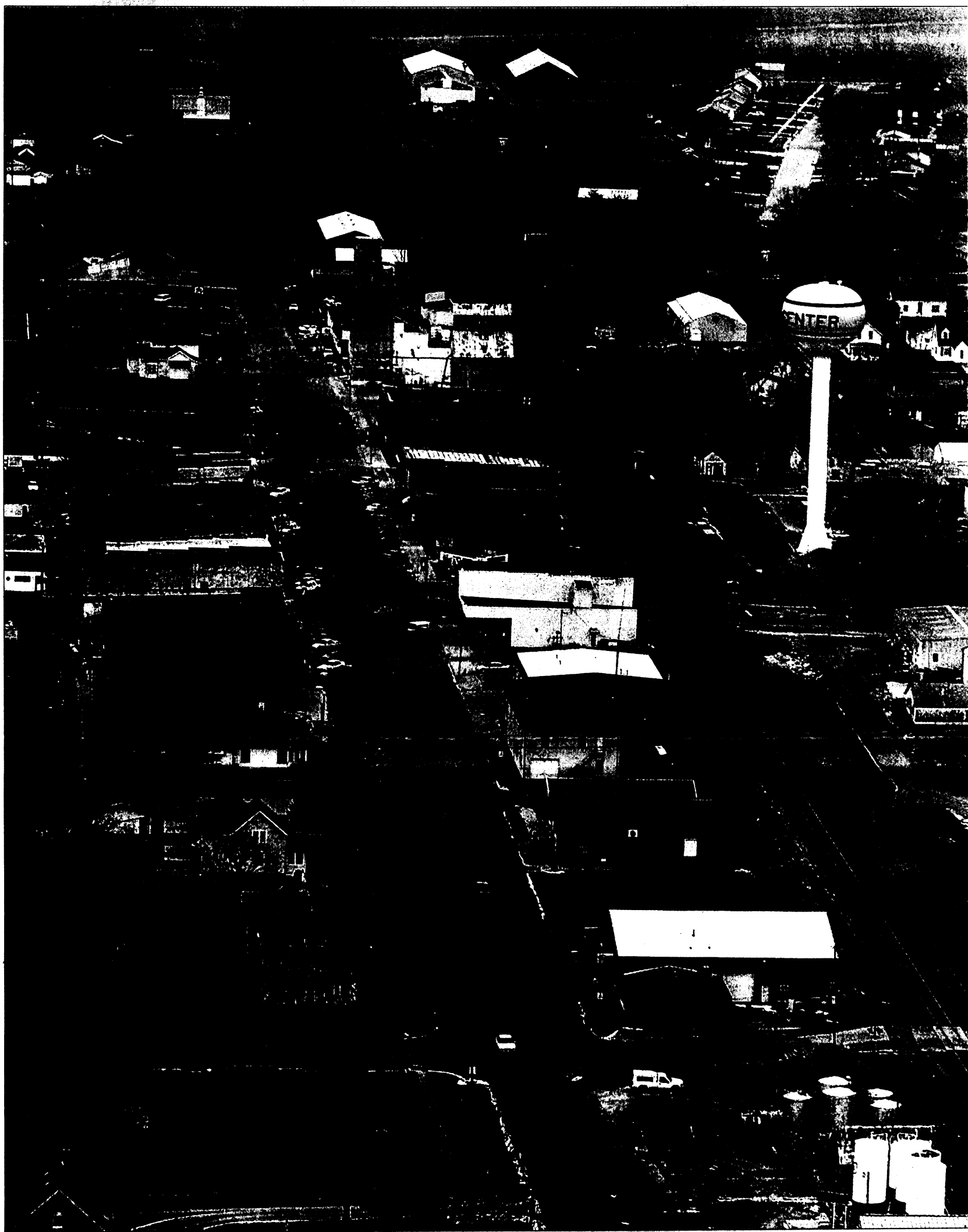


CLEARLY IOWA

## STATE CENTER



AIRPLANE PROVIDED BY TODD'S FLYING SERVICE.

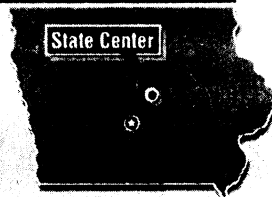
**Each Tuesday: Register photographer Robert Nandell's eye from the sky looks at another Iowa city**



Nandell

Although many cities can claim to be just about the center of Iowa, only one has the name to back it up. State Center can boast, too, that it is the rose capital of Iowa, with a festival every June. The city is also proud of its library, in a house

donated by the late J.G. Gutekunst and run on rent money from the farmland he owned. The latest bragging rights: West Marshall High School won the 1999 Class 1-A state football title.  
NEXT UP: Iowa State Capitol



The Des Moines Register



PHOTOS BY JOHN STRAWN

# Pfantz home plays host to PBS movie

## Masterpiece Theatre in State Center

By John Strawn  
Editor

STATE CENTER - First it was a Hy-Vee television commercial filmed at Watson's Grocery Store in State Center.

Now a full-length movie will be filmed within the community.

The spot lights are now focused on the Craig and Mary Pfantz home at 210 4th Ave. NE.

The Victorian home will be the main focus of a film produced by Iowa Public Television's "Masterpiece Theatre."

The title of the film is "Clara Unmasked."

Craig Pfantz said they were contacted by the production company a couple of weeks ago about the possibility of using their home. Since he is a farmer, this time of year is pretty hectic anyway, but they agreed to allow the use of their home.

Mary said it was a great opportunity.

"We thought it would be neat to be a part of this," she said. "We have been in a flurry ever since."

"We didn't even consider not doing this."

The couple, along with their children Ryan, Ashley and Brett, have now moved out to Craig's father's home, Vern.

Masterpiece Theatre receive grant from Mobile Oil Co. to create five films based on American Literature. This movie has distinct Iowa flair with numerous scenes shot throughout Central Iowa.

Craig said the company needs turn-of-the-century home on edge of a community with modern outbuildings.

The Pfantz home fit the nicely.

Mary said work has already begun at the house which will include such things as painting and removing some carpeting. What there will be no "major improvements" to the home, a back porch will be built for the movie.

She said her kitchen will undergo a drastic change to resemble the home in its original condition.

The Pfantz home will return to its original condition once the filming is complete.

The movie will bring 50-people to town for the duration of the shooting and they expect the work to be completed in about two weeks.

The Enterprise-Record will feature an in-depth interview with the producers of the show in next week's edition.

### Movie site

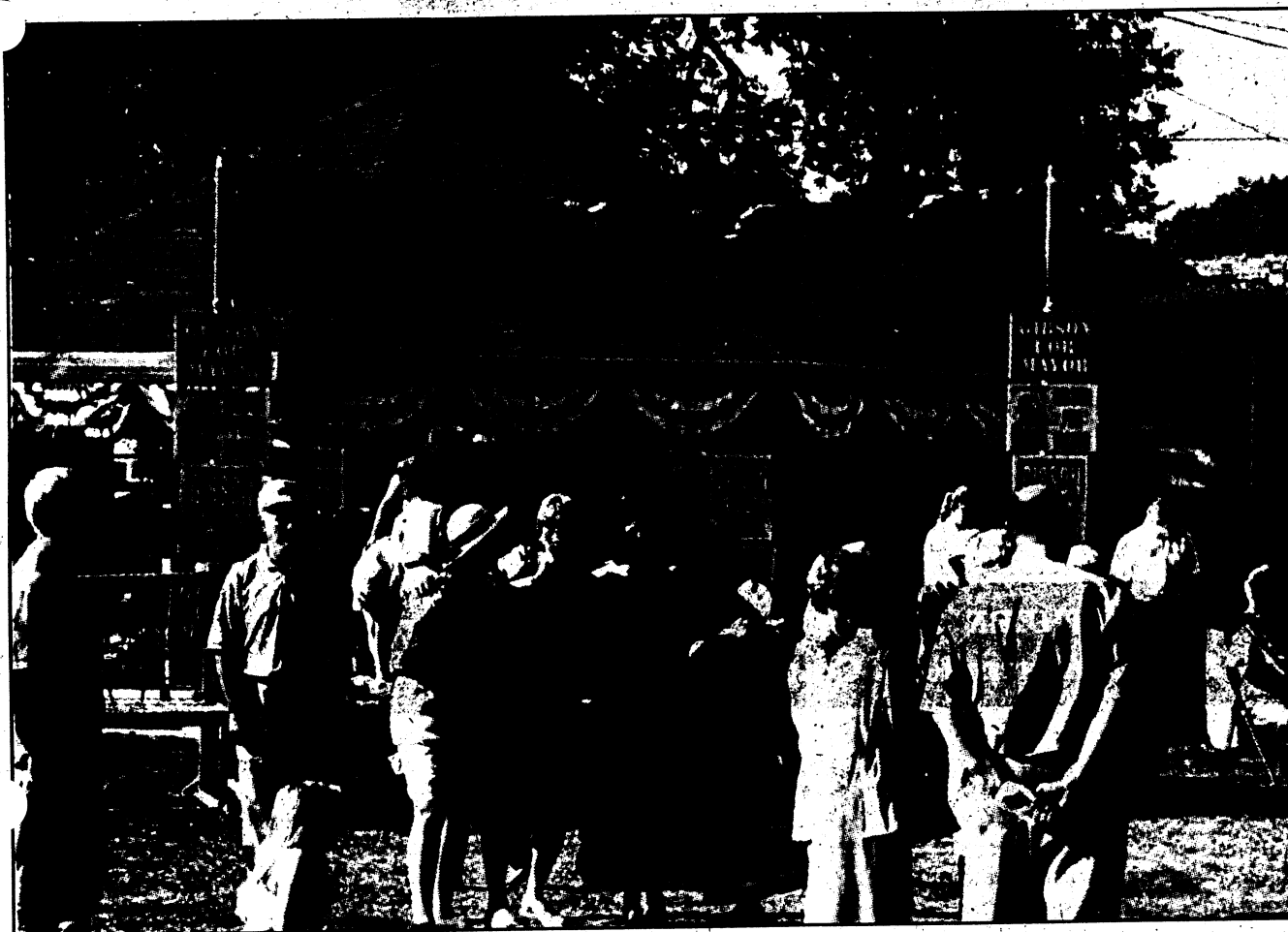
The Craig and Mary Pfantz home in State Center will be the featured site of a movie production by Masterpiece Theatre. The filming of "Clara Unmasked" will begin later this week and is expected to take about two weeks to complete. The Victorian home was selected for its location and its condition. The Pfantz family was excited to participate in this production and have turned over the use of their home to the producers.

Oct. 19, 2000

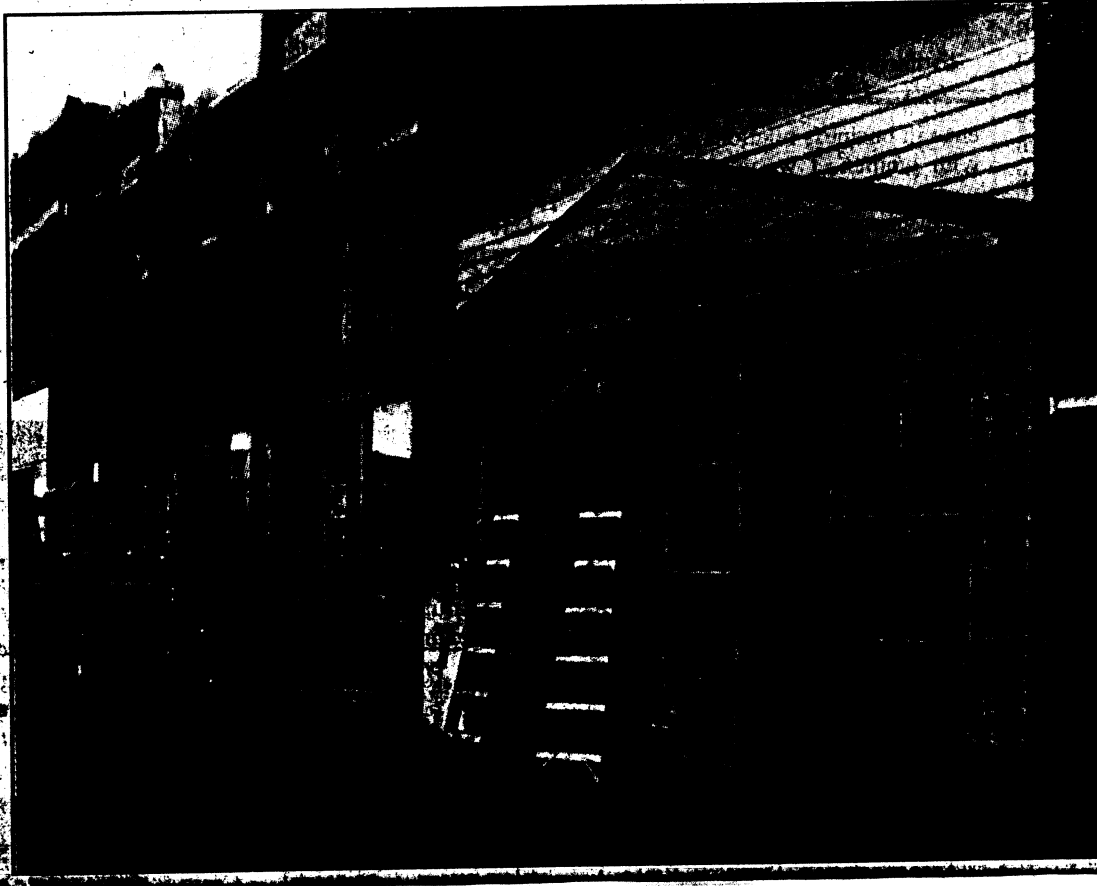
Volume 129, Number 36

This week's readers: 5,500

State Center, Iowa 50247



Central Iowa was showcased last week during the filming of the movie "Rain." A political rally scene was done in the Cambridge Town Square on Friday and Saturday. A number of people from the State Center area were used as extras in these scenes. West Marshall band students were also featured in this part of the filming. The movie will now shift its attention to Main Street in State Center. Production crews were busy last week preparing buildings for the filming. Each building was carefully evaluated to give them a "worn" look. Filming will continue into next week.



