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Report on Activities of
Iowa Centennial Committee

Iowa Centennial Committee

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COMMITTEE

MRS. ROBERT PIKE, SIOUX CITY
MRS. MYRTLE FELLINGHAM, COUNCIL BLUFFS
HUGO SAGGAU, DENISON
HOMER STEPHENS, CLARDINA
MRS. R. R. ROBERTS, BRITT
BERT STOLPE, DES MOINES
JOHN W. GANNAWAY, GRINNELL
MRS. DWIGHT S. HUMESTON, ALBIA
WILLIAM J. PETERSEN, IOWA CITY
ROSS BURMAN, BURLINGTON
MRS. F. P. GERNAND, VOLGA
E. W. WILLIAMS, MANCHESTER
RALPH EVANS, DAVENPORT
J. N. DARLING, DES MOINES



Iowa Centennial Committee

LESTER MILLIGAN, MASON CITY, CHAIRMAN
EDITH WASSON McELROY, EXECUTIVE SEC'Y

State House

Des Moines 19, Iowa

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

F. E. SHELDON, MT. Ayr
LLOYD CUNNINGHAM, DES MOINES
ETHEL MARTIN, IOWA CITY
ORA WILLIAMS, DES MOINES
JESSIE M. PARKER, DES MOINES
JOHN P. MULLINS, FONDA
RODNEY Q. SELBY, DES MOINES

To the Honorable Robert D. Blue, Governor of Iowa
To the Interim Committee of 1945-'46
And the Iowa General Assembly of 1947

The Iowa Centennial Committee, created by act of the General Assembly, appointed by the governor, and given nourishment by a \$15,000 grant from the Interim committee, respectfully submits the following report, prepared by its executive secretary, Mrs. Edith Wasson McElroy.

Your chairman can honestly state that it was an unselfish, conscientious and hard-working group. Some of the sub-committees, like that upon stamp and coin, gave an enormous amount of time and energy to their work, without compensation, and in numerous instances without filing for a single cent of personal expense.

You all know that, due to the activities of those three ruffians, Messrs. Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo and their henchmen, the committee started late and without funds. In its January and February meetings of the very year to be celebrated, about all that could be seen ahead was high mountains without visible roads or sign posts. There was no money, no headquarters, no staff -- not even a single record from our celebration of the Territorial in 1938.

Yet the Iowa Centennial celebration was a huge success, because its people rallied to the occasion -- individually, by communities, by groups. They surpassed even the fondest hopes and wildest dreams of the committee. The resulting publicity at home and abroad was such as to make commentators and columnists pause in wonder at what had broken loose in the Middle West!

The details of this wonderful out-pouring of Iowa spirit are summarized in the following pages, which are the official report to the committee and through us to you from our executive secretary, Mrs. Edith Wasson McElroy and her assistants. Mrs. McElroy was a find -- worked long hours at a modest compensation -- and deserves the hearty thanks of our entire state.

Your committee has taken these extra months to close up its affairs for two principal reasons: first, because it is most desirable that there be adequate records of this remarkable year, not only for historical purposes, but also to guide similar committees which will be charged with celebrations in 1996 and 2946; second, the completion of the sale of the Iowa commemorative half dollar. This, despite some criticism from coin collectors, will stand as one of the most remarkable of such sales in American history -- with most of the coins in the possession of Iowans as keepsakes and your state in possession of a sum of money for a Historical Memorial fund or foundation.

Since it was not ours and your fortune that we had the proceeds from the sale of these coins for the celebration of 1946, it is indeed fortunate that the act of Congress gave our Governor authority over the proceeds for Centennial purposes. Suppose now that out of the total, one \$5000 should be set aside at com-

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Iowa Centennial Commission

LESTER A. ALLEN, Chairman
EDITH WATSON KILPATRICK, Executive Secretary

The Honorable Robert D. Ryan, Governor of Iowa

To the Honorable Robert D. Ryan, Governor of Iowa
To the Iowa Centennial Commission of 1945-46
And the Iowa General Assembly of 1947

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pound interest for the sesqui-centennial of 1996 and another \$5000 should be set aside for the bi-centennial or 200th anniversary -- how those respective committees would rise up and thank the old-timers of 1946 and 7!

The real record of 1946 is in the hearts and minds of our people and those of our sister states. The following summary of its outward manifestations is commended to you for your reading.

THE IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Ross Burman, Burlington
L. B. Cunningham, Des Moines
J. N. Darling, Des Moines
Ralph Evans, Davenport
Mrs. Myrtle Fellingham, Council Bluffs
John W. Gannaway, Grinnell
Mrs. F. P. Gernand, Volga
Mrs. D. S. Humeston, Albia
Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Iowa City
J. P. Mullen, Fonda
Miss Jessie M. Parker, Des Moines
Dr. William J. Petersen, Iowa City
Mrs. R. B. Pike, Sioux City
Mrs. R. R. Roberts, Britt
Hugo Saggau, Denison
Rodney Q. Selby, Des Moines
F. E. Sheldon, Mount Ayr
Homer S. Stephens, Clarinda
Bert Stolpe, Des Moines
E. W. Williams, Manchester
Ora Williams, Des Moines
Lester Milligan, Mason City, Chairman

P.S. It appears that about
\$1000.00 of the \$16,000 available
(\$500.00 for each year and the
\$15,000 from the interim committee)
will be returned to the state treasurer.
(See financial report.) Thanks to so
many who for little or no expense
DID SO MUCH.

MEMBERS OF THE
IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

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Lester Milligan, Mason City, Chairman

Mrs. Robert Pike, Sioux City
Mrs. Myrtle Fellingham, Council Bluffs
Hugo Saggau, Denison
Homer Stephens, Clarinda
Mrs. R. R. Roberts, Britt
Bert Stolpe, Des Moines
John W. Gannaway, Grinnell
Mrs. Dwight S. Humeston, Albia
William J. Petersen, Iowa City
Ross Burman, Burlington
Mrs. F. P. Gernand, Volga
E. W. Williams, Manchester
Ralph Evans, Davenport
J. N. Darling, Des Moines

Ex Officio Members

F. E. Sheldon, Mt. Ayr
Lloyd Cunningham, Des Moines
Ethyl Martin, Iowa City
Ora Williams, Des Moines
Jessie M. Parker, Des Moines
John P. Mullen, Fonda
Rodney Q. Selby, Des Moines



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF
THE IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Lester Milligan, Mason City, Chairman

Edith W. McElroy, Des Moines, Executive Secretary

Iowa's centennial observance was initiated in the 49th General Assembly which adopted House Concurrent Resolution 23 providing for the appointment by the governor of Iowa of a committee of nine persons for the purpose of considering preliminary plans for the proper celebration of the centennial of Iowa statehood during the year 1946.

Under this resolution, Governor Hickenlooper appointed a committee including Ora Williams, Chairman, Des Moines; Walter H. Beall, West Union; Bob Burlingame, Des Moines; John W. Carey, Sioux City; William G. Kerr, Grundy Center; Ethyl Martin, Iowa City; Frank Miles, Des Moines; Mrs. H. E. Narey, Spirit Lake; and Henry K. Peterson, Council Bluffs.

