

# IOWA BARN FOUNDATION

M A G A Z I N E

SPRING 2004 VOL. 7 NO. 1





## County Representatives

The Iowa Barn Foundation's county representatives help to promote the preservation of barns, organize the surveying of barns in their counties, encourage membership in the Iowa Barn Foundation, and help with fund raising. Working with members of the board from each of nine areas of the state, they also help to oversee projects. Many of Iowa's 99 counties have representatives to the Iowa Barn Foundation. We welcome volunteers to represent those counties that do not yet have a representative.

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# Moving Day

*Lee Kline, long-time agricultural reporter, shared this story about moving a huge round barn near Manson. The story was carried on WHO Radio and WMT Radio.*

Everyone had a good time at Twin Lakes, near Manson, Iowa. The occasion was the moving of a round barn one-and-a-half miles from the farm to the church camp on the west side of Twin Lake.

It was like a county fair! Everyone on blankets, soccer chairs, eating, drinking pop—round barn T-shirts for sale. It was like a gathering for fireworks.

The barn is 61 feet in diameter and perfectly round—not hex-sided or eight-sided, but round. The recently wood-shingled roof is a perfect dome with a cupola on top. It was built in 1920 by an Illinois doctor.

A round barn this size pretty well fills up a gravel road, both ditches, fence row to fence row.

The event was supposed to start at 2 p.m. Ten minutes before the barn was on the road and ready to roll. I expected it all to be hours late.

The barn rolled down the gravel road at five miles per hour. It took only 25 minutes to make the trip.

While the barn was halted for 10 minutes, I walked under the structure to see

how the movers managed all of this. It's a three-point carry: more stable that way. Two sets of tires, eight tires each, carry the load at the back. The front of the steel beams under the barn rest on the rear of a 95x6x6 semi tractor.

These "trucks"—the sets of eight wheels and tires—are manufactured by the mover,

They're ready to roll and emerging from under the barn, I spot a sparrow flying into a hole on the wall, to its nest.

It's a sight to see a domed, round barn moving above the corn and soybean fields. It was one of those perfect summer days—deep blue skies, white fluffy cloud, and comfortable temperature.

I talked to Milton Heins as the barn moved to its new foundation. He and his brothers, Harold and Warren, gave the barn to the campground. Milton is 75. I asked him if he played in that barn when he was a kid growing up.

He said—not so much play—but worked in it. It was the hottest place in the world to mow hay because there were no doors or windows to open for ventilation.

The barn was a complete place for animals. A concrete block silo stood in the center. The hay was

distributed in the top by unique circular track. The Percheron horses and the milk cows were stanchioned below. There were bins for oats and corn.

In its new location, where there was hay, now kids will play. Instead of Percheron horses and milk cows, a nature center, and meeting rooms will be constructed.

The barn will continue to "do good" but in a different way.



Ron Holland of Forest City. He says they sell them all over the country. Each "truck" has a built-in hydraulic cylinder to level loads. There were 24 rubber tires carrying the load.

Standing underneath this barn positioned to move on the gravel road, I had the same feeling as standing under a DC-10 jumbo jet.

## On the Cover . . .

Our cover photograph "Barn and Windmill" is by Michael Harker, photographer and author of *Harker's Barns*, published by the University of Iowa Press. His photographs are featured in a traveling exhibit, "Barns Again! Celebrating an American Icon" sponsored by Humanities Iowa and organized by the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Service and the National Building Museum.



Peg Barn - detail



Corb Crib



Door, Window, Stairs

# June Picnic & Barn Tour

A tour of unique and historic eight barns in Marion and Mahaska Counties and a Dutch-flavored picnic will highlight the Iowa Barn Foundation spring event the weekend of June 5 and 6.

Rob Vos, of Pella, Iowa, and the Iowa Barn Foundation's Marion County representative, has worked for months to organize the out-of-the-ordinary picnic and tour. He researched and photographed the barns for us.

The barns will be opened from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The picnic will be at the Nelson Pioneer Farm, Oskaloosa, Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. To reach the farm, take Market Street off Highway 63 north out of Oskaloosa 1.5 miles. You will see signs guiding you to the historic farm which will be opened for the Foundation tour.

The cost of the authentic Dutch lunch, focused on Dutch spiced beef and Dutch apple pie, will be \$10 per person and \$4 for children. The cost includes food and a donation to the Nelson Pioneer Farm.

For reservations, please send a check made out to the Iowa Barn Foundation to Roxanne Mehlich, 17590 730th Avenue, Zearing 50278, (641) 587-7690.

The barns include:

A rare round barn owned by Amy Young and Marlys (Young) and Jack McMeanes. The barn was built in 1911 is 76 feet in diameter and houses a 14-foot cement stave silo. The barn features feed bunks, grain cribs, and a wing shed for horses. The barn was bought by J. Thomas Young in 1958 for use in his feed and grain business, Marion County Produce, Knoxville. (The barn is at 708 Rutledge Road, Knoxville. From Knoxville, go south on Highway 14 7.5 miles to G 76. Turn west 2.8 miles to 80th Avenue, then north 1.5 miles to Rutledge. Go west ¾ miles.)

The Vos family farm was built in 1929 by the De Kock family of Pella. It was constructed with commercial milled lumber, round nails, and factory-made windows—modern materials at the time. The barn featured a 10-stanchion milking parlor with cement gutter, stalls for four draft horse teams, and a large hayloft. The barn was purchased in 1992 by Rob and Teri Vos. (From the northeast corner of the Pella square, drive north 3.5 miles on Main Street/Highway T 14. The acreage is on the west side of Highway T 14 (541 Highway T 14).)



Vos barn

The Slycord barn, which housed Garden City Dairy, is a landmark in Pella. Once two clay block silos separated the barns. These were later removed, and the two barns were joined by a breezeway, now a workshop. The Langstraat family built the south barn in 1909 and the north barn in 1925. The south barn is pegged and has a limestone foundation. The north barn has a clay block foundation. Don and Marcia Slycord own the barn which was purchased by Don's grandparents in 1944. The Slycords use the barn for Simmental cattle. Artist Frank



Slycord barn

Miller, long-time Des Moines Register cartoonist, once painted a watercolor of the barn. (From the northeast corner of the Pella square, drive east on Washington Street. This becomes Vermeer Road. Go 1-¾ miles to 408 Vermeer Road.)



