

Centennial
History
Booklet

Rose Capital of Iowa

History of the Town of State Centre

State Centre is not the oldest nor largest in the county but it is highest up and second in size. It has an elevation of 1,074 feet. It has held its own in population while others have declined.

In 1862 it was a naked prairie and, we are told, sold for two dollars an acre. In 1864 the railroad had reached this summit and John I. Blair, who was putting the track on the railroad, platted a town April 14, 1864. It grew rapidly and was incorporated August 28, 1867. Now it has a population of 1,142. Why did it grow? The situation was fine, scarcely any native timber in sight. When the railroad came, it brought lumber for building and fuel and other necessary things for a new town. J. W. Dobbin came then from Washington County, New York and was an active and useful citizen until death.

Being on high ground, one of the first needs was water. In 1877 the town made a contract for a deep well and tank and necessary fixtures, all of which proved a success. A newspaper was soon started, The Enterprise, which continues today.

J. W. Dobbin started the Exchange Bank April 1, 1869.

To quote from the **History of Marshall County**: "State Centre is a central trading point, in as fine a country as the sun shines upon." It is located about 14 miles west of Marshalltown and about the same east of Nevada, Story County, giving it the trade of a large district.

In 1865, two years after the Chicago and North Western Railway reached this point on its westward march of construction the John I Blair Co. laid out the original settlement.

July 6, 1867, a plat and petition for incorporation with 42 signers was filed in the office of the county judge and on August 28, 1867, the prayer of the petitioners was granted by Judge T. T. Lampman, who was on the bench.

According to an early historical record published in 1867, State Centre originally belonged to Eden and a part of Washington townships. According to that historian, William Barnes, who brought produce to the railroad station, was the first resident. He was followed by John Anselme, pioneer settler in the French Grova settlement to the north, who opened a hotel in a building which he had moved from Marietta. At that time there were only two or three houses besides those belonging to the Cedar Rapids and Missouri Railroad Company.

The commercial life of State Centre is maintained by a substantial government-controlled bank, representative of all merchantile lines, legal, medical, dental and veterinarian professions, automobile agencies, garages and service stations, a 95 year old newspaper, and a 75 year old farmers' co-operative creamery, which had

an annual production of more than 2 million pounds of butter in 1949.

The intellectual and spiritual relationships of State Centre was founded on a consolidated public school system with an accredited high school and six churches representing the Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, and Catholic faiths. A public library is one of the educational advantages.

An active Community Club with a large rural co-membership, attends well to community matters.

State Centre has its own municipal electric light, sewer, and water system, the latter providing an abundance of pure water for domestic and commercial use, as well as for fire protection.

In the State Center Enterprise for December 6, 1900, an article appeared regarding whether the granting of a franchise to a private company or building of a plant for electricity by the town should be made. These two proposals were voted upon and defeated in 1897. Two years later, 1899, a proposition to appropriate \$5,000 for a light plant was submitted and approved by voters. Since then the electric light and water departments have been greatly enlarged and improved and have been very "successful from a commercial standpoint".

Steam as motive power was eliminated about 1928 and the plant is now equipped with four Diesel engines and all modern equipment. All electric energy is supplied by this plant to those within the corporate limits and a large number on about a dozen rural lines.

In the history of the development of the State Centre Municipal Electric Plant, several items which show the great changes that have taken place from its early days to the present are:

In 1902 electric service was on from evening till midnight. In 1906 the scarcity of coal caused the plant to be shut down earlier than usual. In 1909 the plant was run during one forenoon a week for flat iron users. In 1913 electric services was extended to farmers' lines. Service hours were extended from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. except Sundays in 1914. In 1915 twenty-four hour service was established.

Today the plant has been reconstructed and more equipment added to increase the power and extend its facilities. It is worth approximately \$600,000 with a bonded indebtedness of \$285,000.

