre farm sold for \$81,500, and another 160-acre farm at Holstein brought \$423 per acre. Besides the ever menacing price situation, the Iowa farmer faced a growing threat to his well-being from another quarter. Statisticians concluded that the alarming rate of corn picker accidents was a major source of concern. They found that a fifteen-foot swath of corn across Iowa from Burlington to Sioux City could have been purchased with the money spent for doctor and hospital bills because of a year's accidents. These figures did not include a tabulation of the suffering and life-time handicaps caused by the accidents.

Iowa industry, often in alliance with agriculture, kept the pace which has accounted for a revolutionary growth in a ten-year span. The Iowa Development Commission reported that 820 new industries had come to the state since 1945. Pay-

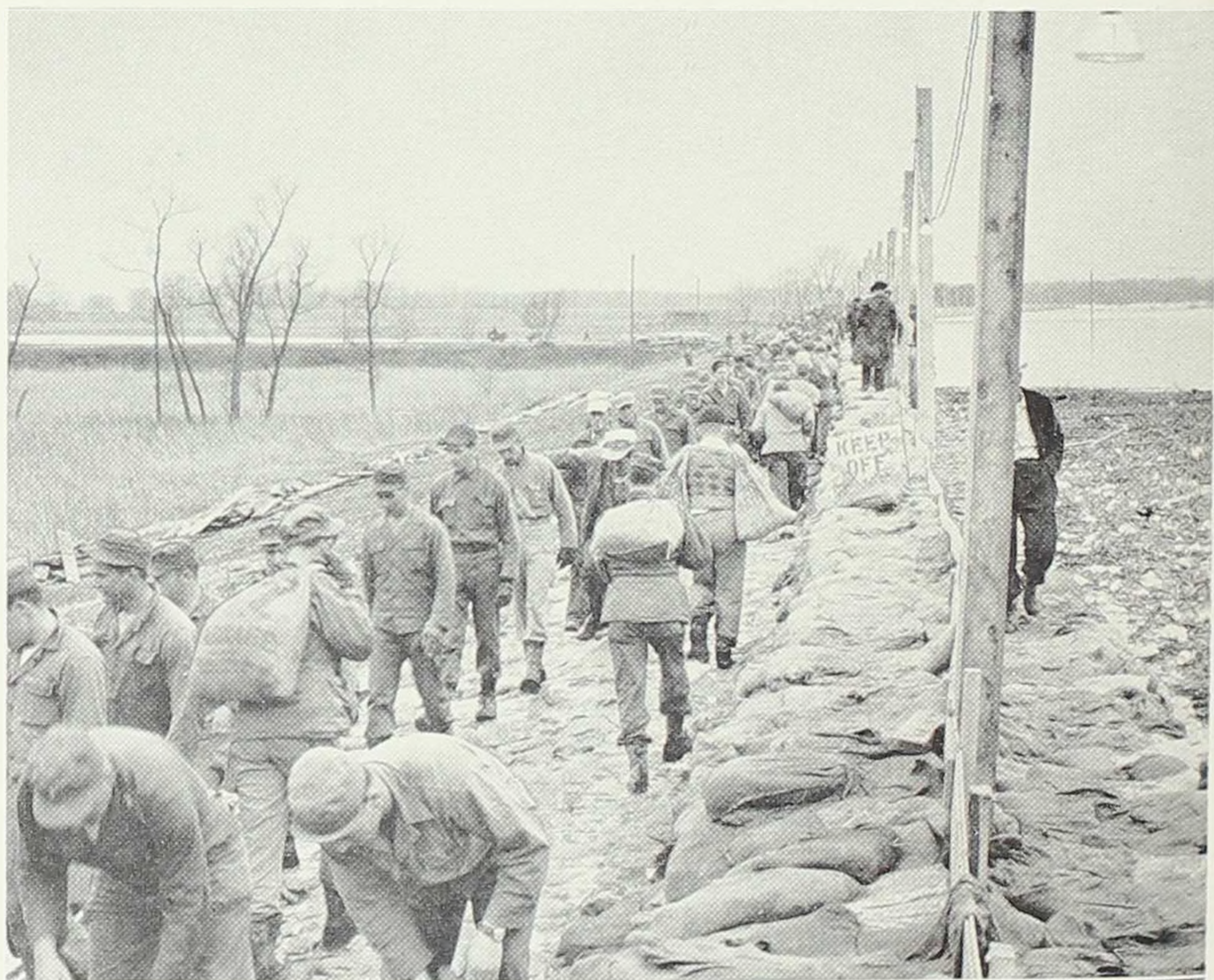
rolls to Iowa's 169,000 factory workers had risen from \$327,000,000 in 1947 to over \$600,000,000 in 1952. The new industries represented a half billion dollars in plant and equipment investments, and the number was increasing at the rate of one new concern each week. The 1952 non-agricultural employment averaged 640,000 workers, and unemployment in Iowa was at an all-time low. The Iowa Employment Security Commission paid \$4,030,157 for unemployment compensation, which called for a .4 per cent unemployment insurance contribution rate from employers, the lowest in the nation.

No signs of a let-up in Iowa's industrial expansion appeared to cloud the horizon. Camanche hummed with excitement after the March announcement that a \$66,000,000 steel mill would be built near there, with production scheduled to begin in 1953. Eight major electric companies announced the launching of a construction project in Iowa that would add 1,259 miles of 161,000-volt lines to the 356 then in operation. The initial cost would be \$38,000,000, but by 1965 the project was expected to cost \$268,000,000. At Fort Madison the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Company swung open the doors of a new \$3,300,000 plant. Continuing the trend noted in 1951, business and commercial construction declined 27 per cent, but residential housing increased over 4 per cent, and for the first time in history there were 500,000 home owners.