Knoxville round barn

Grandview Farm barn was built in 1861 by Miles Prine who purchased the 95 acres from the James Pomeroy estate in 1861. The farm had been homesteaded in 1849 by the Pomeroy's. The name G.S. Prine is painted on one of the grain bin doors. George was a son of Miles who died in 1900. In 1905, Gerrit and Cornie Dykstra purchased the farm and owned it until Pete Vos, father of the present owners, Marion and Dorothy Vos, purchased it in 1945. The beams of the barn are oak and pine. Hand-hewn pegs can be seen in several areas. The ropes that were used for lifting hay to the loft are hanging where Marion placed them in 1953 after the last load of hay was raised. (The barn is at 1856 Highway 163 four miles northwest of Oskaloosa.)



Grandview barn

John and Doris Nibbelin's barn was built in the 1840's and has been in the family for 95 years. The wooden track is still in the peak of the barn. Once John's father had a team of horses on the second floor, accessed by the earthen ramp on the north side. One horse lost its footing and fell down while hitched to its teammate. (Ask John to tell you the story when you visit the farm.) (From the north-east corner of the Pella square, drive east 10 miles on Washington/Vermeer Road/G 5T. Turn east on paved highway. If you arrive in Peoria, Iowa, turn around and drive south one mile. Turn east. Drive one mile. The barn is on the north side of the highway. 1459 Highway 102.)



Nibbelin barn

Chuck and Barbara Oldham's historic barns near Eddyville will be on tour. A barn built by Robert Oldham in 1851 is still used by his great-great grandson, Charles. It was hand-hewn of oak and is on a foundation of rocks cut at a quarry cross the Des Moines River from the farm. The wooden floor was pegged. The barn was used for the family's dairy, Eddyville Dairy, beginning in 1915. The "younger" barn was built by Robert's son in 1885. It is believed oak timbers were taken from a previous barn torn down on the site. (From the grade school on Highway 63 in Eddyville, turn east on 340th Street. Go 1.5 miles to 330th Street;



Oldham barn

Oldham barn



Nelson Pioneer barn

then turn north and follow the road 1.5 to two miles. The barns are on the north and south sides of the road.)

The Nelson Pioneer Farm barn was built in 1855 by A.J. Jewell for Daniel Nelson who arrived in Iowa in 1841. There's a central drive through the barn and a granary on the left side. A storm in 1946 did some damage to the barn at which time a cement floor was added. The Nelson family donated the farm to the Mahaska County Historical

# Barn Dance

By Lori Anderson

The milker pump is humming  
Our Guernsey chorus has begun  
Belling at the barn door  
Music rises before the sun

Inside the big white barn  
Milkers pulse on ready cows  
The steady beat persuades them  
To let down when the udder allows

Hear the rubber barn boots shuffle  
Across the fresh limed floor  
Behind the cows, stepping heel to toe  
Gracefully together Mom and Dad chore

Morning milkings sing a peaceful song  
To welcome each new day  
A glimpse of heaven on Prairie Moon  
As the daily dance gets underway

In the days of milking buckets  
We dumped white gold in silver cans  
Then rocked it to the milk house  
Swinging the gold on blistered hands

A clanging tune as the handle dropped  
Echoed loud and clear  
Pure creamy milk strained into the tank  
Singing softly in your ear

A contented heart would suddenly race  
As soon as you heard milk gushing  
Out the spout on the other end  
To the rescue you'd go rushing!

Remember the feedmill that roared  
so loud?  
We couldn't hear the telephone ring  
The cats all plugged their ears  
While Penny sat there howling

But after the feed was ground  
True tunes of the barn could be heard  
Ahh, the sweetest sounds of milking  
Our golden Guernsey herd

Hungry calves cry in their corner pen  
While the bull grunts claiming his thirst  
Eager cows moo and push toward  
their stall  
Marching ahead to be first

It's a wonder that in this chorus  
There's room for a radio  
But you can be sure it's playing  
Polka Time, Paul Harvey, or Leo Greco

Happily dancing behind the cows  
You'll see more than a tail swing  
For there is Frank and Carol  
Doing the polka or swiftly waltzing

Doop-de-doop music, Leslie calls it  
Grandpa, swing me around  
Then swooping up a glowing child  
All feet are high off the ground

This joyful barn dance changes  
Down the rows and through the years  
As the honeymoon of the morning hours  
Follows the beat of the song it hears

A favorite polka together  
Becomes a tango with a cow  
Or a square dance with four children  
Swinging partners round and round

Step up to your favorite stall, girl  
Wash her and milk her with tender care  
Dip her before you let her go  
Dad calls the dance as he sees fair

You'll see moves from every era  
Around this old barn floor  
Chasing cows is like a disco dance  
Heading them through a certain door

In the west door, out the south  
Lets keep this one in tonight  
Put her in the east barn, on the west side  
The second stall there is just about right

Chase her through the hill door  
That's where she likes to go  
Tap dancing with a Guernsey  
Is a special step we know

Toe tapping turns to fox trot  
When a milker hits the floor  
Hurry, hurry, pick it up  
She kicked that one off before!

Milking again to the rhythm  
Suddenly your heart skips a beat  
The milkhouse door slams shut  
Do we have a visitor to greet?

It could be the hired man  
Starting his day on the farm  
A relative, neighbor, stranger or friend  
Or a salesman trying his charm

Visitors at milking time  
Are welcome on Prairie Moon  
To watch this daily barn dance  
Or join right in the tune

But of course you must keep up  
To the young beat of today  
When the grandkids bounce  
through the door  
Hip-hop music starts to play

Small and blonde, grinning ear to ear  
Grandpa and Grandma are thrilled to see  
Pure joy skipping into their day  
Leeta, Lars, Ben, Landon, Katie  
and Leslie

The brightest stars on Prairie Moon  
Shine light on every moment  
To everyday work and family they bring  
Much laughter, delight and enjoyment

A new generation reminds you  
Why you took your wedding vows  
So love could dance on forever  
Through your children, if not your cows!

There will never be a last dance  
For through your marriage you  
have made  
40 years of musical memories  
For a lasting moonlight serenade.

## PROUD FARMER

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# Chuck Oldham

Chuck Oldham sat in the spacious kitchen of the historic family house outside Eddyville, his intense blue eyes gazing out the window to the bucolic setting. He has watched farming revolutionized from this up-close vantage point—the farm that has been in the family for five generations.

He was born on the farm, which was founded by his great grandfather, Robert, in 1848. He grew up helping his dad, Wilbur, produce, process, and deliver over 100 gallons of milk a day. This meant getting up at 4 a.m. It meant giving up thoughts of Saturday night fun. They delivered milk to stores on Saturday night, returned home, and washed bottles for Sunday morning's delivery. "It was not an option to go to a movie," Oldham recalled.

