

50126 / 50278
I.F. / Leunf

28 mi.

45 mile

IOWA BARN FOUNDATION

N E W S L E T T E R

S P R I N G 1 9 9 8

v o l . 1

n o . 1

7000 Barn Photos

... Meet Ken Starek

Imagine taking 7000 photographs of 4000 barns—mostly in Iowa!

But, Ken Starek of Ackley has done just that. He has let his adoration of barns guide him around the state's countryside for 15 years to photograph rural buildings and to learn their stories. "I'd go out any time I could—stop and take pictures." He stops momentarily, whispers. "Some fell....There's a poem telling about barns going down..."

This regard for barns began on the general 200-acre family farm near Denison where he grew up. His family raised cattle, grain, and turkeys. When the family started turkeys in March and April, Ken would get up at 5:30 a.m. to do chores before going to school. "It was a labor-intensive family farm," he recalls. "All summer long we bailed hay for the neighbors. That was life."

His first job on the farm took place in a barn when he was three or four. "I was put on top of a big old work horse that was used to lift hay from the hay rack into the barn and deposited," he remembers. "It was to keep me away from anything. It was safe up on the horse. Of course, the horse was guided by Dad or my uncle."

His memories of that barn are lucid. It was a small barn—28 x 36. "We had a hay mow; we had egg fights. We used to build forts out of bails. Under the foundation of the barn our family dog had a litter of puppies one time. To me the sounds of the barn—livestock, pigeons, rustling of hay, clang of the hay fork as they unloaded...."

On trips to Ute with his grandfather, the

older man always pointed out a multi-sided round barn near Charter Oak. His grandfather instilled in him that this was a unique barn—that there were no corners. Today Ken has a special fondness for and interest in round barns.

In the early 1980's he read Without Right Angles, the book that describes Iowa's round barns, which was written by Lowell Soike. "I started visiting those barns and taking pictures of other barns, and it has grown from there," he recalls. "I'm a historian. I like history, I think each barn has something to tell."

Being so close to many of Iowa's barns for so long, he sees them fading away and realizes that he must capture this history before it is gone. "We're losing it so fast," he notes. "I've heard it said we're losing 1000 barns per year in Iowa—that's 10 per county. And, I think the figure is more than that just looking around."

From Ar-we-va High School Ken went to Iowa State University where he majored in farm operations. After college graduation in 1971 he farmed on the family farm. "I realized I couldn't make a living at it any more so I started searching for a new job."

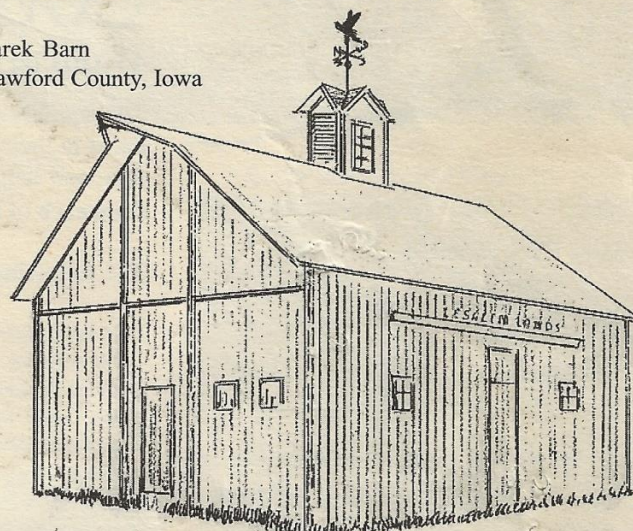
He joined J.M. Hunt, a seed corn operation in Ackley where he has worked for 23 years. "I have done everything. We were

in seed corn production. I planted corn. I ran detasseling crews, oversaw harvesting, graded corn, and bagged it."

At Hunt he has even observed that the seed house where the corn has been graded, treated, and bagged is probably the oldest continuously used seed house in the country. (The seed house is a mile east of Ackley on US 20.)

Ken and his wife, Retha, have an acreage near Ackley. They have a barn—"much like the barn at home", but, like many in Iowa, it needs a new roof. "We don't know how we can afford to pay for it," he says. Their children are Danell, a freshman at Iowa State, and Darl, a junior at Ackley-Geneva High School.

Starek Barn
Crawford County, Iowa



Besides working and maintaining the acreage, Ken is taking photography at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo. "I've always wanted to do this. I've become less and less satisfied with my photographs of barns. I feel it could be a real art form."

Continued on page 9

About the Iowa Barn Foundation . . .

The Iowa Barn Foundation was founded in 1997 by a group of volunteers with Iowa roots who are dedicated to preserving historic barns and other agricultural buildings in Iowa.

The mission of the Iowa Barn Foundation is to preserve barns and other agricultural buildings in Iowa which are important culturally, historically, and architecturally.

This is being done by stimulating public thought about barns and their importance in Iowa's history and agricultural heritage and by encouraging the saving and restoration of agricultural buildings 50 years and older.

Board members, county representatives, and friends are seeking contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations nation-wide to fund grants which would be used for barn preservation in the state.

Through giving matching grants to property owners, the foundation hopes to

restore a historic barn -- a barn that would ultimately be eligible for the National Register -- in each of nine regions throughout the state in the first funding cycle.

The foundation hopes to rehabilitate barns in these nine regions by giving matching funds for essential maintenance of the structures such as repairing roofs and sealing foundations.

All property owners receiving grants for restoration of approved buildings will be required to sign an easement and other documents evidencing a commitment to maintain the structure or structures in accordance with foundation guidelines.

Many property owners keep their barns maintained. Other responsible property owners with important rural buildings need matching grants because of the high cost of restoration and rehabilitation. The selection of barns to receive grants will be done professionally based on grant criteria which are available from the foundation.

The board includes: Tom E. Benson, Cresco native, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota; Paul Crockett, Britt native, of Minneapolis; Stephen Garst, Coon Rapids; Thurman Gaskill, Corwith; Don Geiger, Ames native, of Des Moines; Robert Harvey, Winterset native, of Ames; Jo Ella Robinson Helmers, Hampton native, of Spartanburg, South Carolina; Dan Hisel, Ames; Tom Huston, Columbus Junction; Dr. Neil Harl, Wayne County native, of Ames; Joe Lyon, Toledo and Charles T. Manatt, Audubon native, Washington, D.C.