The committee held two meetings and made a report to Governor Hickenlooper and the Fiftieth General Assembly recommending that since the centennial anniversary of Iowa was an important and worthy object, that without diverting any energy of the people of Iowa from the war then in progress, machinery for such observance should be set up so the commission could commence to function at once.

The committee further offered tentative plans for the celebration suggesting that since the actual date of the admission of the state of Iowa into the Union came at an inopportune time falling between Christmas and New Year's, that the entire centennial year be devoted to widespread local observances of the anniversary in which every community of the state could join and emphasize its own particular part in the progress of Iowa for the 100 years; with perhaps an official recognition of the exact anniversary. To this end, the committee recommended, every county, every city, every town, every church, lodge, club,

association, or other group of any kind, plan to observe in a manner fitting to its own line of activity, its own anniversary whether that be for the exact 100-year period or for a greater or less period of time.

It was further suggested that public schools and clubs include in their programs of study something with reference to the history of the state, and its progress in all lines. The purpose of this study to be not an academic study of history or merely a commercial advertisement of Iowa, but to represent faithfully all the activities, material and moral, which have gone into the making of a great state; to stimulate state pride; to stir a lively gratitude for the providential and human influences which have made Iowa what it is today; and to strengthen the purpose of all Iowans to learn from the lessons of the past in order to build Iowa institutions and character even better as the state's second century begins.

To consummate these plans of an all-Iowa celebration, two concrete recommendations were made.

1. That the Governor should be authorized to appoint a centennial commission to prepare and frame definite plans and programs and to have full charge of the directions of centennial observance in the state. The committee was to consist of between fifteen and twenty members, the members to represent these lines of activity: agriculture, education, patriotic organizations, labor, industry, and commerce, the State Department of History and Archives, the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies, women's organizations, religious interests, transportation, daily newspapers, weekly newspapers, radio stations, and such other activities as seem advisable.

2. That the centennial commission be supplied with a small fund, say one thousand dollars for the biennium, with which to meet actual expenses such as postage, printing, telephone calls and clerical work. The commission appointments to be honorary with no allowance for time or expense.

In accordance with these recommendations, Senate Joint Resolution 5 was introduced in the Assembly on March 16, 1943, authorizing the governor to appoint a committee of fifteen for the purpose of considering and preparing plans for a proper celebration of the centennial of the Iowa statehood during the year 1946 at the Capitol at Des Moines, and in various parts of the state, such program for a celebration to be of a character to advance the educational and historical interests of the people of the state in the development of our state during its first one hundred years.

This committee was further instructed to prepare plans and programs for such celebration and submit the same to the 51st General Assembly for its action. The resolution appropriated the sum of one thousand dollars to be used by the committee for stationery, postage, printing and clerk hire and other necessary expenses.

This committee, however, was not appointed, and the 51st General Assembly extended to January 1, 1947, the time for performance of Chapter 310, Acts of the 50th General Assembly, without in any way enlarging or increasing the powers and duties of the committee authorized by the 50th General Assembly, nor did it provide funds for the committee's use in addition to those granted by the prior assembly.

In late December of 1945, Governor Blue appointed the present Centennial Committee and on January 16, 1946, the members met in the governor's office and elected Lester Milligan of Mason City, its chairman.

Since the Committee had no funds other than the one thousand dollars appropriated to cover incidental expenses, the first step was to secure funds to finance a headquarters staff and to develop appropriate observance of the centennial year. Following a conference with Comptroller Fred Porter, the Committee requested the Interim Committee of the legislature for an allotment from its funds. On February 11, Attorney General Rankin pursuant to a request from Senator Long, chairman of the Interim Committee, rendered his opinion that since the legislature clearly indicated its intent to authorize only a limited phase of activity in so

far as the use of state funds was concerned and expected the committee to make plans and suggest programs for the celebration, it did not intend that state funds be used in the actual financing and staging of a celebration or celebrations. However, since funds were originally allocated for the purpose of paying certain expenses, if additional funds were needed for these purposes, the Interim Committee had the power to make an allocation therefor.

Under this ruling, the Interim Committee in February made an allocation of \$15,000.00 from its funds to the Committee to use in hiring a staff and maintaining a headquarters.

In late March a headquarters was opened in the state house, an executive secretary employed, and the campaign was under way.

COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

Since there was neither time nor money to organize a central celebration the Committee believed it should concentrate its efforts on two general objectives. Use of the event to review and celebrate Iowa's history and honor her pioneers, and, through doing so, sell the state and its past, present and future both to its own citizens and to the outside world.

To initiate these objectives, it was decided to form county centennial committees leaving the selection of personnel to the local people, as well as the choice of time and manner of centennial observance. The Committee's part would be to keep in close touch with these organizations thru bulletins and correspondence and cooperate vigorously by promoting statewide publicity of all phases of centennial activity and objectives.

Jessie Parker, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and a Committee member, mailed from her office a letter to all county superintendents requesting them to call together representatives of civic, patriotic, and public-spirited organizations, to form county committees. It was not the intent that county superintendents appoint centennial committees, but serve as a media for

bringing together the persons best qualified to make such selection, leaving the mode of organization to their choice in conformity with local conditions.

A very good response was had to these letters. Follow-up letters from headquarters were, of course, necessary in many instances, and where this method of organization didn't produce results, the executive secretary contacted local editors, chambers of commerce and public-spirited citizens urging the formation of committees and proper observance of Iowa's centennial year.

In the majority of counties, a county centennial committee was formed. In other counties, several committees were organized, particularly in cases where several different communities in the county planned ambitious individual celebrations. In numerous instances, community chairmen were appointed to serve with the county centennial committee. A number of counties organized by townships under the central committee and each township had its own celebration. Other counties appointed a chairman with vice-chairmen representing the various communities or celebrations. With two exceptions, every Iowa county had some type of definite centennial organization functioning before the close of 1946, and every county observed the centennial in some form.

STATEWIDE CENTENNIAL RALLY

At the Iowa Centennial Committee meeting on March 26, it was decided to hold a statewide rally in Des Moines on April 29. Miss Parker reported that letters had gone to county superintendents urging them to form county committees, and she recommended that these chairmen, county and community, meet in Des Moines to discuss county centennial observance and express their opinions as to how the Iowa Centennial Committee could render assistance. The meeting was to serve also as a general publicity promotion for the centennial celebrations.

An all-day meeting at Kirkwood Hotel was arranged. The morning session was devoted to panel discussions of how local centennial committees could publicize their observances, with representatives of press and radio participating,

and to reports from communities already planning celebrations.

At the luncheon meeting, MacKinlay Kantor, distinguished author and journalist, and former Iowan, was brought to Des Moines from New York, to inaugurate the centennial theme "Every Week in 1946 is Old Home Week in Iowa," and serve as practical demonstration of how Iowans successful in other parts of the world, might be used as featured speakers in community celebrations.

The afternoon session was devoted to presentations by various state department representatives of cooperation possible to community centennial celebrations from state sources.