The water works department has been adequately supplied from the gravel beds of Linn creek bottom at the north edge of town. This is pumped to a 100,000 gallon standpipe near the power station from which water is supplied by pressure for fire protection, domestic and commercial consumption and was formerly used for the servicing the double track locomotive equipment of the Chicago and North Western Railroad.

A sewage disposal plan and some extensions to the sanitary sewer were completed in 1948 at a cost of \$91,600.

In December, 1935, and iron removal plant was added to the municipal water works system at a cost of \$14,269. This was done through the efforts of local public groups without the levy of taxes or issuance of bonds.

The volunteer fire department was established about 1865 and was known as "State Centre Fire Engine Company No. 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 the town and rural districts of the surrounding area. It brought home championship honors in the years 1938-1948 from various contests sponsored by Iowa Firemen's Association at their annual conventions.

The town has a town hall which includes municipal offices, public library, rest rooms and fire department apparatus on the ground floor with the second floor adopted to community uses.

State Centre has six church congregations representing Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, and Catholic faiths.

In the 1870's and 80's there was an active Seventh Day Adventist congregation but removal of members from he community caused its abandonment many years ago. It was established in 1871.

All of the church organizations except the Adventists and Trinity have suffered severe fire losses through through the years, but in each case their building have been or are being replaced with larger and more modern edifices. Trinity, St. John's and St. Paul's Lutheran churches have completed new church building within the last few years and the Methodists moved into their new building March 1967.

The first public school was in a small one-story building in 1865 with Jennie Bradbury as teacher at a salary of \$20 per month.

Later a two-story building was erected and was used until 1882 when a brick building, erected in 1881, was provided for high school and grades. In 1924 the consolidated buildings were dedicated and the older building was given over solely to the grades.

The independent school district comprising 15 sections of land, was formed in 1869. This area was reduced to five sections later.

In 1920 the voters authorized consolidation of an area containing 21,760 acres including two districts in Washington township, and the State Centre and Minerva independent districts.

In 1945 the Minerva consolidated district was merged with the State Centre consolidated district. In 1947 a part of district No. 8 joined with the State Centre consolidated district, and the remainder was included in the Rhodes consolidated district.

In 1947 a bond issue was sold for \$150,000 to construct a new grade building. Later a second story was added to this to meet the

demands for additional space.

Within the last few years more changes have taken place. LaMoille and St. Anthony were taken in the State Centre district. Later voters approved the merging of the districts of Rhodes, Melbourne and Clemons with the State Centre district to be known as the West Marshall Community School.

A bond issue for a new high school to be located at State Center was defeated three times and finally approved in 1966.

A public library was started in 1939 by the State Centre Library Association through the efforts of the Lions Club and Margaret Standard Study Club. The school board offered quarters in the high school building and equipment was supplied by interested citizens. New books were added by voluntary subscription and a grant of \$650 by the town council.

In 1940 the library became a W.P.A. project, but early in 1942 this support was withdrawn. In 1943 to continue the library, the town council adopted an ordinance establishing a free public library following which a library board of trustees was organized and tax levy was certified for library purposes. At present the library is housed in the town hall.

The banking business in State Centre dates back to 1869, when J. W. Dobbin started a private bank. In 1874 he took O. J. Whitson in with him and started a business 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 Centre. This was taken over by the Haesemeyer and Sieh interests January 1, 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 this bank July 29, 1942, and later that year the two banks were merged, retaining the title Central State Bank. The business was then moved to the First National Bank Building.

This bank was one which withstood the major periods of depression and remained open except on presidential order during the national crisis of 1933.

The Central State has built a new modern building within the last few years and it is furnished with the latest equipment to facilitate its business.

The Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, State Centre's principal industry, observed its 50th anniversary in 1941. In 1891 a co-operative group bought the C.W. Sibley & Co. business which had operated a private creamery for many years. Whereas the Sibley company was only making some thousand pounds of butter annually,

the farmer's organization now ranks as one of the first 10 co-operative in the nation, with a yearly output in excess of 2 million pounds in 1949. This butter is produced from cream gathered from more than 1800 farm patrons scattered throughout eight central Iowa counties adjoining Marshall.