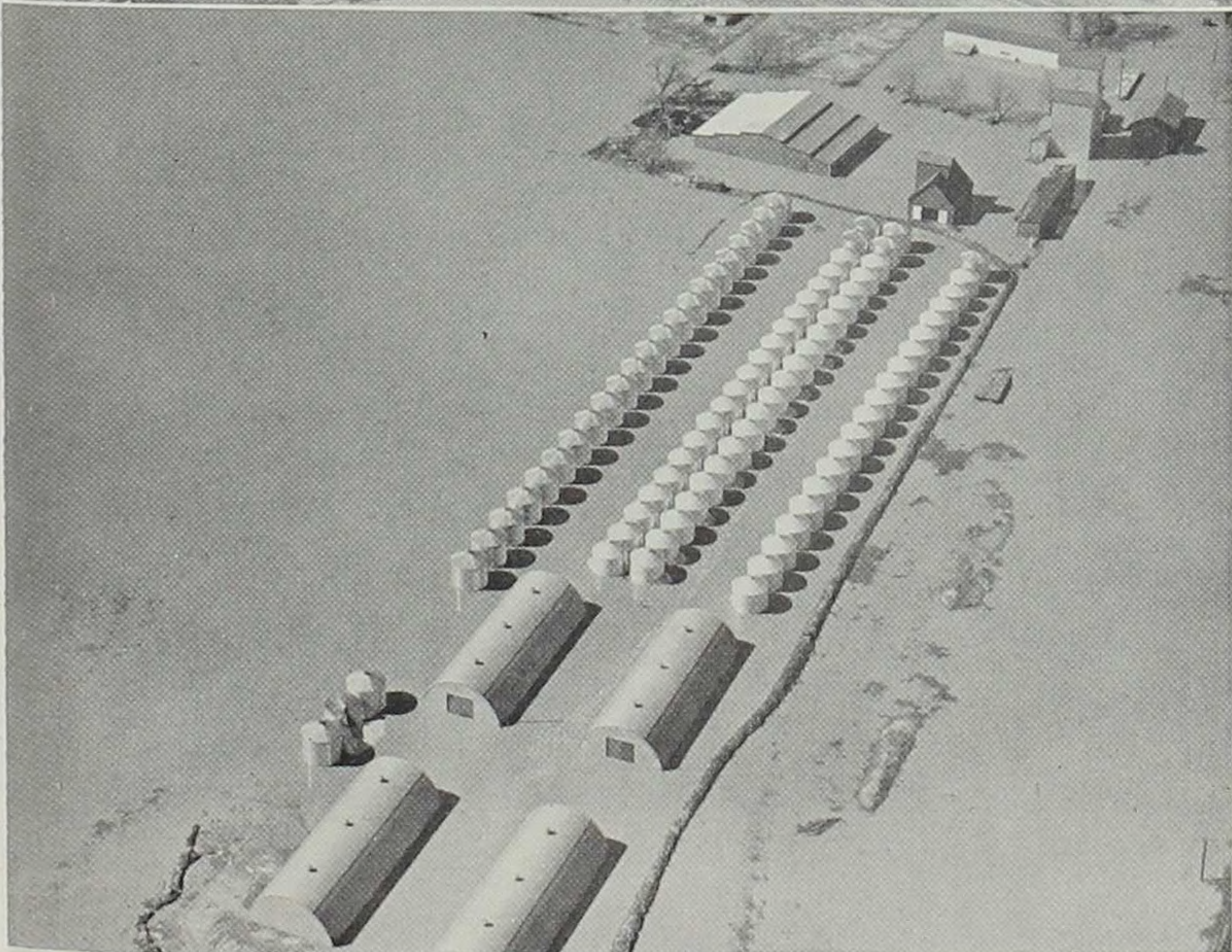
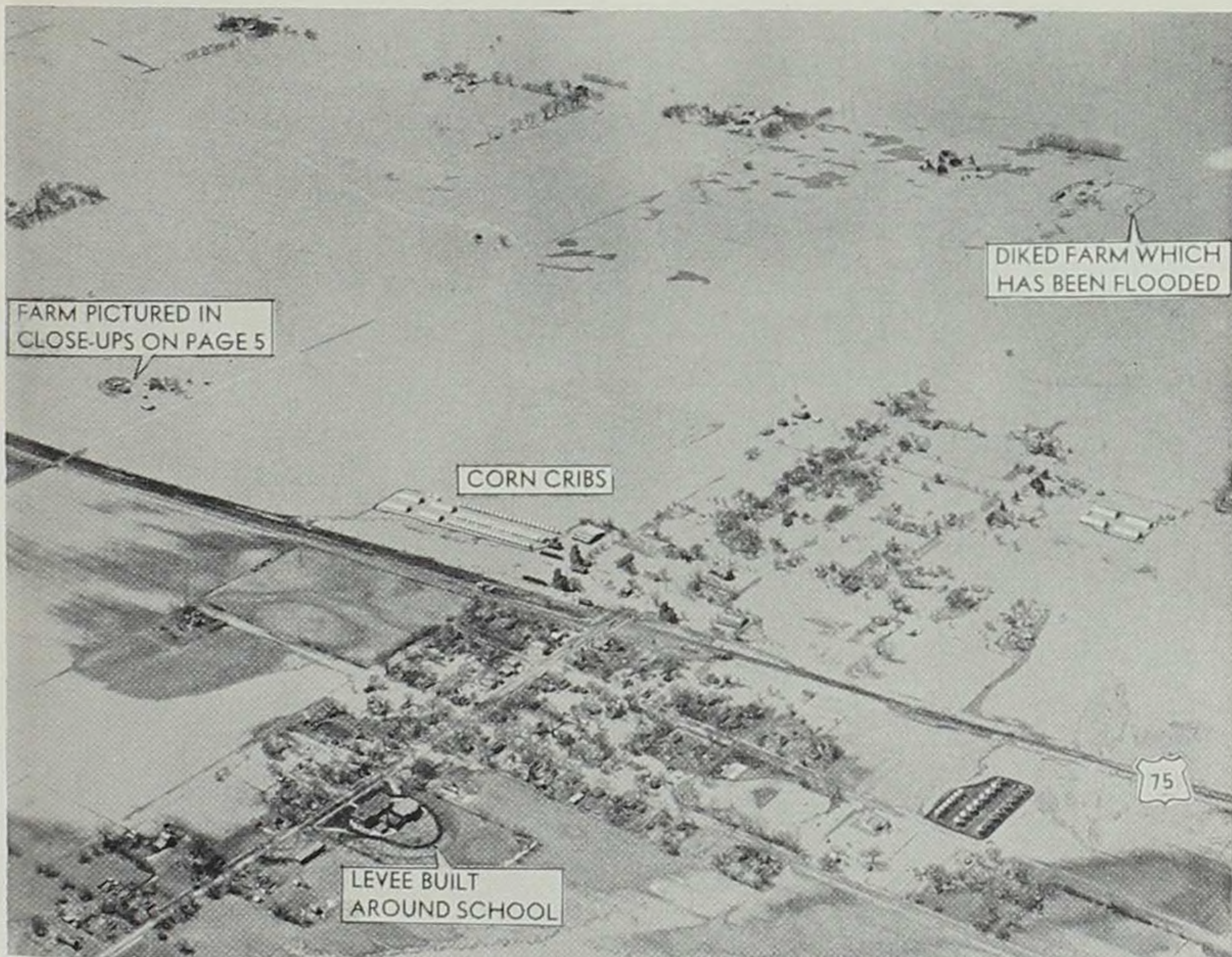
A Tornado Near Buck Grove Community Leveled the Ole Niehuis Farm.
The Family Fortunately Left Shortly Before the Twister Struck.

