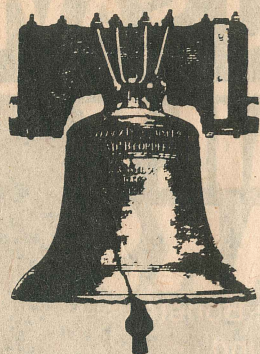
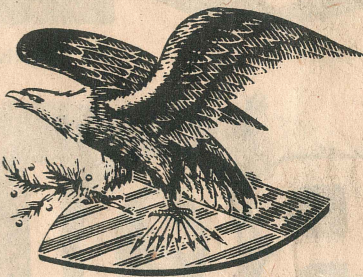


MADRID

AREA



# BICENTENNIAL



1776-1976

"Rememberances of Days Gone By"

## Swedish Mutual Insurance Ass'n Organized 100 Years Ago

"Den 17 Juli 1875 bleve organiserade hvad kaldes Svenska Hjalp Froeningen," which means "The 17th of July was organized what shall be known as the Swedish Help Society." This is the first statement appearing in the minutes of the initial meeting of the board of directors when the Swedish Mutual Insurance Company organized 100 years ago. It was this statement that was all important as the company founded a century ago.

This local insurance company will celebrate its 100th anniversary at a celebration planned for Saturday, July 12. Everyone is invited to take part in the celebration which will be held in the area around the present building. The street will be closed from the insurance office to the bank and then one-half block north to the alley on State Street.

A free lunch will be served from 5-7 p.m. and Woody's Garage, a vocal and instrumental musical

group from Ankeny will provide the entertainment from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Introduction of the staff members, directors, and agents as well as remarks from Mayor William Allen, the Department of Insurance and the Re-insurance company will be given. Paul Harris, former minister of the Sheldahl and Slater Methodist churches will emcee the event.

Prizes will be given away every half hour after 5:30 up to 8:30 when a 16" Zenith portable color television will be given away.

### 100 Years of Service

The company organized in July of 1875 with Carl Anderson the first president of the new organization. Anders Anderson and John Anderson were secretary and treasurer but this group didn't remain of- ficeholders for an extended period of time. A few years after, A. J. Davis was the new president and John Anderson became secretary, a post he held for many, many years. Following them into office were Carl Anderson and Charles Anderson as president and secretary respectively. Many of the first board of directors were related to the founding group, and a living descendant of John Anderson, first treasurer of the insurance company, Mrs. Selma Olson is still living in Madrid today.

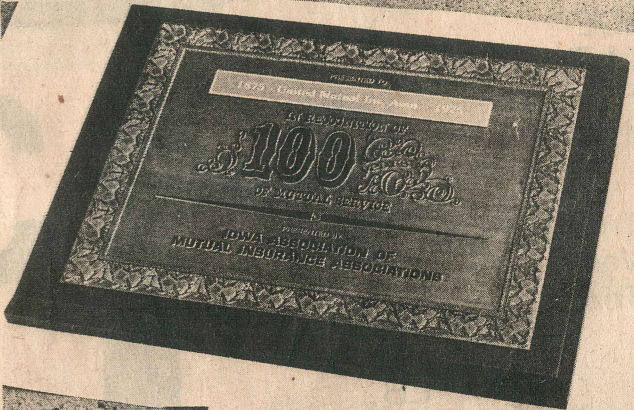
This company was incorporated in 1884 and shortly after became known as the Swedish Mutual Insurance company instead of the Swedish Help Association.

To be a policy holder in the early years of the company, you had to be a Swede and be able to read and write Swedish. Today, this stipulation no longer applies.

Loss claims were small in this early years of the organization as in the years from 1909 - 1911, the total losses claimed totaled \$2,127.55. In 1974 alone, total claims amounted to \$750,000.

This particular insurance company was founded as a mutual aid association where in time of loss or need, a Swede could count on his fellow countrymen to give assistance. Today, there are more than 1000,000,000 in force.