In the late 1950's, he left the farm for the first time to attend Iowa State College, majoring in animal husbandry. He returned to the farm for two years and then spent six months in Peru on the International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) program. He returned to the farm, by then a general farm, and took over.

An aunt said, "You go to college and come back to farm. You could go to Des Moines and get a job paying twice as much."

He had an answer. "I don't want to sit behind a desk. I want fresh air and nature."

The heritage was deep-rooted. He knew that his great grandfather had walked 40 miles to buy 80 acres; then walked back. He knew that the partially oak barn had been built in 1854.

He has hung onto the remnants of Iowa's agriculture of earlier decades while experiencing the push of change. When

he started farming, his father was getting farm work done with horses. Now global positioning is integrated into everyday farm life. "My uncle raised kids on 80 acres. Now you need 640 acres to survive."

"I got more for corn when I started farming than now," he recalled. "Yields are up."

When his son, Robert, decided to return to the farm, Chuck was concerned about the integration of the swine industry. "It came faster than I thought," he said. "Now I worry about the independent farmer. If you want to sell hogs and don't have a contract, they can say, 'We don't want your hogs.' Where are we headed down the road?"

His wife, Barbara, who was brought up on a southern California farm, has been at his side since they met at an IFYE event. They raised seven children—all Iowa State graduates. And they have contributed to the lives of other youth as 4-H leaders. He still has a group. "I still feel it's important," he said. "The reward is to see growth and development of youth."

After an early breakfast with Barbara, Chuck is "always working"—planting, getting supplies, fixing fences, digging thistles, making repairs. He is passionate about it. "It's challenging. Every year is a challenge. No two years are the same with livestock and crops. There's always something new."

And, he added, "You never know the weather. It's either good weather or bad weather."

—*Jacqueline Andre Schmeal*

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[www.iowabarnfoundation.org](http://www.iowabarnfoundation.org)

# Old Buildings and Wild-

by Steve Lekwa, Director, Story County Conservation Board

The roof may have holes in it, and the once straight ridge line may now sag with age. Only hints of color may show that graying old boards once felt the stroke of a paint brush. It's probably been decades since the last cow looked out the door at what was then a barn yard that was an integral part of a working family farm. It would be wrong to think that old farm buildings no longer serve animal needs, though.

In fact, old farm buildings still are occupied by a host of wild birds and animals, some that were welcomed when the buildings were new, some that were probably there all along, but unnoticed, and some that would not have been such welcomed guests when the farmer had to be in and out of the building several times each day.

Common pigeons were once year-round residents at every diverse farm operation, taking up their station in hay lofts among the rafters, and announcing anyone's arrival in the loft with that unique slap, slap, slapping of their wings as they exited through the open loft door. Their fat young, known as squabs, sometimes graced farm tables as a seasonal delicacy. They like to stay high, though, and their numbers have

declined along with the barns and corn cribs tall enough to attract them.

Any large building with open windows or doors might still provide a home to a colony of those sparkling aerial acrobats that take their favorite buildings as part of their name, the barn swallows. Their cheerful chatter and nests made of barnyard mud tucked along rafters up under ceilings were as sure a sign that spring had come as any on the farm. Where will they go when the last old barn is gone?

Old barns near woods and streams might still attract the attention of another insect eating bird, the eastern phoebe. Phoebes prefer lower levels of a building, especially a basement level common on barns built into hillsides for their mud and moss nests. Conditions there mimic the cool, damp cave entrances they once used as homes before barns and country bridges offered them new opportunities.

Never welcomed, but present wherever humans build, mice and rats still find farm buildings new and old to their liking. Most native owls willingly enter open old buildings in search of prey, and often perch

in lofts where they leave their calling cards, pellets of compressed fur and bone which they cough up after a mouse meal. This includes the barn owl, now endangered over much of its range as old buildings and nearby pastures where they nested and hunted have disappeared. A badger may burrow after rodents under barn foundations. Raccoons and opossums still love old buildings whether they can find food there or not. Skunks and woodchucks also seem to like digging dens under old foundations.

Several species of bats readily make use of crevasses between rafters high up in old farm buildings where they quietly await evenings of insect hunting. Many species of these mostly beneficial mammals are also in decline across America, due, at least in part, to the loss of old farm building habitat.

The farm animals and stored crops they were built for may be long gone, but old farm buildings are still attractive homes to a host of wild creatures who will miss them as, year by year, more of them crumble and disappear from our rural landscape.

## About Grants...

The Iowa Barn Foundation is giving two kinds of MATCHING grants for barns 50 years old or older. Grant form "A" is for those barns that, upon completion of work, will be eligible for the National Historic Register. Some questions to consider to see whether your barn qualifies for Grant form "A" are: Was the barn built before 1870? Is it large (over 40' wide and 60' long)? Was it built with all stonewalls? Is it of unusual shape? Was it where a first of a new breed of livestock was introduced or where an important event happened? These barns may need restoration—more work than those in category "B".

Grant form "B" is for those who have

barns that may not be as historic as those in the "A" category, but the barns must be important to the landscape and the community. Many will be eligible for the National Register upon completion of work. Most of these will be rehabilitation grants—smaller grants for foundation sealing, new roofs, siding, etc.

Anyone receiving a grant will have to provide MATCHING funds. A PERPETUAL EASEMENT MUST BE SIGNED that remains with the property if it is sold. The easement specifies that the barn must be kept in restored condition and be opened 2 times a year. We do not give retroactive grants for work already

performed. The buildings must be restored as closely as possible to original—no non-wood siding. Non-metal roofs are preferred although exceptions can be made. Checks are written after the project is completed.

To receive a grant form, please send \$5 and a \$25 membership to the Iowa Barn Foundation if you are not a current member. Send to: Ann Harvey, 2002 Cessna, Ames, Iowa 50014, or to Mary Richards, 2201 R Avenue, Jamaica, Iowa 50128. For questions: call Ann Harvey, (515) 292-9104 or Mary Richards, (515) 386-4750, mrichards@netins.net.

# For the Love of a Chicken House

By Nancine Bruxvoort

I am sending a picture of our 1917 chicken house which I have kept scraped, painted, and put-tied for 37 years. I assume ours is a half monitor. The upper and lower windows tilt open.

As a young girl, I recall helping my Grandpa gather eggs. Quite often he put a broody chicken (brootskip to us Dutch) in a cage for a few days. I'm told this was to convince her to stop laying on her eggs.