THE RAMPAGING MISSOURI



*Top — Fighting the Missouri with Sandbags Near Council Bluffs
Bottom — Emergency Station in Council Bluffs Gymnasium*

FLOODS OF 1952



*Top — Blencoe in Monona County Surrounded by Missouri
Bottom — Earthen Dikes Around Grain Storage Bins Failed at Blencoe*



TELEVISION MOVED INTO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Retail sales totaled more than \$3,000,000,000 in Iowa. The value of Iowa factory products also reached \$3,000,000,000, but there was no direct relation between the figures. Farm machinery accounted for a large share of the factory sales, with much of it sent to surrounding states and even abroad. Other signs that 1952 was a bumper business year included the \$179,216,378 state tax income. State Treasurer M. L. Abrahamson reported the total was four million dollars more than the 1951 income, and came from thirteen special taxes and the state liquor store profits. Demand deposits in banks were almost unchanged over the 1951 figure, but time deposits increased 7.3 per cent. Department store sales declined 2.8 per cent, but appliance stores did a booming business with a 10.1 per cent increase, doubtless aided by the sale of new television sets for thousands of Iowa homes.

One price Iowa paid for her growing industrial strength was a number of labor-management difficulties. The Davenport *Times* managed to publish a small afternoon edition, when printers in the Quad Cities area went on strike, by pooling resources with Rock Island and Moline newspapers. The dispute centered around the use of teletypesetter machines which would set type automatically. A walkout at Morrell's packing plant in Ottumwa ended after the company announced that it would not bargain with union officials for

a settlement until the plant was back in operation. A federal court jury awarded \$66,722.53 in damages to the Oliver Corporation from the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers for work stoppages at the firm's farm machinery plant at Charles City.

Iowa's farmers demonstrated their willingness to cooperate with each other and help a neighbor in need again in 1952. Thus, when W. F. Stefel lost his farm home in a \$5,000 blaze, the day after it had been remodeled, 150 friends and members of the Grimes Lion's Club rebuilt the place. Again, Winnebago County celebrated the start of its new telephone cooperative that took over 44 mutual companies in that area, established a uniform \$24 per year rate, and rebuilt 540 miles of lines. "The Telephone and the Farmer," a new government-produced color motion picture with Winnebago countians in the cast, helped spark the celebration. In Adair County a 4-H Community Center was erected in one week by volunteer laborers, ranging from a seventy-nine-year-old grandfather to grade school youngsters.

Old products and ways of doing business got a boost before 1952 departed. Sorghum syrup, which Iowa farmers used experimentally during the Civil War, was returning to prairie farmsteads. Iowa led the nation in 1952 production with 380,000 gallons. Popcorn, which has come into its own right as an asset to American movie

theaters, attracted Iowa planters, and the 1952 crop of 38,250,000 pounds almost doubled the previous year's total. And freight hauling on the Mississippi was bustling. After the upstream tows locked through Davenport on March 5, one of the earliest dates on record, Colonel G. A. Finley of the army engineers predicted $5\frac{1}{2}$ million tons would pass through Dam No. 15 before the ice returned.

For all the cares of 1952, and they were many, Iowa farmers, industrial captains, and businessmen found no great cause for complaint with their fortunes during the year. Strangely enough, although farm income had dropped, the federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported that Iowa's farm standard of living had increased to 177 on the index, 55 points above the national average. This meant—in tangible terms—more new farm homes, electricity and modern plumbing, new automobiles, appliances, and more leisure for the family generally. Industrial wages were up to an average of \$66.39 a week, which also meant better living for the city dweller. Loans were harder to make, and installment buying seemed unusually high, but the corn cribs were full and the back orders in factories offset the few economic blemishes on an otherwise encouraging picture.

ROBERT RUTLAND

The Political Scene

Presidential politics has long constituted the great American game, and Iowa has been an eager participant since 1848. The preliminaries come in the early speculation; the party conventions are the warm-up; and the heated fall campaign is the grand climax to four years of gossip, planning, handshaking, and tireless work. The final results of the 1952 campaign were approved by the majority of Iowa's electorate. Before the outcome was known, however, Hawkeye State voters shared the best opportunity Americans had ever had to evaluate the candidates who courted their ballots. The big difference that marked the 1952 elections from earlier campaigns was television.

Through the media of television many Iowans watched the pre-convention fights for delegations, were vicariously jostled on the convention floor by lengthy demonstrations for various candidates, and finally sat in on the acceptance speeches of the nominees. The main arena was in Chicago, but the housewife in West Liberty shared a view of General Eisenhower's facial expressions at the same moment with the convention delegates. When Adlai Stevenson waved his acceptance to the cheering mob at Chicago, the farmer from

Stanhope was able to see the Illinois governor more clearly than many thousands in the convention hall. No accurate gauge of the effect of television on the final voting is possible, but it is certain that more people actually saw the candidates and more Iowa citizens voted in 1952 than ever before.

Early in January a group of Iowa Republican supporters of General Eisenhower announced their plan to organize and seek convention support for their candidate. Governor William S. Beardsley had been on record as an Eisenhower backer for many months. Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio was an avowed candidate for the Republican nomination, while the general's political intentions were still in doubt. Convinced that Eisenhower was available for the campaign, however, his supporters continued to garner sentiment for a convention victory. After strong showings in several state preferential primaries, Eisenhower resigned his post as supreme commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, came home to Abilene, Kansas, and entered the campaign "for keeps."

Iowa Democrats shared the quandary of other party members after President Truman announced that he was not a candidate for re-election. Many county chairmen refused to believe that the President would turn down a convention draft, and insisted that Truman was their choice for the presi-

dential bid late in March. Meanwhile, Senator Estes Kefauver showed signs of becoming a serious contender for the Democratic nomination. Governor Stevenson repeatedly told reporters he did not want the nomination, although he left the door open for a "call from the people."

