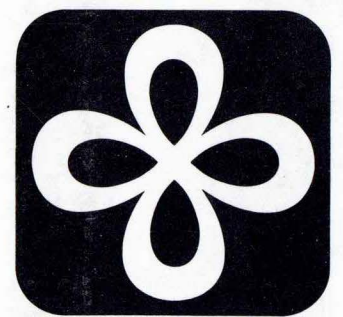


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**Iowa**  
a place to grow

Published by  
Tourism and Travel Division  
Iowa Development Commission  
250 Jewett Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309



*An Iowa Vacation  
Kind of a Feeling*

Graphic

**V**acationing means leaving the free-ways and the interstates behind. Getting out from under the traffic jams and the 5 o'clock rush hours. Escaping the hub-bub of throngs of people, congested store fronts. It means breaking away from the hassles of jobs, and routine day-to-day tasks.

Vacationing gives you an opportunity to do the things you want to do. Iowa offers you a place to do them.



History & Folklore

2



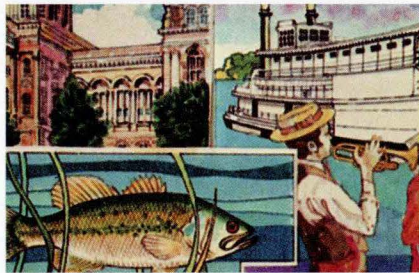
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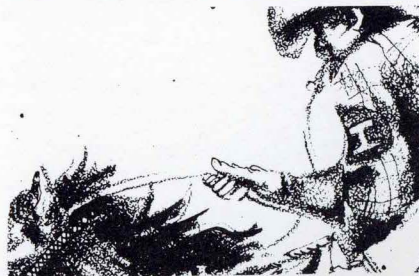
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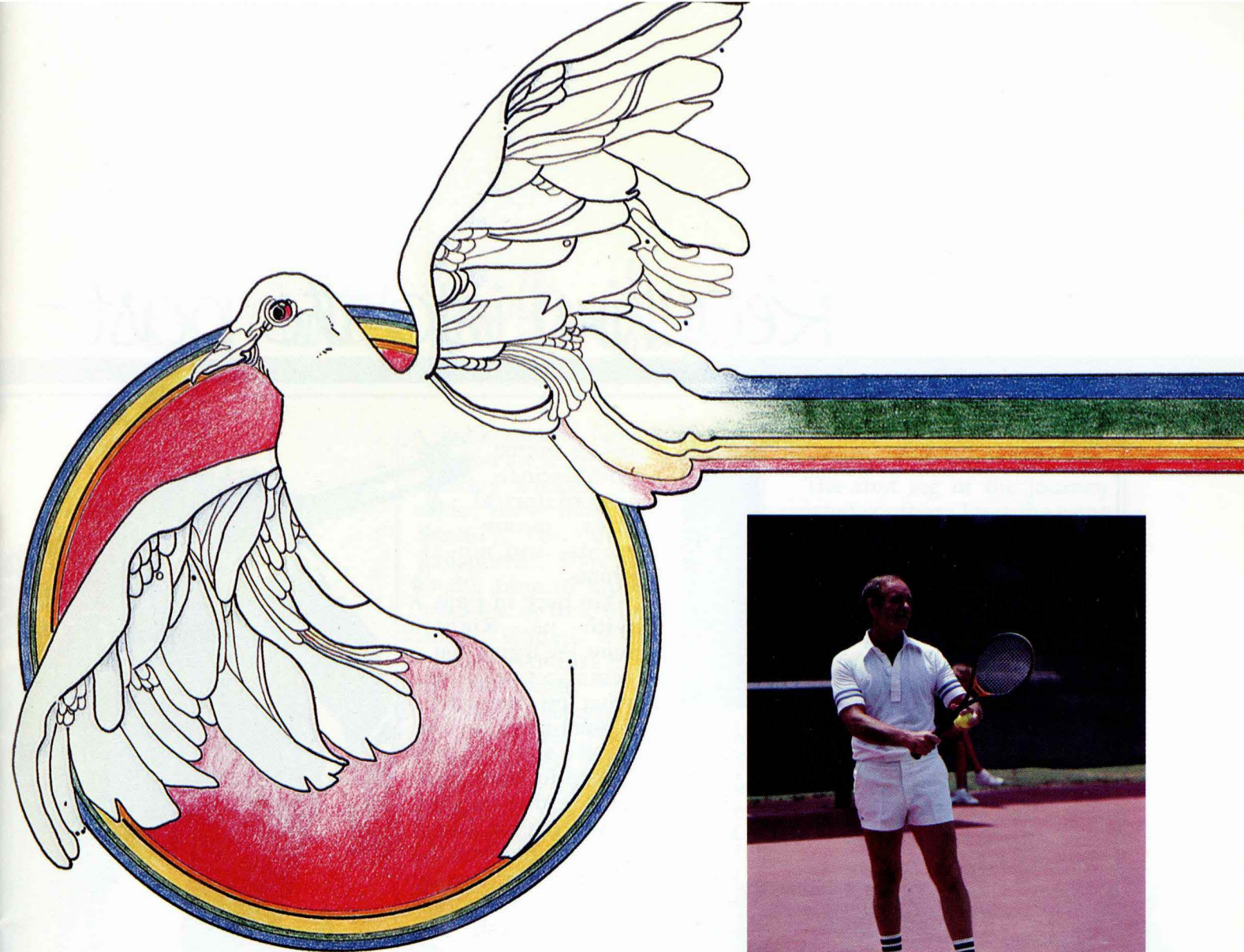
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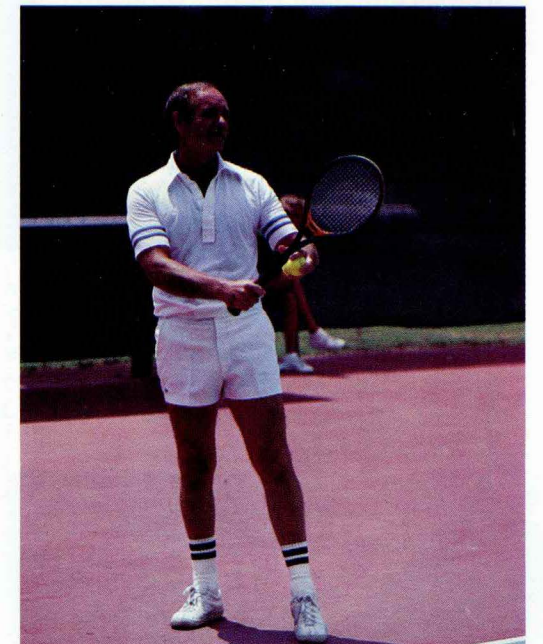
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An Iowa Vacation

Kind of a Feeling



"There is a special atmosphere, a special kind of feeling in Iowa — and you can sense and share that feeling by visiting the Hawkeye State during your vacation. It comes from a beautiful blend of Iowa hospitality, unspoiled countryside, and all of the things that make Iowa a place to grow . . ."

In the following pages, you will see that Iowa offers a balance of natural settings, parks and campgrounds for outdoor enthusiasts, and cities that provide excellent dining, theater and shopping . . .

Located in the Heartland of America, we're not far away from most of you, and we have much to offer. So come, experience and enjoy an Iowa vacation, for a special kind of feeling . . ."

— Governor Robert D. Ray —

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# Reaching into the past -

# with feeling

**I**owa is dotted with fascinating historical sites, monuments, and museums. Go back in time with us. Right now. We'll give you some examples of what Iowa can offer.

Jot down a few names as you read; or just put a star by something you'd like to learn more about. Then take that vacation you've been waiting for. Take it to Iowa. Iowa will give you the kind of feeling you're looking for — a knowledge and understanding about your past.

You're driving down a long, winding road. There are trees all around you, it's a wooded area. Peaceful. Gives you kind of a good feeling already.

When you round the last bend, up ahead, through the green foliage, you can see something resembling a castle. An antiquated English castle. It's not your imagination. No. There, sitting in quiet grandeur, is an ancient mansion called the **Salisbury House**.



Walk inside. Now you feel like you are imagining, because walking amongst these keepsakes, these relics of the 16th century, you feel suddenly transported. Transported back to the time of tapestries and brocades. A time of ornate furniture. Gilded. It's a time of splendor. And it's in metropolitan **Des Moines!**

There's a legend behind the family called Phelps. It's a legend about generations of Phelps who lived in the same house. We won't give it away now, but we will tell you where to find the answer. In **Burlington**, inside the **Phelps House**, are remnants of how these generations lived.

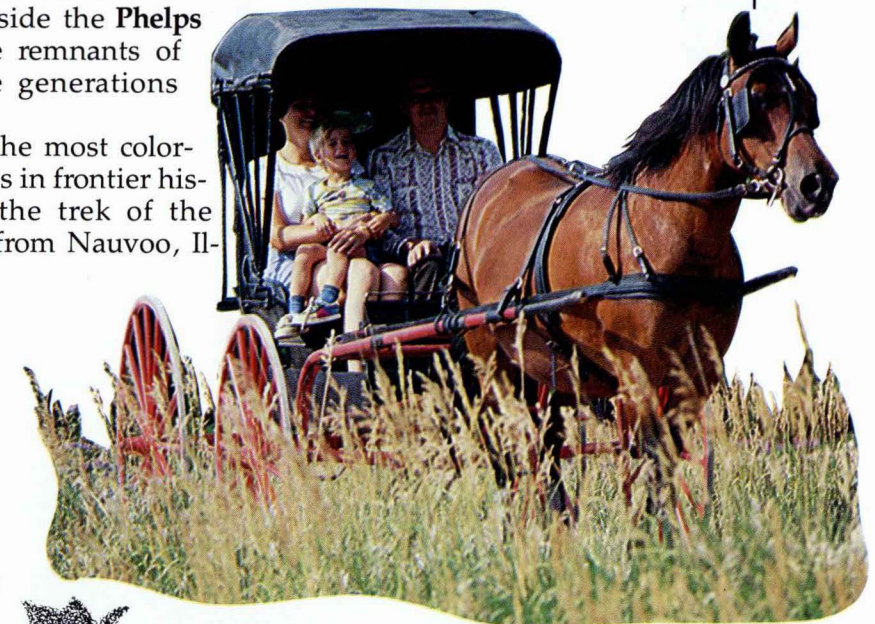
One of the most colorful episodes in frontier history was the trek of the Mormons from Nauvoo, Il-

linois, on the Mississippi, to the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

The first leg of the journey crossed southern Iowa the same year Iowa was admitted as a state, 1846.

Every halting place of Brigham Young, their leader, was called a "Camp of Israel". Fifteen of these were established across southern Iowa that same year.

The outstanding Iowa memorial to those who died on the trip is at **Mount Pisgah** in **Union County**. But other markers, and even wagon wheel ruts from



◀ Following the Dutch tradition, street scrubbers prepare for the tulip festival. (Pella and Orange City) ▲ A horse, a buggy and a meadow on a leisurely afternoon.



# Folklore of today with traditions of yesteryear

their passage, can be seen at certain other places along the route.

In the town of **West Branch**, just off main street, stands a tiny cottage. In 1938 the restored cottage was opened to the public — for in this diminutive two-room home was born **Herbert Clark Hoover** — the first President of the United States to be born west of the Mississippi.