In 1911 a new brick building was erected to replace the wooden structure that had been taken over from the Sibley Co. and modern equipment was installed. Seventeen years later (1928) an addition was made to the building to house a buttermilk drying plant. The following year a separate office building was erected and in succeeding years other improvements have been made to keep the plant in up-to-date and sanitary operation.

At present this organization is in the process of installing equipment to make raw cheese to enlarge its business capacity.

The U.S. post office in State Centre was established February 9, 1846, 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 the annual receipts totaled more than \$8,000. The present postmaster is Robert E. Liston who was appointed June 25, 1936.

At one time State Centre was an official station of the U.S. weather bureau but has since been disbanded.

The State Center Enterprise has been in continuous operation for 95 years under the same masthead and with only a few changes in ownership. With the exception of one other which was shortlived, the Enterprise is the only newspaper State Center ever had.

It was established in 1871 by David A. Lacey, who was then 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 in 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, present owner, bought the business in 1939.

Closely connected with the early history of State Centre is the progress of the Chicago and North Western Railroad. In 1863, two years before the town was laid out, the North Western railroad reached this point in its westward expansion.

Double-tracked between Chicago, Illinois and Council Bluffs, Iowa, the North Western is now equipped with Diesel locomotion, with all-steel freight cars, and streamlined passenger trains.

From 1875 to 1925, State Centre had the advantage of two rail-

roads. Besides the North Western, the Grinnell & Montezuma branch of the Iowa Central Railroad Company, later taken over by the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad, was in operation between Newburg and State Centre.

During its early existence, the G. & M. did a thriving business but the repression following the first World War, and other causes, resulted in its discontinuance between State Centre and Van Cleve after August 22, 1925.

Along with other communities, State Centre has shared in the progress made by motor transportation lines. In addition to the service offered by the Chicago and North Western Railroad, it has the advantage of daily local and transcontinental buses maintained by the Interstate Transit (Greyhound) lines.

In 1940 the terminal site of the M. & St. L. Railway in State Centre, including the switching yards and "Y" grounds, were sold to Elmer H. Goodman.

Using an endowment made by G. F. and Joseph Schilling in 1942, the school board bought this tract of land later converted it into a sports area known as "Schilling Memorial Field".

This past year the old depot has been replaced with a new modern building.

The first telephones in State Centre were installed as early as 1896 between residences and stores; a minor exchange was established early in 1897. There were very few subscribers, but, nevertheless an exchange. The property of the pioneers was consolidated by a partnership composed of G. I. Van Pelt, Dr. P. W. Coe and T. T. Swift and in 1900 was developed into the State Centre Telephone Company, which the present owner, the Central Iowa Telephone Company, purchased in July, 1928.

The town has been greatly enhanced by the building of a new medical center this past year by Drs. Charles R. Sokol and Ray G. Robinson. The building is of brick veneer construction and is completely air-conditioned and will be heated by gas. It includes three consultation rooms, eight examination rooms, an X-ray room, emergency room for surgery, laboratory, dispensary, business office and restroom facilities. A 15-car parking area is located on the adjoining lots.

In June, 1959, the town was officially designated as the Rose Capital of Iowa. Since that time it has held an annual Rose Festival with a parade, rose show, prominent speakers, and culminating with the selection of a Rose Queen chosen from a field of contestants from the surrounding communities. Other varieties of entertainment are provided during the two and three day period. It has brought a great deal of publicity and has added much to the community.