The company merged with the Story-Fieldberg Association of Ames in 1966 and from that time, have



This recognition plaque was given to United Mutual Insurance Association for their 100 years of faithful service to Madrid and surrounding communities. The insurance company will hold a festive celebration on Saturday, July 12 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

had a 12 man board of directors. The Story and Fieldberg companies joined together in 1954.

The United Mutual Insurance Company is organized under a charter that allows it to operate in the seven Iowa counties which touch Boone county: Polk, Dallas, Story, Hamilton, Greene and Webster.

There are 25 selling agents employed by the company at the present time plus the present office staff and employees: Jonas Christenson, secretary of the organization since succeeding Reuben Oakleaf in 1963; Ina Young, Eloise Sigmund, Delores Severson, Jeanne Flynn, Joreen Sigmund and Raymond Ortman, ad- justor.

The local insurance company buys re-insurance from the Grinnell Mutual insurance company, largest re-insurance company of farm property in the world, but they have their own reserve, make their own policies, have their own board of directors and set their own rates. Licensed by the Department of Insurance, the United Mutual Insurance Company received an award at the last area meeting for their many years of fine service.

They are the only United Mutual Insurance Com- pany in Boone County and one of 139 Mutuals in the state of Iowa, 80 of which are affiliated with Grinnell for re-insurance backing.

## Organized at Swede Point ... In the Year 1875

The Oldest Going Concern in this  
Community and Still Going Strong

### And There is a Reason:

The Swedish Mutual Insurance Association is truly co-operative. We aid each other.

All risks and all losses receive the personal at- tention of the directors and officers.

All claims for damages are settled fairly and promptly.

Agents receive only a very small commission for their work.

We solicit insurance only from folks whom we believe to be honest and fair, and who will pay their share of losses promptly when called upon to do so.

We employ no high salaried officers.

The money we collect in premiums doesn't wander far afield. It doesn't build palaces or yachts, or Rolls-Royce for rich folks in distant cities, but quietly helps folks around home.

This association is strictly Mutual Benefit and the only profit obtained is greatly reduced in- surance cost to the policyholder.

We have no stockholders, but each policy hold- er has an equal share in the affairs of the com- pany.

These are some of the many reasons why we are going strong after almost 70 years of contin- uous service.

We are operating on a safe, sound and con- servative basis, as is shown by our financial statement.

LEDGER ASSETS	
January 1, 1937	
Cash in bank	\$ 4,330.45
Bank Stock	240.00
Government Bonds	6,500.00
Notes Receivable	1,100.00
Accts. Receivable	145.62
Real Estate	15,000.00
Loans unpaid	22,000.00
Other obligations	None
Insurance in force Jan. 1, 1937	\$12,000,000.00

### COST OF INSURANCE FOR THE PAST TEN (10) YEARS

According to the State Insurance Department

1927	35
1928	39
1929	1.41
1930	88
1931	97
1932	93
1933	97
1934	1.28
1935	94
1936	1.98

Total \$10.20 per 1,000 of insurance for ten (10) years. Or in other words, an average of \$1.02 per \$1,000.00 for each of the last 10 years.

We urge no one to insure in our company, but invite every one to consider the money-saving possibilities in our policies.

If you are looking for SAFE, LOW-COST IN- SURANCE, get in touch with any of our agents. They are at your service at any time.

## Swedish Mutual Insurance Association

ERNEST CARLSON, President

C. H. RECKSEEN, Secretary

The advertisement shown above appeared in the June 17, 1937 issue of the Madrid Register-News.

## County Historical Society Heads Drive for Kate Shelley Park and Museum

THE MADRID REGISTER-NEWS  
Thursday, July 10, 1975

It has been 94 years since Kate Shelley, then a girl of 15, made her memorable evening journey on July 6, 1881, to save a train from eminent destruction. In remembrance of this remarkable woman, the Boone County Historical Society is currently conducting a fund raising drive in hopes of obtaining money to create a Kate Shelley Memorial Park and Railroad Museum.