While simplicity marks the site of his birthplace, there is nothing that suggests austerity. Morning glory vines again climb over the back porch and an old-fashioned gourd dipper hangs on a post near the wooden pump.

Hoover's birthplace is an inspiration to see, for his life demonstrated that it was still possible for men to journey from simple cabin to White House.

The **Hoover Presidential Library**, also in **West Branch**, offers enlightenment with a walk through this archive of mementos and papers. The Hoover Burial site, as well as the Quaker meeting house are in this small town also.

Remember **Antonin Dvorak**, the great Czech composer? A monument commemorating his

◀ *Dancing is only part of the excitement of the Decorah Nordic Fest.*

1893 visit to Iowa can be seen in **Spillville**, in northeast Iowa, along with the home in which he lived. He completed the "New World" symphony, composed his "American Quartette", and was inspired for "Humoresque" in this house.

The home also houses the famous **Bily Clocks**, handcarved over many years by Frank and Joseph Bily. A Violin Clock, Statuary Clock, and a plaque commemorating the First Thanksgiving are among the more famous pieces the brothers made. What better way to remember Dvorak and the Bily Brothers than through these symphonies in wood.

If you revere the birthplaces of great men or women, then visit some of Iowa's other historical sites.

The boyhood home of **Wyatt Earp** is in **Pella**, and **Buffalo Bill's** is near **LeClair**. Visit **Mason City**, the home town of **Meredith Willson**, and, some music men say, the model for his River City; and **Cresco**, the boyhood home of **Dr. Norman Borlaug**, Nobel Peace Prize winner.

We can show you where former **First Lady Mamie Eisenhower** was born in **Boone**, and the grave of **Chief Wapello** near **Ottumwa**.

▶ *Exotic beauty and pride of the Mesquakie comes out stronger at Powwow time.*

Visit these places for yourself, and cherish the feeling of a past being better understood.

Why were bridges covered? To keep them dry, some said. Because they became popular as "Kissing Bridges" or "Wishing Bridges", others said. To make them last longer?

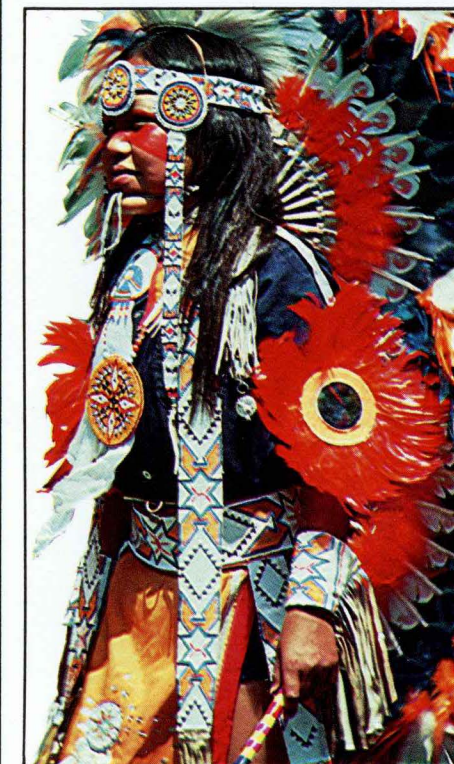
Actually, there were many reasons for covering a bridge back in 1805, when the first one was built. Looking at some of the few remaining covered bridges of today, you could ask many questions.

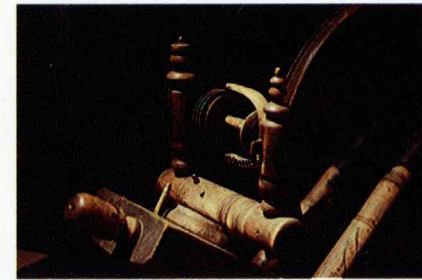
**Winterset** boasts of its share of **covered bridges**, and a bridge festival is held annually. Join in on the fun. Maybe someone there can tell you the real reason behind the covering. But, even if you don't find out, celebrate anyway, for another part of Iowa history can be seen today.

Why are there so many early Iowa historical attractions in southeast Iowa? Attractions sure to excite you, the lover of history?

Because, in the early days of the state, southeast Iowa was the hub of the state.

Take, for example, **Van Buren County**. This county proudly boasts of underground railroad stations where slaves were housed while escaping the South, before and during the Civil War. The county also has the **Old Douds Depot**, now a railroad and mining museum; and an extensive collection of





◀ *There's always time to stop and talk with a child. (Ft. Atkinson Rendezvous)*

▲ *This Madison County covered bridge has stood the test of time.*

antiques and early farm equipment in **Morris Park**. There is the historic **Hotel Manning** and the state's oldest jail in **Keosauqua**. Old river ports of **Bentonsport** and **Bonaparte** recall days of long ago when passenger and cargo boats plied the Des Moines River.

Other counties in the area can boast of similar attractions. So, history lover, this is one area where you'll have to stop.

Iowa's first citizens, the ancient Indians, moved into our state about twelve thousand years ago. These ancient wood-

land cultures are characterized by religious mound cults and pottery.

The **Effigy Mounds National Monument** is a tract of land in northeast Iowa near **Marquette**, which displays mounds made by these prehistoric tribes.

Displayed amongst a native hardwood forest, wild plants, swamps and backwaters, mammals, birds and wildflowers, are 87 of these prehistoric burial mounds.

Trailside exhibits and a modern visitor center help explain the Mounds. Further south, in **Louisa County**, the **Toolesboro Indian Mounds** also mark the spot where explorers **Marquette** and **Jolliet** set foot on Iowa soil.

Take a look at the mounds,

read about the past. It's all part of the feeling.

A monument of more recent history can be found at **West Bend** — the **Grotto of the Redemption** in Palo Alto County. It's the world's largest grotto collection of minerals, precious stones and petrification concentrated in any one spot in the world, and represents 42 years of labor by a single devoted individual.

Iowa's folklore was laid down by rugged pioneers and sod-busters who settled the state in the early days. These ancestors from Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, England, Denmark, Wales, Ireland and other countries have cultivated ties to this land that remain strong to day. Ties that are evident in the many cultural settlements of this state.

Like a vision from the past, the **Amish** come riding into the little farm community of **Kalona** in their black-box buggies, along the side of Highway 1, or on old dirt roads running into town.

The men dress in dark blue pants and light blue shirts and broad-brimmed hats, while the women are in dark blue, grey or green dresses which hang almost to their ankles.

Their story began in 16th-century Switzerland, and simplicity is still their way of life in 20th-century Iowa.



When you hear the words "coffee pot", what do you think of? Hospitality? Or maybe even Mrs. Olsen?

What about a **huge coffee pot**? One that holds 640 *thousand* cups of coffee? Definitely the world's largest. It rises 125 feet above **Stanton's** skyline, lighted at night. Stanton, the Swedish capital of Iowa.

To Stanton, to the Swedes who live there, the huge coffee pot signifies hospitality, a basic element of home and community life. They follow their homeland traditions by celebrating such **Swedish festivals** as "Santa Lucia" and "Skona Maj". Join in on their folklore.

("Mrs. Olsen" did grow up in Stanton, but the huge coffee pot serves as the town's water tower.)

A living history book, with its pages open to the life and culture of Norwegian immigrants to America, can be seen in **Vesterheim**, the Norwegian-American Museum in **Decorah**.

The oldest immigrant museum, Vesterheim's main building tells the story of Norwegian immigration in 3 chapters: Life in Norway, the Atlantic Crossing,

and Life in America.

The Westby Ship Gallery, Gudbrandsdal House, Setesdal Room, Selland-Forde Log House, a chapel, and a Textile Gallery are all housed in the main complex of Vesterheim. It uses the different floors and showrooms to share with you a festive atmosphere.

During the late-July Nordic Fest watch the traditional costumed Norwegians roll-out lefse, or the Curator of Textiles spin some wool. Listen to the Luren Male Chorus of Decorah.

It's all there for your fun, just as Iowa's many other museums.

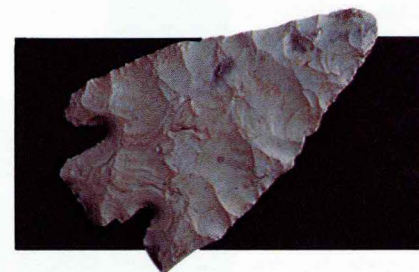
The **Amana Colonies** give you another opportunity to participate in the folklore of yesteryear. German folklore.

A former religious settlement dating back to 1854, the Amana Colonies are now a free enterprise complex of seven villages, situated on 26,000 acres of prime Iowa farmland.

Mingled in the seven villages are German restaurants, with family-style meals;

hand-crafted furniture, and a woolen mill; wineries offering dandelion, grape, berry and rhubarb wine, and museums; all creating old world charm. Even

the architecture of the buildings bespeaks their heritage.



It's a place where culture remains true, a living folklore, waiting for you to participate.

In a near-downtown area of **Cedar Rapids**, the **Czech Village** is preserved by people who care about the irreplaceable historic structures found there.

Preserved, so that you, too, may walk through the charming mixture of shops and businesses. Woven into the village are a wealth of information on Czech influences in America; decorative details; and personal histories to interest you.

Spend some time there.

The yards, gardens and central square are already alive with the colors of thousands of tulips. White, orange, red, yellow and violet. Narrow Dutch-style buildings line the square, and a Dutch windmill adds to the feeling.

You're in the crowd, taking in this colorful beauty when the Town Crier announces the Volks Parade and the Burgemeester calls for street scrubbers to clean the streets. He yells that the streets must not contain a parti-



◀ *Waiting for customers, or sitting in the sunshine on a warm day. (Ft. Atkinson Rendezvous)*



## From sodbusters and craftsmen...

cle of dirt when the queen passes with the parade.

Colorful Dutch costumed scrubbers scatter on the streets, clacking their wooden shoes as they push their brooms, and then — well, stop at **Pella** or **Orange City** and see the gala affair for yourself.

What affair? Well, with a desire to commemorate the sacrifices of their founding fathers from Holland, and to keep alive the ideals they cherished, the Dutch of Pella came to celebrate the **Tulip Festival**; and those of Orange City, the **May Festival**.

Both festivals are yearly reminders of the rich heritage of their sturdy Holland ancestors, but museums, pastry shops, and wooden shoe factories are open year-round.

The **Elk Horn-Kimballton** area is the largest settlement of Danes in the U.S. A 130-year-old imported **Danish windmill** is assembled and producing stone-ground flour in **Elk Horn** and a replica of **Hans Christian Anderson's Little Mermaid** graces the **Kimballton** town square.

Come to the Elk Horn-

▲ *This farmer works the soil as if it were a century ago, at the Living History Farms near Des Moines.*

◀ *Workshops are strewn with pieces of oak, walnut and cherry wood as Amana crafters build furniture.*

Kimballton area for **Scandinavian Days**. And, if you're curious how the Danish windmill works, then climb the stairs to the second floor.

The beauty and pride of the **Mesquakie Indians** can't be overlooked.

Each year, as the summer draws to a close, and the "leaf-falling" moon approaches, the throb of the tom-tom and chants of the Indian echo throughout central Iowa. It's powwow time at the Mesquakie Settlement near **Tama**, and the People of the Red Earth convene in full regalia to perform tribal dances and ceremonies for visitors like you.