Also, Wayne Northey, Spirit Lake; Jacqueline Andre Schmeal, Ames native, of Houston, Texas; Darrell Sunderman, Clarinda native, of Carroll; Kelly Tobin, New Market; Robert Walker, Marengo; David Wampler, Allerton; and Carl Zurborg, Davenport.

The Iowa Barn Foundation is an Iowa non-profit organization and has tax-exempt status under paragraph 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

IOWA BARN
FOUNDATION

County Representatives

Wanted: Representatives to the Iowa Barn Foundation from each county.

The representatives will promote the preservation of barns, organize the surveying of barns in their counties when possible, encourage membership in the Iowa Barn Foundation, and help with fund raising. Representatives will work with members of the board from each of nine areas of the state.

The following people have volunteered to be representatives from their countries:

Iowa Barn Foundation Newsletter
Spring 1998 Vol. 1 No. 1

Photographers, contributors:

Judy Combs, Tony Finch, Kris Wenninghoff-Finch, Neil Harl, Kay Huston, Mel Sampson, Lawrence Schmitz, Ken Starek, Paul Walther, Jean Wampler, and Carl and Norma Zurborg.

Lists and organization:

Ann Harvey and Arlene Faeth

Graphics: Michael Lanning, Ames

Editor: Jacqueline Andre Schmeal

Donald Adams and Nancy Bonfils, Boone County. (515 795 3288)
Ken Augustine, Keokuk County. (515 233 1633)
George Braaksma, Osceola County. (712 754 2023)
Judy Combs, Davis County. (515 664 3758)
Rebecca Engelking, Grundy County. (515 366 3150)
Scott and Karen Everett, Marshall County. (515 752 1232)
Lynn and Heather Faeth, Lee County. (319 372 2624)
Marlene Fenstermann, Winneshiek and Allamakee. (319 382 3439)
Jamie Frazee, Jones County. (319 465 4606)
David & Norma Bappe, Winneshiek. (319 382 2125)
Joyce and Tim Kinkaid, Union County. (515 782 4535)
Coleen Landheer, Winnebago County. (515 582 3658)
Darlene and David McQuoid, Van Buren County. (319 397 2340)
Joyce Lund Mears, Scott County (319 289 3314)
Dale and Judy Mills, Cerro Gordo Conty (515 424 1197)
Josephine Mitchell, Montgomery County (712 623 3213)
Paul and Jo Anne Neuzil, Johnson & Washington Counties.
(319 679 2111)
Roger Ramthun, Floyd County. (515 228 4894)
Joel Rude, Calhoun County. (712 297 7714)

Ron Rynders, Sioux County. (712 722 0475)
Mel Sampson, Wright County. (515 448 5106)
Lawrence Schmitz, Carroll County. (712 792 3959)
Joyce Schulte, Audubon County. (712 563 4052)
Dennis Schrodt, Madison County. (515 382 2217)
Ken Starek, Hardin and Franklin Counties. (515 847 3018)
Iola Vander Wilt, Mahaska County. (515 626 3092)
John and Kathryn Van Zee, Jasper County. (515 994 3032)
Don and Pam Wolfe, Cass County. (712 764 7778)

The Barn We Saved

by Mel Sampson

Mel Sampson grew up on a farm in Eagle Grove where he is an accountant. He has volunteered to be Iowa Barn Foundation representative from Wright County. Here he tells how he, his wife, Marilyn, and son, Mark, saved the barn on a small farm they bought.

We saved a barn three years ago.

It was leaning to the east. There were no windows. The roof was bad except the rafters were still good. Contractors, friends, neighbors said, "Push it down and start over with a different structure."

I studied this old barn from one end to the other. The inside was just as bad as the outside. I discovered this old structure was made to last. I talked to some senior citizens and discovered this barn had once been a "Proud Show Barn" for Sy Scrage, a hybrid hog raiser. Since its beginning, it had been called upon to perform many functions. I stood back with my camera in hand and decided we are bulldozing too much history around us. This old barn and its history stay. It will be the centerpiece of my small farm.

I told the contractor to jack the barn back to the west so it stands straight

and tall. I told him to brace the inside of the barn so it stands into the wind no matter which way the wind comes from. I told him to brace the hayloft to hold a full barn of hay for the livestock in the winter. When I started saving this old structure, people began to notice the work. The telephone started to ring. Farmers, who had taken down old barns and saved windows and other parts of their barns, offered me windows and lumber to help complete this old barn. A white metal roof was installed to give the barn years of service. Siding was installed where it was missing, and windows were put in all the way around. A new sliding door was installed on the north

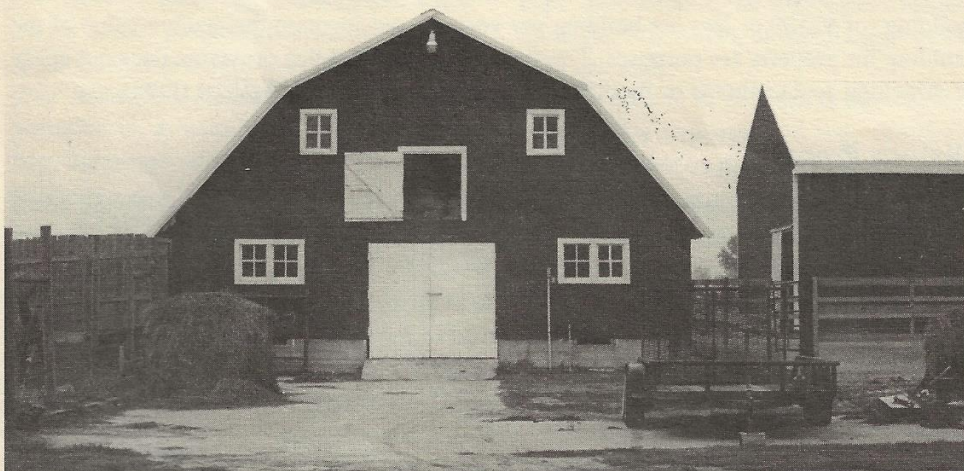
for livestock. On the south two doors were put in to make room for the utility tractor down the alley. A new paint of red trimmed in white puts the smile back on this old barn.