With the political stage thus set, Iowa Republicans held their convention to choose national delegates early in April. Many party regulars of long standing rallied behind the Taft standard, but Eisenhower supporters cited poll results as evidence that their man was "the only Republican who can win in November." After much heated argument, the party named fifteen Eisenhower and nine Taft delegates to the national convention. State Democrats displayed no tendency to place themselves on record for any candidate when they met late in May. Senator Guy Gillette had some "favorite son" support, but the convention favored an uninstructed delegation for the Chicago meeting. The result of their decision was a series of trips to Iowa by most of the avowed candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination.

After hearing the opening-day speeches at the Republican convention in Chicago, it was obvious to most voters that the long tenure of the Democratic party, "the mess in Washington," and "creeping socialism" would become important issues in the days ahead. General Eisenhower and

his wife, a native of Boone, had visited her home town en route to the convention, and 12,000 Iowans roared their approval of the wartime hero. The same enthusiasm swept through the convention in Chicago. Senator Taft was the only real opposition, despite the insistence of a Norfolk, Virginia, gentleman that he was heading a movement to draft Hanford MacNider of Mason City as the party's standard-bearer. Eisenhower raced to a victory on the first ballot, but six Taft delegates from Iowa stayed with their man to the end. General Eisenhower accepted the nomination, promised his party a "crusade," and began mapping his strategy for the November voting.

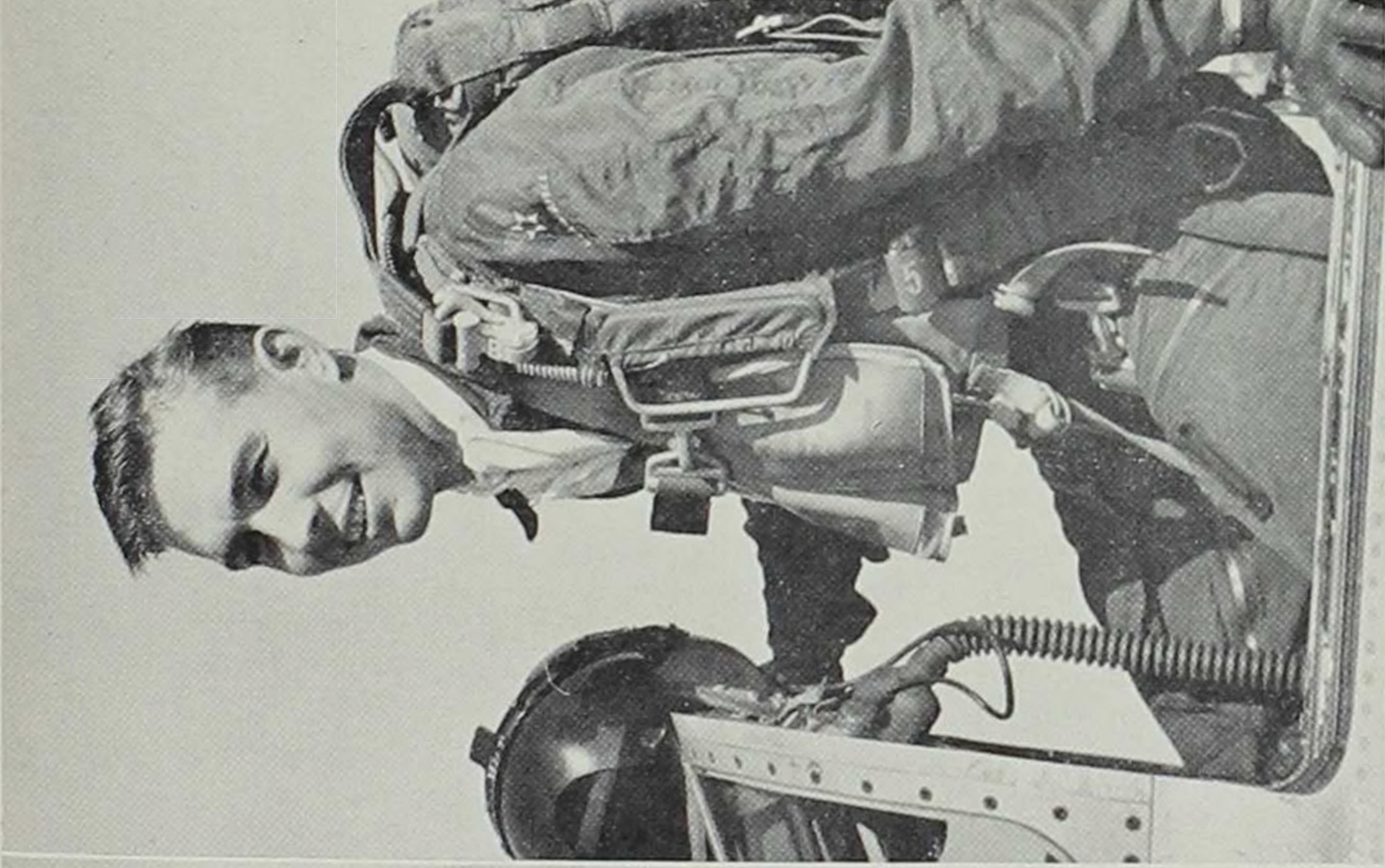
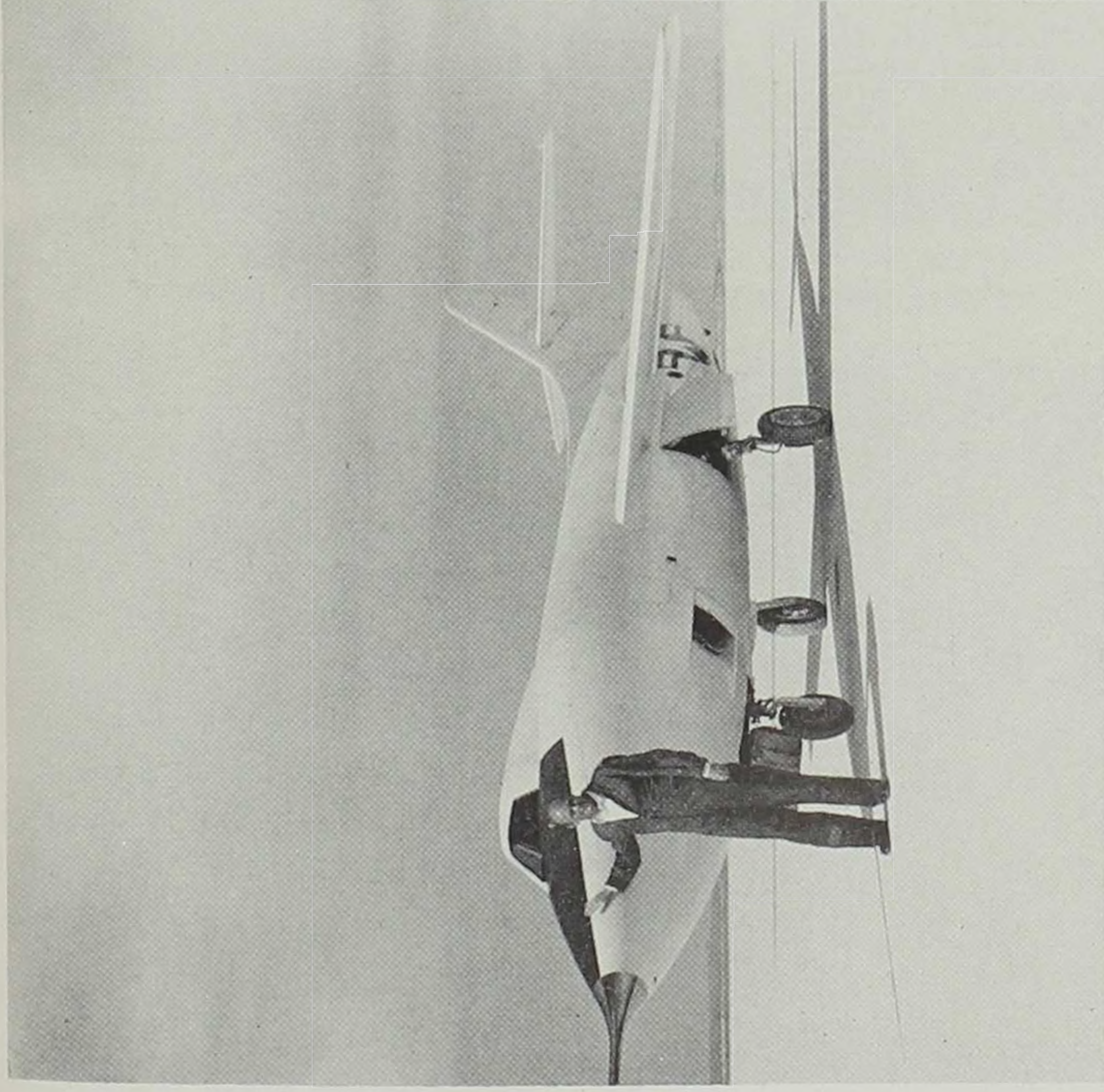
Iowa Democrats were divided when they followed their opponents into the International Amphitheater at Chicago two weeks after the Republicans had left. Both Stevenson and Kefauver held strong appeal to eighteen of the twenty-six Iowa delegates. Senator Richard Russell, Senator Robert S. Kerr, and Vice President Alben Barkley shared the other eight. On the decisive third ballot, ten Iowans cast their votes for Stevenson, eight went along with Kefauver. The convention chose Stevenson over his declared protest, but he accepted the nomination as President Truman stood by his side. For the Democrats, the main issue seemed to be the continuance of prosperity as opposed to the "specter of depression."