My grandpar-ents lived on the edge of town, and people came by for eggs. Grandma kept a little notebook in the top drawer in the kitchen

in which she recorded her egg receipts. I was fascinated! It was as if we were playing store. And, it seemed as if Grandma

She hardly had the corporate look as far as her attire. I can see her yet bustling in from the garden or chicken house, her high-heeled Miller shoes clunking on the linoleum floor. The apron that covered her dress was always one she had sewn and trimmed in either rick-rack or bias tape.

I was astonished to find that little notebook 50 years later in my Mother's things. She must have been impressed with it also.

I remember Grandma getting into a huff because no matter how often

turned into a "lady businessman" for just a few moments each day. This was something quite unfamiliar to us in the 1950's.

she asked Grandpa to get the brooder house ready, he did not start until she left for town to get the baby chicks.



Bruxvoort chicken house

## Iowa Barn Foundation to Have Presence in State Center

The Iowa Barn Foundation will have an office in an historic building when State Center's Main Street project is completed.

The residents and businesses in State Center, with the help of the State Center Main Street Program, have spent three years raising funds and working to restore the historic Main Street.

"It has been an all-community project," said Mayor Craig Pfantz, a crop farmer whose family has deep roots in the area. "The city has just completed a \$750,000 infrastructure project that included new sidewalks and streets. Period street lights were donated by local citizens. Local business owners are working to renovate the fronts of their buildings back to how they originally looked. The main street area has been

designated a National Historic District and is a fine example of what a rural Iowa main street would have looked like eighty years ago."

The Iowa Barn Foundation will share a space with the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the State Center Main Street Organization once the building is totally renovated. It will be a center for telling folks about the Foundation's work, circulating the Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine, and displaying photographs and paintings of barns and books on barns.

"The rural community of State Center and the Iowa Barn Foundation are a perfect fit," said Pfantz. "They are both working to preserve the rural heritage of Iowa."

## Lightning Rod Balls

Lightning rod balls have long been part of the American rural landscape. Some were made as early as 1840. They were originally sold as ornaments for lightning rods and are found in a wide range of shapes and colors. Made of glass or ceramic, they had no practical use, but added a decorative touch to the rods.

The balls were usually about four and a half inches in diameter. Glass ones were typically white and blue milk glass. Clear glass ones have often turned to amethyst from sun exposure to impurities in the glass.

There are some 34 shapes or styles of lightning rod balls.

The balls were sold by salesmen going from farm to farm in horse drawn wagons from 1870 until the Great Depression closed businesses.

—Roxanne Mehlisch

# BUYING MY FIRST FARM

by Michael McConnell

*A couple of years ago, the Iowa Barn Foundation received a membership check with a note scratched on an enclosed piece of paper: I am from Iowa and work for Microsoft in Seattle. Let me know if I can help you with your Web site. Since that day, Michael McConnell has been editor of our informative and highly touted web site: <http://www.iowabarnfoundation.org>. At Microsoft, Michael is a technical writer who writes online Help and other documentation for the Microsoft Windows operating system.*

Long before the Y2K scare, the tragic events of September 11th, and the stock market crash that prompted investors to buy up farmland as a safe long-term investment, I have daydreamed about owning land as far as the eye can see and running a diversified farm like people did in the 1940's and 1950's. Unlike some of my distant relatives, my parents and grandparents never farmed. I'm not exactly sure where my desire to farm comes from, but I guess you could say it's in my Iowa roots. Because I don't come from a farming family, there was no farm to take over or inherit. There was no one to teach me how to farm and pass along the many lessons of farm life. Instead, I would have to find my own farm and learn how to farm it myself.

## *A needle in a haystack*

Finding the perfect farm is a time consuming and often frustrating process, especially when you're looking for a classic Iowa farm. To me, a classic Iowa farm is a square 160 with a farmstead set back ¼ mile from the road. The farm should have an L-house or 4-square, a windmill, a barn and other outbuildings, a creek or a pond, and a woodlot. Finding one of these gems intact is akin to finding a needle in a haystack. Most of the classic farms have fallen victim to the bulldozer in the name of progress, or the tillable land has been sold, reducing what's left to a 10 acre ranchette. The task of finding the perfect farm was made more difficult because I was searching long distance from Seattle.

Each week for over three years I visited at least 30 different real estate Web sites

looking for the perfect farm but never had much luck. Last year, when I was finally ready to buy, I had to contend with rising land prices and a shrinking pool of available farms. Land values in Iowa had skyrocketed because folks who had lost money in the stock market were now investing in farmland in the hopes of making a profit. According to the Iowa Land Value Survey, produced by Michael Duffy of the Iowa State University Extension, the value of Iowa farmland increased by an average of 8.2 percent in 2002 and by another 9.2 percent in 2003. Perhaps the folks who were driving up the land prices could see a sure thing after all.

My first attempt to buy a farm was disappointing, to say the least. In September 2002, I learned about an 80 acre farm in Butler County that was part of an estate. A bachelor farmer in his late 80's had died earlier in the year, leaving no direct heirs. His farm was going to be sold by the estate in a limited auction. Unlike a regular land auction, where a farm is sold the same day to the highest bidder, in the limited auction, bids are accepted for days or weeks until the highest price is obtained. The highest bid would then have to be brought before the court for final approval.

The land on that 80 acre farm was gently rolling and beautiful, with a small woodlot and a creek, but the farmhouse was uninhabitable. Most of the outbuildings had been neglected for years and a few had partially collapsed. Looking past the decay, I imagined how great this farm would look when fixed up. Even in its dilapidated condition, the farm was appraised at \$148,000. In the day it took me to fly from Seattle to view the farm and place my bid, the high bid on the farm had reached \$175,000. I placed a bid of \$180,000 and hoped I'd get the farm because my bid was already well beyond what the farm was worth in terms of farmland value. By the time I got back to Seattle, I had already been outbid. A bidding war had erupted between someone from Colorado who wanted to return to Iowa, Senator Grassley, who owned

the adjacent parcel, and a developer from Waterloo. I later heard that the farm sold for \$237,000 to the developer from Waterloo. That farm's proximity to Cedar Falls is what drove the price so high and almost guarantees that it will one day become a housing development.

## *A crash course in farm financing*

When I set out to buy the farm in Butler County, I talked to many different banks to get pre-approved for financing and to find the best rate and term. At the time, conventional mortgages were in the 5.5 to 6% range, and I naturally assumed I could get a mortgage with a similar low rate. How wrong I was! Most of the small local banks I spoke with said they would only write loans in their county or adjacent county, which limited my chances for shopping around for a good loan. Because I was trying to purchase more than 20 acres, they said I couldn't have a conventional mortgage—I would have to get an agricultural loan. The banks required at least 30% down payment on a five or "maybe" seven year balloon loan with a 7 to 7.5% interest rate. It didn't matter which bank I spoke with, the story was the same. When I pointed out that conventional mortgages were a full 2 points lower with a longer term than what these banks were quoting me for an agricultural loan, the banks said that agricultural loans weren't open to the other funding sources that are available to the convention mortgage market, thus the shorter term and higher interest rates.