The idea of a town in Iowa being known as a the Rose Capital

of Iowa originated with Mrs. W. A. Norcross of Cedar Falls, Iowa, a former president of the Iowa Rose Society. Mrs. Norcross visited State Centre, among several other towns and after considerable investigation and thought, brought the matter before the Iowa Rose Society asking that State Centre be designated the Rose Capital because it was in the heart of Iowa, it was located on Highway 30, the town was small enough to be "literally covered with roses", and a new park which had not yet been landscaped or beautified was ideal for a formal rose garden.

State Centerites first heard of the idea on September 11, 1958, when the local paper, the State Center Enterprise, printed a story concerning it and asked local residents to back the idea. The response was tremendous and signed petitions were sent from a large number of organizations and individuals to the Iowa Rose Society asking that our town be designated. Several local women appeared before a district meeting of the Iowa Rose Society and asked for due consideration of State Centre for this title.

On November 23rd, 1958, several officers of the Iowa Rose Society came to State Centre to confer the title of Rose Capital of Iowa upon this little city.

Roses for the garden, shrubs, trees, benches, and other items have been donated by various nurseries over the United States as well as many contributions from many local persons.

Labor at the garden has been donated by a host of good citizens who have worked hour after hour at the garden in planting, sodding, building in stone work and all manner of labor. Their time and effort have been tremendous and their spirit of cooperation has been outstanding.

At the present time there are over 5,000 rose bushes planted in the garden of all colors and varieties.

The land for the garden was donated to the town of State Centre by Mrs. A. D. Woods and the late Dr. Woods. In 1958 Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Goodman donated a thousand dollars to the local Park Board for beautification of the park.

The Central State Bank also has a small rose garden located in front of its building on Main Street. There are many other beautiful roses to be seen all around the community as people have taken a real interest and pride in promoting this enterprise.

Compiled and Written by Cathryn Seeger

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 servicemen 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 now includes treats for the children at Christmas, sending a boy to American Legion Boys State, putting up the flags on main street, buying flags for the school rooms, and Memorial Day Services as their community projects.

The present commander is Glynn A. Nolte with Edward S. Eckhardt as adjutant.

Rebekah Lodge

The Delilah Rebekah Lodge No. 61 was instituted on May 20, 1948. There were 26 charter members of which 10 are still on membership. The following were the first installed officers, Noble Grand, Mae Ferguson Fisher; Vice Grand, Bessie Starn; Secretary, Maude Shaver; Treasurer, Hazel Williams; Warden, Frances Stone; Conductor, Dorothy Montgomery; Chaplain, Ida Nauke; Inside Guardian, Lucille Streeter; Outside Guardian, Ione Graves; Right Support to Noble Grand, Lora Watson; Left Support to Noble Grand, Edith Grey; Right Support to Vice Grand, Imogene Hutson; Left Support to Vice Grand, Pauline Huff.

Questers Federated Womans Club

The Questers Club was organized in June 1956 at the home of Mrs. Robert Miller. There were 15 charter members of which 9 are still active. These members are Doris Jansen, Arlene Plantz, Olga Kastner, Neva Plum, Etheleen Veren, Minnie Weuve, Norma, Yeager and Vivian Yeager, Norma Yeager was the first President. The club colors are pink and silver with the carnation being chosen as the flower. The club motto is "Yearning for Learning."

The club annually sponsors the cancer drive. Through the years they have sponsored a child at Woodward, taken food and gifts to shut-ins, entertained at the county home and donated money for Christmas gifts at the Toledo Juvenile home.

The 1966-67 officers are President—Mrs. Barbara Conkin, Vice President—Mrs. Kathleen Montgomery; Secretary—Mrs. Janell Hilleman, Treasurer—Mrs. Etheleen Veren.

Origin of American Legion Auxiliary

Organized — October, 1919 — Old First Nat'l. Bank Bldg. — then occupied by "Malloy & Son Clothing" — now "Ted Pfantz T. V." — under direction of American Legion Commander J. A. (Gene) Malloy and Adjutant Ernie Rohde, with Mary A. Malloy to gather required data. The charter was secured at Des Moines — and first meeting held in Old High School Bldg. — April 21, 1920.

