

T O U R I S M Sesquicentennial Update

Volume Five



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The Festival of Iowa Folklife — A Celebration of Iowa Pride!

You're invited to four spectacular days of FREE family fun on the Iowa State Capitol grounds, August 22 – 25, 1996.

The *Festival of Iowa Folklife* is a once-in-a-lifetime Sesquicentennial event, featuring dance, music, food, crafts, occupational culture, religious traditions and all things distinctly Iowan! Enjoy live entertainment, nightly fireworks, enticing cooking, fascinating demonstrations and hands-on children's activities in a tent-covered, parklike environment.

The spirit of Iowa's diverse communities comes together at the *Festival of Iowa Folklife* under the theme "Iowa — Community Style." Iowans will share with others how "community" is experienced in their homes, neighborhood centers, schools, workplaces, dance halls, places of worship and restaurants.

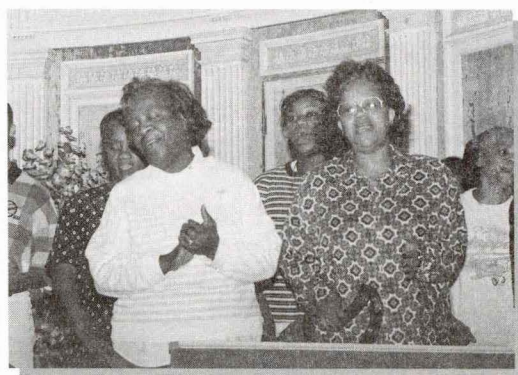


Photo by R. Saltzman

The festival is an expanded restaging of the Iowa portion of the Smithsonian Institution's *Festival of American Folklife*, held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., June 26 – 30 and July 3 – 7, 1996. The festival is open daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., with nightly entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display scheduled each night from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

A variety of food and soft drinks will be on sale for the whole family to enjoy, including enticing traditional Iowa and ethnic fare.

Iowa artisans — including those who will be doing demonstrations during the festival — will have their handiwork available to purchase.

The *Festival of Iowa Folklife* is a project of the Iowa Sesquicentennial Commission in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution; Iowa Department of Economic Development, Division of Tourism; Iowa Arts Council; and the National Endowment for the Arts Folk Arts Program. Corporate support is provided by John Deere; Barr-Nunn Transportation, Inc.; Hon Industries; and The Principal Financial Group Foundations, Inc. Additional support is provided by Taylor Ball, Heart of America Restaurants & Inns (Iowa Machine Shed), and Coca-Cola Bottlers of Iowa. The festival hotel headquarters is the Savery Hotel & Spa.

Iowa Games Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

Make plans today to attend the opening ceremonies of the *1996 Iowa Games Annual Sports Festival* on Friday, August 2, 1996, at 8 p.m. at Hilton Coliseum. Admission is free! The Iowa Games will be held August 2 – 4 in Ames and will feature a Sesquicentennial flavor.

Nearly 10,000 people are expected to attend the 10-year anniversary of the Iowa Games. More than 15,000 people will participate in 30 sports offered by the festival. Events will be held at various locations throughout central Iowa, with most sports concentrated on the Iowa State University campus and in the city of Ames.

The Iowa Games is a multisport festival of Olympic-style competition for Iowa's amateur athletes of all ages and abilities. For more information, call 1-800-469-IOWA.

The Smithsonian certainly got it right when it named our part of the 1996 *Festival of American Folklife* "Iowa — Community Style." Iowans seem to know intuitively that it is our sense of community that sets us apart from most other places. We have grown up with the idea that we work better when we work together, that we can solve our problems more effectively through consensus than by conflict.

We have always believed that we have something special in Iowa. What comes as a bit of a surprise — although maybe it shouldn't — is that people elsewhere are so interested in what we do and how we do it.

More than 100 Iowans will soon go to Washington, D.C., to demonstrate our community-building skills to more than one million visitors from across the nation and around the world. Among these Iowans will be traditional artists and craftspeople, musicians and singers of many varieties, insurance representatives, radio and newspaper journalists, farmers, tractor builders, meat cutters, girls' basketball players, and many others who enrich the daily life of our communities.