In addition, all of the banks expected that little 80 acre farm to earn enough money through farming to pay the mortgage! The banks really didn't want to consider my off-farm income for servicing the debt. The banks set the limit at what I could borrow based primarily on the farm's ability to generate income. The reality that I would be lucky to afford a "little" 80 acre farm was beginning to set in. In the end, only Farm Credit Services of America made it possible for me to buy a farm.

## *A disappointing search*

After my attempt to buy the farm in Butler County fell through, I found a few other farms on the Internet; one in Maquoketa, one in Winterset, and one in North English. For one reason or another, these farms didn't work out. Most of the good farms seemed to come and go by word of mouth and never made it to real estate Web sites, so I decided to turn to the newspaper. In the hope that some elderly farm couple would see my ad and take pity on me, in December 2002, I placed ads in the *Des Moines Register* and in *Iowa Farmer Today* that read:

**No heirs?** Young farmer wants to buy 80+ A farm with classic house and barn.

I received seven responses to my ad. Six responses with farms for sale and one response from a land speculator who was too cheap to take out his own ad—he wanted me to give him information on the farms I wasn't interested in! Half of the responses to my ad came from farmers in southern Iowa—Ringgold, Decatur, and Wayne counties. There were a few promising leads, but none of them were the right farm for me.

## *I found the needle!*

Quite by accident last January, I stumbled across a real estate Web site in Clayton County where I found a 3 sentence description of a 280 acre farm for sale. The farm had a beautiful brick farmhouse built around 1906, an Aermotor windmill in the front yard, a 36x100 basement barn with a gambrel roof, and 5 other vintage outbuildings, including a brooder house, machine shed, and farrowing house. In addition, the farm had a creek and over 135 acres of forest. Based on the description alone, I got a funny feeling. Could this be my farm? Could I even afford it? The realtor sent me a fuzzy, out-of-focus photo of the farmhouse, and based on the description and photo, I asked my parents to drive up and take a look.

The farm was owned by a nice old farm couple. The farmer was 71 and his wife was 64. The farmer had grown up on the farm and had inherited it from his parents. Due to failing health and the desire to travel, they made the difficult decision to sell their farm. The farmer and his wife were very particular about whom they sold

their farm to. They did not want their farm being bulldozed for a sub-division. I let them know that I planned to restore the farmhouse and buildings, and that I was a member of the Iowa Barn Foundation, which helped convince them I was the right person. I also offered to allow the farmer to store his last remaining tractor on the farm for as long as he wanted, which helped to seal the deal.

I was almost a farm owner, but I still had to find farm insurance so that my loan could be approved. Because most of the insurance companies lost huge sums of money in the stock market crash that followed September 11 it was difficult, if not impossible, to find insurance coverage for my farm. Many of the insurance companies had placed a moratorium on any new home or farm policies. Others wouldn't insure me because I was not an Iowa resident. After a frantic search, I managed to find insurance and I closed on my farm on a cold February day.

I remember walking the farm alone and thinking "what have I done?" I was overcome with the enormity of my purchase. With it I had "inherited" an old farmhouse and buildings that all needed repair, along with two generations worth of scrap metal, old tires, and assorted junk. And although I have already owned my farm for one year, there are many parts of the farm that I still haven't set foot on. Despite getting lost in the woods twice, I still cannot find the path through the woods to the lower pasture.

My farm is a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Seattle. On the 1960's sitcom *Green Acres*, you might remember that Oliver Douglas (Eddie Albert) had to climb a telephone pole outside his farmhouse to use the telephone. Due to my farm's remote locale, I have to stand next to the windmill in my front yard to get cell phone reception.

I'm amazed at the amount of wildlife on my farm. I have downy woodpeckers, raccoons, deer, barn swallows, bats, and many red winged black birds. In the coming year I want to begin building a bluebird trail so that I can add bluebirds to the list. I even have a farm dog. Last October a stray,

white mixed breed dog with black spots wandered on to the farm. No one came to claim him, so I adopted "Spot." Spotty is a big, happy-go-lucky dog that makes visiting the farm all the more enjoyable. After all, every farm must have a farm dog.

I own three unrestored Farmall tractors: a 1950 Super A, a 1948 M, and a 1955 300 that fit very well with my farm's vintage buildings. I haven't been able to do much real farm work with them because I can't afford any implements. I keep my eye on the fencerows in the hopes I'll find enough cast-offs to equip my farm, and I'd accept any donated farm equipment.

Most of the people I know think I'm crazy for buying a farm, especially since every vacation I take sounds like a lot of hard work to them. Buying a farm has certainly been a life changing experience. With it, Dad started calling me "Farmer." I really hope I can earn that title one day because there is so much about farming that I still do not know.

I'd like to find a job in Iowa so that I can move back to live on my farm. With the way the economy is going however, it might take me a few years to find a decent job at the rate they are being outsourced to India. I currently cash-rent my land, but after I move to the farm I'd like to farm it myself and raise rare and endangered breeds of livestock. I'd like to run a multi-crop diversified farm where I can have a few sheep, dairy goats, hogs, cattle, horses, chickens, geese, and turkeys. Perhaps I'll sell fresh eggs, sweet corn, and organic

meat off the farm. Maybe I'll open a bed-and-breakfast and participate in agri-tourism. Due to my farm's "small" size, I'm probably limited to niche farming if I want to make any money. Undoubtedly I'll have to have an off-farm job to make ends meet. Until then, my farm is my escape from the big city and a place where I can enjoy a slower pace of life, tinker with old farm equipment, and see Spot run.





# About Our Barns



Iowa Barn Foundation Awards of Distinction have been awarded to Lori and Jim Evilsizer, Spragueville (Jackson County), and to the Marcus McCuthans, Grand River (Decatur County), for restoring their barns. The Award of Distinction plaques are given by the Iowa Barn Foundation to property owners who restore their barns on their own. The Spragueville barn is known as the Stromeyer Barn and was built in 1902 (see the Fall 2003 issue). The McCutchan barn was built in 1928 with supporting beams from trees on the farm. To be eligible for the Award of Distinction, a barn must be restored according to the Iowa Barn Foundation's guidelines.