The Women's Department of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce presented Mr. Kantor at a dinner that night to which civic groups and representatives of organizations over the state were invited. The centennial theme was featured in costume and music. This meeting was designed to serve as a pattern for similar dinners over the state, and many similar to it were held throughout the centennial year.

90 counties were organized at the time of the statewide meeting and over four hundred representatives of county centennial organizations and interested workers attended the rally.

PUBLICITY

A weekly bulletin was sent during the year from centennial headquarters in the statehouse to centennial committees, librarians, editors, chambers of commerce, and civic groups and individuals interested in centennial observance. It was designed to arouse centennial enthusiasm with particular emphasis on local observance, and to serve as a medium for exchange of ideas between communities. It served also as a means of providing how-to-do methods for those engaged in organizing centennial celebrations. Eighteen hundred four-page single-spaced mimeographed copies were mailed each week going into every community in the state.

A weekly news letter was also supplied to Iowa newspapers furnishing timely news items both current and historical, and a series of historical articles

accompanied by illustrative mats was supplied Iowa newspapers.

Special releases were sent several times weekly to news associations and to radio commentators with up-to-the-minute news of particular centennial importance.

Iowa editors, both newspaper and radio, entered with wholehearted enthusiasm into the centennial publicity program, and literally thousands of press clippings poured into centennial headquarters reporting the centennial activity of the state from the club meeting with a single centennial program of an educational nature to the highly organized and publicized celebrations of the large cities.

Emphasis was laid in all centennial headquarters publicity upon arousing local pride in the history of community beginnings; in reviving old-country traditions and customs of the early regional settlers, and in collecting and preserving historical data and mementoes while they still live in the memory of those who participated in Iowa's beginnings.

Many Iowa newspapers published elaborate centennial editions and these contained much Iowa history concerning state and local origins. The level of these editions was uniformly high, and copies were gathered by the Committee to go into the state archives. The editors of these special editions as in their regular editions, did an invaluable task in compiling local history. Not the least of the results of this organized and directed publicity, was the arousing of local pride in community history -- an effect that will live for years to come.

NATIONAL PUBLICITY

Much national publicity came to Iowa through its centennial observance. From coast to coast and around the globe, people gained a new appreciation of Iowa and its place in world affairs, as well as recognition of the pride Iowans hold in Iowa.

National magazines and radio programs were supplied with script, pictures, and background material for developing special Iowa themes. These included magazines of purely reader interest as well as house organs with national coverage, newspapers, and day and evening hour radio programs.

More could have been done in the national field, had the Committee's time not been limited by late organization, since magazine and radio programs plan their campaigns far in advance, and it takes time and effort to contact these publications, their advertising agencies, and directing officers, and lay the groundwork for inclusion of material.

However, the national program was more successful than was anticipated, and it played a large part in arousing interest in Iowa, within and without the state's borders, and added impetus to the statewide movement to promote Iowa, its people, and its possibilities, throughout the world. In a number of instances magazine and radio programs unable to include centennial material in 1946, have stated they will include Iowa stories in 1947.

Below is a partial list of publications using Iowa centennial material or stories on Iowa during the year. In the majority of these stories, help was given by the Centennial headquarters in organizing the material, and in many instances, the script was written in the centennial office and illustrations furnished.

Life Magazine
Saturday Evening Post
The Country Gentleman
The Pathfinder
Time Magazine
The Morrell Magazine
Viking Vacuum
The Mutual Magazine of the
 Pennsylvania Railroad
Iowa Engineering Society
The Kernel
Iowa Automobile Dealers Bulletin
The Lennox News
The Biltwell Bulletin
The Milwaukee Magazine
Northwestern Newsliner
Journal of Iowa State Medical Society
The Beacon
Iowa Wool News
Iowa Business Woman
The Hawkeye Chiropractor
The Newscaster
The Zephyr
New York Sun

Iowa Parent-Teacher
Younkers of Iowa
The Mutual Benefit Life Insurance
 Company
Younkers' News of the Week
Midland Schools
W.C.T.U. Champion
Globe Machinery Magazine
Iowa Southern News
Iowa Business
The Iowa Clubwoman
The U.S. Egg & Poultry Magazine
Rock Island News Digest
Tama Lion's Club Centennial
 brochure
Iowa Centennial Handbook,
 Department of Public Instruc-
 tion
Numismatic Scrapbook
Iowa State Dental Bulletin
Hardware Bulletin
The Poland China World
My Weekly Reader
Boston Transcript

RADIO PUBLICITY

Iowa's centennial had generous response from national radio programs. Script and background material for many of these programs were furnished from centennial headquarters. Included in national programs saluting Iowa were Quaker Oats, Phillips Petroleum, National Farm and Home Hour, Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians, International Harvester's "Harvest of Stars," the American Dairy Association's "Voice of the Dairy Farmer," General Mills' "Betty Crocker," the Shaeffer Parade, the National Meat Institute, Maxwell House Coffee Hour, "Bride and Groom," "Breakfast in Hollywood," Kate Smith Speaks, and many others.

Another avenue of publicity that opened to the Committee was Iowa's local radio. Iowa stations were uniformly generous with time and cooperated wholeheartedly in furthering Committee projects. Tremendous publicity was given to the community celebrations both preceding the events and in on-the-spot broadcasts during the celebration. The variety of these radio programs was endless. Practically every Iowa station initiated historical reviews and dramatic presentations. Early in the year, Station WHO made available to the state's public schools, a transcription of an historical dramatization originating in its studios. Stations WSUI and WOI, with others, carried at intervals throughout the year, historical reviews of Iowa presented by college students and staffs. Station KXEL of Waterloo twice each week presented "Stories of Early Life in Iowa." Ava Johnson, the commentator, has now brought these out in booklet form.

Iowa radio newscasts gave generous notice, too, to the Committee's news releases and in promoting its undertakings. This assistance was most important in bringing the centennial program to statewide attention, and the Committee is both grateful and appreciative of the fine job done.

TRAVEL CALENDAR TO SPEED RETURN OF IOWANS

A calendar of 100 celebrations scheduled for the summer months was supplied to tourist and travel agencies throughout the nation by the Committee, to help former Iowans and others interested, in their plans for visiting Iowa's

centennial celebrations.

Eighty motor clubs and travel agencies affiliated with the American Automobile Association were given copies of the schedule, and these were also sent to a number of railroad and airplane travel agencies with headquarters on the east and west coasts.

Magazines featuring travel department as well as radio travel programs were furnished with dates and information concerning centennial celebrations of particular tourist interest.

IOWA CENTENNIAL STAMP AND COIN

The Committee early undertook the securing of a centennial postage stamp and a commemorative coin. A sub-committee with Ralph Evans of Davenport as chairman, and including Mrs. Dwight S. Humeston of Albia and Dr. William J. Petersen of Iowa City was appointed to investigate the possibilities of these issues. Through the fine cooperation of our Iowa congressional delegation, the officials of the Post Office Department, Treasury and Mint, plus the tireless efforts of our sub-committee on stamp and coin, both were secured.