## City v Trust

By John Straw  
Editor

STATECENTER the advice of at Simpson, the City ter will ask the cou the Gutekunst Lib Meeting with m Library Board an Des Moines attor cializes in trusts. approved resoluti court to reform trust to make it organization and information to the enue Service.

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He went on th the library board up the new inves the library six per from the total tr some growth of at the same time flow for daily op Simpson note should conside Lincoln Valley G

Ceme

## Fall Festival planned at Melbourne UCC

St. John United Church of Christ in Melbourne has announced plans for their annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Melbourne Recreation Center. The festival includes a Bazaar and Bake Sale beginning at 4:00 and Soup Supper from 4:30 to 7:00. The menu will include Chili and beef vegetable soup, ham sandwiches and pie.

A new addition to the bazaar will be the sale of unique hand-crafted items from around the world made by artisans affiliated with church-sponsored associations such as Ten Thousand Villages and SERRV. This will include a variety of items.

The public is invited to attend this event.

## Vocal concert rescheduled

The West Marshall Junior High/High School Vocal concert that was scheduled for October 26 has been rescheduled for Monday, Oct. 25 at 7:00 p.m. If the girls volleyball team advances in tour-



PHOTO BY JAYNE BULLOCK

## Lights, camera, action

The Craig and Mary Pfantz home in State Center has been one busy place the last few days with film crews on hand to shoot the Masterpiece Theatre movie "Clara Unashamed." The movie is set in the 1920s and the film producers needed a rural home on that vintage for the main set. The crew has transformed the home and the yard for shooting the film. Work will continue at least for another

# 'Rain' coming to

# State Center



Katherine Lindberg, 30, has discovered State Center to be the perfect place to film her first movie. The New York University graduate will be in town for the next couple of months with a production crew to film "Rain." The movie is a murder mystery set in a small Midwestern town.

## Murder mystery to be filmed here

By John Strawn  
Editor

STATE CENTER - "Rain" is coming to State Center.

Although the entire area could use a little precipitation, the "Rain" in State Center will be in the form of a full-length feature movie.

Katherine Lindberg, 30, is directing her first movie and she knows a lot about "Rain." That's because she wrote it.

She took some time out of her busy schedule this week to explain what the movie is all about, why it is being filmed in State Center and what area residents should expect over the next few months.

Lindberg grew up in New Mexico. Throughout her childhood she came to Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota to spend summers with her relatives. She went on to study in the graduate program at New York University from 1994-98 thanks to a scholarship from director Martin Scorsese. She has worked with the famed director as an intern in Morocco during the filming of "Kundun" for Disney.

While at NYU she wrote "Rain" and it was sold to Disney and Touchstone Films.

It was at that time she met Jordin Ros. He was an executive with Disney and is now an independent producer and has agreed to be the producer for her movie.

Lindberg explained "Rain" is a murder mystery where a woman in a small town shoots her husband

and then tries to cover up the crime. The movie plot has some romantic twists as the woman is involved with the town's police officer.

Why did Lindberg settle on State Center?

"We looked all across Iowa," she said. "I was looking for something special. We must have looked at 35 to 40 towns before we found State Center. I knew within the first few minutes this was the town. I felt like this was the right place for the story."

She was also impressed with the friendly and helpful people in State Center.

Going off her fond memories of small Midwestern towns from her childhood, Lindberg wanted her film to center on just such a place.

"State Center will be featured a lot in this film. We will be using the downtown as well as the neighborhoods. It is a calm and serene type of town," Lindberg said. Another plus was the location of the community because it is right in the middle of the corn fields which will be used in the film.

Community members will also be called upon to actually be in the film. A casting director from Des Moines will be in town soon and will be looking for people of all ages to appear in walk-on parts and also be used as extras.

"Rain" will star Victoria Walters in the lead role. She was recently in the film "Magnolia." Jamie

Sheraton will be the lead actor and has played smaller roles in numerous movies such as "Ice Storm." James Franco will also star in "Rain." He was on the television series "Freaky & Geeks" and has just wrapped up filming of a new TNT Cable film entitled "The James Dean Story."

The director is planning to have "Rain" released in theaters across the country.

Lindberg said the production group will be in town until at least November 12. Principal photography will begin Oct. 2 or 3 and shooting will last six weeks.

The group is using the building owned by Clayton Carmody on Main Street as the Iowa headquarters. The art department has set up shop in the former Rooster's Restaurant, also on Main Street. She said about 30 people are involved in the actual production of the film.

After shooting is complete, Lindberg expects 10 weeks of editing, four weeks of sound design and a week of mixing. She said the earliest the film would be released will be the fall of 2001.

"I love working here," Lindberg said.

A community BBQ is planned for Sunday, Oct. 1 so residents can meet the movie crew. More information on that event will be in an upcoming issue of the *Iowa Enterprise*.

# Bringing movie magic to State Center

by Julie Riley  
Staff Writer

**STATE CENTER**-Behind every great movie are the wizards of design, decoration and photography.

Joe Garrity is the production designer for the movie *Rain*.

*Rain* is a modern day tragedy in the land with a complicated story and actors.

Garrity, must create atmosphere-the of the film. There must be a sense of subdued colors -extreme heat. must transform a friendly, clean main et into a dirty, remote, hostile place. is crew will board up windows, put up

fake signs, spray clean buildings with a dingy glaze, and remove store fronts. He spends many hours working with the set decorator, art director and prop man researching the locations, buildings, props, furniture, and costumes.

His people will scavenge the area, looking for just the right prop, finding a Harley-Davidson ring, a junk truck or making a huge beverage sign. Everything must be perfect, for an unbelievable place to become believable by the audience.

Many strange faces, trucks, vans and RV's are seen around town. Each person completing a task and making sure everything is ready for the next segment to be filmed.

Garrity is a free-lance, production designer, who has an agent and must interview for each job. He has been involved in the artistic world all his life. At a young age he was very artistic and always had a "Super 8" camera in his hand in high school. He graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia as a film major, combining it with the theater and documentaries.

In 1979 he was accepted into the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.

He is credited with many famous films such as, *My Girl*, *Son-In-Law*, *Best in Show*, *Waiting for Guffman*, *Drop Dead Fred*, *Weeds*, *Imaginary Crimes* and most recently, *Speaking of Sex*, with Bill Murray, James Spader, Katherine O'Hara and

Melora Walters. (Melora Walters is the lead actress in *Rain*.) Joe said "after completing six comedies, I thought I would go to the extreme and do a serious film."

Garrity says he is too busy to be married and leaves that to his five siblings. No pets, just plants and sometimes they are abused. His home is in Los Angeles when he is not on location.

Joe works closely with husband and wife team, Pat Tagliaferro, art director and Deb, who is art department coordinator.

Troy Peters is set decorator for this film and also did *Corra Unashamed* which was filmed in State Center.

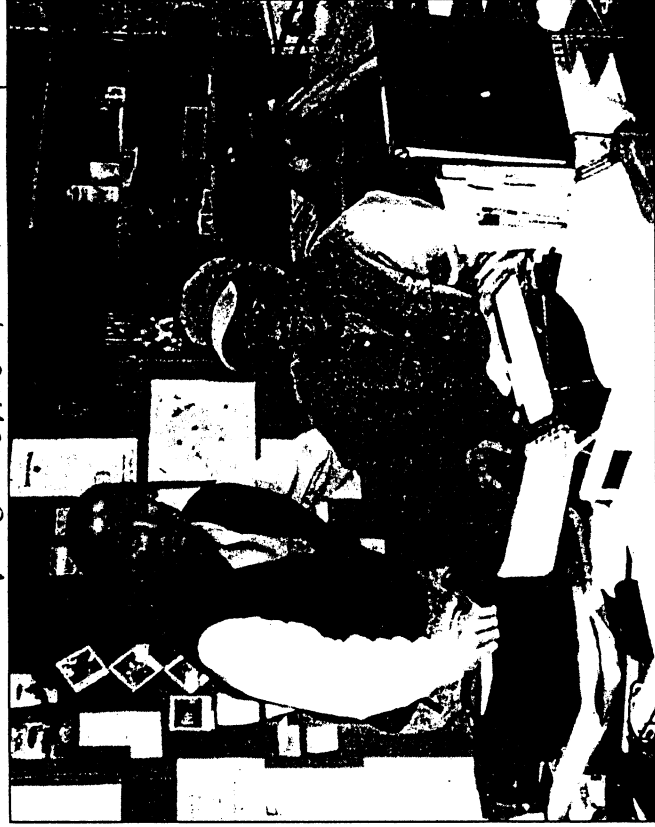
Garrity said he had a great crew to work with and was very pleased on how things were going.

He said the town of State Center is very cooperative and eager to help and wanted to especially "thank" all the Main Street businesses and owners. Also, Jerry White and Norris Baie for all the great "junk".

He never knows where his next job will take him but is always ready to accept a challenge.

In a few weeks, the buildings will be washed down, signs taken down, store fronts changed and State Center will be back to "normal". The strange faces, trucks, vans and RV's will be gone. Two totally different worlds intertwined, both learning something of the other. The locals will still be in awe of it all.

11-9-88 Mid Town EntenPrisk



Making a movie is not an easy task. It takes a lot of work from set designers to make the scenes look realistic. (Left) Joe Garrity, production designer and Troy Peters, set decorator, have been involved in the production of "Rain" filmed in and around State Center. They both work out of their temporary office in the old Roosters Restaurant building on Main Street. They have to coordinate a staff of workers to prepare sets and set the mood for the film.

## 30-Year Old Letter to Editor

The following "Letter to the Editor" was published in the Dec. 4, 1939 issue of Life magazine. We guess it must have created quite a stir in the town of State Center when the issue hit the newstands. No doubt many remember the writeup.

The magazine was among some old papers, etc. we found at the office. It was only by chance that we happened upon this article, which we believe will be as interesting to some of you as it was to us.

Editor

### PICTURES TO THE EDITORS

#### STATE CENTER, IOWA

Sirs:

When somebody out in Hollywood decided that our town was the typical U.S. "one-hoss town," Warner Bros. decided to hold the world's premiere of their new picture, *Pride of the Blue Grass*, here at the State Theatre (246 seats) of which I am manager. Half the town agreed that State Center is one-hoss and are sort of proud of it. The other half was against the notion. They weren't sure that such talk would do the town any good.

I thought that some of the folks who read LIFE might like to judge the question for themselves, so I asked Photographer Ken Jonson over from Ames to take some pictures of the townfolk hereabouts and of some of our points of civic interest.

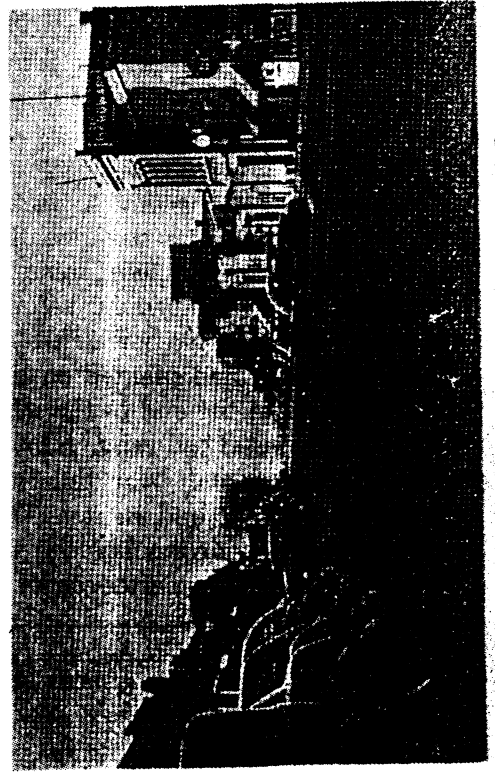
What makes a town one-hoss? I figured it just must be people like me — what we do and what we look like. So, here are some of us. The captions are mine.