Dennis Schrodtt, who chairs the Iowa Barn Foundation's State Fair effort, is looking for volunteers to work our booth during the fair. We need folks who will educate visitors about the Iowa Barn Foundation and the need to preserve barns. Please call Dennis at (515) 462-1681.



Gail Mathine organized an Emmet County barn jamboree in Armstrong, Iowa in July to celebrate our agriculture heritage and to honor the John Thomsen family who are going to restore their round barn, which is listed on the National Register. The barn was built by John Peterson of Ringsted in 1912 for Dr. John Thomsen, Danish immigrant who, for years, was Armstrong's veterinarian. At the event, Rich Tyler, owner of the Seacrest barn at Downey, talked about

"Why Save a Barn". Matt Miller, an artist from Ankeny, painted an original oil canvas of the round barn. The Iowa Barn Owl Band performed at the event.



Lori Anderson, who grew up on a dairy farm in Allamakee County, was inspired to write the poem, "Barn Dance," on the back cover of this issue, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of her parents, Frank and Carol Sivesind of Waukon, Iowa. Lori lives in Sydney, Australia, where she is a national administrator for a law firm and her husband has an importing company. Her fondness for Iowa does not diminish. "I miss rural Iowa a lot—life couldn't be more different here in Sydney. I especially miss the cows..."

While researching the farm's history, Lori found someone who worked on the farm in the 1940's. He told Lori that the Sivesind farm was "one of the most beautiful in Allamakee County. The Sivesind family always took great pride in their dairy barn and Guernsey cattle, and many local people used to come out to visit their farm to see this milk operation."

Lori added, "It was more than a dairy farm. Grandpa (John) ran a Guernsey milk bottling and delivery business from the farm in the 1930's."



Thanks to Kenneth Dunker of Ames, Iowa for his donation of "exclusive" and compelling Iowa Barn Foundation note cards. Sale of the cards benefits the Iowa Barn Foundation.

Ken's love of barns goes back to a childhood in Michigan where his moth-

er's family had a farm near Frankenmuth. "My mother's father had been part of a carpenter crew that built farm buildings in the early 1900s, and he had built both farmhouses on the family farm," Ken recalled. "He always had tips for my small construction projects."

After retiring from the Iowa State University civil engineering faculty, Ken took a job in the Office of Bridges and Structures at the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), where he writes the bridge design manual and is involved in technical issues related to bridges, sign structures, and lighting towers. After beginning his work at the DOT, he used the National Register of Historic Places to locate and photograph historic bridges in the state. He started drawing bridges from the photographs and added barn drawings to his resume after partaking in the foundation's northeast Iowa tour.

It takes him a week—or more—to complete a drawing. He has created and donated cards featuring some of the Iowa Barn Foundation-connected barns as a fund raiser for the foundation. The 6 1/4 x 4 1/2-inch cards, on tan card stock, feature the barn drawing on the front with information about the barn and the foundation on the back. A card package containing 12 cards—three with each of four barn drawings—and 12 envelopes is available for \$10 including postage!

Roxanne Mehlich, one of our busiest volunteers, has offered to mail the cards to those who send her a check for \$10 made out to the Iowa Barn Foundation. Roxanne's address is: 17590 730th Avenue, Zearing 50278.

These beautiful cards—a most generous donation—raise money for the foundation's efforts and also promote the organization. They make wonderful gifts. A huge thank you to Ken and to Roxanne.



The Iowa State Fair Photography Salon will salute the barns of Iowa in August. For information: Charley Starnes, Statehouse, 400 E 14th St., Des Moines 50319.



Marvin Korver, Lakewood, California, sent a note: "I was a farmer. Born in northwest Iowa 45 miles north of Sioux City. Those were the days when we had a lot of barns. Good old days. Now I'm 84 years old and I have leukemia and can't do much. I love your magazine and enjoy it. Keep up the good work. I wish I could do more, but I can't."



Kevin Lang, Adel, is proud of a historic brick and wood buggy shed on his farm which is an original smaller copy of his brick and wood barn.



The Hrdinas of Cresco sent this photograph of their barn built in 1893. They have shingled part of the east side and are getting started on the west side. "It was really getting 'bad'. Still have most of the horse stalls and mangers left. Still have the wooden cow stanchions in place. Hay mow comes to the floor. Our hope is to preserve it for future generations of Hrdinas."



Many groups ask if we have speakers to suggest. Here are some we know about:

Ken Starek, Ackley (641) 847-3018; Bertha Shaw, Eagle Grove (515) 832-9597; Karlene Kingery, Omaha (402) 556-9082; Bill and Fran Stone, Marshalltown (641) 753-8994; Paul Walther, Audubon (712) 563-2779; Mary Richards, Jamaica (515) 386-4750. Also, some members of the Iowa Barn Foundation board are sometimes available to give talks. Some of the speakers charge small fees to cover traveling and miscellaneous expenses.



John Woodhouse, Delhi, who loves barns, has drawn them for years. Now he creates barn scenes out of wood. Each creation takes about 45 hours of hard work. He draws a plan, then cuts each piece of barn siding separately, and individually puts each one in place. There are even stones for the foundation. Once the barn is "built", he paints it. The scenes are about 40 inches long and 11 inches high. He creates custom orders. Give him a call at (563) 922-3100.

## All-State Tour Slated for September 25-26

The fourth annual all-state barn tour is scheduled for September 25 and 26.

Some 40 barns around the state that have been restored with Iowa Barn Foundation matching grants will be opened for viewing. This self-guided tour is free and opened to the public.

The tour encourages an understanding of our rural heritage and the importance of barn preservation. The barns on tour will be featured in the fall issue of the *Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine*. For more information, call: Roxanne Mehlich at 641 (487)-7690 or e-mail her at mehlich@netins.net



Hrdina barn

# More Vanished Barns

These once-stately barns along our countryside have sadly tumbled to oblivion. Ken Starek, a barn photographer and the Iowa Barn Foundation's Hardin County representative, took these photographs before the barns were lost forever. The Iowa Barn Foundation is dedicated to encouraging the preservation of buildings like these—to make Iowa a living museum of agricultural heritage for the entire world.



Hardin County



Grundy County



Butler County



Humboldt County



Butler County



Greene County

# For the Love of a Barn

By Cathy and Craig Hindraker

As a dear older friend once told me, “No one can pay you enough to wallpaper. You have to do it for love.” That’s how we feel about renovating our old barn. There are some things you do for money and some things you do for love, and this is a labor of love.