Temporary officers elected — Miss Florence Hilleman, President, Miss Leota Malloy, Secretary.

May 4, 1920 meeting with American Legion at Opera House. Election of permanent officer — Miss Katherine Heintz, President, Miss Leota Malloy, Secretary. Mrs. Parker Adams, Treasurer, Mrs. Oline (Dr.) Ball, Mrs. T. S. Wood, and Mrs. Ed Schilling, Executive Committee, Special meeting called at Town Hall — May 28, 1920 for first general observance of Memorial Day — including all Patriotic Organizations. Ministers in charge of first observance were Rev. Coe, Address, Rev. Oltman, Benediction, Rev. Lentz, Tribute at cemetery. Meeting day chosen was Friday — dues were \$1.00 — later changed to \$2.00 Mrs. Pauline Watson was chosen 1st delegate to the State Aux. convention at Sioux City in 1921 — May 19 and 20.

The application for charter was signed by 17 women on March 9, 1920 at the home of Mrs. A. H. Bachman.

Mrs. J. E. (Jane) Malloy was oldest charter member living — she passed away August 5, 1966 at age 98.

The following are a list of charter members: Mrs. J. E. Malloy, Miss Florence Hilleman, Mrs. Chas. Hilleman, Mrs. Aug. Nolte, Mrs.

First United Presbyterian Church

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 Center, 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.

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. Meinicke 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 con-

labor) and by April 13 the digging of the footing was completed. (also donated labor) Work on the new building progressed rapidly and July 18, 1948 witnessed the laying of the cornerstone. Dedication ceremonies of the completed church were held on June 5, 1949 with the Rev. Fred I. Iiten of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Marshalltown as the dedicatory speaker. After Pastor Baumgart had received and declined several calls to other parishes, he accepted a call extended to him by St. Paul congregation of Minden, Nebraska. He preached his farewell sermon at State Center in the spring of 1958, after having served the congregation for some 13 years. With heavy hearts the people of the State Center congregation bade their first pastor farewell.

For the next several months the congregation was without a resident pastor, during which time Rev. Walter Strandes of St. John's served as vacancy pastor. After calling several times in vain, a call was extended to the Rev. Martin Haerther of Williston, North Dakota who notified the congregation that he had accepted the call to State Center. He was installed in September 1958, and after having served the congregation for a little over four years accepted a call to Ogden, Iowa. As successor Pastor Haerther, the Rev. E. A. Wiedebush of Our Savior Congregation at Bettendorf, Iowa was called.

At the present time the congregation numbers 350 souls, and 250 communicant members.

First elected officers of Trinity congregation in 1945 were: Chairman: Fred Honeck; Treasurer: Conrad Schafer; Secretary: Waldemar Koepke; Financial Secretary: August Eggers; Trustees: Harold Nolte, Albert Smith, Henry Wilkey; Elders: Leon Timmerman; Fred Eggers, Lorenz German. Building Committee in 1948: Chairman, William Eggers, other members: Ernest Eggers, Edgar Riese.

Delta Nu Study Club

The Delta Nu Study Club is a Federated Club with 22 members, who enjoy studying, meeting socially and working on community projects.

The club was organized in July 1951 and Federated as a Jr. Study Club in January, 1952. Mrs. Dorine Lampkin was the first president and 5 charter members still are active in club work.

The club meets the third Thursday of each month Sept. through May. A Teen Dance during the Rose Festival each year plus many Community and Federation Donations are their projects.