ROY T. HILL

State Theatre  
State Center, Iowa (pop. 1,012)



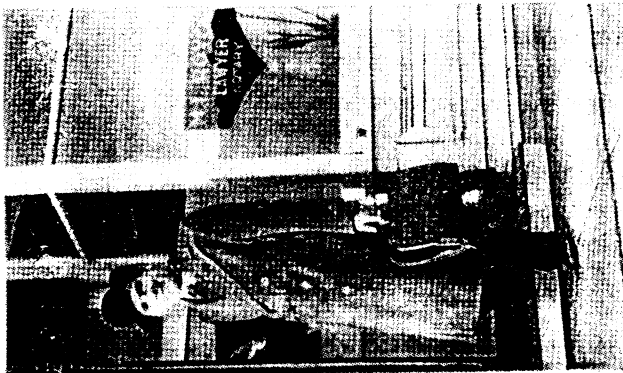
CHARLEY PLESHEK, OUR STATION AGENT, IS AGAINST THE ONE-HOSS TALK



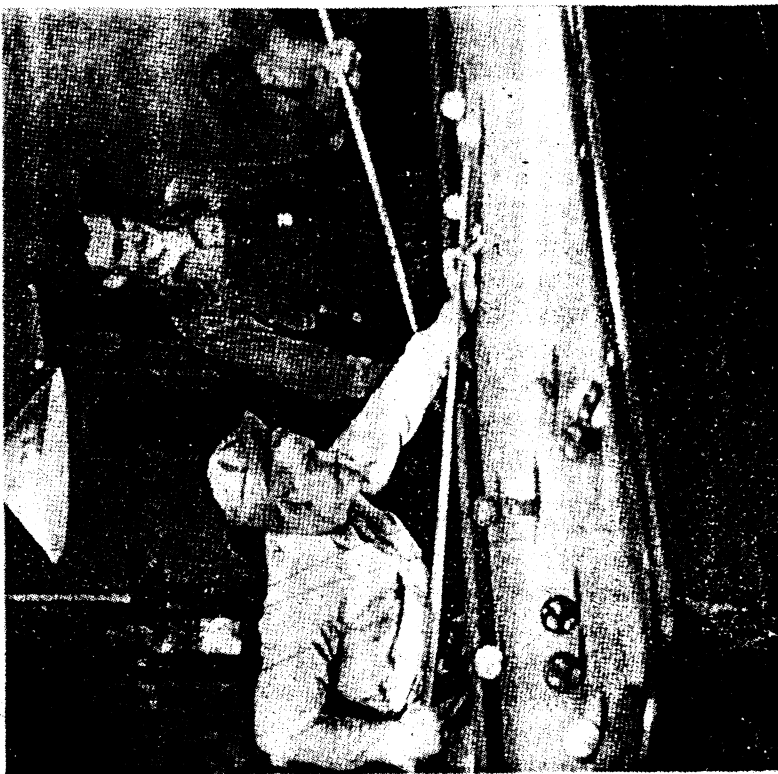
MAIN STREET OF OUR TOWN. NO "HOSSES" HERE



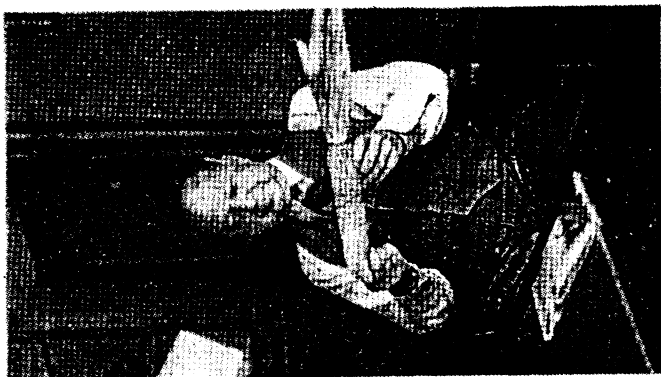
DOC WOOD'S BEEN HERE 30 YEARS



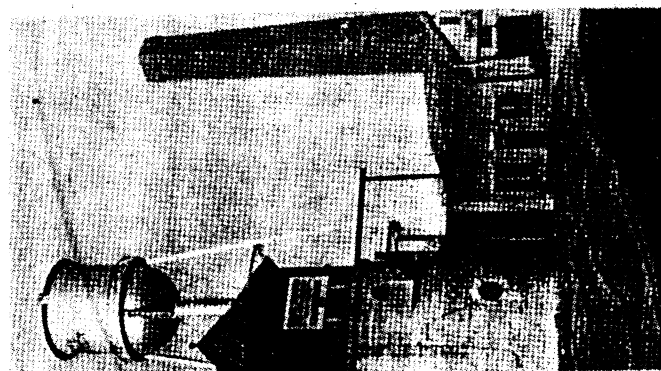
M. L. ROYCE, OUR LAWYER



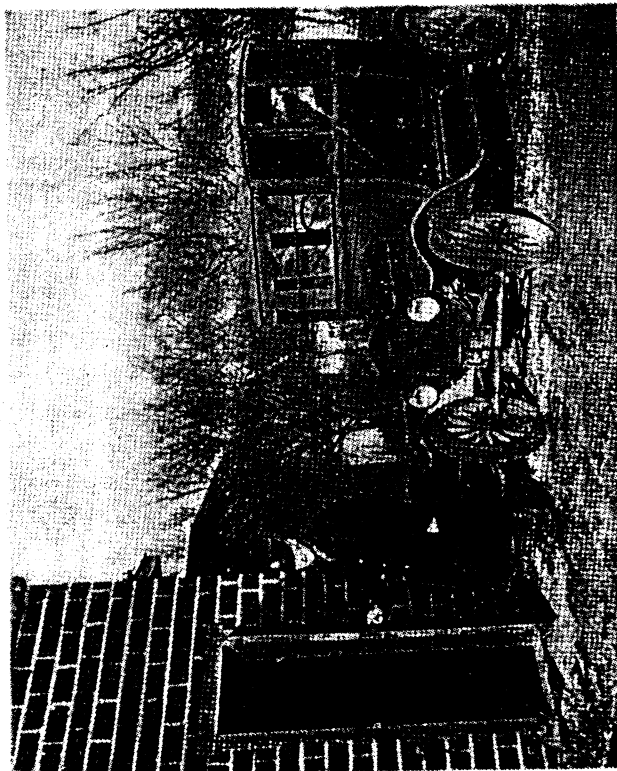
TEDDY PFANTZ AND DEAN PITTMAN. THE POOL HALL IS IMPORTANT HERE



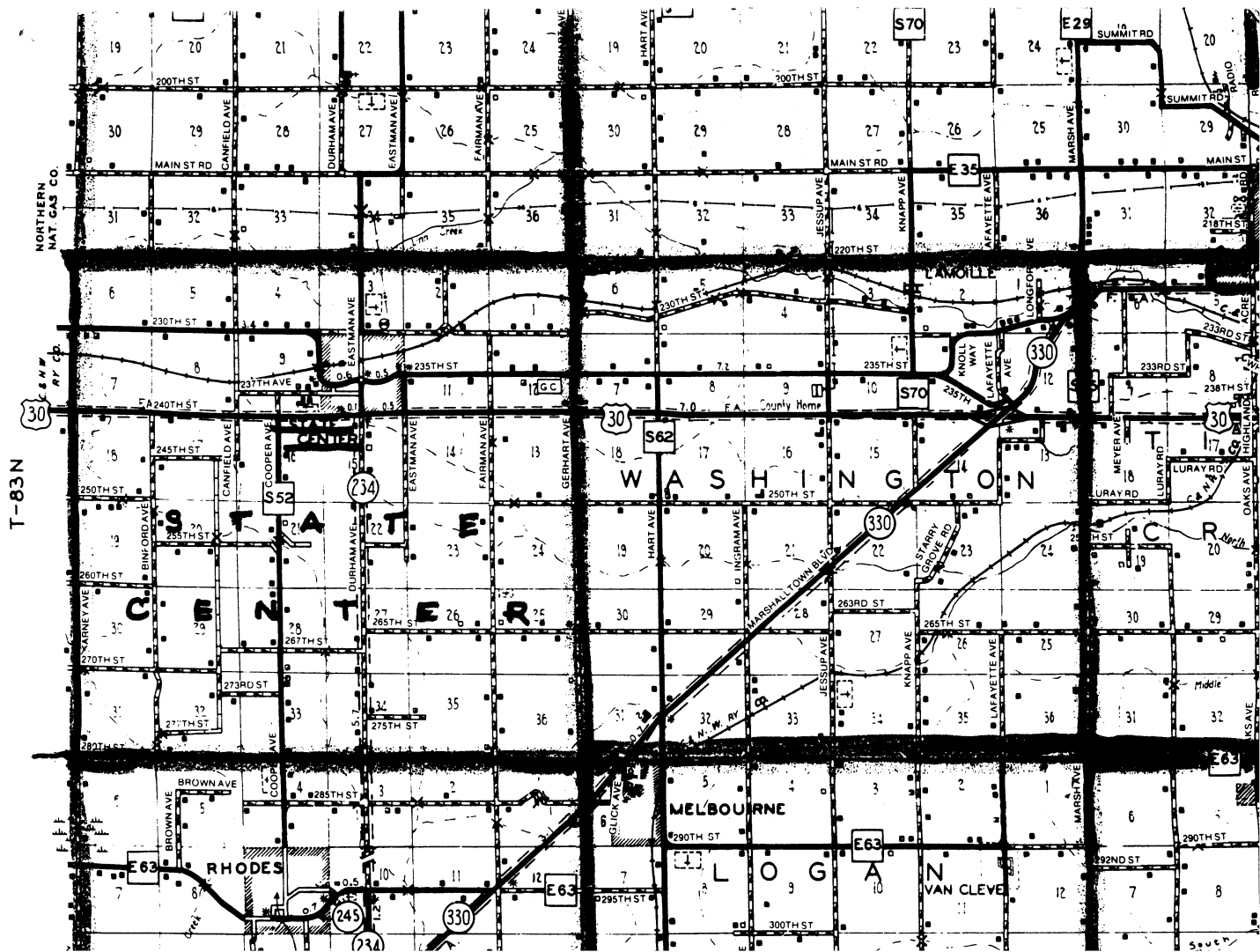
BANK PRESIDENT FRANK GILBERT



WE OWN OUR OWN LIGHT PLANT



CITY SWEET IS POLICE CHIEF. WE'RE NOT SO PROUD OF OUR JAIL



## STATE CENTER

1990 population - 1,245 (U.S. Census) 1,476...1994 projected by U.S. Census  
City Improvements and Growth 1940's to present

### STREETS:

In 1953 curb and gutter and widening of Main Street occurred. In 1965 seventeen blocks of curb and gutter work done in the Southwest section of City. Also the streets were renamed from the original Indian names to numbered streets and avenues and were marked with name plates. In 1981 Fourth Street jurisdiction transferred to the City and in 1986 a widening, resurfacing and curb and gutter project was done. Annually sealcoating repairs are completed.

### WATER TOWER AND TREATMENT FACILITIES:

In 1956 the City experienced the failure of the deep well, leaving one shallow well in operation. Bids were taken for construction of a new deep well. In 1987 a water tower with capacity of 250,000 gallon was constructed and a bond issue provided the finances. In 1977 a water treatment facility and above ground storage was completed. Through the years seven water mains were joined providing better water circulation.

### WASTEWATER:

In 1948 a wastewater disposal plant and extensions to the sanitary sewer lines was completed at a cost of \$91600. After many years of applying for grant assistance to build new facilities the City was awarded \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant. An aerated Lagoon costing \$702,000 was constructed one fourth mile South of Highway 30 on Eastman Avenue in 1992.

### ELECTRIC UTILITY:

In 1899 a proposition to appropriate \$5000 for a light plant was approved by the voters. By 1928 the plant was equipped with four diesel engines and modern equipment. Electric energy supplied within the corporate limits and several miles of rural lines to surrounding rural customers. In December, 1963 the new municipal plant was opened. The new building has 5,800 feet of floor space measuring 86 by 50. A new diesel engine brought the City's capacity to 3050 kilowatts. In 1971 Cooper-Bessemer engine costing \$517452 was installed capable of generating 2500 KW. In 1994/1995 a total repowering project was underway, two new 3516 Caterpillar engines installed; two used 398 Caterpillar engines installed and total new switchgear. Also distribution work to upgrade service done. Project Bond issue \$1930000.

In 1960's an ice skating rink, shelter house and tennis courts were built by volunteer labor including fireman. In 1987 Brookside Park with two ball diamonds and concession stand were added to Park areas. A shelter house constructed at City Park. Kauffman Trust provided playground equipment at City Park and on the Elementary school grounds.