I have been stopped by elderly gentlemen thanking me for saving this old barn. Larry Moser of Eagle Grove told me as a teenager he helped put hay in this old barn.

The barn stands proudly as the home for our commercial elk ranch. Weaned elk calves call the barn home, while outside 12 cows, three heifers, and the 1997 winner of the four-year-old bull, elk velvet class in the state of Iowa, pasture.



"Before" hull of Sampson barn.



Sampson barn after work.

Every morning and evening I go to this old barn to feed the livestock. It is pure joy and satisfaction to walk into this old barn. What a wonderful piece of history I have saved! A pole barn could never give me back what this old barn gives me every day. The hayloft above for warmth, sorting pens with a roof above, and stalls for the other livestock. I hope this barn is used for a long time into the future. (Mel, his wife, Marilyn, and son, Mark, invite folks to "drive by or in" to see his barn. It is two miles south of Eagle Grove on Highway 17.)

Wendell St. Clair Remembers . . .

"You drive through the country and see the old barns falling. Some people say, 'Let them fall.' I say, 'No, this is the way it used to look.'"

These are the thoughts of Wendell St. Clair, 88, of Conrad who planted corn with two horses and a two row planter when he was 15 and who farmed until eight years ago. "When we moved there, most of our farming was done with horses," recalls St. Clair who has moved to town. "We did everything with horses. We had to live; we had to work. Every day you had to go out. It didn't matter what the weather was. You went."

When the St. Clairs moved onto the farm in 1926, they raised hogs and milk cows. By 1937 they were in the Hereford cattle business and needed a barn. "We never had enough room for hay and were all hauling hay so we needed room."

Wendell's father, J. Willard St. Clair, worked with Earl Shepherd, Conrad contractor, in building the barn, one with a self-supporting hip roof. It was built in the summer with a crew of four. "My dad did a lot of inside work. He did a lot of the finishing work in barn stalls and managers. He put in the hay mow. We helped some, but we were doing field work."

When the barn was finished, his father painted across the sides "JW Sinclair, 1937". His father was proud of

the barn which held 11,000 small bales of hay needed for their registered cattle. "He liked to show it to people. We had livestock there until eight years ago. It paid its way. It paid its way big."

By the time J. Willard died in 1973 at the age of 92, St. Clair bulls were being shipped to Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana where they were sold at auctions. They calved out 95 head in one year.

"The barn held," he said. "It was warm in the winter because across the road was a good windbreak. Little banty roosters would fly up on top of the barn. There were swallows and pigeons. The cats lived in the barn. We milked the cows by hand, and the cats got part of the fresh milk. Cats went with it."

"We didn't buy dog food and cat food in those days. They didn't even sell cat food like they do now. They ate table scraps and milk. That's how they survived."

The barn was not immune to incidents. "It wasn't all roses. You take the bitter with the sweet and roll in the punches," recalls St. Clair. "We came close to losing the barn. Lightning blew a fuse out of the fuse box and took out the well pump. We had a close call."

"Another time a bad wind storm loosened up some of the rafters. The storm came near to taking the roof. We patched

it back up, but it survived the storm. It was well made and well braced.

"It wasn't a hurry up job. It was built right. My dad figured out the best place to place it. He knew where he wanted things to be. It was braced right to stand the elements. It still has the original shingles. It needs new shingles. It had a good foundation and a good underpinning. There's plenty of foundation underneath. It's standing true."

St. Clair observed that "lots of farmers by the time they had their building fixed up the way they wanted, were too old to use them and to operate and the next guy didn't want them. The barns just fell to pieces."

"Whenever you change methods, you create new problems. When people first built the metal buildings, they thought they would last forever, but they don't. Manure eats them out. Animals breathe in there and they oxidate."

St. Clair still owns the farm. He drives by ("I got stopped twice for driving too slow") once a day to look at the farm, to watch the crops, to check the barn. "That's all I've ever done. Just like when we had livestock. I've watched all the time."

(The St. Clair farm is two miles north of Conrad and one-half mile east.)

IOWA BARNs and the Law

Dr. Neil Earl, Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture, and Director, Center for International Agriculture Finance, Iowa State University, is a lawyer and the Iowa Barn Foundation founding board member who wrote the organization's articles and by-laws. Here he clarifies two laws regarding barns.

Normal and Necessary Repairs

For years, Iowa law has specified that any "normal and necessary" repairs to a building (of \$2500 or less per building per year) do not increase the taxable value of the building for property tax purposes. The statute cautions that this provision does not apply to structural replacements or modifications. (Iowa Code § 441.21 (9)(a) (1997).

Historic Property

The Iowa Code contains a provision for the designation of real property by the board of supervisors in a county as historic property for purposes of an "historic property tax exemption." Application is to be filed with the county assessor not later than March 1 of the assessment year on forms provided by the Department of Revenue and Finance.

An exemption may be approved for a period of not more than four years.

For purposes of this provision, "historic property" is defined as-(1)property in Iowa listed on the national register of historic places; (2) an historic site as defined in the Iowa Code;(3)property located in an area of historical significance as defined in the Iowa Code;(4)property located in an area designated as an area of historic significance as defined in the Iowa Code; or(5)property designated as an historic building or site as approved by a county or municipal landmark ordinance. Iowa Code § 427.16 (1997).

Cupola or is it Cupalo?

By Paul Walther



In Iowa we generally refer to the structures extending above on the top of barns as cupalos. The dictionary does not list such a word. The word is cupola, it says. In literature, however, Edith Wharton writing in *Ethan Frome*, spelled the word as we pronounce it, cupalo. And, so the battle continues.

Wooden barn cupalos have a special fascination for me. As a boy my brothers and I would "walk" the hay rope in the ridge of my grandfather's barn, inching our way to the center of the barn—30 feet above the floor—to climb into the cupalo to catch pigeons. The cupalo was large enough for half a dozen adults to fit into it comfortably. Most cupalos are larger than a dog house and more the size of a three-hole outdoor toilet. Many are so large that painters need ladders set on the roof to do their job.