Through their culture you can gain some perspective on the value of heritage, for as they live for the present, they remember and honor their past.

Breaking from the various cultures Iowa offers, the early tradition of our state can be understood in other ways.

Wondering how life was, back on a pioneer farm? Would side-by-side examples in differing time frames help? Then stop at the **Living History Farms** in **Des Moines**. It's a living, open-air museum which presents a century-and-a-half of Iowa life and agriculture. You can walk through an 1840's Pioneer Farm; 1900's Farm, and the Farm of Today and Tomorrow, where technology of the future can be seen.

You can participate in a wide variety of special activities and festivals on most weekends, including old-time music festivals, pioneer craft shows and authentic pioneer and turn-of-the-century plowing exhibitions.

Sometimes a reunion is simply a place to shoot off steam . . . from steam engines that is, at the **Old Settlers and Threshers Reunion** in **Mount Pleasant**.

Over a hundred steam engines, a sawmill, trolley cars, and antique autos are on display. Antiques are for sale, and for show. There's sorghum making; threshing; wood sawing; and spinning. A steam train and year-round museum round out the show.

You're a kid again. Imagine yourself floating down the mighty Mississippi. Sort of like Huck Finn. Only you're pushing tons of coal. You and your tugboat.

Imagination? We'll let you command our tugboat, the **George M. Verity**. But we had to let it paddle out of water in 1960 because it was getting old. (It was built in 1927.) And it did push coal in its day. Ten million tons of it.

Resting colorfully in **Keokuk's** riverside Victory Park, the **George M. Verity** is a museum now. Climb aboard. We'll let you explore each compartment, from the engine room to the top deck.





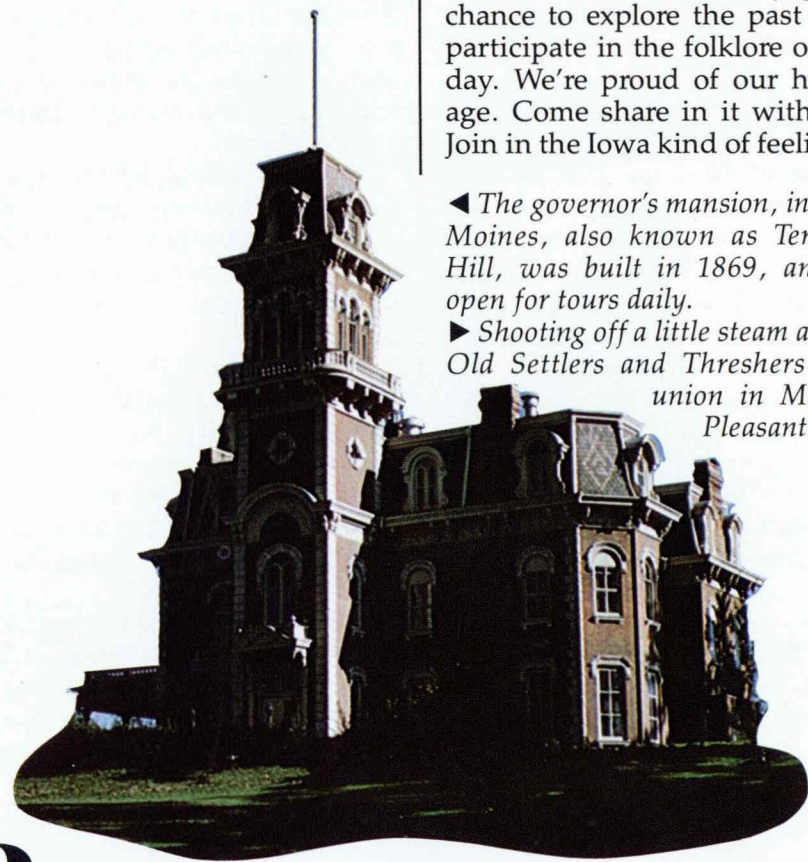
There are many more historical sites to see as you travel in Iowa. Sites like the wrecked **Bertrand steamboat** and the **national wildlife refuge** at **DeSoto Bend**, north of **Council Bluffs**; the **Floyd Monument**, near **Sioux City**; **Fort Dodge**, in **Fort Dodge**; and the **State Historical Building**, in **Des Moines**.

There are also the old and new capitol buildings, in **Iowa City** and **Des Moines**, and the **Old Shot Tower** and the **Julien Dubuque Monument**, near **Dubuque**.

Yes, Iowa offers a truly great chance to explore the past and participate in the folklore of today. We're proud of our heritage. Come share in it with us. Join in the Iowa kind of feeling.

◀ *The governor's mansion, in Des Moines, also known as Terrace Hill, was built in 1869, and is open for tours daily.*

▶ *Shooting off a little steam at the Old Settlers and Threshers Reunion in Mount Pleasant.*





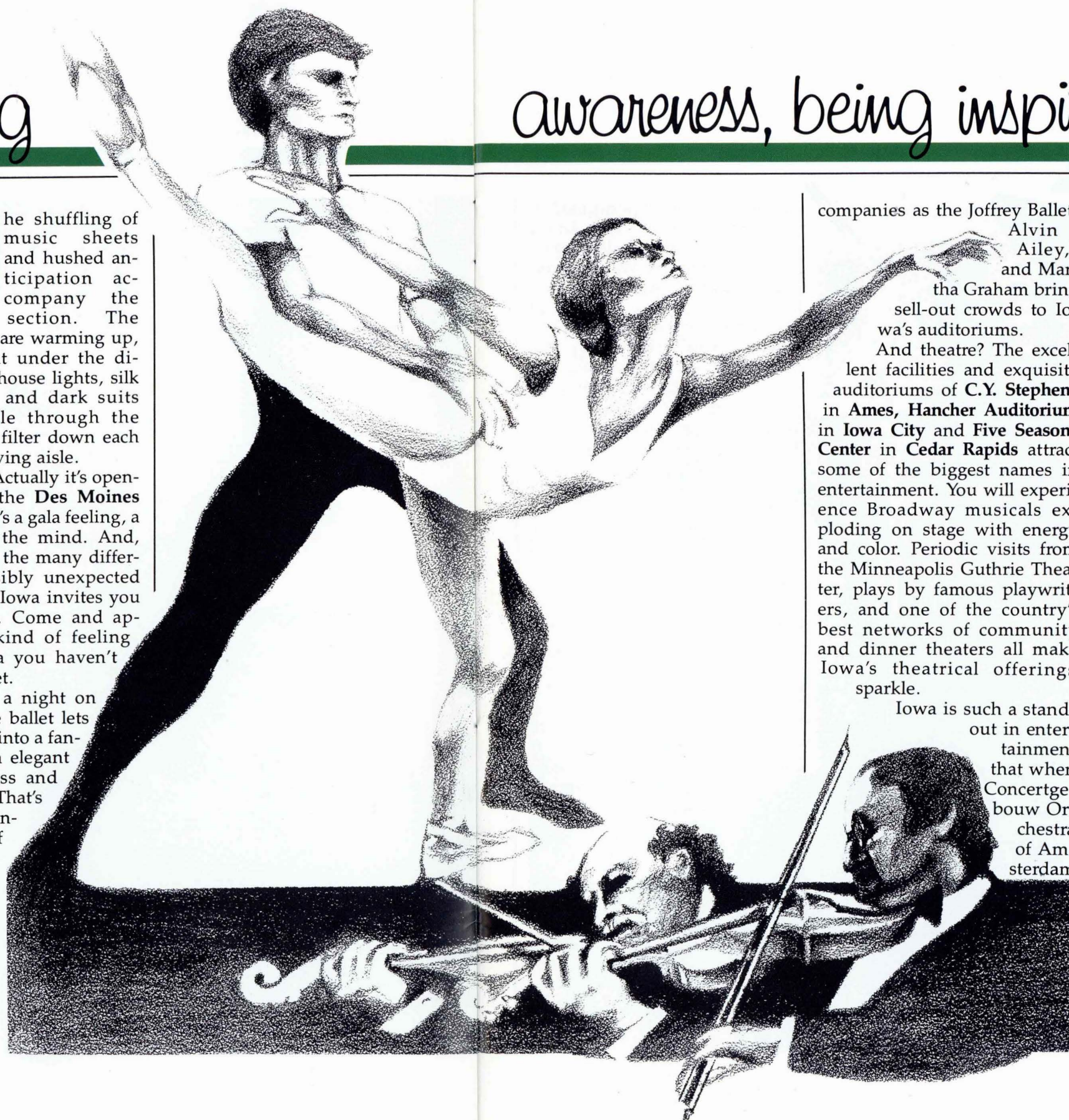
# Building

# awareness, being inspired

**T**he shuffling of music sheets and hushed anticipation accompany the horn section. The strings are warming up, and out under the dimmed house lights, silk gowns and dark suits rustle through the soft seats and filter down each successive curving aisle.

New York? Actually it's opening night at the **Des Moines Civic Center**. It's a gala feeling, a recreation for the mind. And, it's just one of the many different, and possibly unexpected pleasures that Iowa invites you to experience. Come and appreciate the kind of feeling from the Iowa you haven't experienced yet.

How about a night on the town? The ballet lets you slip away into a fantasy world, an elegant world. Softness and grace. Iowa? That's right — nationwide tours of such major