Community Hall building was completed in 1950. It housed the City Clerk's Office, Councilroom, City Library, Fire station and American Legion rooms. A large meeting room and kitchen located upstairs. In 1974 the library moved to the Gutekunst property and fire station moved to new building in 1977, across the street.

CITY OFFICIALS 1996: Mayor Jon Goodman; Council members: Roger Yeager, Rodney Westphal, Craig Pfantz, Mike Riemenschneider, Doyal Schossow;  
Clerk-Henrietta Bogan, Assistant clerk-Jackie Henschel.

# What did the 1990 census say about State Center?

by Gloria D. Stewart

The 1990 census tabulations have been filtering back to cities over the past few months, over a year after the data was collected. The figures will be scrutinized by public officials as they look to future directions of their towns or seek to make generalizations about their town. National experts will examine the figures to determine how the country's population centers are changing.

What do these reports mean to the residents of the cities and counties? Basically they tell things they already knew. The statistics are a little like opening a closet door to what the city is made of. As with any self examination, individual or communal, there can be positive results from knowing who we are. It helps to establish future goals that are realistic for the trend of the city, and can help cities make changes to correct their weakness.

Though many local governments have questioned the accuracy of the census and may yet challenge the findings, there is still value in the study of these numbers.

To city governments, a drop in census means a loss of revenue. For State Center the drop in population of 56 persons meant a loss of \$3,642.80 for the year 1992. Over a ten year period, till the next cen-

sus is taken, that is a substantial loss - \$36,428.

Here are a few gleanings as interpreted from State Center's 1990 census.

- \* There were 700 female residents and 548 male residents.

- \* 1244 white, 1 American Indian, 2 Filipino, and 1 other race.

- \* 333 owner occupied housing, 126 rental.

- \* 132 persons over 60 years lived alone in State Center.

- \* 162 persons of any age lived alone.

- \* 215 families had no one over age 60 in their household.

- \* 169 households had 2 members, 75 were 3 person households, 69 had four members, 32 households had 5 persons, five were six person households, and there was one family of over 7 persons.

- \* Most rental housing is between the \$150 to \$249 per month range.

In a comparison with the 1878 census and 1990 results for State Center there was a total population in 1878 of 992, in 1990 of 1,248. In 1878 there were 256 residences and in 1990 there were 513. An average household in 1878 included 2.58 persons, and in 1990 the average was 2.34 persons per household in State Center.

Census reports for the area cities may be seen at the public library as they become available.

## STATE CENTER TOWNSHIP

During the last 50 years, State Center Township, with the city of State Center as the hub, has become not just a little spot near the center of Iowa, but a vital, focused community.

State Center serves the western half of Marshall County. Rich farm land, proud German heritage and supportive communities have allowed this area to develop into what it is today. State Center has evolved into the educational focal point for the surrounding communities and areas. It has taken on the distinction of being the Rose Capital of Iowa ....home of Watson's Grocery, a historic museum....location of Lincoln Valley Golf Course.

The people of State Center Township recognize the assets of the city and area. Through determination, co-operation, generosity, and future planning, they will strive to keep its future bright and strong.

## STATE CENTER: ROSE CAPITAL OF IOWA

On June 27, 1959, State Center was officially designated of Iowa. Since that time it has held an annual Rose Festival show, prominent visitors and the selection of a Rose Queen of contestants from the West Marshall communities. Other are provided during the three day period. At the 1959 dedication was named the first Rose Queen and was crowned by Governor

The land for the garden was donated to the town of State A. D. Woods. In 1958 Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Goodman donated to the local Park Board for beautification of the park. Bank also has a small rose garden located in front of it. In 1960 the bank further helped promote the Iowa State Rose Festival by offering a Sweepstakes Trophy. The trophy bowl, complete with 24 cups and a silver tray. Mrs. Alb Center was the first winner.

Other improvements and gifts included the dedication in Fountain at the Rose Garden. In 1971 new road signs at town were erected welcoming visitors to the "Rose Capital" bronze commemorative coins were also minted for the June State Center received a \$1,000 grant from the State Bicentennial which the Rose Festival association used to make improve

Currently there are between 1,500 - 2,000 rose bushes in Roger and Vivian Yeager are employed by the city as cart gift from the estate of Elnora Eckhardt is also used for beautification of the Rose Garden.

### ROSE QUEENS:

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1959 - Chris Gamble        | 1978 - Gail Krause |
| 1960 - Linda Tomlinson     | 1979 - Janet Soorl |
| 1961 - Anne Liston         | 1980 - Jennifer W  |
| 1962 - Barbara Jo Biensen  | 1981 - Colleen Wei |
| 1963 - Barbara Ann McMahon | 1982 - Connie Ger  |
| 1964 - Ellen Mosebach      | 1983 - Valerie Go  |

## BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL HISTORY

The commercial life of State Center for years was held strong by older, established businesses. It has had the usual representative lines of business and services. Some lasted, others have folded or moved on, similar to what has occurred to many small town main streets.

**Grocery Stores:** In the 1940's four served the area with the traditional Saturday evening family shopping and trading trip to town. In 1972 the grocery store owned by Carl Liston closed after 70 years of family business. In the early 1980's Watson's Grocery closed its doors after being operated by members of the Watson family since 1885. Del Andrew also closed his Main Street grocery in 1977. D & J Grocery on the west end of Main Street was purchased by Dwayne and Janet Pundt in 1966 and they are still operating the only full line grocery in State Center.

Hardware stores have had a place on Main Street State Center. During the last 50 years Herb and Vera Bachman operated Bachman Hardware; Jim and Wanda Crawford operated Crawford's Gamble Store; Alan and Karen Hilleman operated West Marshall Our Own Hardware, along with the "Card Closet," which was a shared partnership with Barry and Sally Dunshee. Joe and Karen Hermann purchased West Marshall Hardware in 1986 and continue to operate it. A Coast to Coast store opened in a newly remodeled building on the north side of Main Street in August 1979, but only a month later it was badly damaged in a fire and never reopened.

Elmer Benson's dry goods store was a fixture on Main Street for many years. Gladys Smith continued to operate a similar store, then Pat Eggers in the 1970's and Irma Henze in the 1980's and 90's operated a ladies dress shop. "Irma's" closed in 1992 when it moved to Marshalltown.

Ron German operated "Ron's clothes Shop" for men from 1939 until his retirement in 1975. Doyal Schossow purchased the business and operated it until 1982.

Brimhall Brothers Co. Drug Store was a fixture on Main Street. It was purchased in 1954 by W.V. and Mildred Van Pelt. It closed in 1975.

Brimhall brothers Walter and Howard owned and operated a furniture store and funeral home for years. Clifford West became part of the family operation. Brimhall-West furniture celebrated its centennial in 1974. In the 70's and 80's James West joined his father in the businesses. After their deaths, the furniture home closed in 1987 and Mary West closed the funeral home in 1992.

Wensel Funeral Home was purchased by Burr Perrin in 1949. Richard Carter managed Wensel-Perrin Funeral Home for forty years. It continues to be an active business.

Main Street farm implement companies have disappeared. Weuve and Hanson International Harvester and Wells John Deere Implement were the prominent ones.

Goodman Milling, Inc. celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1967. Improvements in the 1960's included a new push button feed mill that held 33 bulk bins. Elmer Goodman, senior partner and Delos Goodman, junior partner were succeeded in management by Jon, Donald and Richard Goodman. This family business was sold in 1993 to Gringer Feed and Grain, Inc.

State Center Grain and Feed is located on what was an old dairy farm. Dan Shortley began his grain business by buying from one source and selling that purchase directly to another. In 1963 the grain business was purchased by five investors and became affiliated with Kent Feed. In 1985 it was resold to five other individuals. Today State Center Grain and Feed, Inc. consists of the large grain elevator, feed and supplies for livestock, fertilizer and chemical sales and application.

#### BANKING BUSINESS:

The banking business dates back to 1869, when J.W. Dobbin started a private bank. In 1874 O.J. Whitson joined Dobbin and the business became known as J.W. Dobbin and Co.. This was changed in 1898 to Dobbin & Whitson Bankers and in 1902 the private set-up was changed to a state institution named Dobbin and Whitson State Bank. In 1907 a national charter was granted for the formation of the First National Bank of State Center. It was taken over by W.L. Haesemeyer and L.C. Sieh in 1937.

The Central State Bank was organized in 1901. W. N. Gilbert served as president for 21 years and after his death, his son F. B. Gilbert filled the position for 21 years. W.L. Haesemeyer bought a block of Gilbert stock in July 1942 and later that year the two banks were merged, retaining the title Central State Bank and the business housed in the First National Bank Building.

Construction began on a new Central State Bank building in August of 1964 which was completed with the move in 1965. It was furnished with the latest equipment to facilitate its business.

W. L. Haesemeyer served as president of Central State Bank until 1980 and then served as chairman of the Bank Executive Committee until his death in 1993. James Jorgensen served as bank president from 1980 through his retirement in 1994. Joyce Buck became president in 1995 and continues in that capacity.

In 1987 Bill (W.L.) and Hilda Haesemeyer were honored for fifty years in the State Center business community.

#### CREAMERY BUSINESS:

The Farmer's Co-operative Creamery was State Center's principal industry from its purchase in 1891 from the C.W. Sibley Company to its closure in November 1982.

The farmer's organization ranked as one of the first 10 co-operatives in the nation with a yearly output in excess of two million pounds of butter in 1949. This butter was produced from cream gathered from more than 1800 farm patrons scattered throughout eight central Iowa counties adjoining Marshall.

In 1961 the creamery association involved well over 590 stockholders in their annual meeting and reported 1,296,796 pounds of butter and 2,241,440 pounds of powdered milk produced. A new building was started in September 1962 to house the plant, with an open house in May 1963. In the next years equipment was installed to make raw cheese to enlarge its business capacity.

In 1981 Mid-America Dairymen purchased the creamery. In November 1982 production ceased at the creamery. Thirteen workers were laid off, with only the manager, Tom Baetsle, remaining to care for the holding station and to handle butter and cheese distribution.

ECKHARDT ENTERPRISES: Tax service and insurance

In 1935 Walter E. Eckhardt started an insurance and tax service business in the building his father, Ed, had built on Main Street in 1919. In 1949 Walter's son, Ed, joined the business. In 1977 son Jim joined his dad, ~~operating~~ the insurance end of the business and son Mike joined the business in 1978 to work on taxes and accounting. Ed sold his sons the business in January 1989. Tax return business has increased to nearly 1,500 returns each year.

Jansen-Pfantz Insurance: Charles Jansen was joined by his son-in-law Mike Pfantz and opened their office in 1975.-American Family Insurance Agency

State Center Locker has operated for a number of years at their present location. For many years it was operated by Joe and Ruth Streeter, then purchased by Loren and Carolyn Garrels in 1974 and by Ralph and Janice Roloff in 1992.

Home Oil was owned and operated by the Wilkening family for many years. In 1990 their underground fuel tanks were removed. Gas was no longer sold, but Paul Wilkening did continue to do repair work until the business was sold. Likewise, Westphal <sup>1992</sup> Standard Station, owned and operated since 1941 <sup>1993</sup> by Arnold Westphal and now his son Rodney, removed their underground tanks, as a common requirement for protection of ground water from contamination. The business now does repair work and sells and services lawn and garden type equipment. Both gas stations were located on Highway 30, the Lincoln Highway.

In 1976 a Casey's store opened near Highway 30 and in 1986 Cissy's II opened a similar convenience store and gasoline stop on Main Street. This continued the trend away from the years of full "service stations" and towards the quick shop.

Restaurant and Eating Businesses:

In 1970's and 80's the Home Cafe and Trojan Drive-In on Lincoln Highway closed, along with Thompson's Kuchen Haus on Main Street.

Work began on the Steak Center in 1976 which was to be a "cook your own steak" restaurant with a capacity for 75 people. Butch and Deb Horn sold the operation to Rod and Pattie Wilkening in 1989 who continue to operate the bar and restaurant facility.

In 1981 the Dairy Sweet soft serve ice cream shop opened on the corner of 3rd Ave. SW and Hwy 30. Doug and Julie Riley purchased it in 1988 and continue to operate the Doug Out as a family restaurant and ice cream shop.

On Main Street Tracy and Sherry Bailey opened Bailey's Pizza in 1984. It has increased its service to include lunch and the menu to include broasted chicken. Char's On Main opened in the fall of 1995, owned and operated by Char Hrnicek. The restaurant features four dining rooms.

The automobile dealerships have changed hands several times during the past 50 years ~~and~~ and at this time State Center does not have a major dealership. The Chevrolet dealership changed ownership from Robert Miller to Gordon and Roger Yeager in 1962. They in 1974 constructed a 60' x 80' garage located at 3rd Ave. SW and HWY 30. In early 1980's it was purchased by Pat Clemons followed by Don Henze and in the late 80's Ron Willey. The dealership closed in 1993. Doug Lively now operates a trucking and used vehicle business in the location.