Wooden barn cupalos were art forms. Each carpenter had his own distinctive design, some very plain and some rather elaborate. Barns in some areas possess the trademark, so to speak, of the builder of the cupalos. Of course, some designs were copied by others.

My favorite barn with three very ornate cupalos is the Fieldses' stone barn just west of the University of Northern Iowa campus on Route 58. It is one of the most photographed barns in Iowa and has been featured in a series of advertisements for John Deere tractors.

Cupalos have a very useful purpose. The water vapor given off by the livestock on the ground floor goes up through the hay and straw in the loft and will condense under the roof if it isn't vented out some way. The chimney-like structure of the cupalo helps draw the moist air up and out.

Take note of the cupalos on the barns that you pass as you drive along our roads. The more you see, the more you will want to learn about them. But, do it now, for many barns are destroyed every year.

Paul Walther is retired and lives in Audubon.

Elgin Barn Tour in Fall

Barn Tour sponsored by the Elgin Historical Society and Elgin Promotion Committee will have its annual tour at 10 a.m. September 5, 1998 starting at the Elgin City Park.

Beverly and Peggy Strong and Ruth Jacob of the picturesque northeast Iowa town create the unique tour of barns of the area. School bus drivers provide the transportation to, at least, eight barns. At each barn the owner tells the barn's history. Participants get a brochure with a short history and picture of each barn.

Barn Tour is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of the beauty of Iowa barns. For information call Beverly Strong at 319 426 5621 or Peggy Strong at 319 426 5725. There is a modest fee.

The Elgin Historical Society keeps two notebooks of area barns and their history at their headquarters in Elgin.

AROUND OUR COUNTRYSIDE

Antique Barns

There are wondrous one-of-a-kind barns 100 years old and older hidden around Iowa's verdant countryside.

The original wing of Steven Kreig's L-shaped barn near Cresco was framed with logs. The ends of the logs were notched. Even the floor joists in the old part of the barn are logs.

One portion of the barn is three stories high with a hay mow on top. Working horse stalls are on the middle floor, and on the lower level is a milking parlor with old wooden milking stalls. "It was built in 1880, making it one of the oldest barns still standing in northeast Iowa," said Krieg.

The barn's silo was built around the turn-of-the-century out of cinder blocks. The top has been built with bricks into the shape of an igloo, which gives the barn further distinction.

One wing of the barn needs repair. (To see this barn go north six miles from

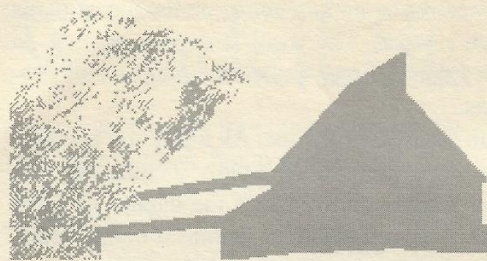
Ridgeway on County Road W 14. Then go a quarter of a mile west on 310th Street which is gravel.)

.....

Lake City farmer, William Bruggeman, treasures his early barn which has heavy timbers with the stamp of a Clinton sawmill on them. Every joint from the ground up is mortise-pegged.

"It was my grandfather's farm," said Bruggeman. "The buildings were deteriorated, and I bought the farm and fixed the barn up. I'm 66, and I remember it as a kid. That's why I liked it." His voice trails off momentarily. "I like barns," he admits proudly.

The barn needs a new roof. (To see barn, go five miles north of Carroll on US 71. At the Lidderdale turn-off, go three miles east, then 1.5 miles north.)



About Ou

(There are many unique barns. This column gives barn "news". We look forward to hearing other news of barns, their history, and the folks behind them to include in future newsletters.)

Margaret and Charles Blair have a T-shaped brick hog house on their Madison County farm. The arms of the T are cribs for ear corn with an entryway in the middle. Above the corn cribs are granaries that held oats which were fed to hogs. It was built in 1927 by W.A. Thomas. There were no farrowing stalls, but the Blairs have put in thirteen. (The Blair farm is two miles straight south of Macksburg on gravel.)

A southern Iowa landmark is the large U-shaped Baughman Barn located three miles east of Bloomfield on Highway 2. The barn was built by H.H. Trimble to house his Aberdeen angus herd. The exact date of construction is unknown although shiplap flooring in the hay loft indicates 1910-20. The Kansas City branch of the C.B. & Q Railroad ran in front of the barn where Highway 2 is today. The barn measures 108 feet on each side and 128 feet across the back. It is 30 feet wide throughout and has 186 squares of shingles on the roof. The clear span hay loft held 500 tons of loose hay.

The barn has been owned by the Baughman family since 1944. In 1997 some 187 cows were calved in the barns.

Gary and Elaine Terpstra of New Sharon have a barn which was delivered by train to Lacey in 1920. The owner purchased it for \$950. It was erected on a farmstead four miles from Lacey. (From New Sharon go south on Highway 63. Take the Lacey / What Cheer blacktop to Niland. At Niland go one half mile to Oxford. Go south on Oxford two miles.)

Ed Praska, 83, of Cresco was born on the farm where he has lived his life raising cattle, hogs, chickens, corn, oats, and hay. On the farm are two barns, windmill with pumphouse, granary, machine shed, hog house, garage, turn-of-the-century house and outhouse which were built by Praska's father, Joseph, in the early 1900's.

Notes Darlene, Praska's daughter, "That's the way Dad was brought up, and that's the way he liked to live. He wasn't used to conveniences, and he didn't miss them. What you don't have, you don't miss."

The Praskas recently sold the wooded farm to George Clynych of Cresco, as they are moving into town. "It'll be sad, but we're looking forward to moving to town," says Darlene.

Clynych has great respect for the historic farm. He invites people to drive by and enjoy the "period farm." (It is at 18698 Saint Avenue, Cresco. From Cresco go south on 58 to A 46 until you reach Saint Avenue. Turn south on Saint until reaching the farm which is a third mile. It's on the east side of the road.)