Iowa's blue centennial stamp of special delivery size and bearing as its central figure the Iowa state flag superimposed on an outline map of the state is considered by collectors one of unusual beauty. The design, a composite of several different designs selected from the several hundred submitted by Iowa artists and stamp enthusiasts, was developed in cooperation with the United States Post Office Department. The pattern originally proposed by the Committee, a reproduction of Blashfield's "Westward" which hangs at the head of the great staircase in Iowa's state capitol, was rejected by the post office as too complicated for reproduction. The selection of the famous painting by the Committee was made at the suggestion of a fourteen-year-old Albia school boy, Charles Fouts, and was enthusiastically seconded by Iowans in every part of the state.

Iowa City, because of its historic significance in the state's early history was selected as the site of the first-day-of-issue sale. The date,

August 3, was chosen for its importance as the day on which Iowans in 1846 went to the polls and ratified the constitution.

More than a million of the stamps were sold as swarms of Iowans, as well as out-of-state stamp enthusiasts, jammed the post office eager to send first-day-covers to friends and relatives, as well as to purchase sheets of the stamp for future use.

A force of 57 extra men was employed by the local post office to handle the gigantic task, a part of them specially trained employees from the Post Office Department in Washington. Five windows of the main post office and two sub-stations had the attractive blue stamp on sale.

Commercial dealers, collectors, stamp magazine feature writers, and representatives of the widely ramified stamp industry arrived before the event and established headquarters in the Jefferson Hotel and the Community Building. Stamp dealers serviced thousands of first-day covers for out-of-state collectors on the day of the sale. Adding to these the thousands of first-day covers mailed out by Iowa industrial plants, chambers of commerce, newspapers and radio stations, the total sold was swelled to 1,067,000 in a single day.

Orders for the stamp commenced pouring into Iowa City a month before the date itself. These orders came from 48 states and many foreign countries. Most collectors requested a single stamp, the total of single orders amounting to almost 300,000. 57,000 requests were received for blocks of four and plate blocks.

With a record of 517,505 envelopes mailed out with the coveted "First-day-of-Issue" stamped on their face, the Post Office Department at Washington revealed that Iowa's sale surpassed the previous record of 463,512 for a centennial stamp at Nashville, Tennessee by more than 53,000. It was only eclipsed by the New York World's Fair issue, when 585,565 first day covers went thru the cancelling machines or were handstamped.

The stamp went on sale in all Iowa post offices immediately following the first-day-of-issue sale, and record sales were immediately reported from all

over Iowa.

To date, a total of 125,000,000 stamps has been issued according to information received from the Post Office Department, and of this number the Des Moines Post Office, servicing all second, third, and fourth class post offices in this area, has sold a total of 7,500,000.

In a special broadcast ceremony on the steps of the Old Stone Capitol, a "first" sheet of stamps was presented to Governor Robert D. Blue by Iowa-born Admiral of the Fleet Leahy, personal representative of President Truman for the occasion. Admiral Leahy, in turn, received a sheet of the stamps from Third Assistant Post Master General Joseph J. Lawler of Washington, representing the Post Office Department.

At a luncheon in the Jefferson Hotel honoring the distinguished guests, Hampton-born Admiral Leahy was the featured speaker. A dinner sponsored by the Iowa City Stamp Club for visiting stamp collectors, dealers, and guests, with representatives of the Iowa Centennial Committee in attendance, closed the day's activities.

Sales throughout the year continued at a high level and the state's postmasters contributed generously to its promotion. A consistent publicity campaign from headquarters was carried on urging the use of the stamp on personal as well as business mail, and especially on Christmas greetings.

In addition to the distinctive first-day covers sent out by Iowa business firms, Governor Blue greeted the President of the United States, all state governors and members of the Iowa Legislature with a special cover prepared and mailed out by the Iowa Centennial headquarters. This is the first use of such a cover in these circumstances by a governor, and it attracted nation-wide attention from collectors and stamp publications over the United States.

The Iowa Centennial Committee Bulletin was also mailed from Iowa City as a first-day cover greeting to the hundreds of centennial workers over the state.

Throughout the day of the sale, thousands of Iowans and out-of-state

visitors visited the special stamp exhibits in Iowa City's Community Building and availed themselves of the resources placed for their convenience in mailing first-day covers by the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce.

As a result of the Committee's promotion urging all Iowans to use the stamp on holiday mail, not only was the stamp used on the outside of the envelope, but on the inside as well. Numerous unique Christmas greetings and programs came to the centennial headquarters with the stamp highlighting the decorative design.

Iowa's commemorative coin was achieved with greater difficulty. President Truman and the Treasury Department have long since gone on record as opposing special coin issues. Only by the alert and vigorous efforts of our congressional delegation, ably seconded by the Iowa Centennial Committee's sub-committee on coins and stamps was Iowa's commemorative coin secured.

The coin's design is the work of Adam Pietz, well known medalist and sculptor. Employed with the U. S. Mint for 18 years as an assistant engraver, he is now retired, but maintains a Philadelphia studio. His work includes such well known designs as the congressional medal honoring the flight of Ellsworth, Amundsen and Nobile over the North Pole, and the bronze plaque of Stephen Decatur in the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

100,000 coins were minted and delivered in early December to the Treasurer of State at a price of fifty cents each, plus the cost of dies and plates, and the expense of the design.

The coins were distributed under a plan unique in the annals of coin collecting. Coins were sent out to the banks on a cash basis, with the privilege of returning unsold coins. On December 16, banks began accepting applications for the coin, and on December 23, distributed the coin to purchasers. The sale was conducted without expense to the state and great credit is due the cooperating banks and Mr. Frank Warner, Executive Secretary of the Iowa Bankers' Association, for the outstanding service they rendered the Iowa Centennial Committee in handling these coins. Of 90,000 coins shipped to Iowa banks under this program, only 3500

were returned. 35,000 coins were sold to Iowans under the "one coin per person" limitation, and since that ceiling was lifted, an additional 5,000 has been sold.

The distribution involved a tremendous amount of detail work on the part of the Iowa Bankers' Association which sent out a series of special bulletins; the office of the Treasurer of State which handled the distribution to the banks, kept the detailed records of coins in the Iowa banks and mailed direct to purchasers the coins on out-of-state orders; and the Iowa Centennial Committee which handled the voluminous pre-sale correspondence within and without Iowa, as well as the continuing correspondence since, and the detailed publicity program.

The Committee would also like to extend specifically its appreciation of the fine publicity accorded the program by both newspapers and radio. Without this cooperation, the coin sale could not have been consummated in so short a period. Both the publicity originating the story and the follow-up news releases were generously given space and time.

Price of the coin was fixed at \$2.50 net to the state, with a limit of one coin per person, to keep the initial distribution out of the hands of speculators. Distribution through the banks insured fairness. In previous commemorative issues, distribution has largely been through dealers, and a generous share of the profit has gone to the dealers. The Committee believed the premium from Iowa's coin should go intact to the Iowa Centennial Memorial Fund, the proceeds of which will be used to create an enduring memorial to Iowa's first 100 years. Governor Blue, in whom the final authority for the coin is vested, has announced he will select a committee to work out the final details of this fund.

Despite gloomy predictions of the nation's coin dealers that Iowa would be unable to dispose of her coins since only collectors buy commemoratives, and that a huge surplus would be left unsold, ninety per cent of the coins were sold within the first thirty days of the sale.