In 1936 Spec (S.J.) Houghton opened the Houghton Motor Company, a Ford dealership on Main Street. His son, Robert, continued to operate the business until 1977, when it was purchased by Joseph Long. The business closed by 1980.

Businesses which were mainstays, serving the area's needs for many years, but have now closed:

- Speers Hatchery operated by George Speers
- Shortley's Hog Buying Station operated by Dan Shortley
- Denniston and Partridge Lumber Company, managed for many years by Don Lane and later by Delbert Miller
- Veterinarian Dr. George Schoel, closed his office in early 1980's

Businesses which served the people of the area for a short duration, meeting a special need, but have closed:

- NAPA Automotive Store
- Olive Tree Stitchery
- Capricorn Creations
- Jody Thill Photography
- Hilltop Ceramics
- Karri's Creations
- Adams Family furniture
- Children's Corner Preschool & Care Center

Businesses which are currently offering a wide range of important services to the State Center area residents:

- Maish Plumbing and Heating owned by James Maish
- Terry's Auto Repair owned by Terry Collier, also conducts US Tours
- Thompson Enterprises operated by Rick Thompson
- Central Iowa Appraisal Services operated by Phyllis Maxwell Collier
- Central Iowa Reality owned by Irma Henze
- Maple Hill Flowers owned by Carol Weuve
- Iowa River F S Services
- Schoppe Construction and Excavation operated by Alva Schoppe's sons Daryl, Keith, and Claire

- Baie Enterprises owned by Norris Baie

Al's Enterprises owned by Al Davis  
Campbell Oil Company  
D. & M Auto Repair owned by Willie Kriegel  
Daryl's Gun Shop owned by Daryl Schoppe  
Denney's Shoe Repair owned by Denny Wilkening  
Flo's Laundry Place owned by Florence Honeck  
Garry's Barber Shop owned by Garry Pfantz  
Barb's Salon owned by Barb Pfantz  
Jay-Kee Trailer Service owned by Craig Bear  
Road Hog's Bar owned by Alan Horn  
Rose Capital Mini Mall managed by Beverly Oxley  
Moore's Garage owned by Daryl Moore  
Sheppler Barber Shop owned by Carroll Sheppler  
State Center Seed owned by Craig Pfantz  
Shipley Truck Parts owned by Pat Shipley

### City of State Center - Special Happenings

On February 16, 1972 the city council formally accepted the J.G.Gutekunst home on 309 2nd St. SE for use as a public library. The net income from 720 acres of land north and east of State Center is to be used to maintain the library and adjacent park.

The city will receive funds each year as a result of a gift to the city by Elnora Eckhart. Funds from the Elnora Eckhart Trust are directed for use at the Rose Garden. The first funds were received in 1991 in the amount of \$3,500.

1991 - The city of State Center received notice that they were named residuary beneficiary of a trust provided by Dr. I.D.Kauffman, from farms and other property in Minnesota. A committee of residents was formed to determine use of the \$500,000 for community benefit project. No decision was agreed upon. City Council now will establish a trust.

#### CELEBRATIONS:

June 22, 23, 24th 1967 residents prepared for the city's centennial. A log house was built on the school grounds on Main Street and served as the centennial headquarters. Frank and Laura Brown served as Centennial King and Queen. It was estimated that a crowd of about ten thousand people viewed the parade and enjoyed a variety of activities typical of centennial celebrations.

The 125th anniversary celebration was held June 19, 20, 21 - 1992, at the time of the annual Rose Festival observance.

## CHANGES AND TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE:

The face of agriculture has changed in the past 50 years from diversified farms to large more specialized farming units. Smaller farms for sometime produced both all types of livestock and a four year rotation of crops.

Size of farms increased, as the number of farms and farmers decreased. by 1980 the average cost per acre of Marshall County farm land was over \$2000. 1985 brought a crash in farm prices and bad times were predicted. The harvest of 1985 was larger than usual, but low prices put a big pinch on the agricultural community. Farmers who had been enjoying good profits had invested their income in additional land and new equipment and were hurting to meet payments.

State Center felt that pain and suffered through the sluggish economy of the late 80's. Then in 1988 a drought hit during the growing season and the attack of insects and diseases compounded the troubles. The 90's brought the gradual stability and growth of economy in agriculture and the business health of State Center "Main Street" improved as did that of the local farmers.

Lower prices for the traditional grain crops, brought about new techniques in farming. Minimum till and no till were accepted procedures in place of plowing and many trips across fields in preparation of the soil for planting. Diversification in use of the land and crops planted is a trend to be noted. Truck gardening, pick your own, cut your own, and large sweet corn plots are some examples. These non traditional farm crops can result in good income per acre, but can be very labor intensive. One example is the growing of Christmas trees.

Hoffman Pines, located east of State Center on Highway 30, is owned and operated by Kenyon and Mary Hoffman. The 40 acres were purchased in 1991. This wholesale and retail business results in the sale of approximately 4,000 Christmas trees annually. The Hoffman's hire area people to work seasonally to plant, prune or trim, and cut their trees.

In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial celebration, the Iowa Century Farms program sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation was established. Each year at the Iowa State Fair, families are honored for their dedication to the land. Nearly a dozen such awards have been made to State Center area farms, which have been a part of the family for at least 100 years.

## ROUND BARN:

Located on the Dan and Betty Dobbin farm is a "True-Round Barn" built in 1919 by his father Henry A. Dobbin. The plans for this barrel barn came from the Gordon-Van Tine Company, a Davenport manufacturer of pre-cut mail order barns. It is a 60 foot diameter barn with a 12 foot diameter clay tile silo inside. The barn stands as built, in good condition and it is listed in the National Historic Registry. (National Registry of Historic Places)

The same barn style was built 3 miles east of the Dobbins on the W.J. Yordy farm. It has since been torn down in 1990.

#### TRANSPORTATION:

**RAILROADS:** Closely connected with the early history of State Center was the progress of the Chicago and North Western Railroad. As the railroad grew, it became double-tracked between Chicago and Council Bluffs.

Until 1925 the Grinnell & Montezuma branch of the Iowa Central Railroad Company, which had been taken over by the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad was in operation between Newburg and State Center. In 1940 the terminal site of the M & St. L Railway in State Center, including the switching yards and "Y" grounds, were sold to Elmer H. Goodman.

The Northwestern Railroad Depot, which had been housed in a mobile home since 1966, was closed on July 3, 1969. This ended over 100 years of depot service for State Center. Currently, the tracks handle a large number of through freight trains daily.

**BUS SERVICE:** Interstate Transit (Greyhound) lines provided daily local and transcontinental buses. Ticket purchases were available at the local restaurant until in 1962 Watson's Grocery became the Greyhound stop until the store's closure.

**TELEPHONE COMPANY:** The State Centre Telephone Co. was purchased by Central Iowa telephone Co. in 1928. Started in 1950 and completed by 1952, new common battery switchboard equipment and all new common battery telephones were installed in the subscription homes. In 1959 the State Center office was converted to dial. In 1967 the entire Central Iowa Telephone Co. was merged with General Telephone & Electronics Co. and operates as a subsidiary of the General Telephone Co. of Iowa with headquarters in Grinnell, Iowa.

#### HOUSING TRENDS

Early nursing homes operated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spessard and by Minnie Bryant were replaced in 1971 by the modern 50 bed, \$300,000 facility called State Center Manor, located on 3rd St. NW.

Retirement housing has been provided by the construction of Prairie Village in 1976. Similarly the Edgetown Apartments were opened by Kenneth Poling.

An apartment building was constructed by James and Susan Jorgensen east of the high school in 1968. In 1972 the Denniston Park subdivision announced the building of new homes along 2nd St. NW. In 1992 State Center Park Apartments by Downs Development, with 24 FMHA units were build in the same northwest area of State Center.

## State Center Library

The first library of record in State Center was established about 1900 and was privately sponsored. About 1920, a branch of the Marshalltown Library was placed in the public school building. Books were obtained from the Marshalltown Library and the State Traveling Library. Mae Ferguson Fisher was the librarian.

In 1938 the State Center Lions Club with Dr. B.M. Biersborn as president, and the Margaret Stoddard Study Club with Helen German as president, sponsored the organization of a public library. W.P.A. funds were available to pay the salary of a librarian. After W.P.A. funds were withdrawn in 1943, an informal election was held, with the vote favorable to establish a tax supported library.

In April 1943, the town council pass an ordinance providing a free public library, after which Mayor J.G. Gutekunst appointed the board of trustees: W.R. Keith, W.F. Brimhall, H.E. Foote, Mrs.H.A. Dobbin, and Mrs. L.C. Hilleman. The library was housed in the High School Building until it was moved to the Community Building in 1950. Mrs. Maude Evans was appointed librarian, followed by Miss Wynema Bower in 1951.

The present location of the library is the former home of J.G. Gutekunst, who gave his home and endowed the library with the income from over 700 acres of nearby Iowa farm land. In 1972 the State Center Library Board began the work of remodeling the home into a library facility. In 1973 the board decided to rename the library Gutekunst Public Library in honor of the donor.

The new library was first opened to the public in April of 1974 with the dedication of the building May 26, 1974. Villa Harrison was appointed librarian and held the position until June 1978. In July 1978 Jan Hawbaker and Margaret Hemphill served as co-librarians. Margaret Hemphill was appointed library director in September 1979, serving until her retirement in 1989. Betty Oehlsen was appointed library director in September 1989 and continues in that position, assisted by librarians Carol Oxley and Mara Edler.

In addition to traditional services, Gutekunst Public Library provides extensive audio-visual materials and equipment, copy machine and laminating equipment. The library became automated in 1988 and has continued to keep abreast with computer and other electronic informational trends.

The current Board of Trustees is Harlan Quick, Donald Goodman, Michael Heller, Gary Wauters, Patricia Kifer, Dorine Lampkin, and Diane Strawn.

## LINCOLN VALLEY GOLF COURSE

In the mid 1970's the community determined there was a need for a golf course. A group of Jaycees started a non-profit corporation to build a nine hole course east of State Center between old and new Lincoln Highway.

In 1976 the Gutekunst Public Library Board approved the leasing of the land. A goal of raising \$100,000 by September 1st was set in order to start work. Memberships were sold. By December 1976 173 memberships were sold and Dr. Larry Beaty was elected the first president of the Lincoln Valley Golf Course Association.

Construction of the course, landscaping, and installation of water lines from State Center began in the summer of 1977. In March 1978 footings for the clubhouse were poured. Over 100 trees were planted. Opening week end was July 1, 1978 for the nine hole course. Many dedicated individuals raised funds and provided volunteer labor to make the undertaking a reality. A deck was added to the club house in April 1980.

The first (1976) officers were: Dr. Larry Beaty-Pres., Wes Callison & Ron Goecke-first vice-pres., Jan Meyer-Secretary, Jim Jorgensen-treas., board members Bob Baker, Carl Jacob, Alan Hilleman, Sid Wilkening, Paul Wilkening, John Maddick, and Dave Morris. Jan Meyer was the first clubhouse manager. Several years after the course opened the non-profit corporation was replaced with the West Marshall Golf Course Association, a for-profit corporation.

In 1992 plans were formulated for an additional nine holes. Again land was leased from the Gutekunst Library. Ground work began in August 1993, with completion scheduled for October 1993. Work was delayed because of rain in the fall and then a dry spring in 1994, with a wind storm blowing away top soil and grass seed. Ground preparation and re-seeding was completed in 1994. The new nine holes officially opened Memorial Day weekend, 1995.

Club membership is at approximately 350, serving golfers in west Marshall County, eastern Story County, and some Marshalltown golfers. Currently the clubhouse manager is Jerry Appel, groundskeeper is Dean Shipley, and the 1996 association president is James Adkins.

## Newspaper

The State Center Enterprise was established in 1871 by David A. Lacey, who was then the postmaster for State Centre. In October the following year, J.W. Merrill, who had become Mr. Lacey's manager, took over the business and continued until 1903 when he retired and was succeeded by his son, Bert Merrill. In the fall of 1916 F.W. Beckman purchased the plant and placed H. L. Sunderlin in management. In 1935 Sunderlin joined with Larry Leffingwell in purchasing the business from Beckman and two years later Sunderlin bought his partner's interest. Marshall C. Watson bought the business in 1939.

Joe and Bonnie Long purchased the State Center Enterprise from Marshall C. Watson September 1, 1967. In January 1972, Longs purchased the Melbourne Record from Howard Williams, Jr. and began publishing both papers on alternate days, Tuesday and Thursday. Both papers were in tabloid format from 1980-1988.

Robert E. and Kristie A. Wernsman purchased the paper January 29, 1977. Roxanne Goecke and Inne Taylor purchased the paper July 1, 1981 and were the owners until July 1, 1990.

On October 11, 1989 the last State Center Enterprise was published and on October 13, 1989 the last Melbourne Record was published. The first combined newspaper, the Enterprise-Record, was printed October 19, 1989, and became a weekly issue representing the entire West Marshall School district area.