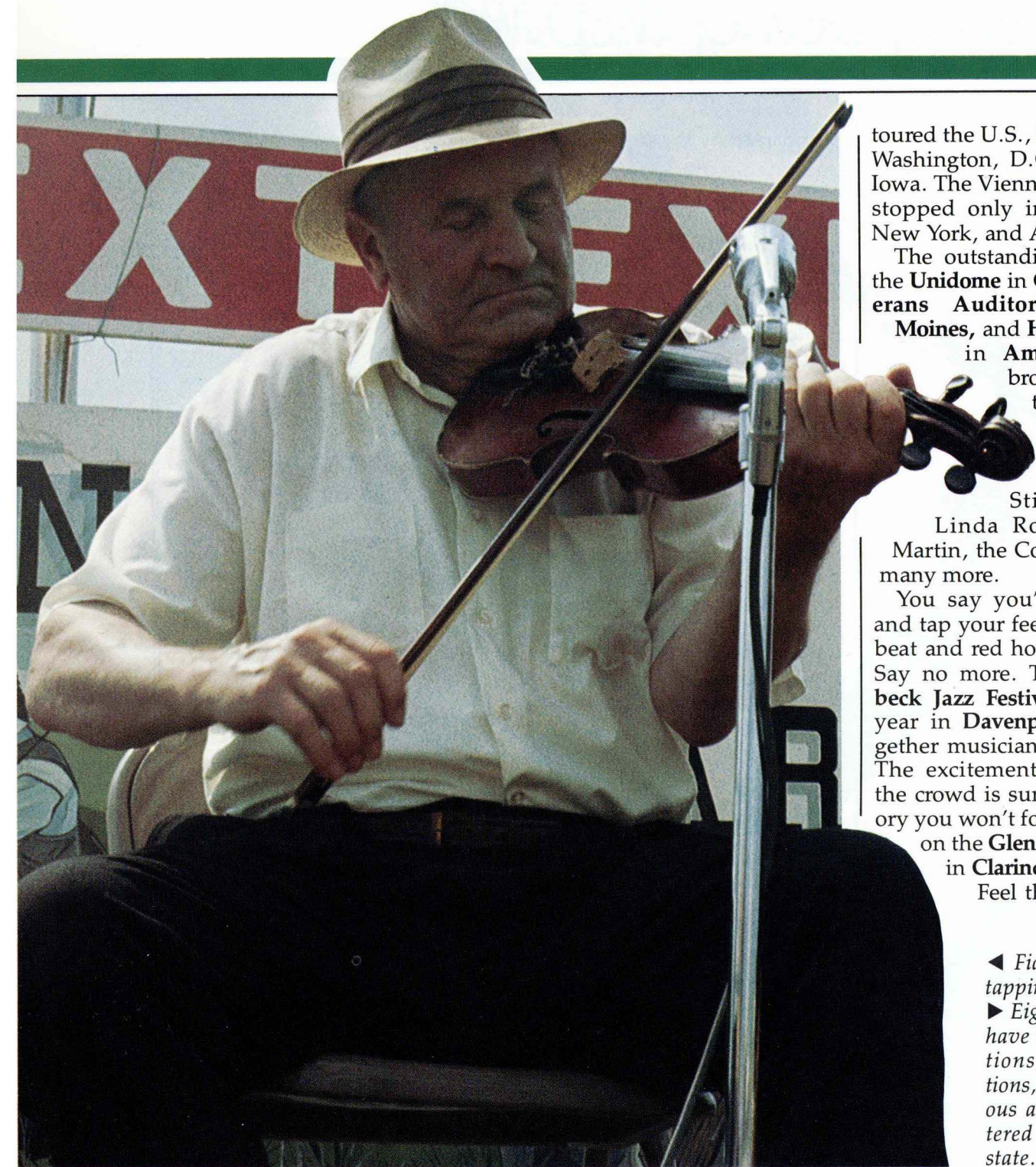
companies as the Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey, and Martha Graham bring sell-out crowds to Iowa's auditoriums.

And theatre? The excellent facilities and exquisite auditoriums of **C.Y. Stephens** in Ames, **Hancher Auditorium** in Iowa City and **Five Seasons Center** in Cedar Rapids attract some of the biggest names in entertainment. You will experience Broadway musicals exploding on stage with energy and color. Periodic visits from the Minneapolis Guthrie Theater, plays by famous playwrights, and one of the country's best networks of community and dinner theaters all make Iowa's theatrical offerings sparkle.

Iowa is such a stand-out in entertainment that when Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam



◀ The elegant world of ballet.  
▲ Works by Goya, Danmier, Pissarro, Courbet and foremost American artists are honored in the Des Moines Art Center.



toured the U.S., it performed in Washington, D.C., and Ames, Iowa. The Vienna Philharmonic stopped only in Washington, New York, and Ames.

The outstanding facilities of the **Unidome in Cedar Falls**, **Veterans Auditorium in Des Moines**, and **Hilton Coliseum in Ames** have also brought such contemporary powerhouses as the Bee Gees, Crosby Stills and Nash, Linda Ronstadt, Steve Martin, the Commodores and many more.

You say you'd rather sway and tap your feet to the throaty beat and red hot horns of jazz? Say no more. The **Bix Beiderbeck Jazz Festival**, held every year in **Davenport**, brings together musicians from all over. The excitement and fervor of the crowd is sure to be a memory you won't forget. Or, join in on the **Glenn Miller Festival** in **Clarinda**.

Feel the freedom, the

◀ *Fiddling up a toe-tapping tune.*

▶ *Eight here . . . do I have nine? Farm auctions, antique auctions, and miscellaneous auctions are scattered throughout the state.*

inspiration, the beauty of original artwork in the open air or in a quiet gallery. Starting in April, there are at least 60 art fairs throughout the summer in Iowa.

Fairs like the **Dubuque Farmers' Market** which not only includes arts and crafts from every area, but also fresh produce, flowers, baked goods, and farm products. All the products are home grown or handmade.

Or, walk along the river bank in **Iowa City** where the **Thieves' Market** is held. Find a backdrop of wooded hills and the restored village of **Bentonsport** as another art fair site.

With so many arts festivals, indoor and out, you're sure to find that perfect piece of art to add to your collection.

Artist **Grant Wood** and Iowa are synonymous in many parts of the world. Through the stylized landscapes and meticulous portraits that he painted, people everywhere have come to know the rolling prairieland and fertile fields of Eastern Iowa.

His works — the oils, the drawings, the lithographs and all — are still eagerly sought by collectors. Museums have acquired his paintings, and he is now represented in many of America's leading art repositories.

ries.

Come to **Cedar Rapids**, where Wood once lived. Visit the art gallery where a collection of his pieces can be seen.

*"There's a church in the valley by the wildwood,  
No lovelier place in the dale.  
No spot is so dear to my childhood,  
As the little brown church in the vale."*

Remember this popular hymn? It was written by a Dr. W.S. Pitts after he visited the spot where the **Little Brown Church** now stands in **Nashua**. It's a brown-painted frame structure reminiscent of New England Puritanism. Even



though it was built in the 1860s, regular church services are still held in it, and an endless schedule of weddings.

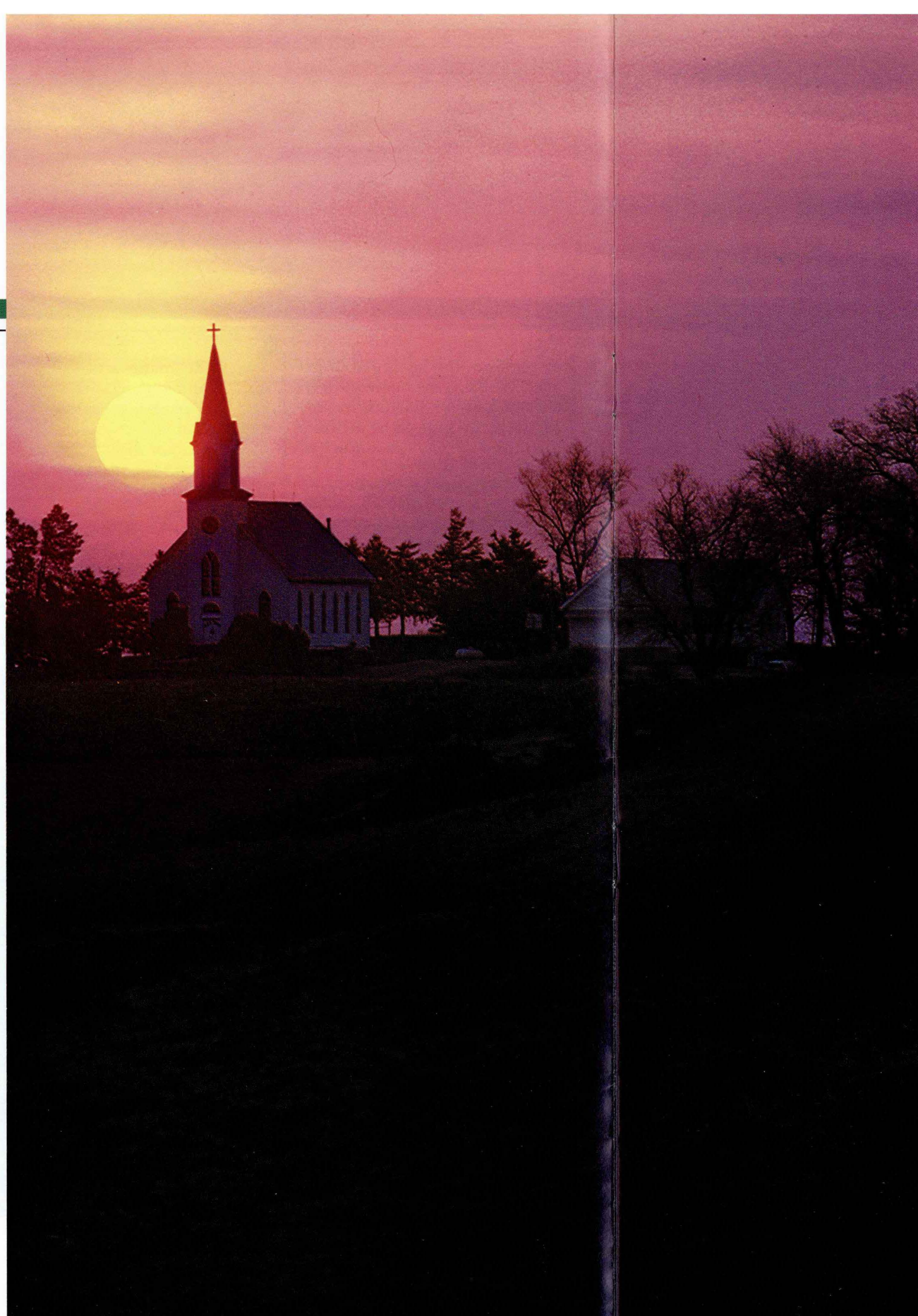
Who knows, you might be inspired to write a song after taking a visit.

"Eight here . . . do I have nine? Nine. NINE. Give me fifty. There. Nine-fifty."

Men and women, young and old, farmers and businessmen, antique dealers and private collectors; all are around to raise their hands to the exciting chant of the auctioneer; for there's something to cherish about the **country auction** — its easy comrade style, its unique flavor — that makes the search for that certain antique rewarding in itself. Auctions are scattered all over the state, so you're sure to spot one on your Iowa vacation.

If you're an artist or photographer looking for **historical subject matter**, you'll keep busy for days in Iowa. Old brick commercial and store buildings; mills; opera houses; depots; churches; brick, stone and frame houses; hotels; and even blacksmith shops — all virtually unchanged since they were built 130 years ago — can be found in many Iowa towns.

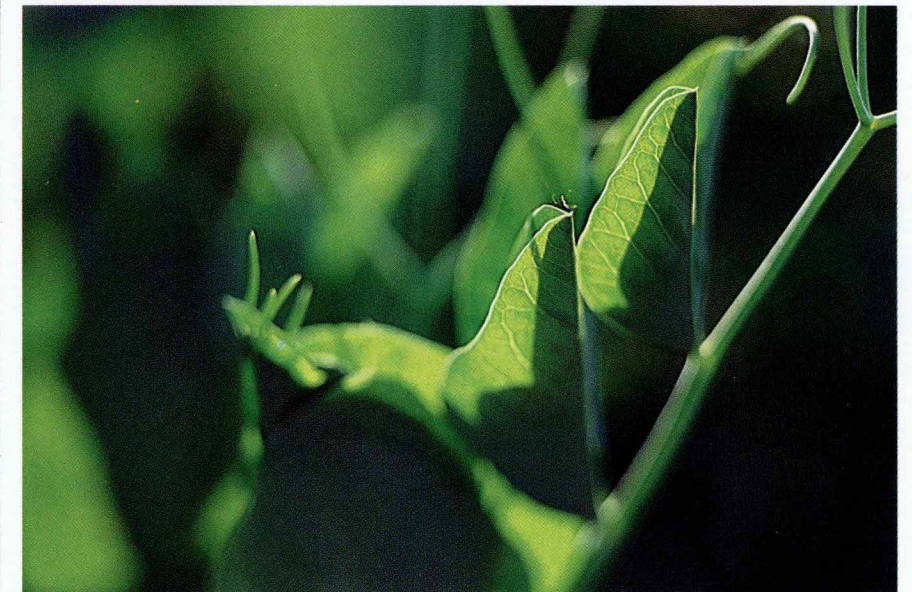
► *Scenic beauty abounds in Iowa — from silhouettes against the giant sky and waterfront scenes of floating things, to the smallest details of pure nature itself. This is Iowa.*



# Picturesque Iowa. Naturally.

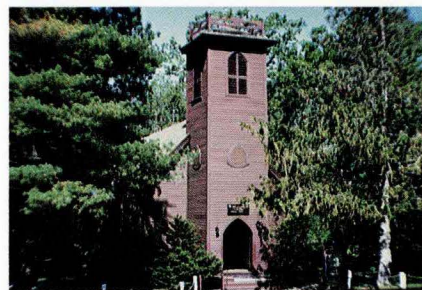


© Bill Gillette



© Bill Gillette

© Bill Gillette



And in the countryside, picturesque barns and silos sit in relaxed **scenic settings**. It's inviting material.