We began our barn renovation project in the summer of 2002. Little did we know what a lengthy, involved project it would become. It turned out to be more costly than we thought so we came up with a unique way to help our “barn fund”.

During Christmas break, we were offered an old corn crib for free if we’d take ALL the wood, metal, and mess away. Fortunately, the weather cooperated, and my husband and I spent six days tearing down, stacking up, and hauling away the wood and tin. The salvaged wood will be used to make stalls in the barn and replace part of the hay mow floor which had rotted away. Every time we drive up the lane we now look at a very large stack of lumber needing nails removed.

In January, a local company put out a call to anyone willing to help to sort sandpaper. We didn’t ask what was involved and

hurried to sign up. My husband took the truck into town and returned with a pallet load of 34,000 sheets of 8 x 11 sandpaper. The orders were to check each sheet for flaws, stack them into piles of 400, restack them on the pallet, and return them to the company IN FOUR DAYS.

After a shaky start, we worked fairly efficiently. My husband worked during the day until he couldn’t take it any longer; I helped at night. I tried to make the best of it by repeating over and over, as I turned over each sheet of sandpaper, “It’s for the barn. It’s for the barn.”

Each sheet represented \$.01. We worked at this day and night for three months—400,000 sheets of paper or \$4000 in the barn fund. We were brain dead, but it was worth it.

We continue to plod along on our “renovation journey”. My grandfather’s 150-year-old barn was damaged by strong winds a few years ago and, unfortunately, today it is unsalvageable. When that barn is torn down, we will buy boards to use on our barn. It is the best we can do to still have a piece of our family history with us. It’s a labor of love, and we’re hanging in there.



Butler County



Hardin County

# Meet Rob Vos...

A busy family life, job with Rainbow Seeds in Oskaloosa, collecting antique farm equipment, and a barn renovation project did not deter Rob Vos, Pella, from organizing the Iowa Barn Foundation’s June barn tour and picnic in Mahaska and Marion Counties. He has known hard work since growing up on farms north of Monroe (K-6) and east of Bussey (7-12).

Rob volunteered to be Marion County representative to the Iowa Barn Foundation a few years ago. He immediately got to work bringing in new members, finding interesting area barns, and he didn’t say “no” when we suggested having a tour/picnic in the Pella/Oskaloosa area—even though he and wife, Teri, were expecting a third child.

Barns were a central part of Rob’s life when helping with farm chores while growing up. Rob and Teri, who grew up on

the edge of Sully, moved to their farm outside of Pella in 1992. The 1929 barn was “in need of a good make over.” Daunted by the project, they sold the barn to a neighbor who was going to move it to his farm. The bidding process took months, and the Voses kept “discussing” the barn.

“Teri and I had to give him the bad news. The Iowa Barn Foundation had been formed, and we were hoping to be a part of the organization and thought we might try to get a matching grant to give it a face lift. When I told the neighbor we wanted to keep the barn, he thought we were crazy for selling it in the first place and was glad we decided to keep it.”

Rob and Teri replaced the roof and windows. One day a painter walked onto the farm and offered to remove the old paint and put on a new coat. “That was a no brainer,” said Rob. “What would have

taken me six months, took him two days, and I did not have to climb a ladder.”

The barn, which will be used for 4-H projects, will be on the Iowa Barn Foundation tour June 5 and 6. Visitors will also get to view Rob’s 1939 Farmall M, one row International corn picker, and three bottom plow. He is active in the Red Rock Threshers Tractor Club.

While Rob works for Rainbow Seeds, a job he enjoys because it keeps him involved in agriculture, Teri is the public relations manager at Vermeer Manufacturing, Pella. Jessica is 7; Ben, 3. Jack was born in November.

Rob has a Dutch heritage and recalls his grandparents speaking Dutch when “they did not want me to know what they were talking about.” He is orchestrating a special Dutch dinner for the Iowa Barn Foundation picnic on June 6th.



# More Revitalized Barns

“The year 1880 has always been painted on the south side of the barn,” wrote Lois Amundson of Cresco, Iowa about their barn. “The rafters are all timber framed with wooden pegs securing them.”

“I am in love with barns,” wrote Bill Thomas of Emerson, Iowa. “Every since I was a young man, I have been interested in keeping our barns in as good condition as can be financially feasible.” Bill spent three years restoring this barn, built in 1898 by his great grandfather.

Pictured is another now proud barn, north of Osceola, Iowa, that Bill Krause of West Des Moines restored.

Ellen Henn of Manson, Iowa spent her life on the farm her Grandpa Griffeth homesteaded in 1866. The Griffeth family came to the farm from Illinois in covered wagon. Ellen just painted the barn, built in 1917. “My mom had received a small inheritance and, instead of putting a good foundation in the house, they used the gift for building the barn,” said Ellen. The Griffeth-Henn barn has barn, corn crib, hog house, machine shed, brooder houses, two hen houses, and a 10-room home.

Merle and JoAnn Van Roekel of Rock Rapids, Iowa are obviously proud of their barn, built in 1906 and decorated for Christmas.

The historic Leet/Hassler Farmstead in Manning, Iowa is the site of this plank frame and masonry barn built in 1917. The farmstead was owned by William Leet and sold to Fred Hassler, known for his “Fashion Herd/Poland Chinas/Glenhaven Farm”. It was built by Hans Detlefsen and Fritz Thoms, who became acquainted in their native Germany and went into a brick work and plastering business together in Manning in 1910. The farmstead is now owned by the Manning Heritage Foundation.



Amundsen barn



Teamwork Acres barn



Thomas barn



Henn barn



Van Roekel barn



Leet/Hessler barn

## SUPPORT *the* IOWA BARN FOUNDATION

*In just under seven years, the Iowa Barn Foundation has truly made a difference in saving and restoring old barns. With over \$700,000 raised to support the Iowa Barn Foundation's projects and with more than 60 barns either restored or in various stages of restoration, the Iowa landscape today looks different than it did in 1997.*

### Be a Part of the Excitement!

So how can you be a part of this exciting grassroots effort? In short, in two ways, says Jacqueline Schmeal, one of the founders and its president. First, volunteer to work locally—as a county representative—to encourage barn restoration and to raise the profile of barn restoration in the area. The second is by gifts to the Foundation to support its growing list of restoration projects. Typically, the Foundation makes matching grants to owners of barns (and other buildings) that are candidates for restoration. A perpetual easement is signed that

assures the structure will be maintained and will be open to the public for a minimum of two days per year between May and October of each year. Gifts to the Foundation include:

- Cash gifts, including membership dues, have been a major source of funding for the Foundation. Dues are \$25 per year and can be mailed to the Iowa Barn Foundation, c/o Community Bank, Box 436, Nevada, Iowa 50201. The Foundation currently has more than 1,000 members. Remember, gifts to the Foundation are deductible for income, gift and estate tax purposes. The Foundation has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a Section 501(c)(3) organization.