On July 1, 1990 Duane and Patricia Holub purchased the Enterprise-Record. In August 1993 John C. Strawn II became owner/publisher and he remains as such.

On February 1, 1995 Mid-Iowa Publishing began publishing a weekly shopper, mailed free to Marshall County rural residents and in eastern Story County. It is named The Town Crier. Was discontinued December 1995.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### MEDICAL CARE

The current medical practice in State Center is long established, beginning on the southwest corner of Main Street and 1st Avenue with Dr. Ira D. Kauffman in 1901. He served the area until 1932 and died in August of 1953.

Several different partnerships were formed. Dr. Byron M. Biersborn practiced 1927-1963. He died in 1963. Dr. Charles R. Sokol joined Dr. Biersborn in 1946 and practiced until his retirement in 1980. He still resides in State Center. In 1955 Dr. Ray G. Robinson joined the team of Drs. Biersborn and Sokol (July 1, 1955), having now served the people of the community over 40 years.

A new brick medical clinic building was opened in July 1966, with three consultation rooms, eight examination rooms, an x-ray room, laboratory, dispensary, and business office.

Dr. Larry D. Beaty joined the clinic and practiced from 1974-1983. He now practices and teaches at Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines. Dr. David L. Taylor, D.O., came to the clinic in April of 1982 and is presently in practice with Dr. Robinson. The doctors are pursuing an additional partner.

**DENTAL CARE:** Through the years State Center has had a number of dentists to serve the community's needs. In the 1940's and on...there were doctors Manley Smith and E.W. Kimpston, D.D.S. Dr. Knah Kee Kim was in practice 1967-1970. Dr. Dennis Schuller was in practice 1977-1979. Dr. Alfred Havick came in 1979 and continues to serve State Center community.

**LAWYERS:** State Center has been served by several attorney-at-law during the last fifty years.....J.G. Gutekunst, Merle Royce, Dan W. Woods. George Hinshaw of Marshalltown continues to maintain weekly office hours at the Jansen-Pfantz Insurance office.

## State Center Volunteer Fire Department

The volunteer fire department was established about 1865 and was known as "State Centre Fire Engine Company 1" and has been active since. Since 1890 this department has improved and expanded and is now recognized as one of the best equipped and most efficient volunteer outfits in the state. It includes town and rural districts of the surrounding area. It has brought home championship honors from the various contests sponsored by Iowa Firemen's Association at the annual conventions.

The city showed support of these important volunteers by authorizing the purchase of a new country fire truck in May of 1953. Funding assistance came from Minerva, Marietta, Washington, and State Center Townships.

In October 1974 the city council reviewed preliminary plans for a new firestation. Financing was given overwhelming approval by voters in the 1977 November general election.

In 1974 the townships purchased a new pumper truck for the firefighters. It carries 500 gallons of water, pumps 750 gallons per minute, and is still in operation today. The new fire station was completed and occupied in 1978. The fire station is now occupied by five firefighting units. In 1985 the firefighters saw a need for an unit that could get to fires quickly and pump water efficiently. They purchased a mini-pumper which carries 300 gallons of water and can pump 250 gallons per minute. This attack pumper, as it is called, is the first truck to every call and is a valuable asset. The firemen also have a 4X4 pickup used for grass fires which carries 250 gallons of water and pumps 250 gallons per minute. They have a 1500 gallon tanker truck which is mandatory for rural fires to haul water. In 1992 the firemen had the opportunity to purchase a demonstrator truck used by Smeal Fire Equipment and arranged the funds to buy this truck. It carries 1000 gallons of water and pumps 1250 gallons per minute. This truck can handle large fires and is such a value to the department that it makes firefighting much easier with its capabilities.

The fire department currently has 32 active firefighters, with an average of 15 years service. 21 members are under the age of 40 and state competition has been a tradition at the department since 1971. The department has enhanced their firefighting skills by participating in these annual competitions and has recieved many trophies for their efforts. The department has taken home first place five times since 1971 competing against all volunteer departments in the state of Iowa.

Marshall County has the 911 emergency system and all our firefighters carry a pager or portable radio with them 24 hours a day. The department averages about 40 calls per year, with 25% of the calls being non-fire related such as an automobile accident.

### State Center First Responders

After hearing the need for Emergency Medical Services coverage in rural areas of the state, a group of 18 individuals undertook 46 hours of classes and passed both a written and a practical State of Iowa test. On Monday, May 3rd, 1982, the State Center First Responders formally organized under the backing of the council of the City of State Center, as a volunteer group. First Responders are a part of tiered-response in emergency medical services - a by-stander calls 911 for help, an ambulance is dispatched to transport the victim to the hospital, local first responders are dispatched at the same time to offer basic life support until the ambulance get on the scene. In the Spring of 1990, the State of Iowa gave approval for the group to be certified as an advanced care service, able to use an automatic defibrillator. At the present time there are 12 individuals who serve, with only two of the original eighteen included. Most of the funding, for this volunteer group, is from private donations.

### United States Post Office

The U.S. Post Office in State Center was established February 9, 1864, when Cyrus F. Culver was appointed postmaster. There were three rural routes serving the area originally, but since 1934, there have been two. It became a second class post office on July 1, 1945, when receipts totaled more than \$8,000.

On February 9, 1964 the State Center Post Office marked its centennial anniversary. The post office was remodeled and an open house was held in August 1976. Improvements included 486 keyed lock boxes and carrier cases for the rural routes. In 1990 the service area became automated with computers.

Postmasters who have served faithfully are Robert E. Liston 1936-1973; Olive Seeger 1973-1985; and Robert Nusbaum 1985 to the present.

# History of St. Paul Lutheran Congregation

It is impossible to give a complete history of the early beginning of St. Paul Lutheran Church at State Center as written records do not exist of the early beginnings. The minutes reveal that in the 1870's Lutheran services were held at State Center in the Adventist Church and in two other places: Zearing, Iowa and at the Voss School House in Story County.

The church records do reveal the ministerial acts from 1884. In 1884 and possibly earlier, St. Paul Lutheran Church was organized as a congregation. In later years, near the turn of the century, the other two points in the parish disbanded and some of the members came to State Center.

The congregation did not build a place of worship until 1894. The site chosen was in the north part of State Center. In 1900 the congregation bought a dwelling and four lots for use as a parsonage for \$1200 and adjoining lots for \$125 on which enlarged and still later enlarged again.

Pastors prior to 1884 are not known. Pastors of record are: 1884-1886 — Rev. E. J. Buehrer; 1886, Rev. John Reinsch; 1887-1888, Rev. H. Bergstaedt; 1891-1893, Rev. W. Herrewig; 1893, Rev. A. C. Kleinlein; 1893-1895, Rev. D. Kogge-First church built; 1895-1898, Rev. Carl Roemer; 1898, Rev. H. Markworth; 1899-1910, Rev. U. Groth - the old church was moved to the newly acquired property; 1911-1928, Rev. John G. Oltman - church enlarged; 1928-1937, Rev. A. H. Schultz congregation grows, parish house acquired; 1937-1947, Rev. H. P. Kumpf - (1944 church remodeled, new pews and furniture as a project of 50th anniversary of the church building); 1947-1963, Rev. Elmer J. Braun - congregation becomes synodical, incorporated for the

first time, new Wicks Direct Electric Action Pipe Organ - Tower system installed - 1959, the 75th anniversary observed - new church building fund started, parsonage renovated - 1960 become a part of the merged American Lutheran Church - 1963, Pastor Braun died after a long severe illness. 1963 (Nov. 22nd); Rev. LaVerne R. Meinecke moved to State Center, May 1964 the congregation approved floor plans for the new church. A financial drive was held in the fall of 1964 for the new church building fund. June 27th, 1965 the congregation voted to accept the low bidders for the new church and to begin construction at once. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on July 4, 1965. The corner stone for the new church was laid on October 10, 1965. On July 31, 1966 dedication of the new educational unit and church building was held. The church located at 605 - 1st Ave. N. is of contemporary design and seats 300 in the nave with an overflow of 200.

The Mortgage for the new church was burned at a Sunday service on June 15, 1975. In 1967 the congregation purchased the Delaware property, now 602 1st Ave. N., and eight years later voted to build a new parsonage. A groundbreaking for the new parsonage was held on September 28, 1975 and the parsonage was dedicated in the spring of 1976. The old parsonage was sold the same year. The mortgage for the new parsonage was burned on December 14, 1980. St. Paul Lutheran celebrated its centennial July 1984.

Rev. LaVerne R. Meinecke served the congregation for many years, from 1964-1980. He was replaced by Rev. R. D. Ehlers, who served until 1991. In 1988 the church became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, which was the merging of the ALC, LCA, and AELC. In December of 1991 Pastor Mark J. Holmes accepted the call to be pastor. He continues to serve.

St. Paul Lutheran has approximately 630 baptized members.

# First ~~United~~ Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Upon the 20th day of August, 1866, Rev. H. H. Kellogg, a Presbyterian minister from Cedar Rapids Presbytery, conducted a church service in a little schoolhouse in State Center. Five people presented certificates of standing in various Presbyterian churches, and a religious organization, "The Presbyterian Church of State Centre, Iowa" was begun. The five received as charter members were Mr. and Mrs. James Fairman, Mr. and Mrs. John McNary and Mrs. Julia Dobbin.

At this second meeting of the group, Sept. 8, 1866, Mr. and Mrs. McCain, Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Dudley and Mrs. Sarah Knepper became members. Jeremiah Dudley elected deacon and John McNary was elected the first elder of this church. These men held office until their deaths; Mr. Dudley until 1877, and Mr. McNary until 1922.

At this second meeting the members voted to apply to the Presbytery of Cedar Rapids for admission into the Presbytery as a Presbyterian Church.

The first Communion Service was administered by Rev. H. H. Kellogg on September 9, 1866. Two years later, 1868, a Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and the two congregations, Presbyterian and Methodist, joined forces to build a fine frame church building in 1869.

Sometime between 1871 and 1873 the Presbyterians contracted a Church debt to purchase the Methodists' half interest in the building. John McNary mortgaged his farm to help pay this indebtedness. By 1878 the church was free from all debt.

The church building was remodeled in 1906. The entrance was moved to the northeast corner, a choir room was built on the south side and beautiful memorial stained glass windows were added. This building continued to serve as the House of God until it was destroyed by fire February 15, 1920. The substantial and beautiful brick building now in use was begun August 7, 1921, when John McNary broke ground for the new building. The new church was dedicated June 25, 1922. The character and loyalty of the congregation at that time is shown by the fact that on the day of dedication, the new building, costing \$33,000.00, was entirely paid for.

However, it was five years later that the Mueller pipe organ was added to the new building. With \$1400.00 from the insurance on the Kilgen organ burned in the old church, and about 1800.00 raised by subscriptions, the new organ was purchased and installed.

In September, 1929 the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of State Center federated and worshiped together until 1935. The Methodists resumed worship in their own building in March of 1936. During the 1950's the Church was actively engaged in promoting

growth by obtaining the Richard Evans property west of the church building for use as an educational building. Laymen's Sunday was begun. A baptismal font was installed in the church. The young people were participating in CROP collections. In 1955 the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, U.S.A. was merged with the United Presbyterian Church of the United States. Prior to this merger, our church belonged to the Waterloo Presbytery, but after the merger the church became affiliated with the North Central Presbytery.

the two churches. In 1985 Rev. Ken Stuber came and continued to serve both churches. The union with Van Cleve was discontinued and Rev. Stuber served the Albion then. When Ken Stuber left the two churches separated and after two years with lay people serving, the Alpha Greater Parish was formed, combining Maxwell, Albion, and State Center. January 1995 brought Rob Hubler as Pastor to serve the three churches. Current membership is 70.

A Centennial Banquet was held Oct. 8, 1966. In 1967 a new manse was built west of the church. A 125th anniversary was observed Sept. 29, 1991.

In the late seventies the church voted to share a minister with the United Church of Christ in Van Cleve. Rev. Mary Hendrickson came to serve

# State Center Methodist Church

In 1868 the Methodist church in State Center was organized by the Rev. Jacob Haymond, with the first meeting taking place in a town building.

The first church was built on property in the N. E. part of town in 1871. It was destroyed by fire in 1887 and was replaced in 1888 by a building south of Main Street, at the present location.

From Oct., 1929 to Sept. 1935, the Methodist membership was federated with the Presbyterian congregation, with services being held in the latter's church. In 1936 the Methodist church was re-conditioned and services were conducted there until March 1966 when the church was razed and a new structure was built on the same site. During this period of construction the Methodist congregation accepted an invitation to use the facilities of St. Joseph Catholic church.

Dedication of the new church took place June 11, 1967. Rev. Chas. Mehaffey ~~was the~~ minister.

A later improvement was the handicapped accessible entrance. A brick bell tower to house the bell from the old church was also added.

The State Center Methodist Church has been yoked with Minerva-Valley Chapel for some time. In 1991 the congregation was yoked with the Rhodes Methodist, the charge now containing 3 churches.

