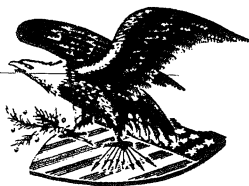


# BIG CENTENNIAL



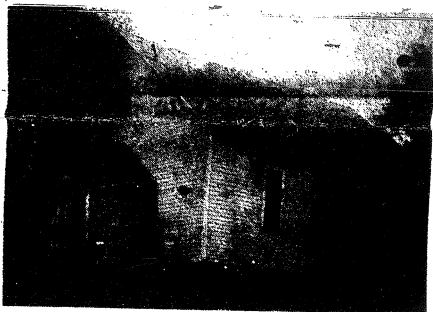
1776-1976

"Rememberances of Days Gone By"

## History of The Evangelical Free Church

Three of the oldest Swedish settlements in Iowa were New Sweden in Jefferson, Swede Bend, now known as Stratford, in Hamilton County, and Swede Point, now known as Madrid. It is a well established fact that Madrid is the second oldest Swedish settlement in the State, dating back to 1846. The Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America originated in Swede Bend and date back to 1885 while the Evangelical Free Church of America was officially organized in Boone, one year earlier in 1884. The Boone church is considered the mother church of the denomination as Christian work began in Madrid about the year 1870, and is considered one of the oldest churches in the United States in that denomination today.

It was not until 1873 however, that regular church worship was inaugurated under the leadership of Rev. John N. Peterson. The S. G. Bengston and Jonas Johnson families came from Sweden to Madrid in 1870 and they were the principal founders of the local church. Rev. Erick Hedlund was the first resident pastor beginning in 1875.



This is the original building that housed the Evangelical Free Church from 1882-1911. Before this building was constructed, church services were held in the homes. Early services were spoken in Swedish and the congregation was divided with men and women sitting apart.

Services in the early days were first held in the homes and later the members gathered in a school house which stood approximately where the present fire station is located.

It wasn't until 1882 that the first church building was erected, and this was replaced in 1911 by the present building.

The church building was dedicated on Nov. 5, 1911 with Rev. C. M. Anderson, former pastor delivering the opening message. Rev. J. R. Hedstrom of Boone offered the dedicatory address using for the subject, "An Active Church Seeking to Win Souls for God's Kingdom."

The Swedish language was the primary language during the early years of the church and for many years the congregation was divided with the men on one side and ladies on the other.

Little can be learned as to the beginning of the Sunday School, but it is thought to have begun around the same time as the preaching services. Sven Svensen was believed to be the first superintendent. He was a shoe cobbler who took an active part in promoting the Sunday School work.

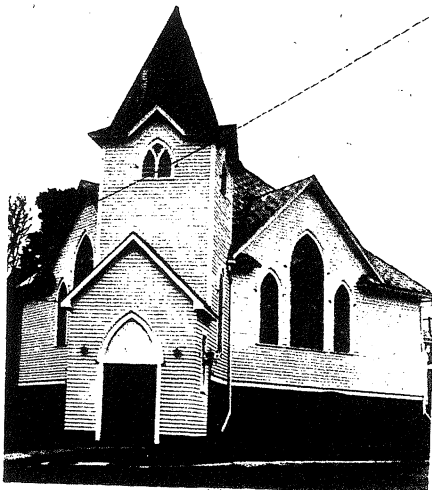
For a twenty year period before the turn of the century, preaching and Sunday School was conducted at the Garden Center School house, located two miles North and three and one-half east of Madrid.

The present Sunday School officers are Superintendent Lamar E. Lovik, Asst. Supt. Phil Morris; secretary Marvin Thompson and treasurer Edna Wikstrom.

A great exodus was suffered by the church in the early 1920's when some 40 people left the community and moved to Minnesota to live. Nevertheless, the church continued to function.

Two men and one woman have gone from the church into further Christian service. Oscar A. Johnson left to begin ministry in California and Lester Johnson went out as a missionary to South Africa under the Zulu Sasutana Mission in 1935. He served in this capacity for 32 years until his death in 1967. Vera Ewoldt is yet another missionary from the Free Church. She was stationed in the Philippines in 1969 and after a brief stay home around 1973, returned to the islands to preach the gospel.

The church interior was redecorated in 1938 for the first time since the erection of the building and the platform was enlarged in 1944. The front entrance of the church was enclosed in 1960 and seven years later, the basement was completely remodeled under the guidance of the late Edward H. Johnson.



This shows the church building as it looks today. This structure was built in 1911 and has undergone renovation and redecoration in recent years. The Evangelical Free Church celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1973.