Perhaps the richest source of culture anywhere is people. People who can still follow the ways and customs of another land. And, what better way to truly appreciate the flavor of another culture than by tasting its **traditional foods**.

The Dutch offer the rich, buttery flakiness of "boterletter" or a meal of hot bologna and snijboontjes. There's the simple warming tastes of such Nordic classics as lefsa and kringla, or the filling German meal of bratwurst and sauerkraut.

"Aggrora," of

ostkaka, are a Swedish tradition. All of these cultural dishes can be found in one or more of Iowa's many restaurants.

Speaking of restaurants and good food, did you know that some people, living as far away as the east and west coasts, actually plan their vacations so that they can sink their teeth into some **fine Iowa meats**? That's right. For the connoisseur of fine steaks and chops, Iowa offers the ultimate in culinary satisfaction.

Iowa produces the finest beef and pork in the world, and when you take a break from the traveling and sit down to a **Top of Iowa steak** or an **Iowa Chop dinner**, you'll taste the ultimate in corn-fed flavor. In pleasant surroundings.

**Iowa restaurants**, known for the quality and variety of their menus, also have a flair for the unusual. Without

too much looking, you can discover restaurants snuggled into the warm surrounds of a century-old mill or perched on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. If elegance is a prerequisite, Iowa can accommodate with the finest in dining accouterments, serving extraordinary wines, with excellent cuisine, in exceptional, exotic surroundings.

Come to Iowa and enjoy some of the most pleasurable dining experiences offered. We've got the best of the Old World and the New World, and often you can find both in the same restaurant. So give Iowa a try, and witness some of the finest vistas known in the world of the Great Indoors. Iowa's Great Indoors.

It's out there waiting for you. Come. *Enjoy!*

▲ *Nashua's Little Brown Church in the Vale, traditional and simple, still holds Sunday services.*



**W**hat do you do when you feel the urge to leave work and rush hour behind for a while, the urge to get out from under routine tasks and hassles, but find that you don't have time for an extensive vacation?

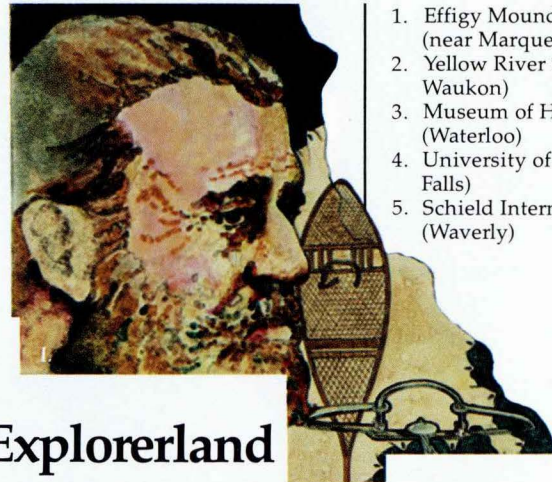
What do you do when gas prices are soaring and you can't afford to take a long trip away from home?

We suggest a weekend excursion with a minimum of driving. It'll do wonders for your morale — making work seem more enjoyable on Monday morning. The gas prices won't hurt your budget either.

Where do you go? How about a **Weekender**, a mini-vacation to one of Iowa's seven regions? Each of these regions has a unique offering in store for you, and we're sure it'll be a memorable one.

# Weekenders!

Please turn page for reference map →



## I. Explorerland

From a bluff that rose high above the broad expanse of the Mississippi River, a priest, Marquette, and an explorer named Joliet were the first Europeans to record the discovery of Iowa's northeast.

What a fitting title, Explorerland, as three centuries after the first explorers, people are still discovering that this corner of Iowa is a beautiful land laced with history and scenic beauty.

Discover the Effigy Mounds National Monument, displaying mounds made by prehistoric tribes, and surrounded by a forest and wildflowers.

How about a trip to the Little Brown Church in the Vale; the home of the Bily Clocks; a ride up the 4th St. Elevator; or a hike through Backbone State Park. Step back in time at the Norwegian-American Museum.

There's so much to see in Explorerland that a weekend may not be enough to explore it all.

1. Effigy Mounds National Monument (near Marquette)
2. Yellow River State Forest (near Waukon)
3. Museum of History & Science (Waterloo)
4. University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls)
5. Schield International Museum (Waverly)

6. Wapsie Mill (near Independence)
7. Little Brown Church in the Vale (near Nashua)
8. Chickasaw County Museum (New Hampton)
9. Pikes Peak State Park (near McGregor)
10. Backbone State Park (near Strawberry Point)
11. Basilica of St. Francis Xavier (Dyersville)
12. Old Shot Tower (Dubuque)
13. New Melleray Abbey (near Dubuque)
14. 4th Street Elevator Railway (Dubuque)
15. Buffalo Ranch Museum (Fayette)
16. Montauk (Clermont)
17. Hayden Prairie (near Lime Springs)
18. Lidtke Park & Mill (near Lime Springs)
19. Bily Clock Exhibit (Spillville)
20. Norwegian-American Museum (Decorah)
21. Ft. Atkinson State Preserve (Ft. Atkinson)

## II. Great Rivers Region

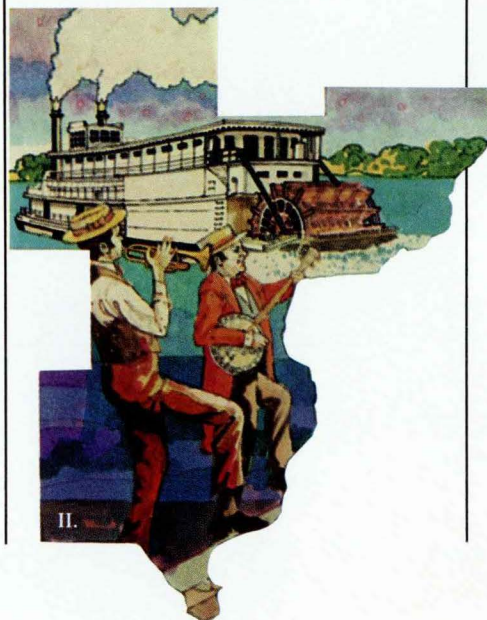
In Iowa's Great Rivers Region on a warm summer night, you can almost hear a banjo strummin' or the churning of a sternwheeler on the Mississippi.

Join in on the excitement of the Jazz Festival, or take a ride on a riverboat. Visit the Hoover Presidential Library, or take a twisting ride through Snake Alley. Hike through the Palisades; or camp at Lacey-Keosauqua, Iowa's largest state park. Visit southeast Iowa's many historical attractions, like the town of Bentonsport.

There's a variety of activities — like canoeing, boating, and art festivals.

Who said you have to spend weekends at home?

1. Old Creamery Theatre (Garrison)
2. Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Historical Site (West Branch)
3. Snake Alley (Burlington)
4. Crapo Park (Burlington)
5. Midwest Old Threshers Museum (Mt. Pleasant)
6. Lewelling Quaker Shrine (Salem)
7. Iowa Wesleyan Museum (Mt. Pleasant)
8. Amana Colonies (Amana)
9. Amana Heim (Homestead)
10. Heritage House (Amana)



11. Old Capitol (Iowa City)
12. Coralville Reservoir (near North Liberty)
13. Plum Grove (Iowa City)
14. Lee County Historic Center (Keokuk)
15. National Cemetery (Keokuk)
16. Croton Civil War Memorial Park (Croton)
17. Cedar Rapids Art Center (Cedar Rapids)
18. Iowa Masonic Library & Museum (Cedar Rapids)
19. Palisades (Mt. Vernon)
20. Toolesboro Indian Mounds (Toolesboro)
21. Wild Cat Den State Park (near Fairport)
22. Laura Musser Art Gallery & Museum (Muscatine)
23. Weed Park Zoo (Muscatine)
24. Buffalo Bill Museum (LeClaire)
25. Buffalo Bill's Childhood home (near McCausland)
26. Davenport Museum (Davenport)
27. Bentonsport (near Keosauqua)
28. Lacey-Keosauqua State Park (near Keosauqua)
29. Pearson House (Keosauqua)
30. Kalona Historic Village (Kalona)
31. Lake Darling State Park (near Brighton)
32. George M. Verity Riverboat Museum (Keokuk)

## III. Indian Hills Lake Region

For centuries, Indians moved through the hills and valleys of this region, hunting and fishing, appreciating the beauty of the land. They were joined by the Mormons in the 1800s who pushed their carts on their trek westward to the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

Much of the land is still the same as it was then, but two huge dams have created thousands of acres of recreation land, at Lake Rathbun, and Lake Red Rock. The region has many natural lakes, too, and the watersports enthusiast will find a weekend may not be long enough to enjoy all there is to offer.

Plan to spend some time enjoying the Pella Tulip Festival, the 1860's Period Downtown of Albia, the Lock Tenders House, the Blue Grass Festival, and the Antique Airfield and Airpower Museum.

The Indian Hills Lake Region provides a unique change-of-pace vacation. You'll be glad you took a weekend off.

1. Lake Rathbun (near Centerville)
2. State Fish Hatchery (near Centerville)



3. Clark County Museum (Osceola)
4. Mormon Trail (near Le Roy)
5. Lock Tenders House (near Eldon)
6. Davis County Museum (Bloomfield)
7. Davis County Court House (Bloomfield)
8. Slip Bluff Park (near Davis City)
9. Joseph Smith Home (Lamoni)
10. Delta Covered Bridge (near Delta)
11. What Cheer Opera House (What Cheer)
12. Lucas County Historical Museum (Chariton)

13. Stephens State Forest (near Chariton)
14. Nelson Homestead Pioneer Farm & Crafts Museum (Oskaloosa)
15. Lake Keomah (near Keomah)
16. Pella Historical Museum (Pella)
17. Red Rock Reservoir (near Pella)
18. Marion County Historic Park (Knoxville)
19. 1860 Period Downtown Area of Albia (Albia)
20. Antique Airfield & Museum (Ottumwa)
21. Wapello Historical Museum (Ottumwa)
22. Mars Hills Pioneer Log Church (near Floris)
23. Bob White State Park (near Allerton)
24. Wayne County Historical Museum (Corydon)



## IV. Iowa's Golden Southwest

A colorful history of train robbers, explorers, bank bandits, pioneers in search of new opportunities and Mormons escaping persecution makes up Iowa's Golden Southwest region.