Cleo Chapter No. 303 Oes

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 Orta Bordner, Mrs. Lutie Brimhall, Mrs. Myrtle Coe, Mrs. Carrie Engle, Mrs. Nora McMahon, Mrs. Jessie Nasop, Mrs. Mary Roberts, Miss Lizzie Roberts, Mrs. Evelena Sedgwick, Mrs. Susan Shauce, Miss Grace Vance, Miss Annabel Whitehill, Mrs. Mary Wilson, Mr. S. M. Brimhall, Dr. Theodore Engle, Mr. Marsh 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. The meetings of the Chapter are held on the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of July and August, at 8:00 PM in the Mosonic Hall. Cleo Chapters present Worthy Matron is Mrs. Ervin McClure and Worthy Patron Mr. Glenn Severidt.

P. E. O.

Chapter CF of the P.E.O. Sisterhood was organized August 30, 1901 with eight charter members. May Allison, the first President, is the only surviving charter member. She is now a resident of the P.E.O. home at Mount Pleasant.

The local chapter has twenty-eight resident members and nine non-resident. Louise Reed, is now the President.

State Center Development Committee

The State Center Development Committee was organized in 1961. Dr. George Schoel was elected President, Dr. C. R. Sokol Vice-President. Jim West was Secretary and the Board of Directors were Virgil Wilkening, Anton Kastner, and Paul Wilkening. Dan Woods was appointed as Legal Counsel. The by-laws were drawn up and approved. It was resolved that all shares of stock be sold for \$25.00.

Masonic Lodge

On June 8th, 1870, the Grand Lodge of Iowa granted a charter to Terrestrial Lodge No. 276 and on June 15th a special communication of the lodge was held to elect officers. This was the beginning of the lodge and it has continued and is continuing to meet and teach the principles of masonry.

In 1921 Terrestrial Lodge purchased the opera house from B. H. Grey at a cost of \$6,000. The lodge still meets in this hall and it was remodeled and improved in 1959.

In 1967 the lodge has 88 members representing all areas of the community.

The State Center Community Club

Community Club was organized for the following purpose: Members shall be those interested in the civic, commercial, industrial, and agricultural interests of the Town of State Center, Iowa and the surrounding territory, who shall pay annual dues herein after provided.

In its early years this organization was known as the Commercial Club. Its members were business men and women of State Center. In late 1946 and early 1947 the Commercial Club decided to include their wives and people from the surrounding community thus the name State Center Community Club. The name was first officially published in the State Center Enterprise Directory in the April 17, 1947 issue. With the officers listed as President—Keith Miller, Vice-President—Dan Woods, Secretary—Bert Merrill, Treasurer—Katheryn Dickkut.

Community Club followed the procedure of the Commercial Club of meeting on the second Thursday of the month. The new club had covered dish dinners and programs besides their business on meeting nights.

The present officers for 1966-67 are President—Ben Overman, Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Eugene Wilkening.

Englewood Camp No. 520

Royal Neighbors of America

Organized 70 years ago on February 9, 1897 by Dr. Theodore and Mrs. Carrie Engle as a Fraternal Benefit Insurance group founded in 1890 in Rock Island, Ill. where their fine office building are located and a National Royal Neighbor Home is established at Davenport for elderly members. There are about 11,000 camps over the U.S. and it is the largest womens Fraternal Insurance group in the world. The society has an enviable record of aid with 5 college scholarships of \$1000 a year for 4 years to eligible young R.N.A. contestants and several State and Area awards of \$500 on a yearly plan. Individual camps are competing in a project called, "Help to Hear," and other civic and community aids. Of the 24 names on the original charter all are now deceased. Many will recall Dr. and Mrs. Theo. Engle, Mrs. Walter Brimhall, Mrs. Jack Mellows, Mrs. Nellie Christopher, Mrs. Mary (Molly) Bishop, Mrs. G. W. Price, Mrs. Emma Smith, Mrs. Mary Dakin, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Matson, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Linn, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Mead, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gray, Mrs. Anton Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. F. Ahrens, Mrs. H. Richman, Mrs. Theo. Wood, J. B. Christopher & Mrs. Kittie Van Pelt. 40 years ago the membership numbered 69 and today there are over 150 members, Benefit, social and juvenile and 22 who hold paid up policies. It is a legal reserve company and sells all the newest plans of insurance. In the early years the Camp fraternized with the Modern Woodmen of America, holding joint installations and social affairs but after the rate raises in the early 1930's they went their separate ways. A feature of the company is that all the key officers are women. The 1967 Oracle is Mrs. Howard Starn, The Recorder, (Secretary) is Mrs. Vernon Seeger and the Treasurer, (Receiver) is Mrs. Harry Myers. They are probably the oldest womens lodge meeting continuously in State Center for 70 years; on the 2nd Thursday of each month and a Social Club meeting the 4th Wednesday of the month.