Membership is now 126 with many constituent members.

Recent pastors were 1973-Lloyd Musser, 1977-Kermit Gladfelder, 1981-Richard Fitch, 1985-Karen Dearchs, 1990- Harland Gant, 1991 - Harold Werley, who continues to serve.

Since 1973 the Busy Bee Pre-School has met in the basement of the church.

# History of St. Joseph's Church

STATE CENTER, IOWA

In 1854 a French Priest from Des Moines came to State Center and held services in a private home for the Catholic people of State Center and surrounding country. This was the only religious service that the Catholics had for sixteen years, except when they would drive to Marshalltown, with a team of oxen.

In the spring of 1870 Father Walsh of Marshalltown came to State Center and solicited enough money to purchase two lots in the south-west part of town and to build a church. In July of 1870 Father Peter Bromenschenkel came to State Center, and took charge of building the church. He also secured a cemetery.

Father B. A. Schulte came to State Center in the fall of 1879. He built the rectory and furnished the church with a bell, altars, etc.

Father D. M. Gorman was pastor from September 1892 to October 1893 during which time he built a Parochial School. In the summer of 1894 St. Joseph's School was closed because of the small number of children attending. The school building remodeled during the pastorate of Father M. J. Lentz, and has been used as the Priests home up to the present time.

In 1930 the church was burned to the ground. The Catholic people of State Center immediately went to work to replace it. Much of the labor was donated by parishoners and under the direction of Father J. J. Buzynski, the corner stone of the new brick building was placed in 1931.

Father Louis McDonough came to State Center in 1934. Catechism classes were conducted by the Sisters of Humility of Marshalltown. The church was decorated, stained glass windows were installed and spruce trees were planted at the church and in the cemetery.

Father G. V. Steiert was the next pastor coming in February 1945 and remaining until 1950. During that time the church received repairing on walls, etc. New Stations were installed, the church was redecorated and an organ and statues were donated.

Father R. J. Axen was pastor from 1950 until June 1956. During his stay two lots were purchased west of the Rectory. The Catholic Family Movement (C.F.M.) was organized.

Fr. Francis Heimerman came to State Center in June 1956 and remained until August 1966. Under his pastorate the church was insulated, new furnaces were installed, the church kitchen remodeled, and the kitchen and church redecorated.

In August 1966 Father Matthew F. Beelner came to St. Joseph's.

He was replaced in 1968 by Father Herbert Tegler. In 1970 the church was re-decorated in preparation for the parish centennial. Many came to celebrate 100 years of church life. Father Thomas Purtel came to serve the people of St. Joseph's in 1973, followed by Father Claude Norton in 1977. During his pastoral duties, a new church rectory was dedicated in 1981. It serves not only as the home of the pastor, but also as classrooms for religious education. Father Norton retired in 1992 and was replaced by Father Ron Friedell. At that time a building fund was inaugurated in anticipation of a new church and parish hall. The cost of the project being \$600,000.

September 10, 1995 ~~was~~ the Quasiquicentennial celebration with liturgies celebrated by Archbishop Daniel Kucera of Dubuque. A parish cookbook ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> printed for the occasion.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church serves approximately 100 families from the communities of Melbourne, Rhodes, and State Center. Father Ron Friedell continues to serve as pastor.

Members of the St. Joseph Catholic Church parish broke ground for a new church on Sunday April 14, 1996. The old church, built in the 1930's, will be demolished and a new church built on the same site.

## Trinity Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

Trinity Lutheran Church of State Center came into being as an organized congregation on April 11, 1945. When fire destroyed the mother church, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, four miles north of State Center, the result was the birth of a new congregation. The group of members from St. John's wanted to rebuild the church in the city, while another group preferred to rebuild on the original location. The two groups parted ways. The Rev. Fred I. Ilten, then pastor of Redeemer Lutheran church of Marshalltown was asked to lead the newly formed congregation through the formal steps of organization and the calling of a pastor. On Sunday April 8, 1945 the members of Trinity were granted a peaceful release from St. John and Trinity was organized on April 11th with a baptized membership of 220, communicant membership of 164 and a voting membership of 50. The first worship service was held in the Methodist Church on April 15, 1945. Every member was present. A Sunday School was formally organized, the Ladies' Aid Society was organized in the home of Mary Conkin with a membership of 55. A constitution was adopted and a voters meeting was held to call a pastor. Pastor K. J. Baumgart accepted and was installed on June 17, 1945.

Property was purchased for \$3,000 from the Wilbert Carpenter Estate for a church site and the Dr. Birsborn residence was offered to the congregation for the sum of \$8,000 for a parsonage. Ground breaking for the church was March 31, 1948 and on July 18, 1948 the cornerstone was laid. The completed church was dedicated on June 5, 1949 at a total cost of \$102,214.38. Furnishings totaled an additional \$37,420.

First elected officers of Trinity congregation in 1945 were: Chiarman-Fred Honeck; Treas.-Conrad Schaper; Secr. - Waldemar Koepke; Financial Sec.-August Eggers; Trustees - Harold Nolte, Albert Smith, Henry Wilkey; Elders - Leon Timmerman, Fred Eggers, Lorenz German; Building committee - Chairman William Eggers, members Ernest Eggers & Edgar Riese.

Trinity Lutheran Church has been served by four pastors in 50 years. Pastor Baumgart served from 1945 to 1958; Rev. M.J. Haerther from 1958 to 1963; and Rev. E.A. Wiedbusch 1963 to 1975. Current pastor, Rev. Richard Pierson, was installed on March 16, 1976.

The church celebrated the 40th anniversary in 1985 and designated a special offering toward a handicap access for the church. Through the donation of time, talents and monies raised, a new entrance on the south side of the church including an elevator was dedicated on January 13, 1991.

On Easter Sunday, April 16, 1995, Trinity celebrated the church's 50th anniversary. Trinity has 283 baptized members.

PLEASE NOTE: St. John Lutheran Church, north of State Center serves a number State Center residents. It is located in Minerva Township and should be included in that township's historical update.

## STATE CENTER ORGANIZATIONS

Quite a number of service and social organizations were formed and have continued in existence during the past 50 years. Some have had waining memberships and have reorganized or disbanded...the Community Club, Rebekah Lodge, Royal Neighbors of America, Garden Club, Questers Study Club, Kiwanis as examples.

## STATE CENTER WOMAN'S CLUB

The State Center Woman's Club was organized and federated in July 1940 with 33 members. Meetings are held monthly, orginally in the Community Hall, and since 1980 in the homes of members. Dorothy Buschbom was the 1st president.

The club was organized to be of service to the community , as well as to develop friendships among its members. Community projects which the club has promoted through the years include the Cub Scouts, the Public Library, the Rose Festival Queen contest, charity drives such as the Red Cross, Polio and Heart fund, support of school finance issues and the Bill Riley Talent Show.

Recently the club assists the annual Rose Festival celebration by serving on committees sponsoring a candidate for Rose Queen and donating the programs for the Ecumenical Sunday services at the Rose Garden. With the help of Margaret Stoddard and Delta Nu clubs, the club was responsible for signs directing people to the City Park and painting the Rose Capital sign and lighting it. Memorial books are placed in the Gutekunst Public Library in memory of deceased members. A dictionary is presented to a deserving high school senior each year. The club remembers the area shut-ins, donates items to the Food Box, Cirs and Hospice each year.

Woman's Club now has 17 members, mostly senior citizens, and is no longer federated. Doris Schaper was president for 1994-95 and Bessie Conkin will serve as president 1995-1996.

June 1965, a 25th anniversary dinner was held at the Tallcorn Motor Hotel. May 1990, the club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Three of the charter members were present - Bernice Nichols, Bessie Conkin, and Hannah Speers.

## Organizations for community growth and developemnt

### STATE CENTER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

State Center Development Association is a non-profit organization, whose purpose is to work for the betterment of State Center. A recent major was the purchase of Watson's Grocery. A sub-committee of this association is the State Center Historical Society, formed in 1989.

### STATE CENTER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

State Center Development Corporation is a for-profit group organized to promote the growth of the community. A main thrust has been to make interest loans to businesses.

### STATE CENTER COMMERCE CLUB

State Center Commerce Club, organized in 1978, is a group of local business people whose main purpose is to promote the State Center businesses. The group co-ordinates special promotions such as Holiday shopping hours and annual Appreciation Days.

The Commerce Club is in charge of providing a welcoming packet to newcomers in the community. This informational packet is presented by Henrietta Bogan, city clerk and is available at City Hall.

# **CENTRAL IOWA JAYCEES**

## **203 1/2 West Main Street**

### **State Center, IA 50247**

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The Central Iowa Jaycees were chartered as a new chapter on April 4, 1970. The first president of the group was Allan Dee who is still a member of the community. Thirty-one members were chartered with twenty-six of those still in the community. Jaycees are a community, individual, and management development organization. Their creed has a statement that says "Service to humanity is the best work of life," and the group has proven that with their many accomplishments. The Jaycees started in 1915 and has continued to grow since the first convention in 1920. Its headquarters are in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The local jaycees in 1974 saw the need for a local golf course and canvassed the area to find out if there was enough interest in pursuing the idea. It was well received and Lincoln Valley Golf was formed with the accomplishments of the Central Iowa Jaycees.

Some community activities that the Jaycees have done in the past are: Haunted House, Haunted Hayride, Haunted City, Caretaker of the Rose Garden, Christmas Tree Sales, Casino Nights, CIRSI Christmas, Run-Punt-Pass, Sandbox Fill, Halloween Films with Pumpkin/Costume Contest, Beach Blast, Softball Tournaments, Bike-a-Thon, Trap Shoot Contests, Teen Dance, Bowling Tournaments, Kidde Tractor Pulls, Dunk Tank, Youth Camps, Fishing Trips, Christmas lighting contest, Christmas Caroling, Winter Weatherization, Circus, Lights for Brookside Park, along with many others.

The local Central Iowa Jaycees have received many awards from the state organization for their outstanding service to the community of State Center. Many people have developed their leadership skills through Jaycees and have done great things in the community after leaving the organization. Jaycees are open to anyone age twenty-one to forty who has an interest in bettering themselves, their community and the quality of life.

### WEST MARSHALL SENIOR CITIZENS

On Nov. 30, 1965 Greta Bowers of the Marshall County Extension Service, assisted by Mrs. Howard Ellis, called a meeting at State Center City Hall for the purpose of forming a group for senior citizens. Sixteen were present.

On January 3, 1966, the first meeting was held with 30 present and on Jan. 31, 40 people attended. At this meeting the decision was made to meet the last Monday of each month. In March 1966 the group elected their first officers: Pres: Helen Buck; Vice-pres.: Margaret Buck; Sec.-treas: Amanda Hall; Historian: Bertha Myers. Some of the meetings were trips and some covered dish meetings. In 1977 the group decided to have regular meetings once a month with tours planned between meetings.

In 1968 by-laws were written and the club officially became West Marshall Senior Citizens.

Several members have served the organization faithfully as officers with lengthy terms. Ann Nowlan was president for 10 years from 1979-1988. Since 1989 Marilyn Wilkening has been serving as president. Other current officers are Vice-pres. Viola Lang, Secretary Annabelle Henze, Treasurer Helen Hilleman, and historian, Edith Mahlow.

### STATE CENTER GARDEN CLUB

Organized in 1930, with upwards of 50 members on the roll. However, due to declining membership, elderly age of remaining members, the club had disbanded by 1990.

Projects during the active years included the development of Roadside Park on Highway 30, near what is now the Rose Garden. Other civic plantings were at City Hall. Each year the club had a flower show, open to the public, and judged by accredited judges.

Funds belonging to the Garden Club when it disbanded were used to purchase a cement bench for the rose Garden and a grant was given to the Watson's Store Project.

### MASONIC LODGE

On June 8, 1870, the Grand Lodge of Iowa granted a charter to Terrestrial Lodge No. 276. In 1921 the lodge purchased the opera house from B.H. Grey at a cost of \$6,000. The Lodge still meets in this hall. It was remodeled and improved in 1959.

The Terrestrial Lodge continues to meet and teach the principles of masonry. Current membership is 35, representing all areas of the community.

## RURAL YOUTH....4-H Clubs

The youth in the State Center area have a strong 4-H organization. Central Iowa Livestock, the boys club, and State Center Clovers and Cloverettes, the girls groups, merged officially in 1994. The reorganized clubs are now Central Iowa 4-H Club with membership of both boys and girls and including many town as well as rural youth. Kay Eggers and Patti Hilleman are the organizational leaders.

Through the years there have been a number of dedicated leaders who have ably guided the youth. Among them were Charles Thompson, George Biensen, Laurena Pericho, Edith Mahlow, Doris McClure, Howard Hilleman, Marilyn Hilleman, Larry and Jackie Henschel, to name a few.