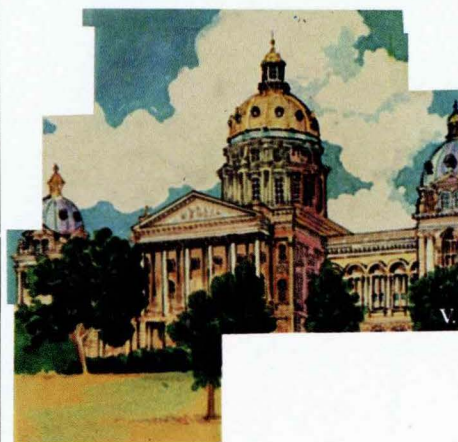


In a region so full of history, you'll be happy to find that much of what was left behind has been preserved for you to see today.

The C.B.&Q. Depot & Museum, Magnolia Memorial Log Cabin and Museum, Lewis & Clark State Park, the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, and Mormon Trail Park are just a few of the places you'll want to stop.

Festivals, celebrations, and one of the nation's largest western rodeos make the weekend excursion a weekend of excitement. A weekend of memories.

1. Mormon Trail Park (near Bridgewater)
2. Adair County Museum (Greenfield)
3. Adams County Museum (Corning)
4. Lake Anita (near Anita)
5. Cass County Museum (Griswold)
6. Dow House (Dow City)
7. Forney's Lake (near Thurman)
8. Turn of the Century Museum (Panora)
9. Springbrook State Park (Guthrie Center)
10. The Bertrand Steamboat Artifact Exhibit (near Missouri Valley)
11. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge (near Missouri Valley)
12. Magnolia Memorial Log Cabin & Museum (Magnolia)
13. House of a Thousand Bottles (Hastings)
14. Danish Windmill (Elk Horn)
15. Preparation Canyon State Park (near Moorhead)
16. Maher's Arlington Hotel & Antiques (Mapleton)
17. Lewis & Clark State Park (near Onawa)
18. World's Largest Coffee Pot (Stanton)
19. Viking Lake State Park (near Stanton)
20. Goldenrod School Museum (Clarinda)
21. General Dodge House (Council Bluffs)
22. County Rotary Jail (Council Bluffs)
23. Dinesen Prairie (near Harlan)
24. Lake of Three Fires State Park (near Bedford)
25. Wilson Park (near Lenox)
26. Windmill Lake (near Bedford)
27. C.B.&Q. Depot & Museum (Clarinda)



## V. Heart of Iowa

The Heart of Iowa is a land of contrasts, abundant with centers of science, learning, culture, history and government — as well as wooded campsites, hiking trails, rivers and lake recreation areas.

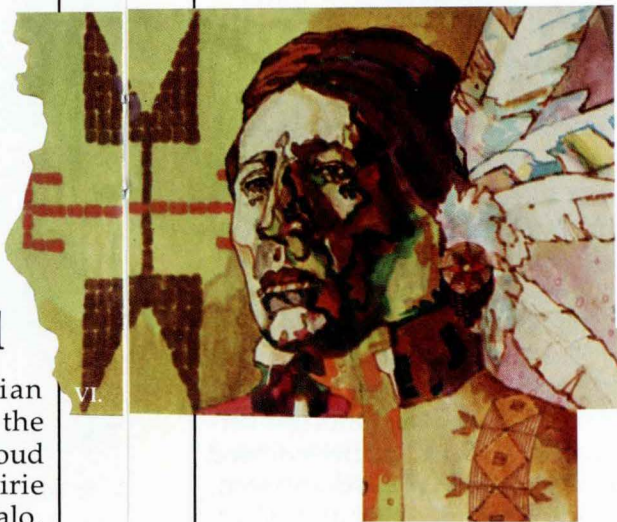
Include in your vacation such things as the Wildlife Research and Exhibit Station, Beaman Arboretum, Living History Farms, the Salisbury House, and the Iowa State Capitol. Or, for recreational activities, picnic or camp at Little Wall Lake, Hickory Grove Park, or Lake Ahquabi State Park. Watch the balloon races, visit the Iowa State Fair, and take part in the Covered Bridge Festival.

Throughout the Heart of Iowa region, indoor and outdoor activities are plentiful — take a vacation, with a minimum of driving. You'll be glad you did.

1. Wildlife Research & Exhibit Station (near Boone)
2. Mamie Eisenhower Birthplace (Boone)
3. Don Williams Lake (near Ogden)
4. Dallas County Court House (Adel)
5. Beaman Arboretum (Beaman)
6. Briggs Woods Recreation Area (near Webster City)
7. Little Wall Lake (near Jewell)
8. Bells's Mill Park (near Stratford)
9. Steamboat Rock & Tower Rock Park (Steamboat Rock)
10. Pine Lake State Park (Eldora)
11. Maytag Historical Center (Newton)
12. Lynnville Mill (Lynnville)
13. Covered Bridges (near Winterset)
14. Pammel State Park (near Winterset)
15. Original Delicious Apple Tree (Peru)
16. Susie Sower Historical House (Marshalltown)
17. Timmons Grove County Park (near Albion)
18. Iowa State Capitol (Des Moines)
19. Living History Farms (Des Moines)
20. Salisbury House (Des Moines)
21. Grinnell Historical Museum (Grinnell)
22. Iowa State University (Ames)
23. Hickory Grove Park (near Colo)
24. Mesquakie Indian Settlement (near Tama)
25. Lake Ahquabi State Park (near Indianola)

## VI. Iowa's Great Northwest Siouxland

It's a land where Indian canoes cut quietly through the waters of a blue lake, and proud hunters rode across the prairie grass chasing herds of buffalo. A land where smoke from Indian camps drifted softly towards the wide sky as Indians sat along a stream, fishing for trout. This is Siouxland, Iowa's Great Northwest.



Today Siouxland is a recreational haven with 35 public parks and camping areas. It is a land of one of the world's three blue water lakes, Lake Okoboji.

Take a picnic in a park, go hiking, fishing, boating, water skiing, or swimming. And, in the wintertime, Siouxland offers you cross country and downhill skiing, ice fishing, and snowmobile trails.

There are also many historical points of interest, like the Ft. Dodge historical museum, restored to its original condition when it protected settlers of the 1850s. The Floyd Monument in Sioux City commemorates the death of Sgt. Floyd of the Lewis

and Clark Expedition, and the Grotto of the Redemption is one of the "Wonders" of the world.

Yes, there's plenty to do on a weekend vacation to Siouxland.

1. Witter Art Gallery (Storm Lake)
2. Calhoun County Museum (Rockwell City)
3. Holstein-Friesian Museum (Manning)
4. Sanford Museum & Planetarium (Cherokee)
5. Cornell Museum (Near Webb)
6. Parker Historical Museum (Spencer)
7. Iowa Great Lakes (Spirit Lake)
8. Gardner Cabin (Arnolds Park)
9. Fort Defiance State Park (near Estherville)
10. Mehanay Memorial Carillon Tower (Jefferson)
11. Telephone Museum (Jefferson)
12. Frank A. Gotch State Park (near Humboldt)
13. Moorehead Pioneer Park (Near Ida Grove)
14. Ambrose A. Call State Park (near Algona)
15. Stinson Prairie (near Algona)
16. Gitchie Manitou State Park (near Larchwood)
17. First Reinforced Concrete Bridge in U.S. (Rock Rapids)
18. Johnson Wilderness Area (near Allendorf)
19. Grotto of the Redemption (West Bend)
20. Kearney State Park (Emmetsburg)
21. Plymouth County Historical Museum (LeMars)
22. Kalsow Prairie (near Manson)
23. Sac County Historical Building (Nemaha)
24. Ft. Dodge Historical Museum (near Ft. Dodge)
25. Blanden Art Gallery (Ft. Dodge)
26. Pioneer Museum (Harcourt)
27. Floyd Monument (near Sioux City)
28. Sioux City Art Center (Sioux City)

## VII. Land of Four Seasons



The Land of Four Seasons region is Iowa's year-round area for family recreation.

Six lakes provide facilities for picnicking, camping and water sports during the summer, and in the winter, activities include ice fishing, snowmobiling, ice skating, and ice sailing.

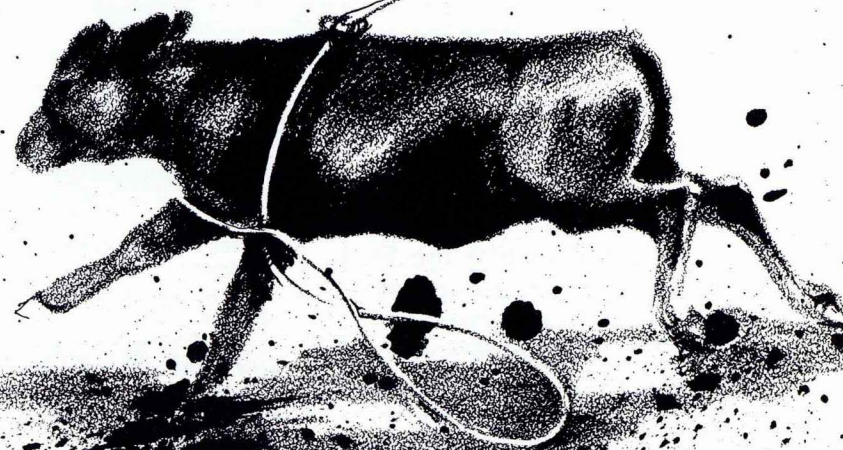
Visiting the Land of Four Seasons in early summer, you can join in on the fun and musical excitement as this region plays host to an enormous high school band festival.

The Little Yellow Country School House, Tom's Musical Museum and St. Ansgar Mill provide variety for you the vacationer.

With many different events and activities to offer, north central Iowa, the Land of Four Seasons will be a fun-filled vacation spot for your whole family — twelve months of the year.

1. Little Yellow Country School House (Allison)
2. Pilot Rock (near Allison)
3. Pioneer Museum and Historical Society (near Mason City)
4. Clear Lake (Clear Lake)
5. Charles H. MacNider Art Museum (Mason City)
6. Floyd County Museum (Charles City)
7. Beeds Lake State Park (near Hampton)
8. Mallory Park (near Hampton)
9. Pilot Knob State Park (near Forest City)
10. Hancock County Museum (Britt)
11. Hamlin Garland Home (near Osage)
12. St. Ansgar Mill (near St. Ansgar)
13. Mitchell County Museum (Osage)
14. Lake Harmon (near Scarville)
15. Rice Lake (near Lake Mills)
16. Elk Creek Marsh (near Joyce)
17. Fertile Mill Park (Fertile)
18. 4-H Historical Building (Clarion)

# Doing it with enthusiasm!



**Y**ou're thinking about that vacation coming up and wondering where to go. Right? Take a look at Iowa.

From untouched prairie to exciting downhill ski runs, meandering fishing streams to large rivers and lakes, and with four beautiful seasons to enjoy them in, you don't have to think twice about the state you want to vacation in.