Campaign whistle-stop tours were mapped by

both parties, and Iowa voters soon found themselves courted by some of the most prominent Americans of the day. An estimated 90,000 Iowans stood in railroad yards to hear Eisenhower as he sped across the state promising to replace the Fair Deal with "an honest deal." Stevenson, who had once owned a 320-acre farm near Hornick, came to Fort Dodge and accused the general of "jumping on our [farm plank] right in broad daylight." Henry A. Wallace, a native Iowan who was an old hand at politics, visited Des Moines in September and declared that he saw little difference between the presidential candidates. A poll of Iowa voters indicated more discernment on their part, as a majority expressed a preference for "Ike" over the Illinois governor. Meanwhile, Stevenson named Stephen A. Mitchell, a native of Rock Valley, as chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

When Democratic speakers in Iowa hammered on the farm issue the Republicans fought back. Senator Richard Nixon, who was chosen as Eisenhower's running mate, told a Sioux City audience the Democrats were waging "a campaign of fear" among Iowa farmers. President Truman, convinced of the salutary effects of his 1948 speech at Dexter, missed a meeting with Senator Taft at Shenandoah as both men appealed for votes there on Pancake Day. The President later returned to Iowa for a whistle-stop tour with his

IOWA'S SONS MADE AVIATION HISTORY



Left — Ottumwa-born Bill Bridgeman Flew 1238 M.P.H. in Douglas Skyrocket.

Right — Lieut. Harold E. Fischer, Jr., Swea City Jet Pilot — He Shot Down Two MIG-15s and Damaged Another in Korea.



Mariam Brown of Grundy Center and Sgt. Raymond G. Larr
There Was Nationwide Interest in Their Pen-Pal Romance



Left — Olympic Wrestling Champion Bill Smith of Iowa State Teachers College

Right — Actress Donna Reed Vacationed with Her Parents at Denison

daughter, Margaret, and at Manly thanked the crowd for coming to see "the man who is running the campaign for president." The GOP "truth squad" which was following the Truman train jumped on this statement by declaring it was proof that Governor Stevenson was the "captive candidate" of the President.

Jasper County gained national prominence when a staff of pollsters invaded the area. The poll-takers labelled it a "test-tube county" because it had picked the winner in every presidential election since 1896. The findings of the poll, which *Look* magazine published, showed that Eisenhower was winning in Jasper County. Perhaps "Jasper County" was to replace "Maine" in the old saying, "As Maine goes, so goes the nation."

In 1952 the poll-takers and Jasper County were right. The Korean war became a vital factor in the campaign late in October when Eisenhower promised to visit that tragic battleground if elected. His campaign was invigorated by public response to this announcement. A record turnout of voters, brought on by an intensive publicity effort by civic organizations, crowded polling places on November 4. The first Iowa returns gave Eisenhower a commanding lead. By 11 p.m. a national landslide for the general was in prospect.