A new parsonage was built in 1963 during the ministry of Rev. Victor Scalise and dedication came about in the spring of 1964.

A look to the future began in 1968 when board members began to talk of the Madrid community growing because of the Saylorville Dam project and the possibility of increasing the church size to meet the expected growth. Therefore, on October 29, 1969, a down payment was made on 20 acres of land across Highway 17 from the new high school for the building of the new church. The land was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kenison, but according to Pastor A. D. Kurtz, an alternate site has been proposed for the new church location.

### Church Organizations

The Women's Missionary Society was organized in 1940 with the initial meeting held in January of that year at the home of Mrs. C. E. Nordine. The motto of the group is "Always abounding in the work of the Lord" and the ladies center their activities around this saying.

The first Aid was assembled in 1892 and was called

Syfarening (Sewing Society). The ladies continued to meet in the homes and sew articles which were sold once a year at a church auction. This group continued until 1910 and from the money raised, purchased a piano which is still used today.

There are two programs in the local Free Church at the present time, the Women's Missionary Society and White Cross. The White Cross replaced the Ladies Aid program and articles sewed in this group are given to missionaries at home and abroad. A volunteer program was recently begun at the Free Church Home in Boone.

The Young People's Society was organized in 1903, when the church was still known as the Swedish Mission Church. Oscar Anderson was the first president. When the present church building was erected in 1911, the Society presented the church with a large stained glass window.

In 1941, the national organization came into being and was known as the F.C.Y.F. and soon the local group adopted this name. The F.C.Y.F. started the fund-for-the-electric-organ-with-the-purchase-of-a-government bond and they have been active in many projects throughout the years.

## History of Meadow Grove Church

The following information was taken from a 1937 Register-News in an article written by C. L. Lucas on the history of the Meadow Grove Church.

The first part of the following article deals with a reunion held on Sunday, June 3, 1909 at the tiny church located in what used to be the Belle Point Settlement area north of Madrid.

The reunion of the Meadow Grove Church Sunday, June 3, 1909 was well attended and the occasion was a pleasant one.

The Sunday school services were held at 10 o'clock and this was followed by a short and impressive sermon by Rev. A. D. Veatch of the Bible college at Drake University. He is also present pastor of the Meadow Grove church. Jackson Hull read the records of the organization of the church which occurred in 1880 and records show that there were 27 charter members. Only four of them were present at this reunion. They were Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Hull and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Lucas. Mr. Hull also gave some very interesting incidents that occurred since the church was organized. Present membership of the church was 75 at that time.

"The church was not exactly an original organization, but rather it was an outgrowth of another organization. Prior to 1869, there was not a believer in the doctrines of the Disciples church in all of the country about here. We had heard of the Disciples as being a person that believed that water baptism alone could save them. So far as I can remember, we were all impressed with this belief, that this statement was true, though none of us knew that it was true."

Early in the year of 1871, Rev. Womack came to this area from the state of Indiana looking after some land which he owned. Soon after his arrival, he stopped at the home of Elza Thompson, first Campbellite citizen of the church. He was persuaded to preach a series of sermons before returning to Indiana. Very few people in the area had ever heard a sermon preached by a minister of this denomination, so many people attended his lectures out of curiosity.

The settlers found his preaching style very different. His sermons had a good influence on the people and those attending went away with the feeling that his teachings were correct.

The year following, a tiny church was organized by Rev. Elijah Pierce at the Maple Valley school house which was then called the Maple Valley church. He preached for the next three years before Rev. G. L. Brokan came and continued preaching until 1876. In that year, Rev. Erving Wright took over the pulpit and remained for the following 12 years. In March of that year it was decided to disband the church at Maple Valley and organize one at Belle Point. Wright left the Meadow Grove area in 1888 and up till its closing, no one preacher remained at the church for a long period of time. Most of the following ministers came from Drake University with J. H. Van Kirk, R. A. Thompson, R. H. Ingram, W. L. Stahl, W. West and Clark Bower all manning the pulpit in the tiny church in upcoming years.

The church building was erected in 1896 during the ministry of Bower. It was dedicated on November 15 of the same year and the dedication sermon was preached by A. M. Haggard, one time dean of the Drake University Bible College.

## Corps Will Fill Wells and Cisterns at Saylorville

A total of 47 abandoned wells and cisterns on government-owned land at the Saylorville Lake project will be completely filled by two construction firms hired by the Rock Island District of the Corps of Engineers.

Twenty-seven of the wells and cisterns to be filled are in Boone County. Nine wells and cisterns are in Polk County and eleven are in Dallas County.