Great care was taken by the Committee to arrive at an equitable allocation. Coins were allotted to the counties on the basis of population, and to

the banks on the basis of deposits. The banks volunteered their services in handling the coins and turned over to the state the full \$2.50 purchase amount for each coin. The Committee estimated it would have cost the state \$30,000 to have handled sales and distribution of the coin.

All out-of-state sales and Iowa sales since the close of the bank sale, are handled through the State Treasurer's office at the fixed price of \$2.50 plus an additional charge of 50¢ per coin for mailing and handling charges. On single coins, the postage charge alone is 27¢ which leaves only a narrow margin to pay for all other expenses of handling. Larger orders, however, can be handled more advantageously and will offset any deficit in the sale of single coins. As stated before, it has been the Committee's intent throughout the sale to make the distribution as wide as possible and encourage individual rather than quantity purchasing of the coin.

Iowa's Commemorative Coin has gone into the pockets of centennial-minded Iowans. Coin dealers frankly admit the situation is unique. Always before, similar coins have gone to collectors and dealers. These coins are owned by Iowans in every walk of life. Grandparents bought the bright coins and sent them to their grandchildren all over the world. Former Iowans bought them as mementoes of childhood days. A Canadian soldier who carried an American dollar through five years of bloody fighting and lost it on his return home, replaced it with an Iowa Commemorative, hoping it, too, would bring him good fortune. Members of Iowa associations in a dozen states, nostalgic for the old home state, send group orders for large numbers of the coins. Sons and grandsons and great-grandsons of Iowa pioneers bought them, explaining their interest with a bit of reminiscence.

The response to the coin sale is an amazing, even a surprising, demonstration of state pride, for the vast majority of today's owners of the Iowa Commemoratives find them significant only as tokens of Iowa's First Hundred Years of Progress -- not as collector's items.

Collectors, too, buy the coin. Orders came from every state in the Union, and many commendations were added to these letters for the Iowa Plan which gave individuals the first chance to buy it and kept the premium for Iowans instead of sharing it with dealers outside the state. Already the coin is included and displayed in world-famous coin collections such as that of the Chase National Bank in New York City which has two of the coins.

A detailed report of the results to date of the coin distribution will be found in the final pages of this resume.

IOWA'S COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

An entire volume might be written and not do justice to our statewide centennial celebrations. Throughout the spring and summer and into the fall, Iowans celebrated the centennial from border to border, with a joyous enthusiasm that knew no bounds.

No single celebration could revive the Iowa of one hundred years ago. Only in hundreds of small celebrations could we do this. The Committee initiated a wide publicity program designed to bring the centennial theme home to each community and arouse pride in its own beginnings, and in the men and women who founded it. Every community was urged to revive the memories of its founders who came by covered wagon, or on foot or on horseback, and create a celebration that would leave a deep imprint of its own local history upon its citizens.

By this plan thousands more were reached and made to feel they were a part of Iowa and its history than could possibly have been done by any central celebration or fair. The echoes of Iowa's rejoicing in its first century of progress have resounded across the land from ocean to ocean, and Iowa, through the pride of its own people, has achieved new stature in the eyes of the world.

We Iowans have not one but a hundred motherlands. We came from far corners of the world to settle our broad rich prairies and gentle purple hills. Our culture is a composite of freedom seeking people from the old world, shaped to the needs of the new world, and made strong and bold by fortunate environment.

From river to river as the summer progressed, traditions of the old world and the new came to life and became community history in hundreds of celebrations as varied as the communities which planned them.

Against the colorful background of individual community origins, each celebration followed a like pattern. A parade with floats portraying the great westward movement of the forties and the community's growth and accomplishments wound its glamorous way down the town's main street. Dancers in pioneer costume revived old dances, songs, and music. Early Iowa handcrafts and cherished antiques crowded the stores encircling the square. Airplane shows, side shows, horse races, ball games, and a dozen like features thriftily paid the way of many an Iowa celebration. Each community financed its own celebration, and the Centennial Committee owes a debt of gratitude to the public-spirited men and women throughout the state who worked so wholeheartedly on the county and community centennial committees and made these celebrations possible. It was a significant expression of pride in a great state.

A pageant was a "must" in every celebration. Local and statewide history were woven into these scripts, usually prepared and staged locally, and in their pages is a vital story of Iowa's growth through its past hundred years that could have been produced in no other way. Never again will Iowa history be musty and dead to Iowans, but a living, vital part of its community life. So far as possible, copies of these pageants have been gathered by committee headquarters and will go to the state's archives.

The value of these celebrations cannot be valued in dollars and cents. They brought new appreciation of the state to its citizens, and instilled a depth and richness of community and state pride that no other program could have aroused. Iowa bought no glamorous central celebration for passersby to attend and forget, but reached down to the hearts of its people and turned an entire state, from border to border, into one vast celebration that retold the story of its origins and growth. For a single year, history became part of our daily

living. To the public-spirited men and women of Iowa, the Committee bequeaths the rare privilege of nurturing and keeping strong and sound the pride in Iowa's past which came to life during the centennial year.

242 major celebrations and 386 minor observances were reported to centennial headquarters. These figures by no means include all the centennial programs in Iowa. Many were not reported to the headquarters. The classification "major" and "minor" is loosely applied to distinguish between organized community celebrations and those presented as programs by clubs, schools, churches, and organized groups. One may safely say that every organization in Iowa presented at least one centennial program in 1946. In innumerable instances, an entire year's study was devoted to Iowa history and progress.

Every county reported celebrations. Linn, Cerro Gordo and Dubuque head the list with 18 observances each. Mitchell County is next with 17, and perhaps should head the list since this number includes the series of township celebrations which Miss Emma Lane, county centennial chairman, so effectively organized.

One unexpected by-product of centennial observance was the fine spirit of neighborliness engendered. The old time auto tour was revived and centennial committees toured the country roundabout promoting their observances. Friendly rivalries arose as to the quality and quantity of whisker crops in adjacent counties. County committees worked with community committees in organizing celebrations and in turn community committees worked diligently to promote the central observance.

Cherished mementoes of community living circulated among various observances and Iowans shared the fun of one another's celebrations.

HISTORICAL PROMOTION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

With more than one hundred years of history as a political unit, Iowa has come of age, and takes her place as a great commonwealth with a distinguished past.

From its inception, the Committee sought to intensify this aspect of our thinking and to point out the need to consolidate our history while it still lived in the minds and hearts of living men and women. Committee publicity was directed to this end, outlining possible projects not alone for consummation in our centennial year, but throughout the years to come.

Emphasis was placed on the community. History begins at home was the keynote. The men and women who came from around the world to build the community were the men and women who built Iowa. Without the story of each community, the story of the state is not complete.

Community sightseeing trips with local publicity of routes and sites were suggested. Wayside parks, said one Weekly Bulletin, might well be marked with directories of local points of interest, worthy a visit by passing tourists.