Recently Martha Mann, 84, of Gettysburg, South Dakota, visited Terry and Peggy Lockner of Chariton to tell them the history of their beautiful old red barn with a walk-in storage space underneath it.

Armed with a three-ring binder full of photos and lumber receipts, Martha told the Lockners she was born in the house that's on the farm. The barn was built by her grandfather, Cyrus Douglas Scott, in 1868. The family of Cyrus' wife, Eliza Jane Wilson, had the farm originally. Martha was four in 1917 when her family moved to South Dakota "because there wasn't enough farm land for Dad." (The Lockner farm is located on the Mormon Trail Trace next to Red Haw State Park two miles east of Chariton.)

The Taylor County Historical Society Round Barn Project is focused on a barn constructed south of Lenox in 1899 by J.E. Cameron. One of the unique features of the barn is the circular track hanging from the hay mow floor supporting a Loudon Litter Bucket. The scoop-shaped bucket runs behind the horse mangers and is used for the disposal of animal waste. The barn is 50 feet high, 64 feet in diameter and 220 feet in circumference.

The large red barn with "Smith 1917" written on the sides is a landmark and a center for holidays on the farm of Jack and Maria Smith in Bankston, Iowa. Every Christmas the barn is decorated with

Our Barns

wreaths in the windows. "This year we added a lighted star with a tree on one side," Maria notes. "We had a crib scene set up inside."

Jack's grandfather, Joseph Smith, had a sawmill on the farm and cut lumber for the barn from the farm's timber. The lumber was then hand-hewn by Mr. Brehm, a carpenter, before workers arrived to build the barn. Story has it workers camped on the farm during the week and walked to Sherrill on weekends.

Fourth of July the barn is the scene of a family celebration. It's also a neighborhood gathering place. And, the Smiths still use the barn for agriculture. There is hay in the upper level; they calve in the lower level. (To reach the Smith farm, take Asbury Road eight miles west of Dubuque.)



Mary Jordan is so well-known for her programs on barns that she once received a letter simply addressed to "The Barn Lady, Newton, Iowa."

She has given over 200 slide programs on the beauty of old barns to groups in central Iowa for over 25 years. "I have redone it several times, but the emphasis on the vanishing family barn continues," she says.

Mary can be contacted at 515 792 4884.



Mabel Hudson of West Des Moines has copies of a list of barns, cattle sheds, corncribs, and churches which her grandfather, John Adam Schaal, constructed in the Polk City area during the

late 1800's. Many are still standing including the Polk City Hall which he built as a schoolhouse.

Mr. Schaal, who started his barn-building career in Pennsylvania, wrote that in Iowa he built 56 houses, 44 barns, five school houses, five churches and 10 other structures.



Richard and Judy Nelson of Hoofprint Hill Farm near Cedar Falls suggested that the Iowa Barn Foundation find a way to procure old lumber that is removed from barns that are already lying on the ground. (This does not mean to tear down a barn!) "It is very difficult to restore a barn like ours when lumber is dimensioned differently today than when it was when these old barns were built," says Nelson.

In an effort to launch this project, Nelson has offered to be a barn wood "intercessor." If you know of any barn wood sadly lying on the ground that you would donate toward barn restoration, call Nelson. Or, if you need old barn wood to repair your barn, call him. His phone is 319 236 7756.

The Nelsons' barn, which was built in 1925, was once featured on the cover of "Dairy Illustrated" advertising an article, "Barns Can Be Beautiful." The Nelsons invite people to drive by their barn which is four miles north of the Waterloo Airport on Wagner Road. Call first if you want a tour.



The granddaughter of the late Carl Rosenfeld of Kelley, Beth Rosenfeld

Young of Denver, has rehabilitated the large, unique barn that housed her grandfather's nationally-known purebred herd of Angus cattle. The barn is 98 x 66 feet and has 27 small four-paned windows that line three sides of the barn to give light and ventilation in the livestock areas. Two metal cupelos adorn the top. The interior floor plan has a large center area for hay and straw or wagons. The U-shaped area around this has a feed trough and angled slats to drop hay into from the floor above.



Richard Iehl of Albert City didn't have time for his woodworking hobby when he was farming. Since retirement seven years ago, he has been making models of barns and other buildings in the Albert City area. The first building he made was the hip roof barn on the Nemaha farm he knew growing up. He recreated a round barn near Manson which had 2500 shingles on it! He tries to make the barns 1/35th scale. "I try to make it as much like original as possible but smaller scale," he says.



Joan Jackson has a 150-year-old barn with a ramp going up to the second story and decorative shutters. The foundation has layered stone. (From Mt. Ayr go west on Highway 2 to County Road P 27. Turn south on P 27 to the first cross roads and go left on J 43.)

Meeting Emily Roberts

by Kay Huston

I headed out on a beautiful sunny December day to shoot pictures of barns located in Johnson County in southeast Iowa. As I turned off Highway 218 into the country, I spied a wonderful barn, a hand-hewn peg barn, on the Hall farm. I just kept traveling along from one barn to the next, clicking the camera and talking to people with historic knowledge of barns.

After following the country road from one barn to the next, I hopped onto the farm of Emily and Wayne Roberts, home to an 1883 octagonal barn. After presenting myself as a photographer associated with the Iowa Barn Foundation, Emily Roberts invited me into her home. Not only had I discovered a great barn, but also a

barn enthusiast. Emily was a wealth of information on barns and the surrounding Johnson County area.

She presented me with articles, clippings, copies of photographs, and all the knowledge of years of being a barn enthusiast. What a treasure! I, of course, wanted to fill my files with all of her information compiled over the years. But, we were in the middle of the country (I was not sure of the location) and without a copy machine.

Emily was brave enough to turn me loose with a large bag of articles while I headed for my husband's office and copy machine. She also had to mark a county map so I could return all the precious in-

formation with which she had entrusted me.