The surprising factor in the 1952 Iowa election returns was the size of Eisenhower's plurality. Many observers had conceded Iowa to the Repub-

lican candidate, but some disaffection among the traditional farm vote had been expected. But Democratic allusions to prosperity and their campaign chant of "don't let them take it away" had been drowned in an avalanche of protest votes over Korea, the steadily rising national debt, the unbalanced budget, and the exposure of official corruption. Eisenhower received 808,906 votes in Iowa, the most ever given to any presidential candidate. The general carried all of the state's 99 counties and had 64 per cent of the total vote.

While Iowans were following the national campaign with interest, a formidable contest had developed in the state primaries. Governor Beardsley sought re-election for a third term against opposition from Kenneth A. Evans and William H. Nicholas. The eight incumbent Iowa Congressmen, all Republicans, also asked voters to return them to Washington. Otha Wearin, a former Congressman, was expected to win the Democratic gubernatorial nomination from Mayor Herschel Loveless of Ottumwa without difficulty. Attention was centered on these races, although the major state offices and many state legislative posts were also at stake. When the spring primary returns had been counted, the Iowa voter had shown a strong preference for most of the men already in office. Beardsley and his fellow incumbents in the state capitol were all renominated, along with the eight Congressmen. The

only surprise in the balloting came in the Democratic primary where Loveless triumphed over the experienced Wearin. The Republican nomination for the lieutenant-governor's position was not settled in the regular balloting because of the close vote. State Senator A. L. Doud of Douds had 83,698 votes, and State Senator Leo Elthon of Fertile had 82,433, which meant that neither had the necessary clear majority. A later GOP state convention decided the contest in favor of Elthon.

Iowa's century of loyalty to the Republican party caused many minor state offices to fall into GOP hands without a contest from their opponents. Outside of the race between Beardsley and Loveless for the governor's post, the only statewide contest of great interest pitted incumbent Republican Clyde Spry, Secretary of Agriculture, against Democrat Lester Gillette. Loveless campaigned on a platform calling for better highways, local option on sale of liquor by the drink, colored oleomargarine, and removal of the sales tax on food. Governor Beardsley stood on his record and asked for votes to continue a frugal administration in office. Both Loveless and Beardsley supporters charged the other camp with "mud slinging" in the late stages of the campaign, but such charges were not unusual — and indeed, seem to be expected around October 15 of election years.

Republicans captured every state office without difficulty, and only a handful of Democrats was

elected to serve in the state legislature. The only close vote in the state elections came in the gubernatorial contest, where returns from 690 precincts gave Governor Beardsley a mere 350-vote margin out of 293,426 ballots. Beardsley steadily increased his lead, however, and finally defeated Loveless by approximately 50,000 votes.

As a result of the November 4 events Iowans could look forward to a thoroughly Republican administration for at least two years, and possibly for four or more. The Democrats had been routed by the voters' explicit demand for a national "housecleaning," but Iowans appeared to be quite content with the political status quo in their home state. Indeed, all the mechanism was set in order for a new era of good feeling in Iowa politics.

ROBERT RUTLAND

The Web of Life

To some people Iowa is a land of corn and pigs. To others it is rolling acres from a Grant Wood painting, and a place where church steeples rise above massive trees in a hundred different towns and cities. Iowa is also a way of life. Within her borders New England conservatism and a southern aversion toward hurrying have been fused into a remarkable blend which the rest of America labels as a particular species of *Americanus midwesternia*. For all his dependence on agriculture and despite the lack of big city allurements, the Iowan in 1952 believed himself to be remarkably well off. Some of the uncertainties of living on the land had been cushioned by government aid. The marvels of science made the cultural contacts of the largest metropolis only the touch of a switch away. Over a decade of prosperity had contributed to growing bank accounts, to a better life. America's new role of world leadership could seem distant and remote to a man on a tractor moving slowly up and down the fields under a hot July sun.

Iowans fit no stereotype, however, as they proved again in 1952. Bill Bridgeman, a native of Ottumwa, made aviation history as he streaked

through the skies in a jet-powered Douglas Skyrocket at a record 1,238 miles per hour. The navy released information on Bridgeman's records, previously kept secret, that showed he also had flown higher than any other man with a 79,494-foot climb. Then there was a conscience-stricken Washington County farmer who sent a \$1,000 check to the State Employment Security Commission with a note explaining that his claims as a jobless veteran had not been "honestly drawn." The stamp of individuality was on every Iowan as he threaded his way through the web of life in the pursuit of happiness.

Foremost in importance to 52,064 Iowans who had been inducted into the armed services since June 25, 1950, was the Korean war. By late December of 1952, 434 Iowans had died, some in far-away places. Lieut. Harold E. Fischer, Jr., of Swea City, shot down his second Russian-built MIG-15 and damaged another with the weapons on his F-86 Sabrejet. Truce negotiations lagged, and hundreds of Iowans were "rotated" back home after months on the firing line. Some anxious parents received anonymous letters from Shanghai stating that their sons were alive in enemy prison stockades. A Harlan veteran of World War II who was recalled to active duty in the air force was honorably discharged with eleven other pilots who found the strain of flying had become too much to endure. Franz Kriwanek, a Czech con-

scripted into the German Afrika Korps ten years earlier, returned to Clarinda with his family to live and work near the site of his confinement in a POW camp in 1943-1944. The Mount Vernon citizen who had refused to pay his 1951 income tax "to support an illegal war" said he would not pay a 1952 tax, either.

Love and fellowship overcame an assortment of stumbling blocks. Nineteen-year-old Mariam Brown of Grundy Center climaxed her pen-pal romance with Sgt. Raymond G. Larr when they said their marriage vows, a few days after they had seen each other for the first time. Ernest Lindquist, after forty-two years in the state penitentiary, took Mrs. Annie Jackson for his bride. Mrs. Jackson heard that Lindquist had not received a letter in twenty years, and their exchange of letters led to the altar after Lindquist's parole. After anonymous phone calls had caused a real estate agent to return to a Japanese-American couple their first payment, the James Nishimura family of Des Moines finally moved into a new home. Their future neighbors heard about the phone calls and assured the Nishimuras that they would be welcome. Jesse Stilson's friends at Montezuma replaced his blacksmith shop, which had been razed by fire, with a new building and new equipment. A spokesman for Stilson's customers said they did it to recognize "a lifetime of service here in the community."