State Center Garden Club

On March 20, 1930 a group of interested persons met at the school gymnasium at State Center, Iowa for the purpose of organizing a Garden Club. There were twenty-one present to hear the informative talks given by Mrs. Darling of Marshalltown, Iowa and the Rev. A. H. Shultz of State Center, Iowa.

A business meeting was held with Mrs. B. H. Grey acting as Temporary Chairman and Mrs. Evald Jensen as Temporary Secretary.

The Officers selected were President—the Rev. A. H. Shultz,

Vice-President Mrs. Leland Wensel, Secretary—Mrs. Evald Jensen, Corresponding-Secretary—Mrs. H. L. Sunderlin.

The name of the club — The State Center Garden Club.

Club Flower — Rosy Morn Petunia.

Club Motto — Plant a Flower Where a Weed Would Grow.

The first Flower Show held by the Club was an Iris Show, held at the Brimhall Furniture Store, on May 22, 1930. It was judged by Wheelock Wilson of Marshalltown, Iowa.

The first Civic plantings made by the Club were on the plot near the Light Plant.

At the beginning of 1934 there were fifty-one members on the roll.

In July of 1938 we received a letter from the State Highway Commission granting us permission to set up a picnic table in the Roadside Park on Highway No. 30. The name "Center of State Park" was chosen. Next year in 1968 we can count 30 years the Garden Club has sponsored this pleasant spot for thousands of visitors from far and near.

During the years the Corn Show was held at the gymnasium, the Garden Club arranged very attractive exhibits each time.

Other Civic Plantings were made at the City Hall. Each year the large planter is filled with flowers and foliages. Plantings were also made at the Shelter house at the skating rink.

Each year since being organized the Club has held a Flower Show, stressing both Horticultural and Artistic Exhibits. These shows have always been open to the public, and anyone in the Community is urged to exhibit entries. They are always judged by well trained Accredited judges. This 1964 Christmas Show won a National Award.

Present Officers of the State Center Garden Club are: President —Mrs. Forrest Bate, Vice-President—Mrs. Harold Hilleman, Secretary—Mrs. L. D. Kempton, Treasurer—Mrs. Harry Myers, Historian—Mrs. Albert Smith.

St. John's Lutheran Church

1865 - 1965

The State of Iowa grew with many immigrants coming from other states as well as foreign countries. These pioneers, who settled north of State Center, were predominantly German. The religious desires of these German Lutherans were satisfied by circuit riding

missionaries, the first being Rev. Lossner and later Rev. Doescher who was residing at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

One Hundred and Two years ago on April 17, 1865, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized by Rev. Doescher. It was also known as French Grove Lutheran Church. The constitution was adapted and nine charter members signed. They were Louis Hartwig, Henry Oehlsen, Louis Frohwein, Henry Schaper, Fred Bader, August German, August Eckhardt, George German and Fred Oehlsen. Services were held in the Old Center School House with Rev. Lossner ministering to this flock of nine families. In the fall of the same year, five acres of land were purchased for \$100.00, upon which now stands the present church.

Following Rev. Lossner, Rev. Metens took charge of the congregation. After Rev. Mertens, then stationed at Timber Creek, took charge, and was finally called by the congregation as its resident pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. Winsch. After Rev. Winsch, a certain Mr. Kugland offered his services. During this time the first parsonage was destroyed by fire, causing also the loss of the church records.