The timeliness of a state historic and highlights trail was noted. Marked with a distinctive emblem and accompanied by a bright colored picture map of routes and sites, such a trail would delay many cross-state tourists for a day or two of sightseeing and bring new interpretation of Iowa and its possibilities to visitors within our borders.

Several statewide organizations have expressed active interest in developing such a trail and under their sponsorship, the trail may become an actuality within the next few years.

Annual tours of school children along state and local historic trails and to historic sites and collections so Iowa boys and girls may grow in understanding and appreciation of our state's history and economic growth as well as its opportunities for permanent living, would pay large dividends in Iowa-minded citizens.

The organization and reactivation of historical societies was promoted as timely in the centennial year. Counties were urged to establish museums or build fireproof wings on existing buildings to house collections of pioneer and contemporary records and relics. As Iowans grow in consciousness of the state's

history, pioneer families will become increasingly willing to assist financially and with cherished Iowana collections in fostering such centers.

The immediate need for protecting community and county records for future generations was pointed out. Numerous counties report the disappearance of old records, too often through lack of appreciation of their importance to unborn generations. Fires destroy in a few hours, the history of generations. Deterioration because of age and careless handling accounts for other losses.

IOWANS DISCOVER IOWA

Members of the Women's Department of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce organized two sightseeing week-end trips -- one into northeastern Iowa to visit Iowa's Little Switzerland, the other into Iowa Pioneerland in southeastern Iowa -- as patterns for "See Iowa Tours" by other groups. Both parties returned filled with enthusiasm for Iowa's sightseeing possibilities and admiration for the state's historic and scenic background.

Youth groups, including Boy and Girl Scouts and others, sponsored pilgrimages to nearby memorable spots. Iowa-minded men and women might well center on their continuance, aiding leaders of such groups in promoting future pilgrimages.

Plum Grove, the Iowa City home of the state's first governor, Robert Lucas, was dedicated and opened to the public on November 2, by the Iowa Conservation Commission as its contribution to the centennial celebration. The house, furnished as in the days of its original incumbent, is now open to the public as a state monument.

Reconditioning and restoration of old Fort Atkinson, an early American army fortress, has made considerable progress this year. Eventually one of the buildings will house an historical museum.

Other Iowa state parks include similar monuments. Particularly popular and widely publicized by the Committee throughout the centennial year, was the replica of Iowa's first school in Lee County, also under the direction of the

Conservation Commission.

Many communities report local restoration projects underway or proposed. Audubon County school children plan to raise funds and restore the county's first log house. Fayette County considers building an old settler's cabin, asking local residents for antique furnishings, as a permanent part of its county fair exhibits. Van Buren County has the Morris Memorial Cabin grounds near Stockport with its collection of early day furnishings and tools.

The statewide interest in pioneer life and history aroused throughout the centennial year should come to full bloom in a host of similar undertakings during the years to come.

The building of an Iowa pioneer village in one of our state parks which Iowa children could visit each year and learn visually the life their grandparents knew, would leave far greater impress on youthful minds than hours spent poring over textbooks. Creating such a village would challenge the organizing abilities of a dozen of our state organizations throughout the next decade and would be a tremendous contribution to our state history.

Numerous other suggestions were made and projects initiated and given statewide publicity during the centennial year. The objective of the Committee was to focus the attention of Iowans in the centennial year upon their great history, and look to the future for the completion of whatever projects caught the attention of our people.

THE OLD MORMON TRAIL

In July, President George Albert Smith of the Church of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, with a party of officials, photographers, writers, and historians, retraced the historic Old Mormon Trail across southern Iowa. From Keokuk to Council Bluffs, the party was welcomed by local chambers of commerce, and greetings were extended to the party by the Iowa Centennial Committee which sponsored the trip as a part of the year's observance.

The tour honored the crossing of the Mormons one hundred years ago and

Iowa's centennial which are coincident. Sites of especial moment were selected on which the Mormon church will raise permanent markers of granite and bronze as a part of its national program of marking the old trail. Special services were held in the little cemetery in Mount Pisgah where many of the pioneers lie buried. A large number of Union county residents joined in this ceremony.

NEWSPAPERS AROUSE INTEREST

Iowa editors made an invaluable contribution to Iowa's source history. Throughout the year the columns of centennial and regular newspaper editions overflowed with local reminiscence of early days that might otherwise have vanished.

The antique and pioneer relic displays which were a part of every centennial celebration played a leading role in introducing Iowans not only to the beauty and value of Iowana, but indicated what should be preserved as family heirlooms. Many a so-called dust-catcher has come down from the attic to a proud position in family living as a result of the summer's heirloom shows.

In a number of counties, these exhibits toured the county following the central celebration. Lyon County established a temporary museum preceding its celebration. Other counties report annual heirloom shows are in the offing.

One of the important accomplishments of the centennial year was the awareness aroused in Iowans of the dignity and beauty of our pioneer beginnings and the determination to preserve it.

IOWA'S STATE BANNER

Iowa's state flag came into its own during the centennial year. For the first time in our history, the state banner flies with the national emblem over the statehouse when the governor is in office.

Throughout the year centennial headquarters carried on an intensive publicity program to bring the flag and its significance as an emblem of our state pride to its rightful place of honor. The flag appeared on the centennial postal stamp, and its motto on our commemorative coin. Its story has been told in every community of the state. On the centennial seal, it bloomed on thousands of club

programs, school programs, magazines and newspapers, and a host of similar publicity. The story of the flag, accompanied by a mat, was sent out to newspapers all over the state, and a mimeographed copy of its history made available to inquirers.

The centennial committee urged civic groups to present the flag as a centennial contribution to public buildings and schools in their communities. Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Federated Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Parent-Teacher Associations, Rotary, Kiwanis and like groups, gave flags to their community public buildings for both indoor and outdoor use, and it is the committee's hope such gifts will continue throughout the years to come.

LIBRARIES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES

The story of the centennial would not be complete without particular mention of the invaluable contribution of these organizations.

Centennial Sunday was an integral part of the larger community celebrations. Each celebration began or closed with special religious observance. In many instances, all churches joined in a single program. Many Iowa churches observed their own centenary, as the founding of a church was the initial act in establishing the vast majority of Iowa communities. The birth of the church in Iowa was simultaneous with the birth of the state.

Harvest Home Sunday took on added significance because of the centennial. Mayors of many Iowa communities in conformance with the program outlined by the Iowa Centennial Committee designated the day for recognition of the progress of Iowa agriculture and community life during the past hundred years.

Iowa libraries organized vast resources of material on Iowa's century of progress and made it available to their patrons. Special story hours were planned to introduce Iowa children to the Iowa story. The Drake Library of Center-ville established a centennial room to house its collection of Iowana. Menville's library presented its material in a special window display. Numerous libraries marked each book purchased during the year with the centennial seal as a permanent reminder. Hundreds of similar ideas were used by libraries throughout the state.

The lasting value of the Iowa public school contribution is impossible to estimate. From big city to country crossroads, the schools used the centennial motif to bring Iowa history alive to their pupils. The variety of the approach is endless -- pageant, play, art, music, poetry, song.

For the entire program, the Department of Public Instruction laid a strong foundation in its Centennial Handbook with supplemental material issued from month to month, on which the public schools from kindergarten to graduating class developed as diversified results as did each community in its own celebration.