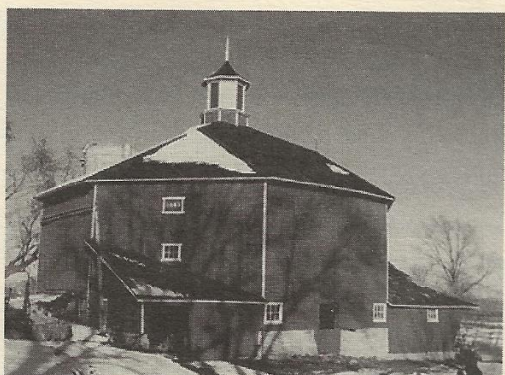
Emily has lived on the 240-acre farmstead for nearly 40 years. The octagonal barn on the Roberts farm was built in 1883 and has been owned by the family for four generations. In 1966 the barn was named to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1976 the Roberts farm was designated an Iowa Century Farm.

From our conversation I could tell that Emily was well-versed on barns and their history. I look forward to becoming better acquainted with Emily and Wayne Roberts. The new year will hopefully bring Emily into the fold of the Iowa Barn Foundation.

Thank you, Emily, for sharing information on your family home and wonderful octagonal barn.

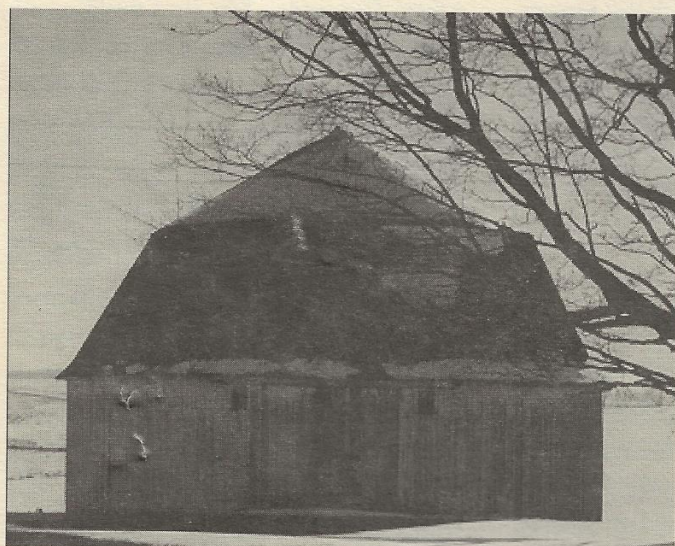
Kay Huston grew up on a farm and now lives in Columbus Junction.

(The Roberts barn is at 4716 Kansas Avenue, Iowa City)



Roberts barn near Iowa City.

Photo by Kay Huston



Beautiful Johnson County round barn.

Photo by Kay Huston



Round barn near Cantril was built on the Wickfield farm which was known as the largest Hampshire farm in the world. Some 1500 hogs were fed in the basement complex which was equipped with dining room and kitchen. The loft had eight bedrooms.

Photo by Kay Huston

4-H Leader Hands Down Barn Appreciation

The barn Roger Ramthun knew as a child growing up in Calhoun County is gone. But, memories of that barn remain so poignant that he is passing on his love of barns to his 4-H Club.

The 24 members—from town and country—of the West St. Charles Feeders 4-H Club are doing a survey of rural buildings in the Charles City area. They are looking for rural buildings that “might be suitable for recognition,” points out Ramthun. “We hope each person will have five buildings to suggest for us to look at. They’re checking into their family to find out about the barns that were built and who built them. They’re learning their history, their heritage, and they’re getting their parents involved.” (The club also has membership in the Iowa Barn Foundation.)

Ramthun works long hours teaching English at Charles City High School. But, the 4-H Club is a way for him to pass on what he learned in 4-H activities growing up and to stay in touch with his rural roots. “4-H keeps me rural even though I live in town,” he says. “I also hope to do something about barns in my classes as a writing project.”

It was a big red barn that Ramthun knew growing up on a farm his family had homesteaded. “The barn was made by hand,” he recalls. “My grandfather talked about it all the time—how he and neighbors got together and cut the wood by hand and made dowels. There were very few nails in it.

“Half was made for draft or work horses. The other half was for machinery. There was a huge hayloft with three holes in the floor to let the hay down into the mangers and alleys so livestock could be fed. We’d enjoy jumping through them into the hay.

“Five or six years we put up hay loose like they did in old days so we could experience what they did rather than putting it in bales. The hay was better. It didn’t knock off all the leaves. It was twice the work. We did it five years until we got out of the livestock business in the early sixties.”

Ramthun’s farm experiences ended when his father died of cancer at 48. His

father’s parents owned the farm. “The estate was settled, and the new owners leveled all the buildings. Everytime I go home I drive by. I try not to think about it.”

He remembers when the barn was once struck by lightning. “We got out with the garden hose and buckets and kept it down until the fire trucks got here. Again, the neighbors all came in.

“We could stand in the hayloft, look out, and see to the north the country church which my family founded. We could look to the east and see three farms owned by my great grandfather’s buddies who helped build the barn. Looking south we could see the grain elevator my father managed. To the west we saw Rockwell City.”

Ramthun, his wife, Susan, and their son, Matthew, a senior at Charles City High, still enjoy an old Allis Chalmers B tractor which his grandfather purchased in 1948. “He pulled the plow and cultivator, and planted. Then my dad used it on the farm for pulling loads of corn and little things. My first memory was grinding corn for 4-H calves. When we lost the farm, we kept the tractor. My son pulls the 4-H float in parades with it. We took it to the Iowa State Fair one year and showed it.”

Continued from page 1 7000 Barn Photos

Ken also finds time to give slide talks about barns and their history. Often he shows the barns before, during, after. He has one series of photos showing a barn standing, the barn being torn down, and a stark level piece of ground. Why does he take the time to give these talks? “It is an addiction,” he says. Some chew, some drink, some go out with girls, and I take pictures of barns.”

Two of his favorite barns are the Roberts’ barn south of Iowa City and the Fields brothers’ barn two miles southwest of Cedar Falls on D 18.