## State Center Township Cemeteries.....there are 3

Hillside Cemetery is located just north of State Center. It has undergone two expansions in recent years. In 1960 Louie Riemenschnieder, a former city resident, gave three acres of land which added a 92 foot strip that bordered the existing cemetery. In 1981 an acre of land was acquired from Virgil Klemme, adding to the north boundary.

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery is located on new highway 30 west. In 1956 additional land was purchased so a new entrance from the highway to the cemetery could be made.

German Baptist Cemetery is located in section 25 of State Center Township. The township has been the owner since 1901 when it was purchased for one dollar. The cemetery was reopened to the public in 1994.

## Roads and Highways

In the past 50 years improvements have been made on State Center Township roads. Roads have been regraded and bridges up-dated such as Hwy 234 south of State Center; or hard-surfaced such as S52 south to Rhodes.

State Center has the distinction of being located directly on the old Lincoln Highway. Several routes have been followed, including through the business district of State Center. The most recognized route was along the south edge of town, along what is now the Rose Garden, continuing on west and north. There is one of the cement highway markers in the northeast corner of the Rose Garden. This road is now referred to as old U.S Highway 30.

New U.S. Highway 30 located approximately 1/2 mile south of the older one, was constructed in the 1960's with the paving completed in 1963. To allow for highway expansions, such as this, acres of prime farm land was taken out of production.

### STATE CENTER LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club of State Center was chartered by the International Association Lions Club on October 13, 1930.

The Lions Club is active in community affairs. They help sponsor the party and treats for the children at Christmas and sponsor the Boy Scouts. They send a high school junior boy to Boys State and have a roadside clean-up project. The club has a permanent float which carries the Rose Queen in the annual Rose Festival Parade each year.

The club has several fund raising events such as the annual fish sale and fish fry.

The 1994-95 president was Al Schrock and the 1995-96 President is Bill McNamara.

### STATE CENTER KIWANIS CLUB

The State Center Kiwanis Club was organized March 7, 1981 by the Marshallown Matins. Charter members were Darrell Baker, Tom Cross, Terry Collier, James Cummings, Russell Faircloth, Raymond Gitchell, Rev. Kermit Gladfelder, Ronald Goecke, Jens Grage, Bill Grimes, Larry Honeck, William Levenhagen, Ronald Meyer, Jerry Nichols, Jerry Phillips, Rev. Richard Pierson, Harlan Quick, Wilfred Schmeling, Ted Sharer, Glen Smool, Max Streeter, Allen Tribby, Kim VanCamp, Richard Vaudt, Norman Waterman, and Roger Weuve. The first president was Max Streeter.

The Kiwanis Club was a very active club, especially at Rose Festival time, when they would set up the stage at the Rose Garden, serve homemade pie and ice cream Friday night and then run the food stand both Saturday and Sunday. The fencing at Brookside Park was done by the Kiwanis.

Their reputation for working on public service projects and the fact they met at 7AM on Saturday was their demise. Members moved away, new members were hard to recruit. By 1990 the membership had dropped to 12. In May of 1990 the club was disbanded.

Cleo Chapter No. 303 O.E.S. of State Center

Cleo Chapter No. 303 Order of the Eastern Star was organized in State Center on March 7th, 1901 by special dispensation of the Grand Chapter of Iowa. The first officers were appointed by the Worthy Grand Matron of Iowa.

The charter for Cleo Chapter was granted on October 23, 1901. The following persons are charter members: Miss Orra Bordner, Mrs. Lutie Brimhall, Mrs. Myrtle Coe, Mrs. Carrie Engle, Mrs. Nora McMahon, Mrs. Jessie Nason, Mrs. Mary Roberts, Miss Lizzie Roberts, Mrs. Evalena Sedgwick, Mrs. Susan Shaunce, Miss Grace Vance, Miss Annabel Whitehill, Mrs. Mary Wilson, Mr. S.M. Brimhall, Mr. Theodore Engle. Mr. Marshall Roberts and Mr. Eli Wilson.

Cleo Chapter has been served by many able and devoted officers and members throughout the years to promote the principles of Eastern Star. A number of members have been officers of the Grand Chapter of Iowa including Sarah Bachman, Worthy Grand Matron in 1930 and Carl Bachman, Worthy Grand Patron of the Iowa Grand Chapter in 1936.

In 1934 a Past Matrons Club was organized and disbanded in 1973. In 1968 members of Crystal Chapter, Rhodes, affiliated with Cleo Chapter and in 1990 Amethyst Chapter of Baxter consolidated with Cleo Chapter.

The meetings of the Chapter are held on the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of July and August at 7:30PM at the Masonic Temple. Cleo Chapters present Worthy Matron is Pat Menter and Worthy Patron Carl Norell. Doris McClure is the Secretary serving in that office for the past 25 years. The Chapter has 23 Life Members.

# Harland G. Pfantz Post No. 122

In July 1819 Central Post was organized. The name was changed in the first few months to honor Harland G. Pfantz who was killed in World War I. Forty-nine ex serv.cemen signed the charter. Fred B. Gilbert was the first commander and Ernie Rhode the first adjutant.

The first community service the post accomplished was the Memorial Day Services in 1920. The post has held this service every year since.

A drum and bugle corps was organized on Feb. 28, 1927 and moved to great heights in the following years. The corps finished 5th at the D. M. convention in 1927 and tied for 1st at Cedar Rapids in 1928. They were the only Drum Corps in Iowa to pass the reviewing stand with a perfect score at Cedar Rapids in 1928. The State Center Corps made the trip to the National convention in San Antonio, Texas in 1928 and finished 22nd out of 51 corps at the convention. They also were the only corps at the convention from a town of less than 3000 population. This drum and bugle corps made appearances all over central Iowa.

During World War II the legion sponsored programs of civilian defense, such as first aid classes.

The World War II vets started enrolling in 1946. Hugh Dan Malloy was the first adjutant elected from World War II vets. Ted Pfantz became the first World War II vet to become commander.

The post assists in providing treats for the children at Christmas, sponsoring a boy to Boys State, putting out the flags on Main Street and in the cemetery, buying flags for the school rooms, and conducting Memorial Day services as their community projects.

Presently Carl Phillips is the commander, Michael Heller is adjutant, and Richard Brewer is chaplin and service officer.

## MILITARY SERVICE:

During World War II, near 300 State Center community and surrounding area people were in the service of their country. Five lost their lives: Albert Gerke, Gilbert Henze, Morris Fricke, Eugene Brown, Don Wilkening.

During the Korean Police Action, the community was saddened by the death of Ross A. Hartwig on Feb. 7, 1952. He was a U.S. Marine Corp. Cpl., and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. PFC Wallace M. Haines was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and wounds following severe facial injuries that occurred July 23, 1953. Also among those serving was Airman First Class James C. West, who was awarded the Presidential citation and Air Medal.

It is believed that 25-30 State Center area young men served their country during the Vietnam Conflict. Les Weber served duty in the Lebanon and Granada conflicts and Kevin Montgomery served in the Persia Gulf War.

### Margaret Stoddard Study Club

Margaret Stoddard Study Club was organized March 30, 1935, as a Junior Federated Club with 16 charter members. Floy Bagge represented the Ladies' Reading Circle, who sponsored and help organize the club. Three charter members are still active - Winifred Liston, Helen Riemenschneider and Mildred Van Pelt. In 1951 the club sponsored the Delta Nu Federated Club . In May 1987 the club withdrew from Federation.

The club has had many projects through the years. Early projects were conducting the Christmas Seal Stamp Sale, the Cancer Crusade in State Center, and in 1938 the seeking of donations and memberships to start the State Center Library. During World War II, the club help provide food twice a month for the United States Women's Canteen in Marshalltown and also serving the boys at the trains. One time they provided 35 dozen cookies and several bushels of apples.

Margaret Stoddard Club held the first Easter Egg Hunt April 1, 1950 and continued for many years. The club has done Red Cross sewing, sponsored a number of students for Music Campships, served on the Rose Board, sponsored the Rose Queen Talent Show for many years. Have donated to community projects such as street Christmas decorations, Watson Grocery project, repairing town signs, West Marshall Band uniforms fund, etc...

The motto for the sixty year old club has been "Neglect Not the Gift That is in Thee". The 1995-96 officers are President, Mildred Van Pelt; Vice Pres., Helen Riemenschneider; Secretary, Doris McClure; Treasurer, Ruby Ethington. Meeting are held the second Tuesday of the month at the members homes, September through May.

### QUESTERS STUDY CLUB

The Questers Study Club was organized in June 1956 and federated in 1957. There were 15 charter members and membership was limited to 18 so that meeting could be held in the homes. The club motto was "Yearning for Learning".

The club annually sponsored the town's Cancer Drive. Through the years a child at Woodward was sponsored, rembrances taken to shut-ins, entertained at the County Care Facility and donated monies to various causes. Questers were active in promoting and working on the Rose Festival celebration projects.

Membership declined in the early 1980's, as the members lives and family situations changed, and the club disbanded.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The auxiliary was organized in October 1919. The application for a charter was signed by 17 women on March 9, 1920, secured at Des Moines headquarters and the first meeting was held April 21, 1920. One charter member remains, Jean Eckhardt Cross, becoming a member as a child and has retained membership since.

Original dues were \$1.00, later changed to \$2.00 and are now \$15.00.

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. Throughout the winter months, carpet rags are torn and sewn for craft activities at the Veteran's Home in Marshalltown. Members volunteer at the Home for bingo, Christmas gift purchasing, wrapping and mailing. Poppies, made by Veterans, are distributed and sold in May. A Junior girl is sponsored for Girls' State.

The auxiliary has served in various community activities as they arise. New members are always welcome.

Present Officers for 1995-1996 are:

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| President        | Dorine Lampkin     |
| Vice President   | Elizabeth Norell   |
| 2nd V. President | Barbara Bodie      |
| Secretary        | Wilma Eckardt      |
| Treasurer        | Marilynn Wilkening |
| Chaplain         | Mary Sheppler      |
| Historian        | Olga Kastner       |
| Sgts, at Arms    | Marilyn Hilleman   |
|                  | Pauline Borton     |

### Nu Beta (Beta Sigma International)

Nu Beta of State Center originated in January of 1988. Currently there are 16 members.

Community activities have included Christmas caroling, breakfast with Santa, sponsoring needy families during the holidays, monetary donations to Little League Association and West Marshall Schools, as well as to individual students earning money for school sponsored activities. The group co-sponsors the State Center Manor Easter egg hunt; luncheons for auctions and the town's appreciation days; and sponsor for Little Miss Rosebud contest and floats for Rose Festival Parade.

Besides the monthly meetings and service projects, there are ways and means projects and social events throughout the year, which runs from September-May.

### Delta Nu Study Club

The Delta Nu Study Club is an organized group with 20 members who enjoy studying, meeting socially and assisting in community projects.

The club was organized in July 1951, Federated in 1952 and voted to become non-Federated in 1991. Three charter members are still active in the club. Meetings are held every third Thursday of each month, September through May.

In recent years the club has organized the Rose Queen Pageant and Coronation during the Rose Festival celebration. Also give \$100 scholarship to a deserving senior graduate for continuing education and donate to the after prom party. A Woodward resident has been remembered for the past forty plus years.

### P.E.O.

Chapter CF, P.E.O. State Center, was organized August 30, 1901 by Myrtle Coe, wife of a Methodist minister. P.E.O. is a philanthropic, educational organization dedicated to educating women. Chapter CF has sponsored two recipients of the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education in the past year.

The chapter has 40 members, with Joyce Thomas serving as president. Ruth Ann Buck, Chapter CF member, is president of the Iowa State Chapter.

## WATSON'S GROCERY

In 1989 an enormous show of unity by the citizens of State Center resulted in a successful effort to save Watson's Grocery Store. \$15,000 in pledges were raised to help buy the building, fixtures, and collectibles, which were sold at auction.

More than fifty volunteers helped to clean up and refurbish the store. On October 19, 1989 the store had a new Grand Opening, as a turn of the century grocery store museum. This brought state wide attention.

The State Center Historical Society was formed. This Society maintains and operates the store as a museum with all volunteers. The original board members were Kenneth Bryant, Mike Riemenschneider, Harlan Quick, Jerry Nichols, Irma Henze, Wilma Eckhart, Ed Eckhardt. 1995 officers are Jack Yegge, chairman; Wilma Eckhart, Vice Chair.; Marilyn Hilleman, secretary; and Warren Mueller, treas.

The immediate goal of the Historical Society for Watson's Grocery is the repair of the store front so it is safe, but kept architecturely in keeping with the period. A long range goal is for it to be recognized by the state and nationally as an historic landmark.

STATE CENTER TOWNSHIP

INFORMATION SOURCES:

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HISTORY OF MARSHALL COUNTY, Schultz, 1955

STATE CENTER ENTERPRISE and ENTERPRISE-RECORD NEWSPAPERS  
including pictures

HISTORICAL ARTICLES by GLORIA D. STEWART  
1992 Enterprise-Record

NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS AND WRITTEN SUMMARIES BY ORGANIZATION MEMBERS.