The influence of the work done by churches, school and libraries is beyond measure and will mold public opinion in the state, long after the centennial year is but a dim memory. For this fine contribution and for the generous cooperation extended to the centennial program, the Committee extends its particular gratitude.

EVERY WEEK IN 1946 IS
OLD HOME WEEK IN IOWA

Early in its activities, the Committee chose this theme as the motif to originate a campaign not only to bring former Iowans home for the centennial year, but to arouse in these men and women who have sought success away from home, a deep sense of pride in the Iowa tradition as a continuing bond of allegiance to their native state.

A number of communities presented a distinguished man or woman born in the community and often Iowa educated, as speaker of the day. Special invitations went to college alumni urging them to return during the year. Governor Blue joined the Centennial Committee in extending a nation-wide invitation to former Iowans to visit the old home town during the centennial observance.

An interesting visitor during the summer was Nannie Briggs Robertson, granddaughter of Ansel Briggs, named Iowa's official granddaughter during the territorial centennial observance, who appeared as guest of honor at several celebrations.

The nostalgic ballad Iowa, written and composed by Meredith Willson, formerly of Mason City, was chosen the official centennial ballad by the Committee

and sung with the Corn Song at hundreds of celebrations.

A search was instituted for the child with the longest line of Iowa forbears, and to Wapello County went the distinction of having two eighth generation children.

Iowa centenarians were sought out and their names placed on a Centennial Honor Roll. Farms belonging to Iowa families for one hundred years or more were marked with special markers and honors paid the men and women who lived on them. This project was particularly successful in eastern Iowa and was conducted in 26 counties by the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Station WHO sponsored it on a statewide basis and presented present-day owners of 100 year farms in a series of personal radio appearances. At the year's close, the broadcasting company awarded special certificates signed by Governor Blue to the owners of such farms.

Research on the origin of town and city names was suggested as a permanent contribution to community history. The town's name is often the focal point of its history and this information is more readily gathered now while many of Iowa's pioneers are still living.

CENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

An important phase of the Iowa Centennial Committee's program was the publicizing and assisting in the development of the innumerable centennial activities within and without the state. Letters of inquiry came from all over the United States seeking information on Iowa and its history. Material was supplied for programs on Iowa to every state in the Union. Much of the results of this work is intangible and lives only in a heightened awareness of Iowa and its possibilities by those within and without its borders. More tangible results are noted in the report on publicity.

So variegated was Iowa's centennial year and so far-reaching was its influence that within the limits of this report we can do no more than touch lightly upon a few of its diverse aspects. The Committee's task was educational and to that end it lent cooperation and encouragement to every expression of

centennial enthusiasm.

THE FINE ARTS

Music dedicated to the centennial was a popular by-product of the year. Karl King, Iowa's march king, introduced his latest composition "Iowa Centennial" at Fort Dodge on flag day. It was played throughout the summer and featured at the Iowa Centennial State Fair.

Roscoe C. Mann of Council Bluffs introduced a lively song "Iowa" at that city's frontier days celebration. Mrs. Laura Wright of Knoxville wrote a song honoring Iowa's state flag with music arranged by Ruby Gifford of Drake University. Representative Bowers of Union County responded to the need for a centennial hymn with words of his own, using the air "America the Beautiful."

These are but a few of the many. We chose them as typical.

Since Iowans are a literate people, the centennial year produced a bumper crop of poetry. Its quality was surprisingly good, and it caught in permanent mold the deep pride and affection of Iowans for their state. We can here do little more than comment on it. The clippings that crowd our Poetry folder are from newspaper, magazine and airwave. Many are as yet unpublished. The whole will go into the archives as the expression of our people in the centennial year.

Great fiction takes form more slowly. Perhaps already some writer is forming out of the miracle of Iowa's first century of progress, a novel which will catch the spirit of Iowa and imprison it for unborn generations. First novel to appear is "Young and Fair is Iowa" by Rev. Dr. M. M. Hoffman, distinguished historian of early Iowa. Its background is that of early northeastern Iowa.

Not by an Iowan but about Iowans, is the robust volume "The Wallaces of Iowa," a Life-in-America prize book, by Russell Lord and published by Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston. The story of three generations of Wallaces covers the years of Iowa's history as a state. Hattie P. Elston brought out in bookform this summer, titled "White Men Follow After," a series of newspaper stories on the Okoboiji-Spirit Lake region. The annual reports and surveys of various state depart-

ments and colleges took the centennial form and include in summarized form much detailed information of Iowa during the past 100 years.

Nor did the arts go unnoticed in local observance. Centennial editions of local newspapers carried columns of good local writing, both poetry and prose. Storm Lake held an exhibit of paintings by early pioneers. Sac County held a poetry contest as a part of its observance. The paintings of Grant Wood and Iowa artists received particular notice throughout the year.

Iowa's century of agricultural progress received recognition in October in a project sponsored by the Feed Institute of Iowa. Through publications and radio programs, the organization portrayed 100 years' activity in the development of sound farming practices.

Booklets prepared by the Iowa Department of History and Archives on Iowa history were mailed by centennial headquarters all over the United States in response to inquiries from those preparing programs or papers or talks on Iowa. Special emphasis was also laid on Iowa's centennial in the publications of the State Historical Society in Iowa City.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The Committee early undertook the formation of a Speaker's Bureau. This was set up on a district basis -- by congressional districts -- in order that speakers might fill engagements within easy traveling distance of home. Letters were sent to Iowans representing a wide variety of activities inviting them to offer their services and volunteers were also requested. The list was mimeographed including name of the speaker, address, subjects, and similar information, and mailed to program chairmen.

HISTORIC AND SCENIC MOTION PICTURES

A special grant from the legislative interim committee made it possible for the university's visual instruction department to prepare an historic and scenic film of Iowa for use by clubs and schools in centennial programs. The movie "Our Iowa" comprised 1200 feet of 16-mm. color film with commentary in sound. The

slides included 137 color pictures of historic, scenic and industrial scenes in Iowa. The series was accompanied by a study and lecture guide. The series was very popular throughout the centennial year and is in continuing demand.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Commemorating Iowa's admission to the Union, the Library of Congress prepared an exhibit of pictorial and documentary material on Iowa history from the days of the Indian to the present. The exhibit was supplemented with photographs and opened to the public on December 15 with the Iowa Congressional delegation in attendance, and Senator Hickenlooper as featured speaker. The photographic exhibit is now on tour throughout Iowa.

Iowa's centennial was also featured in a special Sunday afternoon program on October 20 in the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri. The talk was illustrated with the historic and scenic slides and movie of Iowa supplied by the Department of Visual Instruction, and lecture material was supplied by the Iowa Centennial headquarters.

IOWA'S OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY

In December, Governor Robert D. Blue issued a proclamation declaring December 28, Iowa Centennial Day, and urging that all Iowans observe the day with special recognition in honor of our pioneer forefathers.

A script prepared by J. A. Swisher of the State Historical Society was mailed to all centennial workers suggesting it be used all or in part, or as a theme, in special commemorative centennial services in Iowa's churches on December 29.