Charlson Excavating Inc. of Red Wing, Minn. received a contract from the Corps of Engineers Tuesday, Oct. 28 to fill 27 wells and cisterns in Boone County. The Minnesota firm will fill the 27 wells for \$7,476.61.

The 27 wells and cisterns in Boone County are in the following locations:

Six wells are west of the Des Moines River, west of Madrid and north of the new Milwaukee Railroad bridge.

Two wells are east of the Des Moines River and northwest of

Madrid.

One well is west of the Des Moines River, northwest of Madrid and south of Boone.

One well and one cistern to be filled are east of the Des Moines River, south of new Highway 30, west of Boone.

Five wells are east of the Des Moines River, north of new Highway 30, west of Boone.

One well and one cistern are west of the Des Moines River, just south of new Highway 30, west of Boone. Three wells are west of the Des Moines River, north of new Highway 30, west of Boone.

Two wells are west of the Des Moines River, northwest of Boone. Two wells and cisterns to be filled are east of the Des Moines River, east of Fraser, Iowa.

Chips Inc. of Denmark, Iowa, received a contract from the Corps of Engineers Tuesday, October 28 to fill 20 wells and cisterns in Polk and Dallas Counties.

This firm will fill the 20 wells for

\$6,594.

Nine wells and cisterns to be filled are located in Polk County, at the following locations:

One well is east of the Des Moines River, south of Polk City.

One well is west of the Des Moines River, south of Polk City.

One well is west of the Des Moines River, south of the Lewis A. Jester County Park.

Four wells and one cistern are east of the Des Moines River, northwest of Polk City.

One well is east of the Des Moines River, just west of Polk County Road X, east of the Dallas County line and south of Madrid.

Eleven wells and cisterns to be filled are located in Dallas County, at the following locations:

Four wells and one cistern are west of the Des Moines River in Dallas County, south of Madrid.

One well and one cistern are east of the Des Moines River in Dallas County, southwest of Madrid.

Four wells to be filled are west of the Des Moines River in Dallas County, southwest of Madrid, Iowa.

Wells and cisterns larger than 12 inches in diameter will be filled with earth from near the wells. Smaller wells will be filled with a Portland

cement-bentonite grout mixture.

All well caps, casings and curbs will be removed to three feet below the surface of the ground. Twelve inches of topsoil will be placed above each filled well and cistern.

Filling the wells and cisterns is to be completed sixty days after the two firms receive notice to proceed.

## Two Fire Calls Here

The local fire department answered a call last Wednesday about 1 p.m. to a fire in a ditch and a picked cornfield 5 miles north and 3½ miles east of Madrid. The fire was apparently set by an electric fence. The land is farmed by Bob Reynolds.

At 12:50 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, a passing motorist notified the police department of a car on fire one mile west of the city limits on Highway 89. The 1962 Chevrolet was believed to have been owned by Guyen Vonderpool of Granger. Fire Chief Buck Muehlenthaler said the car apparently had been abandoned, the keys taken from the ignition and the

## Boone County Extension Council Elections

Boone County Extension Council is made up of one representative per township who serves a two-year term. Half of the townships hold elections each fall.

This year the elections will be held as follows: Beaver Township—on Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ogdin City Hall; Marcy Township—on Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ogdin City Hall; Pilot Mound Township—Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pilot Mound School; Dodge Township—Nov. 10, at 8:00 p.m. in Friendship Room, Boone State Bank; Garden Township—Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Garden Prairie Church; Harrison Township—Nov. 10 at 8:00 p.m. in Mackey

front seat set afire. Damage was estimated at \$100.

The car fire incident is still under investigation by the local police department and the Boone County Sheriff's office.

Give to Madrid Community Chest!

THE MADRID REGISTER-NEWS

Thursday, November 6, 1975

### CULVER'S FIELD REPRESENTATIVE IN BOONE FRIDAY

Senator John Culver's Iowa Field Representative will be holding public office hours Friday, Nov. 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Supervisor's Room, Second Floor of the Boone County Court House.

Anyone with questions or problems relating to the federal government or a federal agency such as the Social Security Administration or the Veterans Administration is urged to attend.

### Dunshee Among Students to Receive ROTC Awards

Richard Dunshee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dunshee received R.O.T.C. awards.

He was among the sixteen students at Iowa State University and Drake University who were awarded ribbons for academic excellence for the spring quarter.

## School Board to Meet Monday

The Madrid Board of Directors will hold their regular meeting Monday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

The agenda will include several local groups asking to use the gym for basketball during the winter months. A final review of the guarantees and options available from a recreation company before finalizing the purchase of the football bleachers.

Mr. Engler, high school principal, will report to the board on individualized instruction.

The board will go into executive session for the purpose of discussing salary negotiations for 1976-77.