The first phase of the project is to move the former Chicago and Northwestern depot from Beaver to Moingona, a distance of nine miles. Moingona is situated seven miles southwest of Boone off U. S. High- way 30.

Following the depot's removal, it would be placed on a substantial foundation, have a short stretch of rail trackage installed, lay a brick station platform, clean up and remove dead trees on the grounds, install sanitary facilities and provide for an ample picnic area.

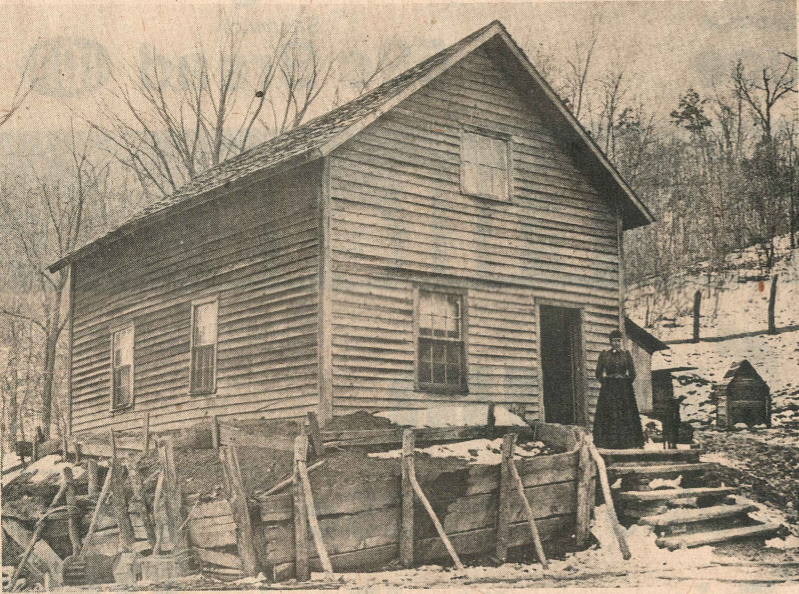
Future plans of the Historical Society include the acquisition of a passenger coach to be used as a classroom facility where slides can be shown and the revival of Kate Shelley's adventure can take place. It is also hoped to obtain a railway mail car to display the memorabilia pertinent to this time period. The installation of telegraph equipment, obtaining hand cars, baggage trucks and depot furniture is also a part of the long range planning, depending upon the availability of funds.

At the present time, the Society has raised \$3,000 which is enough to buy the depot and move it to Moingona, but funds are lacking at the present time to build the foundation and create a picnic area.

To raise funds, members of the society are selling Kate Shelley commemorative buttons. In addition, donations may be sent to Eckstein's Jewelers, the Boone State Bank or Rose V. Meyers, treasurer of the Boone County Historical Society.

People donating \$2.00 or more will receive a reprint of the Boone County Democrat of July 13, 1881, which has the complete account of the incident.

Should the project fail, all money will be returned in amounts of over .00 and smaller amounts will be used to create a small marker, ther at the location of her home or



Kate Shelley is shown on the steps of her home overlooking Honey Creek, one mile east of Moingona. Many historians believe that the timbers there around the house kept it from sliding during the flooding in 1881.

on the depot site in Moingona.

### Incident of July 6, 1881

Kate Shelley lived on the frontier near Boone, an untamed and largely unsettled area at this time. Her father died when she was 12 and she was the oldest of five children.

An industrious girl at such an early age, Kate took over the family's quarter section of land, on which she plowed, sowed and har- vested the crops. During times of meat shortage, she took her two dogs into the woods in search for game.

On the memorable July 6 evening, the air was heavy and suffocatingly warm, with a heavy downpour of rain occurring throughout the evening hours.