The day itself was centered by the official birthday party staged by the Iowa Centennial Committee in the Old Stone Capitol at Iowa City with Governor and Mrs. Blue as honored guests.

A special radio presentation by University of Iowa students using the broadcasting facilities of Station WSUI was broadcast from the Senate Chamber. The program was transcribed through the courtesy of Station WHO, and was re-broadcast

throughout the day. Originating at 11:30 a.m., the program was channeled direct to a number of Iowa stations and those not participating in this broadcast, re-broadcast it at various intervals through the day. Eighteen stations participated.

Governor Blue spoke on "Iowa, Today and Tomorrow."

A luncheon in Hotel Jefferson followed the program with Governor and Mrs. Blue, President Hancher and other University officials, and representative state officials, together with the Iowa Centennial Committee as guests. Iowa's birthday cake, lit with 100 candles, was cut by Mrs. Blue.

Russell Van Dyke, news commentator of Station KRNT conducted a broadcast interview of the luncheon.

BATTLESHIP IOWA CANCELS CACHETS

The Battleship Iowa as its contribution to the Iowa centennial, cancelled self-addressed, stamped envelopes mailed to the ship before December 28, with that date using the battleship's postmark. Thousands of Iowans availed themselves of the privilege of adding this unique cachet to their collections.

CALIFORNIA'S IOWANS CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL

From every corner of the United States come reports of Iowa centennial celebrations. Montana Iowans observed the centennial with a mid-summer picnic and were aided in their program plans by centennial headquarters. Harry W. Christy, Secretary of the Lewistown-Clarkstown Iowa society, presented a Centennial Commemorative Coin to Governor Robins of Idaho, on behalf of Governor Blue and as an expression of goodwill from former Iowans in that state. The University of Iowa Alumni Club of Chicago observed statehood day with a luncheon as did similar groups in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other distant cities.

California Iowans with their usual enthusiasm, paid special tribute to the state's birthday. At the picnics this past summer of the two big Iowa societies in Los Angeles and Long Beach, centennial programs were arranged. Telegrams of greeting went from Iowa Centennial headquarters to both groups.

Statehood Day was observed with particular emphasis. The Iowa Association of Southern California having well over 100,000 members held a banquet featuring Meredith Willson and his centennial ballad, Iowa, as well as other Iowa-born movie stars and notables. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sellman of Newton who appeared as Iowa's Happiest Married Couple on the "Bride and Groom" Radio program that day which featured Iowa's centennial. The Iowa Association of Long Beach entertained officers of the Battleship Iowa as its special dinner guests. Earlier in the year this association presented an Iowa flag to the battleship, and in return was presented a battleship flag used on the trip from Newfoundland to Teheran when President Roosevelt was aboard, and later carried in the Pacific War zone.

Officers and men of the Battleship Iowa in turn extended an invitation to all Iowans in California to the ship for a big ship's party on December 29 as their contribution towards centennial observance.

CENTENNIAL BALLS

Admission Day occurring between Christmas and New Year's made it an appropriate occasion for holiday gayety. In a number of communities, centennial balls were featured. Many of the guests made it an occasion for wearing costumes of the forties, and dances and songs of our grandmothers and grandfathers were interspersed with more modern rhythms.

KERNELS OF THE TALL CORN

Iowa Press Columnists awarded honorary "Kernelcies" of the Iowa Tall Corn to John Nelson, master of ceremony of "Bride and Groom" radio program and to Tom Breneman, master of ceremony of "Breakfast in Hollywood," for the pair's service to Iowa in giving nationwide publicity to the state's centennial celebration.

Meredith Willson formerly of Mason City, now a well known Hollywood personality, made the presentation.

Both programs featured the centennial for several months preceding and gave it intensive recognition on December 28.

LOOKING BACKWARD ON HAWKEYELAND

As its farewell gift to Iowa, the Committee is bringing out a twenty-four page, lavishly illustrated and beautifully printed booklet entitled "Looking Backward on Hawkeyeland." It will go to Iowa schools and libraries, and to historical collections throughout the United States, as a memorial to the state's hundred years of progress.

The brochure was made possible through the generosity of the John Morrell Company of Ottumwa who gave the Committee permission to use script and cuts previously used in the Morrell Magazine, and to Dr. William J. Petersen of Iowa University, Committee member, who authored the Morrell script and wrote the additional material and collected the illustrations for the eight pages added to the original edition.

The Committee wishes also to extend its particular gratitude to Mr. L. O. Cheever, editor of the Morrell Magazine, for his generous assistance in organizing the layout and supervising the printing of the booklet.

Compact and authentic, the book presents in easy reading style, the story of Iowa's first hundred years and answers a longtime need of the schools for a simple easily understood history of Iowa. It will be distributed before the Centennial headquarters is closed. An appropriation of \$2000.00 was made from Committee funds to pay for its cost of production and distribution.

IOWA CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL FUND

Of 100,000 coins minted and delivered to the Committee in December, 360 remained on March 27; funds on deposit totaled \$201,107.20. Deducting unpaid charges of the Treasurer's office for registration and incidental expenses approximating \$3500.00 and Committee charges approximating \$2500.00 leaves a balance of more than \$195,000.00

The Treasurer's office did a tremendous amount of work not included in these charges. All moneys were handled including returns both of funds and coins from the bank distribution, as well as a vast amount of correspondence and detail work which the Treasurer and his staff contributed as a public service. Office space was also provided for Centennial Committee employees working on the distribution.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

January 1, 1946 to March 31, 1947

Appropriation by 50th General Assembly for biennium.	\$ 1,000.00
Appropriation from Interim Committee	15,000.00

Expenditures January 1, 1946 to March 31, 1947

Salaries	\$6296.91
Travel	1358.12
Telephone and Telegraph.	162.25
Postage and Express.	1006.35
Newspaper Clippings.	369.09
Office Supplies.	690.72
Printing and Promotion	<u>3971.12</u>

Total Expenditures 13,854.56

Balance of Appropriation . . . 2,145.44

*Expenditures for Commemorative Coin Fund in above statement and subject to reimbursement.

Postage.	225.00	
Salaries	730.00	
Design and Dies.	<u>1550.00</u>	<u>2,505.00</u>

Total available funds 4,650.44

Appropriated from funds for Centennial Brochure 2,000.00

"Estimated Expenditures to July 1, 1947 1,500.00

Unexpended Balance 1,150.44

*This item includes only postage paid out for mailing applications and direct promotion of the coin. It does not include the postage expended on the large correspondence involved. The salaries include only those paid to employees spending full time on the coin. It does not include any charge for the regular staff which spent a tremendous amount of time on this project.

"This is a liberal estimate. A considerable portion of it will no doubt be added to the sum returned to the treasury. It is placed high to provide for unexpected demands, and to cover the expense of closing the headquarters and making a final report to the county centennial organizations, the Iowa press, the expense of the final committee meeting, and to write finis to the Committee's many and varied activities. It is possible, also, that not all the \$2000.00 appropriated for the Centennial Brochure will be expended. It is hoped the final balance will exceed \$1500.00.