The Smithsonian calls these people "national treasures." We'll just smile and call them neighbors as we enjoy their moment in America's spotlight. Then, like good neighbors do, the festival participants will come back home and tell their stories to Iowans when we restage the festival in August on the grounds of our own capitol in Des Moines.

When people ask us why we are celebrating this particular anniversary in Iowa's history, here is one way we can answer: Our Sesquicentennial is bringing our whole state together as one great community. And it continues to remind us what a rare and wonderful accomplishment that is.

Iowa Voyager Follows RAGBRAI® July 21 – 27, 1996

The *Iowa Voyager* — a traveling Iowa exhibit — will join thousands of intrepid bicycle riders for an entertaining trip through history as RAGBRAI® XXIV celebrates Iowa's 150th birthday. RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) is the largest, longest bike tour in the United States. Every July, more than 10,000 bicyclists from all over the world come to Iowa to pedal the 450- to 500-mile route.

During this special Sesquicentennial ride, people in host communities along the RAGBRAI route can explore the *Iowa Voyager*, where video technology and visual arts combine to tell the story of Iowa. This 48-foot custom-built, state-of-the-art traveling exhibit highlights the places and faces of Iowa, past and present, and is made possible by a partnership between the Iowa Division of Tourism and Iowa Bankers Association. The *Voyager* exhibit will be hosted overnight at each stop by a local Iowa Bankers Association member bank. It's one more way Iowa banks are investing in Iowa.

The Division of Tourism is an official "Friend of RAGBRAI."

JUNE

- 1 – 2 Art in the Park, Des Moines
- 1 – 2 Civil War Days, Hopkinton
- 1 – 2 Frontier Days, Fort Dodge
- 1 – 2 Le Festival de L'Heritage Francais, Corning
- 1 – July 6 Effigy Mounds Moonlight Hikes, Allamakee County
- 1 – Oct. 31 The Iowa Bandstand Tour, Statewide
- 2 Folk Arts in the Forest, Osceola
- 2 Railroaders Reunion, Cedar Rapids
- 6 – 8 Glenn Miller Festival, Clarinda
- 6 – 8 World Pork Expo 1996, Des Moines, State Fairgrounds
- 7 – 8 Annual Flag Festival, Brooklyn
- 7 – 9 Onawa Lewis and Clark Festival, Onawa
- 8 – 9 Jesse James Trail Ride, McGregor
- 8 – 16 Iowa Arts Festival, Iowa City/Coralville
- 9 Grant Wood Art Festival, Stone City
- 9 Spring Antique Jamboree, West Des Moines
- 11 – 16 Burlington Steamboat Days — American Music Festival, Burlington
- 12 – 15 Iowa Senior Games, West Des Moines
- 13 Celebration of Early Settlers, Muscatine
- 14 – 15 Iowa Heritage Expo, Des Moines
- 14 – 16 Iowa High School Rodeo Championship Finals, Albion
- 14 – 16 State Center Rose Festival, State Center
- 15 National Skillet Throw, Macksburg
- 15 – 23 Donna Reed Festival for the Performing Arts, Denison
- 17 – July 4 Authentic Mormon Wagon Train, Croton to Council Bluffs/Omaha
- 21 – 23 Dubuque Catfish Festival, Dubuque
- 22 Brucemore Garden Party, Cedar Rapids
- 22 Summer Solstice and Country Western Dance, Council Bluffs
- 22 – 23 Quad City Air Show, Davenport
- 23 Iowa Arts Festival "Happy Birthday, Iowa" Event, Iowa City
- 23 – 25 Pioneer Wagon Train, Van Buren County
- 23 – July 13 Iowa Pioneer Mormon Trail Wagon Train Reenactment, Across Southern Iowa
- 25 – 30 Mighty Howard County Fair, Cresco
- 26 – 30 Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife, Washington, D.C.
- 28 – 30 Old-Fashioned Sesquicentennial Summerfest, Eagle Grove
- 28 – 30 Rodeo Days, Edgewood
- 28 – July 7 Freedom Festival, Cedar Rapids
- 29 – 30 Collectors Paradise Flea Market, Amana
- 30 – July 4 Riverfest, Fort Madison