There’s a third, too. It’s the barn where he listened to swallows rustle on the family farm near Denison. The barn is not in the family anymore, but it’s still standing. (see drawing)

Ken recalls a day in 1967 when he and his cousin cleaned the entire haymow to have a place for an after-prom party in case they were rained out of the pasture. “My cousin and I were black from head to toe by the time we were done. Since the barn was built, it was never that clean. It did not rain prom night.” (From Vail go west on Highway 30 two miles, then south on gravel two miles.)

(To contact Ken call 515 847 3018. There is a nominal fee for his barn lectures.)

Walnut Barn in Carroll County

Lawrence Schmidt of Carroll sent the photograph of this historic barn located between Glidden and Lanesboro and owned by Beula Kirk. Timbers in the barn are walnut. Beula, whose father bought the farm in 1932, says the barn was raised the day Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

“Let’s save this historic barn,” says Schmidt.

Schmidt, a retired Carroll County farmer, is working on Carroll County Cattle Book, which will tell about the lives of cattlemen in that county. In the book will be many stories about barns in the area.

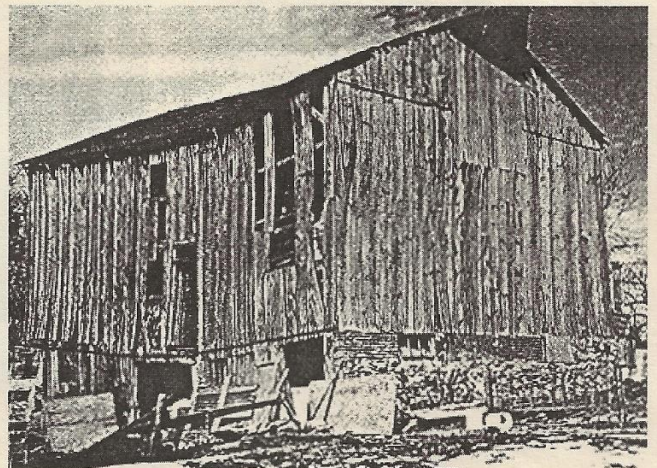




Photo by Tony Finch

Stone Majesty

Built stone by stone
 by craftsmen of architecture
 Through toil and sweat with respect and love
 given with pride for the future
 Hopes and dreams
 were entrusted here

With grandeur and style
 this pile solidly reigned
 From its amazing vista
 it has viewed much life
 Farming and families
 success and failure

As beams fall and rafters cave
 the soul of this structure withers
 Its head bent in humility
 and silent falling tears
 Times less prosperous
 stewards less caring

Let majesty fall to ruin

Poem by barn lover Kris Wenninghoff-Finch of Boone

Barn Foundation Picnic & Open Meeting Sept. 27

A picnic, barn repair workshop, and open meeting of the Iowa Barn Foundation will be held on Sunday, September 27, at the farm of Mel and Marilyn Sampson of Eagle Grove.

The picnic will start at noon followed by workshop and open meeting. Those attending will have the opportunity to see the newly restored Sampson barn, as well as the "before" photographs when it was a ruin. For more about the Sampson barn see story on page 3. Everyone is encouraged to bring photographs, stories, and memories of barns.

The cost of the picnic and afternoon will be nominal. For reservations and information, please call Ann Harvey, 515-292-9104.

The Iowa Barn Foundation held a picnic/open meeting last September at the Garst Resort, Coon Rapids. This spring a picnic/open meeting was held at the Round Barn Site being preserved by The International Center for Rural Culture and Art, Inc., Allerton. Some 100 folks from as far away as Lawrence, Kansas, enjoyed the afternoon.

The meeting was held in Spring Branch Seceder Associate Presbyterian Church which was built in 1868 and brought to the site. Sadly lightning struck two weeks later, and it burned.

Oldest Barn?

How old is your barn? How old is your neighbor's barn?

The Iowa Barn Foundation is trying to locate the oldest barns in each county--the oldest barns in the state.

We know the one raised a few hours after President Lincoln was assassinated. Do you know of older barns? (see page 9)

Please send the information to: Iowa Barn Foundation c/o 2002 Cessna, Ames, Iowa 50014

IOWA BARN FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

\$5,000 and above

Land O Lakes, Minneapolis
Linda and Ken Lay Family, Houston
Jacqueline Andre and Richard Schmeal, Houston

\$1000 to \$5000

Anderson Erickson Dairy Company, Des Moines
Mr. and Mrs. James Balloun, Atlanta
David H. and Tammy Jo Dewhurst, Houston
Swiss Valley Farms Company, Davenport
Judy Winkel, Irving Texas

\$500 to \$1000

Paul and Georgia Crockett, Minneapolis
Hertz Farm Management, Inc., Nevada
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Schiffer, New York City
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Zurborg, Davenport
Mrs. Kathryn Hach-Darrow, Mukilteo, Washington

\$100 to \$500

Richard G. Andre, Alexandria, Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Backsen, Houston
Eugene Conley, Omaha
William Cunningham, Santa Fe
Gertrude Dieken, New Town, Pennsylvania
Stephen Fox, Houston
Don and Connie Geiger, West Des Moines
Neil and Darlene Harl, Ames
Houston Seminar, Houston
Richard Kinder, Houston
Loren Kruse, Ankeny
Joyce Lund Mears, Leclaire
Joe and Norma Lyon, Toledo, Iowa
Wayne Norman, Dubuque
Neva Petersen, Rochester, Minnesota
Leanna Reidy, Houston
Jerry and Helen Smith, Burlington
Judith Ann Sutcliffe, Audubon
Gary & Pam Wolfe, Elk Horn

\$25-\$100

Mary Agnew, Williamsburg
Martha Angier, Des Moines
Regina and Dean Artley, Hampton, Iowa
Robert J. Becker, Plainfield, Iowa
Jeanne Beatty, Mason City
Barbara J. and Duane Beichley, Gladbrook, Iowa
David and Norma Bappe, Decorah
Arthur L. and Cynthia J. Barton, Ames
Donna and Larry Beals, Collins
Tom and Gerie Benson, Eden Prairie, Minnesota
Julie Berglund, Boone
George and Margie Braaksma, Sibley
Andrew J. and Diane Bracken, Des Moines
Pauline Book, Ames
Eldon Boswell, Nevada, Iowa
Herbert W. Bruhn, Manning
Dan and Nancy Brutsche, Coon Rapids
Clinton County Historical Preserve, Delmar
Don and Judy Combs, Bloomfield
Mr. and Mrs. David Delafield, Cedar Falls
Andrea Corcoran, Denver, Colorado
Jana and Gary Crozier, Harvey
Katherine Curry, Ames