On April 17, 1870, Rev. Diescher, then living in Boone, was privileged to confirm the first class of catechism numbering 14.

Rev. C. F. Herman (1872-1885) was next called. On October 18, 1874, a new church building costing \$4,000 was dedicated. A school building was erected in 1880. There were now 29 voting members.

Rev. P. Meineke (1885-1892) next ministered to the growing congregation; and in 1889 saw to the hanging of a 1800 pound bell in the tower.

During the pastorate of Rev. A. J. Boehm (1892-1911) the services were changed to English. A pipe organ was purchased in 1902; and a new parsonage was built in 1900. He also served as school teacher.

Rev. H. Markworth (1912-1920) was instrumental in organizing the present Ladies Aid Society. By this time the church had grown to 500 souls; and an addition was added to the church building in 1917.

It was during the tenure of Rev. A. Brauer (1920 - 1924) that the Walther League was formed.

Rev. H. C. Koepke was pastor from 1924 until his death in 1930. In 1928, Rev. Koepke organized the Sunday School. He was succeeded by Rev. William J. F. Zabel who served as pastor from 1931-1940.

Rev. G. H. Perllich (1941 - 1956) saw many changes take place at St. John's. German services were discontinued entirely in 1941. The entire church was remodeled in 1943 and 1944; and on January 1, 1945, at about 8:20 in the evening, fire broke out and the church was completely destroyed, as well as most of the church records. This left 740 baptized members without any house of worship.

St. John's held church services in the State Center High School Gym until April 1947, at which time the basement of the present church was completed. The total cost of the present church building was \$225,000.00 and was dedicated on April 18, 1950.

Rev. Walter B. L. Strandes (1956-1961) next was called; and he was succeeded by Rev. Robert L. Thoeke (1962-1964). Ground breaking for the new parsonage was held on April 19, 1964 and it was completed in early 1965.

The present pastor of St. John's is Rev. E. L. Stuempfig, who was installed on April 25, 1965.

A Christian Day School was operated by the congregation from its beginning. Classes were held in the parsonage and the church annex until 1880 when a school was built. This school building was used until the present church was built which had class room facilities. In 1962 the school was closed, after 97 years of continuous service to the children of the congregation.

St. John's Centennial services were held on May 16, 1965. Present membership of St. John's Congregation is 507.

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-constituted 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 is the present minister.

Margaret Stoddard Study Club

Margaret Stoddard Study Club was organized March 30, 1935. The club was sponsored by The Ladies' Reading Circle with Mrs. Foster Bagge as organizer. The name was chosen in honor of Mrs. Margaret Stoddard of Gilman—now of Cedar Rapids—who was then Marshall County Chairman and organizer of Junior Clubs. Officers were President, Miss Bess Meads (the late Mrs. Cyril Ger-mann); Vice-president, Mrs. Marian West; Secretary, Miss Helen Whitehill; Treasurer, Miss Kathryn Hart. The club has had many projects through the years, such as helping start our town library, the yearly Easter Egg Hunt and sale of T. B. seals. The members participated in various Red Cross services during World War II. Present officers are Margaret Anderson, President; Marian Vaigrt, Vice-president; Barbara Biensen, Secretary; and Margaret Wied-bush, Treasurer.

State Center Lions Club

The Lions Club of State Center was chartered by the International Association of Lions Club on Oct. 13, 1930. F. B. Gilbert is the only charter member still active.

The lions club is active in community affairs. They help sponsor the party and treats for the children at Christmas. They sponsor the Boy Scouts, they take care of the summer recreation program and the club has made a permanent float which carries the Rose Queen in the Rose Festival Parade each year.

The 1966-1967 President was Dan Dobbin and the 1967-1968 President is Dan Woods.

Compiled by
DELTA NU STUDY CLUB