What's there to do once you're here? There is no best

answer to that question, but we'll give you a few examples. You pick the ones that sound like your own kind of excitement.

Feeling adventuresome? Then scramble into this.

Hidden in 688 acres of natural scenic beauty, along the banks of the **Cedar River**; amongst vertical cliffs and multi-colored mosses, swallow nests and fern, beautiful white oaks and 57 varieties of trees, shrubs and vines; nature trails winding over hill and dale, beside Big-Fish territory; — hidden amongst it all you'll chance upon numerous caves.

They're yours for the exploring.

Up a river path you'll find the **Devil's Kitchen**. Or hidden deeper are caves that once contained Indian artifacts. Who knows, you may even find your own secret cave. You never know what might be inside of it as you crawl into the darkness with your flashlight in hand, and dirt and rock beneath your knees. It's got a name. The **Palisades-Kepler State Park**. In **Linn County**.

Palisades has a Lookout Tower too, upstream from where you parked your car, at the end of a trail, high on a cliff. And there's Lover's Leap, Maple and Hemlock Junction, Fern Cliffs, Indian Mounds, and the Council Fire Circle. They're all

just as intriguing as they sound.

Now. Are you feeling adventuresome?

Try the **Maquoketa Caves State Park** too.

Most people think of climbing in terms of high mountains like the Matterhorn and Grand Tetons. For them, this precipitous exercise means struggling up ice-covered slopes, ice-ax in hand — mountaineering in the classic sense.

In Iowa, the sport takes the form of rock climbing. Enthusiasts sharpen their skills and test their agility at numer-

▲ *There's a little cowboy in all of us at an Iowa rodeo.*

ous sites, the most popular of which are located along the **Maquoketa River** at **Backbone State Park**, the **Upper Iowa River** near **Bluffton**, and the **Cedar River** at **Palisades-Kepler State Park**.

With so many different types of rock, degrees of slope and points of embarkment, each provides a challenge for coming out on top.





◀ *Plush grass abounds on Iowa's challenging golf courses.*

▼ *A favorite time of the year. Green grass and bicycle weather.*

A picnic basket is packed with chilled goodies. Blankets and frisbees and ballbats are loaded in the trunk of your car. It's going to be a fun and relaxing summer afternoon, and **picnicking** in Iowa helps make it that way.

With 96 state-owned parks to choose from, and 250 county park and recreation areas scattered nearly anywhere you choose to stop, it's sure to be a

great day.

Or, bring along your **camping** gear and spend a leisurely vacation under the stars, beside a campfire. Besides Iowa's state and county parks, open to camping, there are also many campgrounds.

**Bike riding?** Yes. Paths through our parks, paths along side the highways, through cities. Bike paths are everywhere, and Iowa's outstanding secondary road system, coupled with the state's lush, rolling landscape, makes Iowa a biker's paradise.

There's a challenge behind

Iowa's summer. It's the great bike ride, **RAGBRAI**. It was organized by the Des Moines Register where it got its name, the Des Moines Register's Annual **Great Bike Ride Across Iowa**. Serious and not so serious bike riders of all ages take part in the grueling pedal across Iowa's hills and flatlands, rain or shine.

Join in on the electric excitement of these thousands of bodies as they pedal across a great state in a breathless ferocity to say they did it.

Golf clubs packed away in your closet waiting to see the beautiful green?

Then bring them along, because what better setting for that round of golf than the lush grasses and winding streams of Iowa. Rolling hills, fast greens, and dangerous sandtraps give Iowa some of the finest golf courses in America — hosting the **Amana VIP** and the **Quad City Open** tournaments. And, Iowa has more golf courses than 38 other states.

(We've heard that some people grab three canteens of water and a camel when they see their ball plop into one of our sandtraps.)

Do your ears perk up when you hear the word "water"? Any type of water, as long as it's clean?

Clean air and clean water are in abundance in Iowa. With 288,700 acres of lakes, reservoirs and boundary waters, Iowa is truly a water lover's paradise. Our state offers any type of water sport you could dream of. Water skiing or swimming, sailboating or canoeing, motorboating or fishing. With 19,000 miles of interior fishing streams, you'll find your catch in Iowa. Walleye and sauger, catfish, crappie, and smallmouth bass are a few of the more popular.

Looking for competition?

The beautiful lazy days on the river liven up when teams of canoers race down the **Des Moines River** near **Bonaparte** — one of Iowa's major canoeing centers.

The **Great Canoe Race** is held annually as part of the community's July 4th celebration. Over 50 teams paddle with gusto from **Bentonsport**, jump out at the dam to portage the canoe, and then into the water to paddle to a hurried finish. It's a challenging excitement.

If you like to canoe on your own — self-paced, then Iowa has dozens of favorite rivers for you to challenge your own abil-



▲ *Parachute through the warm summer air and blue skies of Iowa.*

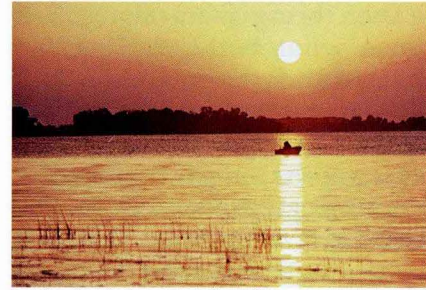
# Warm-weather fun

ity. Like the **Raccoon**, the **Shellrock**, or the **Upper Iowa**

How about calling a group of friends, a large group, and then scheduling your own private party of a moonlight cruise down the mighty Mississippi? You can call it the **Prime Rib Dinner Cruise**, or even the **Louisiana Shrimp Boil Cruise**. You'll have your own band to dance to, under the stars and over the waves.

Maybe a sunny morning brunch, sitting on the deck while you watch the paddle-wheel churn, sounds more like you. Or maybe you'd like a private dinner for two. In any case, Mississippi River **cruise boats** are waiting to give you a vacation experience you'll always remember and cherish.

The buzzing sound off in the distance isn't coming from a logger's camp — it's the sound of Iowa's most unusual winter sport. A



© Bill Gillette

◀ *The end of a beautiful lazy day on one of Iowa's lakes.*

group of Dubuque-area sports enthusiasts have borrowed the idea of go-carting, and a patch of ice on the back waters of the Mississippi to spend their Sunday's **ice-carting**.

Bundled in a parka, and sitting in a chain-wheeled go-cart while racing around an ice track, the driver has to know how to handle winter driving. A missed curve could mean a sideways slide down an icy river slough for hundreds of feet.

A much more common and popular winter sport is **snowmobiling**, a familiar sight in north-central Iowa — a prime spot for winter riding.

Wax up your skis and load them up, because even though Iowa isn't often known for **snow skiing**, you'll find what you need

◀ *The rivers and streams of Northern Iowa are great for canoeing.*



— plenty of snow, and weather to keep it from turning to slush.

Let the wind and the slopes take control as you breeze down one of Iowa's many downhill ski areas. Areas like **Dubuque** or **Council Bluffs**, or one of several other ski slopes throughout the state.

Or, bring along your **cross-country skis**, for there's natural scenery and trails for touring everywhere in Iowa.

Whether you go off by yourself, zig-zagging through trees and shrubbery of woodlands, or with a group on a wide stretch of windswept meadow, this is one winter sport you shouldn't miss out on.

The excitement of the double-ferris wheel or a peek at farm machinery. Cheering on a tractor pull, or tapping your fingers to a favorite band. It's all in **Des Moines** at the **Iowa State Fair**, in August.

Stop in. Grab some excitement. We've held a fair for 125 years now, and are sure to have your interests included.

Iowa's State Fair, one of the nation's largest, displays statewide exhibitions in arts and crafts, agriculture, and horticulture. And of course there's the mid-way.

Come for a day of fun and excitement, inspiration and pleasure.

At 6 a.m. the wind is still



# Twelve months of outdoor action



asleep and the sun hasn't yet warmed the day. But there's a fervor of excitement as hundreds of fans and propane cylinders, wicker baskets and huge balloons are laid out on the sparkling dew-covered grass. It's the **National Hot Air Balloon Races in Indianola.**

The propane cylinders are strapped inside the wicker gondola. The controlled calamity begins as roaring six-foot-long flames pour hot air inside the spread belly of the balloon. As it starts to inflate, the ground crew tries to control the motions of the heaving bag. The captain of the balloon climbs in the gondola and it starts to be dragged across the ground, the balloon not quite airborne.

Finally, balloon, basket and pilot lift free and the chase begins. Hundreds of balloons, airborne, create a symphony of color as you watch the brilliant spectacle from below. Reds and yellows, greens and whites all mix together amid the blue sky. It's an event you won't want to miss watching. A thrilling feeling. In August.

There's a little cowboy in all of us. A lot of cowboy in some of us. Iowa's **rodeos** are some of the wildest in the country. **Sid-**

▲ *The Iowa snow brings out buzzing snowmobiles.*

◀ *Snowskiing is an increasingly popular sport for the Iowa sports enthusiast.*

**ney, Anita, and Ft. Madison** all hold annual rodeos. And even **Ames** gets in on the action when several tons of dirt are hauled inside Hilton Coliseum for what is billed as "**The World's Toughest Rodeo.**" Bring your lasso, or just bring your spirit.

Sometimes elevators can give you a queasy feeling as you push the button and rush up several stories. But of course, it's better than walking up the stairs.