Bob and Gwen Dahlberg, Des Moines
Audrey Dankbar, Ames
Marianna and David Delafield, Cedar Falls
E. Sue Denger, Wichita, Kansas
Michael Doering, Hubbard
Teresa F. and James F. Durbin, Emerson
Jane Eagleton Weakley, Chesterfield, Missouri
Carole Ann Eldeen, Iowa City
Lynn and Heather Faeth, Fort Madison
Glenna Finney, Earlham
Bob and Sharon Galloway, Keosauqua
Stephen Garst, Coon Rapids
Thurman and Gerry Gaskill, Corwith
Kathy Gourley, Johnston
John and Lorna Grow, Dallas Center
Robert and Ann Harvey, Ames
Mary Hays, Des Moines
Dr. and Mrs. George Hegstrom, Ames
Hilda Jorgensen, Guthrie Center
Edna E. Heitmann, Keystone
Jo Ella Robinson Helmers, Spartanburg, South Carolina
Daniel Hisel, Ames
Dan and Jean Houston, Madrid, Iowa
Thomas and Kay Huston, Columbus Junction
Charlene Iverson, Vail, Iowa
Walter and Mary Kaiser, Centerville, Ohio
Gene Krumm, Wellsville, New York
Carol Leech, Des Moines
Lois Loveless, Urbandale
Linda Luksan and David Munn, Pella
Gene & Naomi Maahs, Adel
R. Jay Nash, Camanche
Bob Neymeyer, Parkersburg, Iowa
Michael C. Noble, Seymour, Iowa
Dorothy McGinnis, Iowa City
David and Darlene McQuoid, Keosauqua
Judy K. and Dale W. Mills, Nora Springs
Alice Murray, Ames
Wayne and Margaret Northey, Spirit Lake
Jo Patterson, Washington, Iowa
Pella Rolscreen Foundation
Annette Pennell, Berkeley, California
Herb Plambeck, Des Moines
Roger Ramthun, Charles City
Ray Raymond, Winterset
Susie and Roger Riley, Ames
Gary and Lin Redding, Maquoketa
Larry and Mary Richards, Ankeny
Jennifer Roberts, Ames
Mel Sampson, Eagle Grove
Lawrence and Florence Schmitz, Carroll
Dennis Schrodt, Prole
Helen Settle, Marshalltown
Esther and Bob Shaffer, Mount Pleasant, Iowa
Bertha Shaw, Eagle Grove, Iowa
William L. and Faith Sherman, Des Moines
Kent and Beth Sisson, Gilbert
John and Priscilla Still, Seranton
Helen D. Starek, Denison
Bill Stone, Marshalltown
Paul W. Stone, Nevada
Darrell and Shirley Sunderman, Carroll
Mac D. Thornes, Gilman
E. C. and Arlene Trautman, Marshalltown

Diana Van Langingham, New Hampton
Paul Walther, Audubon
Robert Walker, Marengo
Charles and Eleanor Ward, Marshalltown
Daryl G. Watson, Director, Galena Historical Society, Galena, IL
West St. Charles Feeders 4-H Club
Esther Wicks, Story City, Iowa
Dan and Melody Witt, Delmar
Beth L. Young, Denver, Colorado
Linda S. Zintz, Centerville, Iowa
Amy Zurborg, Chicago

Special thanks:

Dan Engler, president, Community Bank, Nevada
Roy Reiman, CEO Reiman Publications
Ann Harvey, Ames
Arlene Faeth

NEXT NEWSLETTER

We welcome your input for the newsletter. We would like to know about unique barns around the state—barns that are architecturally interesting, barns with history.

We'd like to know about people with special interests in barns.

We want to know your barn stories and barn news from around the state.

In the next newsletter we would like to list people who repair or restore barns. Please let us know if you have expertise in repairing barns.

Please send your information to:

**The Iowa Barn Foundation Newsletter
c/o 2002 Cessna
Ames, Iowa 50014**

We hope that you have joined the Iowa Barn Foundation so that we can continue sending you the newsletter.

Your contributions to the Iowa Barn Foundation could mean that a barn will be standing that otherwise might not.

Please tell your friends about the Iowa Barn Foundation, and ask them to join.

If you haven't joined the Iowa Barn Foundation, we welcome your support in making Iowa an outdoor museum.

—\$10,000 —\$5000 —\$2500 —\$1000 —\$500 —\$100 —\$25 Other—

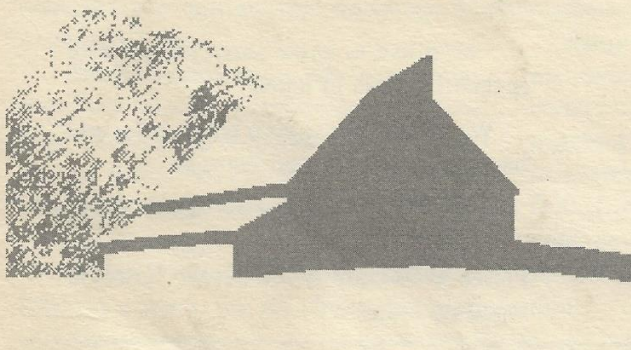
You can also help the Iowa Barn Foundation by becoming a county representative, volunteering, or donating special skills in writing, materials, equipment.

Name _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

If you would like more information, please let us know by calling Jackie Schmeal at 713 527 9474
or e-mail: 102550.1237@Compuserve.com

Please make checks payable to Iowa Barn Foundation and send:
c/o Community Bank, Box 436, Nevada Iowa 50201



*"I've heard it said we're losing
1,000 barns per year in Iowa - that's 10 per county,
and I think the figure is more than that
just looking around."*

-Ken Starek, Ackley

c/o Community Bank
Box 436
Nevada, Iowa 50201

IOWA BARN
FOUNDATION