Iowa's youth channeled boundless energy and enthusiasm into a variety of activities. Ronald Rietveld, fifteen-year-old Des Moines student, received national attention when he discovered a long-lost photograph showing President Lincoln in his coffin. Young Rietveld found the picture, made from a plate that had been destroyed at the Lincoln family's request, while rummaging through materials on the Civil War president in Springfield, Illinois. Mara Gay Masselink, a Burlington high school student, won the national "Voice of Democracy" essay contest and presented a plaque to President Truman in Washington, "in appreciation of his devotion to the youth of the nation who have spoken for democracy." Carolyn Hill of Cedar Falls won the "Miss Iowa of 1952" title while still in her teens. Hundreds of youngsters who had never ridden a train were aboard the Milwaukee Railroad's last run between Des Moines and Spirit Lake, as "Old 33" ended fifty-three years of passenger service along the line.

Flying saucer scares, which had been occurring every summer since 1947 with regularity if not credulity, touched Iowa again in 1952. Three Windham residents said they saw the saucers flying in a V-shaped formation, leaving a vapor trail, and making a noise "like a blowtorch." Professor C. C. Wylie of the University of Iowa astronomy department said the nearness of the planet Jupiter could account for some of the reports.

Residents of the Quad Cities area were shocked by the disclosures of horse meat sales in Illinois meat markets, and a Rock Island grand jury witness said 3,000 pounds had been shipped to Davenport and Burlington labelled "hamburger." State health department tests of a hundred samples disclosed no evidence that the meat was being sold over Iowa counters, however.

One pitfall in the Iowan's pursuit of happiness in 1952 came in the form of a vicious polio epidemic. Sioux City health officers became gravely concerned when forty-five cases, three of them fatal, were reported late in June. The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis sent a staff to Sioux City in July, after 153 polio cases and 9 deaths in less than a month indicated the disease had reached epidemic proportions. A mass testing program for 16,500 Sioux City youngsters was begun, with half of the children receiving injections of gama globulin and half getting a gelatin substitute in an effort to check the disease and determine the effect of the injections. Twelve navy corpsmen were sent to the stricken city to relieve overworked hospital staffs before the epidemic was checked.

With the return of cooler weather the number of new polio cases rapidly declined. But 119 Iowans had died from the dreaded malady and over 1,400 had been stricken. Among individual families the hardest hit was that of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thiel of Mapleton. Eleven of the Thiel's fourteen

children suffered from polio during the epidemic, and two sons remained in braces after the other nine recovered.

A brighter side to the health picture came from the cities where new hospitals were being built to bring comfort and ease to the afflicted. The new \$10,000,000 Veterans Administration Hospital at Iowa City admitted its first patient on March 3. Ottumwa dedicated a 175-bed hospital, Osceola's Clarke County General Hospital had beds for 32 patients, and the Audubon County Memorial Hospital provided beds for 30. In the field of preventive medicine, fifteen Iowa towns were selected as demonstration areas for water flouridation programs under the supervision of the State Department of Health. Dubuque and Waukon had already started flouridation programs in an effort to check tooth decay, but a group opposed to the plan called it "socialized medicine."

M. E. Lindskoog of Odebolt voiced a familiar complaint in the *Des Moines Register* when he objected to parking meters on city streets and asked motorists to avoid towns which used the devices. The parking meter had its defenders, however, especially in cities hard-pressed for revenue. Des Moines motorists pushed \$120,550 into the machines in 1952 alone, more than the entire cost of the state government in 1853 and 1854! In Iowa City, three hitching posts were placed in the municipal parking lot after Amish visitors told city

officials they had been unable to park their horse-drawn buggies in the motorized community.

Ease in finding jobs and the cleanup of gambling were cited as reasons for the relatively small number of crimes in Iowa in 1952 by Chief R. W. Nebergall of the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Iowa was fourth among all states in the fewest number of major crimes on a population basis. There were no unsolved murders committed in 1952, and only the \$25,720 Ankeny State Bank robbery baffled police. Another robbery at Des Moines resulted in an early conviction. The FBI said North Dakota was the safest place to live if one wanted to be free of criminal activities, but Iowa had a good score with the gangbusters. Iowa cities had 1.70 murders per 100,000 persons, as contrasted with 20.67 per 100,000 in Georgia.

The pleasant shortage of criminal cases led city officials in Gilbertville to conclude that they should sell their long-empty jail. Not all cities were so singularly blessed. A twenty-two-year-old rejected suitor in Cedar Rapids shot and killed his rival, then answered a radio appeal from his mother by surrendering to police. A Sioux City businessman was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary and fined \$10,000 after he was convicted of illegally sending an inferior quality of produce to the armed forces. A newly married Fort Madison couple received ten-year sentences

after police found they had been furnishing their apartment through a series of burglaries. Cedar Rapids officers had little sympathy for an old age pensioner who admitted robbing charity contribution boxes. He had \$1,970, most of it in \$100 bills, in his pockets when arrested.

The reports from Hollywood that interested Iowans most mixed good news with the sad. Vivacious Donna Reed came back to her farm home near Denison and visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Mullenger. A major studio announced that it would begin filming the life story of Glenn Miller, famous Iowa-born orchestra leader who died in World War II. Karen Morley, who left Ottumwa for Hollywood in 1931 and became an actress, was subpoenaed by a Congressional committee. In Washington the former film star refused to tell the probers whether she had ever been, or was now, a Communist.

Historic Amana made news again in 1952 by reaffirming the 1932 decision to adopt a regular business corporation charter. Prior to the 1932 vote, the 1,400 inhabitants in the seven Amana villages had lived in a religious-communistic form of society. The vote to remain a corporation was 633-0. Dr. H. G. Moershel, the society president, said the book value of their stock (which had been \$50 a share in 1932) had reached \$3,135.47 per share.

Despite the seriousness of life, Iowans found

time to joke and look at the lighter side in 1952. A Mount Pleasant truck dealer made a sale to an itinerant painter, then removed the gas tank on the trade-in and found 854 coins amounting to \$427. The painter explained that he had used the gas tank for a "piggy bank." A New Hampton woman sought a divorce after seven months of marriage to a man who had failed to present her with a promised Cadillac. Cedar Rapids police and firemen used their facilities to recover a wallet from an ice-covered river, then found it contained one cent. Twins Gene and Gerald Schwade of Nora Springs gave their schoolmates sums ranging from \$10 to \$80 before their parents discovered \$250 missing from a cream pitcher. All the money was recovered. An understanding Cedar Rapids judge gave a man charged with public drunkenness a ten-day suspended sentence. It was Lincoln's Birthday, so the accused man talked his way out of jail by relating an anecdote that involved Lincoln, General Grant, and John Barleycorn.