- Gifts of appreciated stock or land offer even greater tax benefits with the fair market value eligible for an income tax deduction and with the appreciation in value sidestepping the usual tax bite.

- Property can be set up to pass to the Foundation at death through a will or a trust. The property can simply be left to the Iowa Barn Foundation, an Iowa non-profit corporation.

Remember, all of the work of the Foundation is done by volunteers, so 100 percent of contributions goes to support Foundation projects including the acclaimed *Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine*.

### **Farm Conservancy Project**

Several months ago, the Foundation board of directors approved an initiative making it possible for entire farms to be given to the Foundation. Every effort is made to manage the property in accordance with the wishes of the donor. The centerpiece of the Farm Conservancy Project is the plan which is written to reflect the donor's objectives and addresses soil conservation, building maintenance and restoration and appropriate management practices. Preference is given to renting the farms to beginning farmers.

### **Adopt-A-Barn Program**

The latest initiative focuses on barns along the major highways of the state. For property owners who cannot come up with the match for a regular barn restoration project, funds are sought from other sources to assure that the barn does not become an eyesore. The objective is for those passing through the state to see a landscape of carefully preserved barns, in keeping with the deep pride Iowans feel for their agricultural heritage.

# IOWA BARN FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

(cumulative)

## \$200,000

The Fred Maytag Family Foundation,  
Newton, Iowa

## \$140,000

The Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston, Tx.

## \$25,000

Iowa West Foundation

## \$20,000

Linda and Ken Lay Family, Houston, Tx.

## \$10,000 to \$15,000

Jacqueline Andre and Richard Schmeal,  
Houston, Tx.

Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation, Marshalltown

## \$5,000 to \$10,000

Anonymous

Land O'Lakes Foundation, Minneapolis, Mn.

## \$1000 to \$5000

Anonymous

Anderson Erickson Dairy Company, Des Moines

The Associates Matching Gifts Program, Irving, Tx.

Mr. and Mrs. James Balloun, Atlanta, Georgia

Paul and Georgia Crockett, Minneapolis, Mn.

David W. and Tammy Jo Dewhurst, Houston, Tx.

Mary Dunea, Chicago, Ill.

Linda Duttenhaver, Redondo Beach, Ca.

Dorothy Ewing, Ames (for Solon "Bud" Ewing  
Endowment)

Farm Credit Services of America

Stephen Fox, Houston, Tx. (in honor of Richard and  
Jacqueline Schmeal)

Stephen Garst, Coon Rapids

Mary F. Griffith, Carbondale, Co.

John and Barb Hagie, Clarion

Neil and Darlene Harl, Ames

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (toward Iowa Barn  
Foundation Magazine)

Iowa Savings Bank Foundation, Carroll

James and Pat Jordan, Boone

W.A. Krause, West Des Moines

Joe and Norma Lyon, Toledo, Iowa

Ray McFarland (All Cuts), Ames

Merrill and Carol Oster, Aurora, Ill.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Des Moines

Paul and Pat Ramsey, Newport Beach, Ca.

John Ruan Foundation Trust, Des Moines

Amy and Craig H. Schiffer, London, England

Maurice and Helen Sinclair, Melrose

Swiss Valley Farms Company, Davenport

William Windsor Charitable Foundation,  
Des Moines

Judy Winkel, Irving, Tx.

Carl and Norma Zurborg, Davenport

## \$500 to \$1000

Anonymous

Richard and Janet Andre, Alexandria, Va.

Bob and Bobbie Boeke, Ames

Pat Catron and Ross Christensen

Central State Bank, State Center

Cooperative Resources International (Tom Lyon,  
CEO), Shawano, Wis.

George Dunea, M.D., Chicago, Ill.

Marlene and Duane Fenstermann, Decorah

Mrs. Kathryn Hach-Darrow, Mukilteo, Wash.

Des Moines Register/Gannett Foundation

Don Geiger, West Des Moines

Grant Wood Chapter 89, Questers, Des Moines

Dean and Mary Harns, Ames

Chris and Beth Homeister, Sioux City

Hertz Farm Management, Inc., Nevada

Mrs. Ione Jones

Kinder Morgan Foundation, Lakewood, Co.

Gerald and Karen Kolschowsky, Aurora, Ill.

Ambassador Charles Manatt, Washington, D.C.

Joyce Lund Mears, LeClaire

The Perry State Bank Charitable Foundation, Perry  
(Stephen Garst)

Gary Papke, Clinton

Todd Papke, Houston, Tx.

Robert Peterson, Dakota Dunes, S.D.

Robert Proctor, Redding, Ca.

Leanna Reidy, Houston, Tx.

River Valley Cooperative, Eldridge

Bill and Coleen Sandquist, Adel

Mrs. Ruth Schmalenberger, Ft. Dodge

William and Fran Stone, Marshalltown

Kelly and Irene Tobin, New Market

Twin County Dairy Inc. (John Roetlin, pres.),  
Kalona

Wapsie Valley Creamery Inc., Independence

Irma Winslow, Ames

## \$100 to \$500

Anonymous

Anonymous

Florence Albright, Ossian

Jessica Alexander, Iowa City

Frank and LaDonna Allen, Ames

Marvin Anderson, Ames

Martha Angier, Des Moines

Mary Agnew, Williamsburg

Kenneth and Janice Augustine, Ames

Bob and Margaret Artley, Hampton

Grace Askam, Muscatine

Joan Axel, Muscatine

Alice Andre and Lee Backsen, Houston, Tx.

Daniel and Debb Vandehaar-Arens, Waterloo

Murray Bacon, Albuquerque, N.M.

Donald Baker

Don Baker, St. Paul

Roger and Angie Baker, Cedar Rapids

Dave and Norma Bappe, Decorah

Dale and Julie Bartelt, Mediapolis

Pamela Battaglioli, Granville

Marion Beatty, Decorah

Virginia Becker, Plainfield

Lonnie and Doris Bench, Stuart

Dean Blake, Mason City

Jerome Bleicher, Glenwood

Ruth Boast, Ames

Gordon and Peggy Bonzer, Nashua

Gordon and Scott Bonzer Barn Repair, Nashua

Bill Botke, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Pat Borup, Wellman, in memory of her sister,  
Grace Berry

Karen Bradley, Cedar Rapids

Bob Brammer, Des Moines

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