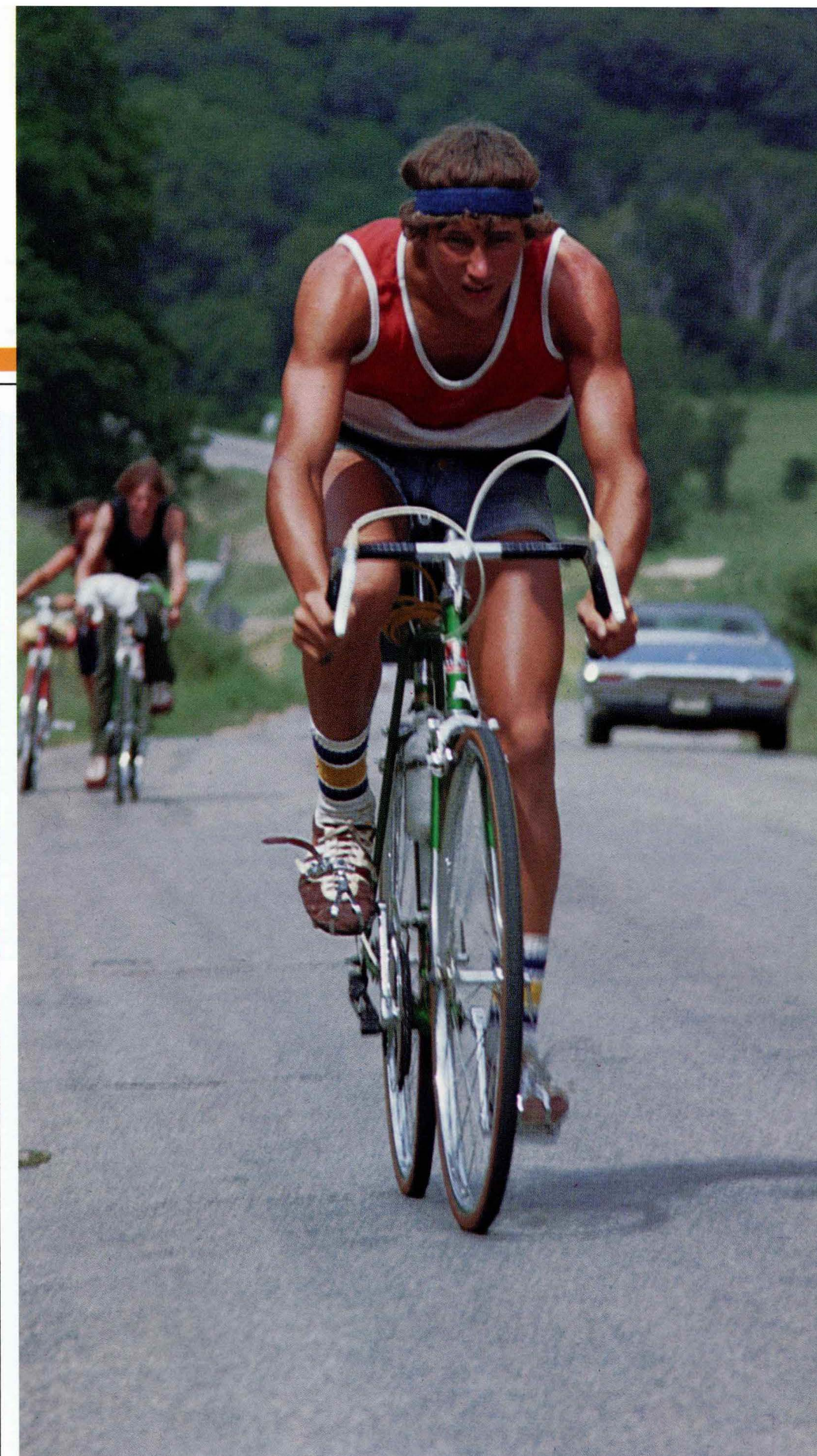
Just to show you how steep some of Iowa's hills are, there's an elevator on a street. Yes. And it's called the **Fourth Street Elevator. In Dubuque.**

Climb in the window-boxed car, and ride up what appears to be railroad rails to the top of one of Dubuque's highest hills. Once up there, you can look out over the city, spread out below you.

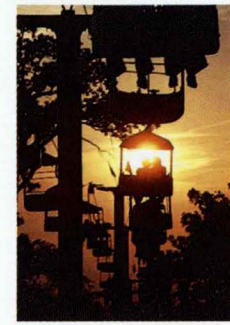
Find a street which you must make five sharp turns to get to the other side. Sharp, twisting turns, within one block. In Iowa. Give up? **Burlington, Iowa.** Ask anyone there. They'll tell you where to find the snake. **Snake Alley** that is.

You say you like **horseshoe pitching**? Iowa's got that too. Contests. Horseshoe pitching contests. Just a suggestion.

► *The electric excitement of bike touring across Iowa.*



# The Iowa State Fair!



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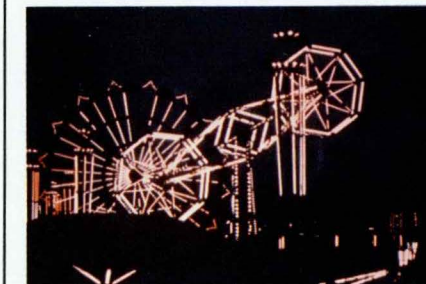


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Like we said, there's no best answer to what to do in Iowa. That depends on you. But we hope you take a few of our suggestions and have the kind of exciting feeling you've been looking for in a vacation. An Iowa vacation.



Excitement abounds at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, one of the nation's largest state fairs.



Spectacle



© Bill Gillette

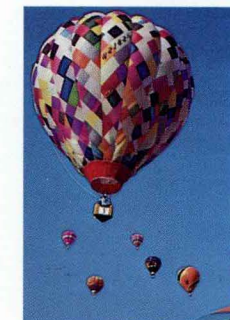
in colors.



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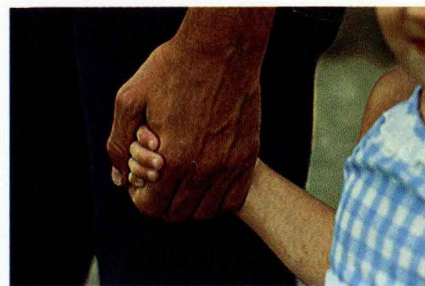
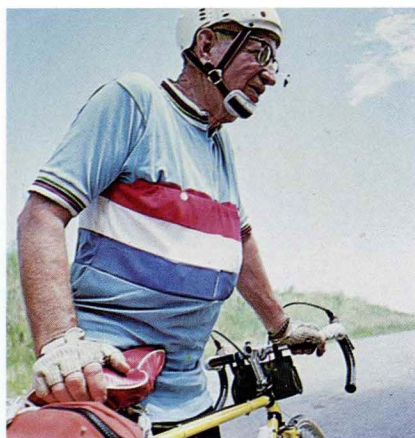
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*Balloons of all colors fill the sky above Indianola for the National Hot Air Balloon Races in August.*



## Making this a great state

**L**ike we said, Iowa people are behind this great state. To give you an example of the hospitality Iowa people can offer; there are people willing to share their farms with you for a month or for a day. Farms with cows and pigs, sheep and lambs, even ducks and chickens, cats and dogs.

You can enjoy their home-cooked country meals and experience firsthand what farm life is all about.

You'll long remember the farm fresh foods, the restful atmosphere, and **the unique vacation experience — staying on an Iowa farm.**

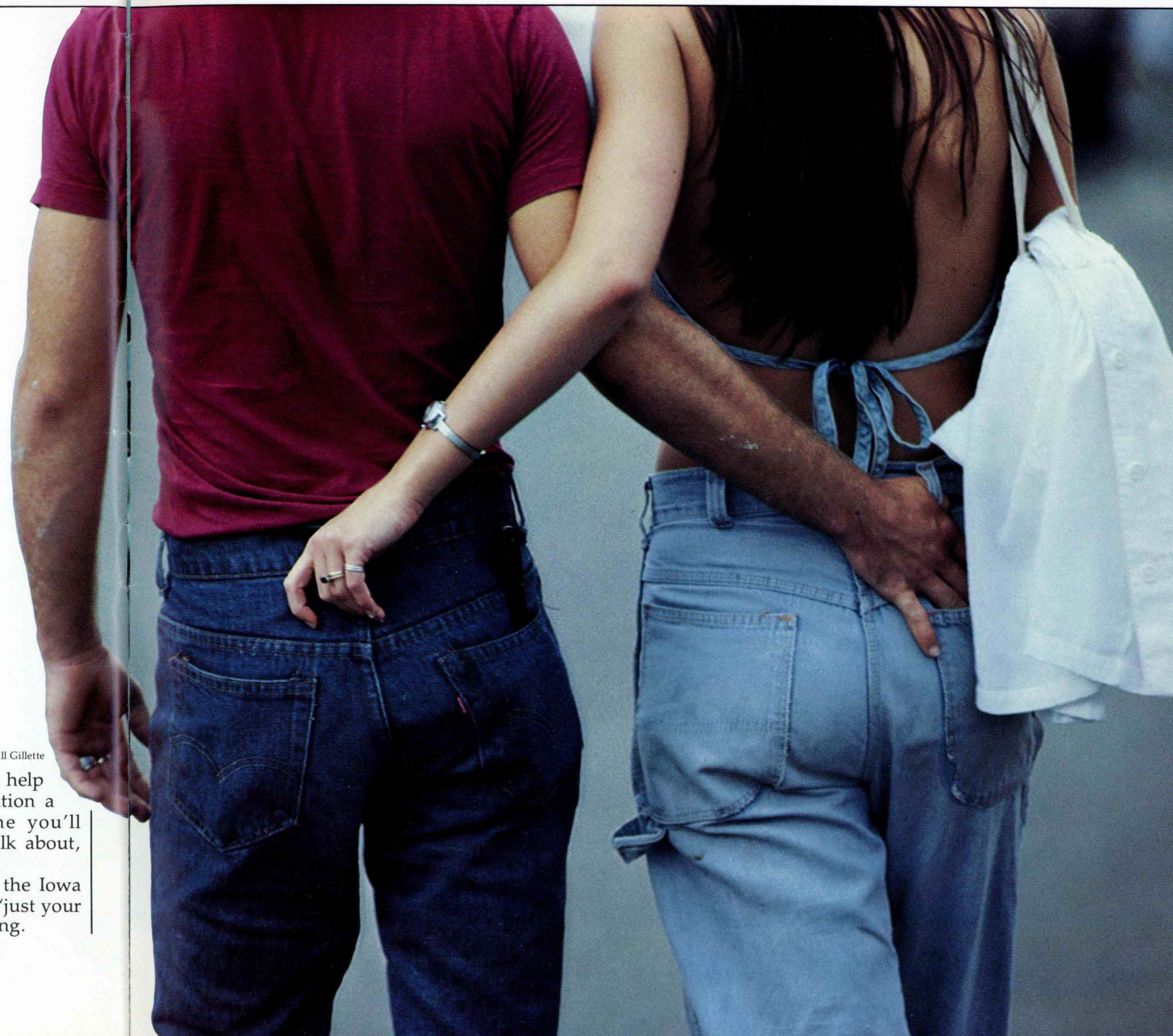
So, whether you plan to spend a month or a weekend vacationing in Iowa with sights to see and places to go you'll meet us, Iowa's people.

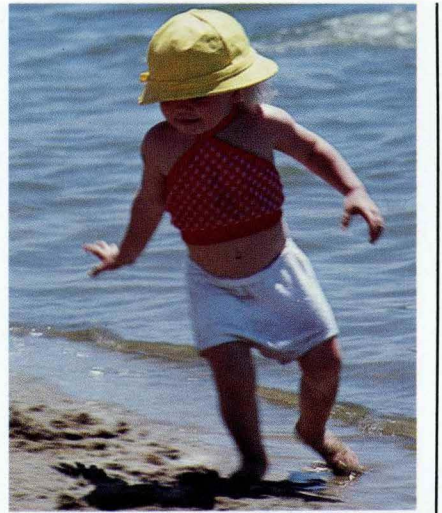
Yes, behind the inspiration and the entertainment; the history and the folklore, the enthusiasm and the excitement — behind it all stand Iowa's people.

As you travel in Iowa, whatever your plans are, wherever your desires and dreams take you, we'll make you feel special. We'll help you out if you have questions. We'll show you the way if you get lost. We'll show you our friendliness and

© Bill Gillette  
hospitality. We'll truly help make your Iowa vacation a memorable one. One you'll want to remember, talk about, think on.

We'll help you feel the Iowa feeling. That special, "just your kind of vacation" feeling.





Rural life - country charm.



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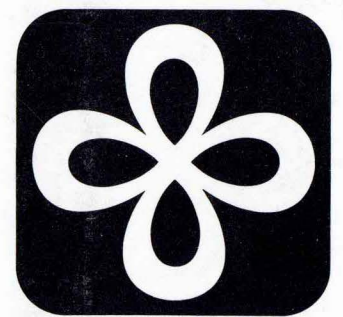




- I. Explorland
- II. Great Rivers Region
- III. Indian Hills Lake Region
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