The sports scene in Iowa had its usual champions, upsets, and thrills. When the University of Iowa football team defeated heavily-favored Ohio State 8-0, the 44,659 fans in Iowa City witnessed one of the year's major sports upsets. Earlier football news concerned the hiring of Forest Evashevski as head coach at Iowa, replacing Leonard Raffensperger. Reinbeck won the girls'

basketball title by defeating Monona, 61-55, and Davenport won the boys' championship by edging Keokuk, 48-45. Chuck Darling, all-American basketball player at Iowa, was named the most valuable player in the Big Ten. His 364-point total, or an average of 26 per game, was expected to stand for many years. Bill Smith of Iowa State Teachers College won the Olympic gold medal for his wrestling prowess at the Helsinki games.

It appeared for a while that Iowa might have an entry in the Kentucky Derby. Gift Silver, an untried three-year-old horse owned by an Ottumwa locomotive engineer and his wife, was nominated for the "run for the roses," but a cut on the horse's leg forced a withdrawal two days before the big race. Although floods cancelled the \$15,000 Quad City Open Golf Tournament, the Sioux City Open was played and won by pro Al Besselink with a record 266 score. Art Koch became the first Waterloo golfer to wear the Iowa Amateur crown when he defeated Rodney Bliss, the Des Moines defender, 2 and 1. Loddie Kempa, a Kansas City pro, won the fifteenth Iowa Masters Tournament at Ames.

Perhaps the most gruelling sports effort was performed by golfer Bob Barnes of Dubuque. The husky former Marine shot 225 holes in twenty-seven hours, thus exceeding the presumed previous marathon record of 218 holes. Then Barnes heard that a North Carolina pro shot 343 holes.

Encouraging reports came from traffic officials who found that despite the 561 highway deaths in Iowa during 1952 this total was 64 less than the 1951 death toll. Thirty-nine of the sixty-three Iowa cities having a population of 4,000 or more had no traffic fatalities. Le Mars has had no traffic deaths reported since 1940. Fifty persons were killed at railroad crossings, but the toll was the lowest in four years. A story of courage and fortitude was revealed at Sidney when a sixty-year-old woman was seriously injured and trapped in an overturned car for five days in mid-November. She stayed alive by sipping rain water and eating several pieces of homemade fudge.

Among the honors passed on to Iowans was the naming of three newspapermen for "Master Editor-Publisher" awards from the Iowa Press Association. The highest esteem of their fellow editors went to G. E. Whitehead of the *Perry Daily Chief*, B. H. Shearer of the *Columbus Gazette* at Columbus Junction, and W. F. Lindsey of the *Leon Journal-Reporter*. Mrs. Charles S. Hickman of Centerville was chosen as "Iowa Mother of 1952." Miss Helen Irwin of Des Moines was elected president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs at the Boston convention.

Death overtook many Iowans noted for their contributions to society through the years. The list of notable dead included Arthur H. Brayton,

Des Moines convention director; Byron J. Lambert, educator and engineer; Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer of Des Moines; Philip Charles Jeans, professor emeritus of pediatrics at the University of Iowa; historians Joseph Kinsey Howard, Horace Peterson, and Harrison John Thornton; Frances Argle Ely, Des Moines neuro-psychiatrist; John Ely Briggs, editor of THE PALIMPSEST for 23 years and university professor; Fred Hahne, publisher of the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal*; George M. Bechtel, Davenport financier; Ralph Cram, retired editor and publisher; Fred S. Hird, former U. S. Marshal and 1912 Olympic rifle champion; Capt. Gus Siefert, retired Mississippi steamboat captain; and Harry J. Lytle, Davenport businessman and civic leader. Former state legislators who died during 1952 included Paul E. Stillman, Ernest Lee Humbert, John H. Hager, Anthony M. McColl, Albert J. Shaw, Edward R. Brown, and Emil A. Larson.

As her sons and daughters pursued happiness in 1952 Iowa saw the tragedies of floods and the gaiety of a basketball crowd, the sadness of a polio epidemic and the elation of a wedding party. All the emotions and experiences of mankind were known to Iowans in 1952 as they marched over the same pathway that had carried their forefathers forward in their search for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

ROBERT RUTLAND

IOWA'S VITAL STATISTICS

Education

	1942	1951	1952
Public school enrollment.....	478,643	485,549	494,542
College-University enrollment	25,158	29,631	29,132

Prices of Farm Products

Corn (bu.)	\$.73	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.56
Oats (bu.)45	.88	.84
Wheat (bu.)	1.02	2.16	2.14
Soybeans (bu.)	1.58	2.89	2.79
Hay (ton)	8.73	16.55	17.19
Hogs (cwt.)	13.10	19.93	17.92
Cattle (cwt.)	11.90	31.16	27.50
Sheep (cwt.)	5.70	15.36	8.91
Eggs (doz.)27	.40	.33
Chickens (lb.)18	.22	.19
Farm land per acre.....	100.00	212.00	209.00
Total farm income.....	\$ 1,290,613,000	\$ 2,372,705,000	\$ 2,328,845,000

Farm Production

Corn (bu.)	570,393,169	436,512,989	685,736,000*
Oats (bu.)	191,849,498	182,886,000	216,370,000*
Soybeans (bu.)	34,723,807	32,508,000	37,587,000*
Wheat (bu.)	2,395,518	2,212,000	3,579,000*
Hay (ton)	6,829,000	6,961,000	6,843,000*
Hogs	10,948,000	13,321,000	11,465,000
Cattle	3,787,000	5,208,000	6,113,000
Dairy Cattle	1,529,000	940,957	1,145,000
Eggs	4,612,000,000	4,773,000,000	4,692,000,000

Personal Property

New Passenger Cars.....	—	95,882	71,637
Home Owners	383,109	486,250	500,500

Finance

U. S. Public Debt.....	\$72,422,445,116	\$255,221,976,815	\$259,105,178,785
Per capita debt.....	\$ 537.13	\$ 1,653.37	\$ 1,649.98
Value of consumer's dollar (1935-39 average = \$1)...	.94	.54	.52
Iowa owned life insurance..	\$ 1,874,180,198	\$ 3,450,000,000	\$ 3,979,245,479
Retail sales†	\$ 1,071,581,650	\$ 3,110,315,000	\$ 3,022,470,832

*December, 1952, estimate of U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

†Based on sales and use tax receipts