As darkness set in, she donned an old coat and hat and sloshed through knee-deep water to check on the cows and horses in the barn.

Wind rattled the windows of the old shack and threatened to carry it away. Dark foamy water of Honey Creek swept past the home and impeded in its mad rush to meet the Des Moines River.

No radio warning told of the im- pending danger that the Des Moines River was raising at a rate of six

inches an hour or that 11 of the 21 bridges had succumbed to the water's rage.

The clock struck 11 p.m. and the train watchers heard the rumble of an engine. A "pusher" manned by a crew of four had been ordered to run

to Boone and return to Moingona regardless of all other trains. They were to test the bridge over Honey Creek to determine its safety for the midnight train.

Past the Shelley home it sped, toward the swaying bridge. Kate heard the engine bell toll once, twice—then came a horrible crash and gurgle as the train plunged into twenty feet of water. A hiss of steam followed, then all was still.

Knowing she must warn the midnight train, Kate told her mother her plan, received her permission, grabbed her father's lantern and set out on her journey.

Knee deep water made it im- possible to walk on the Northwestern Railway track so she climbed over a bluff skirting the back of her home, and defoured till she reached the scene of the mishap.

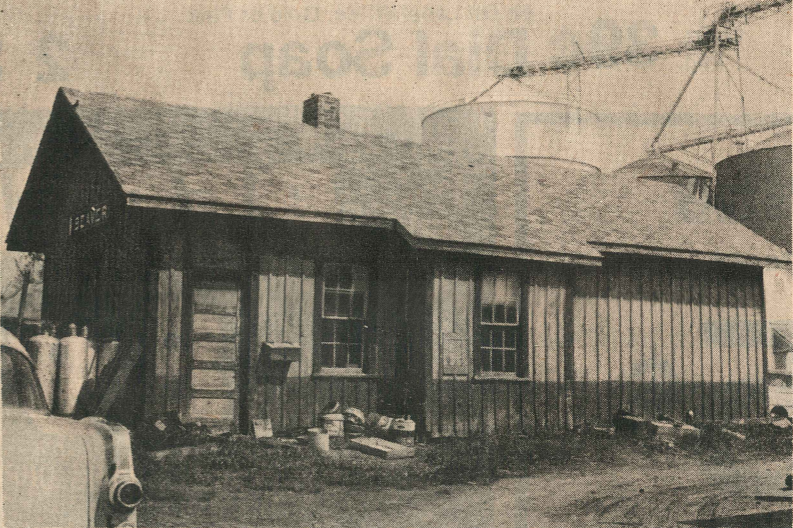
She found two of the four men clinging to a branch and a shrub and after securing their safety, she told them she would go for help after warning the oncoming train.

The wind extinguished the lantern light so she proceeded on her hands and knees down the slippery ties toward Moingona.

She arrived at the station and blurted out a confused and jumbled message about the washout. Mr. McIntyre, the station agent un-



Kate Shelley served as station agent at Moingona for almost nine years and she is shown in front of the old depot destroyed by fire around 1901.



This is the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad depot that will be moved to Moingona from Beaver and become a part of the Kate Shelley Memorial Park and Railroad museum.

derstood the situation and hung out the red swinging lantern bringing the oncoming train to a halt. After gaining her composure, the 15 year old girl led a rescue party to the two men. Four days later one of the two missing bodies was recovered.

A wealthy dentist on the train had a commemorative plaque put on the bridge bearing Kate Shelley's name and in 1901 the wooden bridge was replaced by an imposing steel structure.

She attended Simpson College, received a teaching certificate and taught for several years, but the lure of the land was too attractive and she returned to farming and hun- ting.

In 1903, she received a position from the Northwestern Railway to become station agent at Moingona and here she stayed until her death on January 21, 1912.

### Clover

Kevin Christie of Schleswig found a sixteen leaf clover recently. Ac- cording to the Guinness Book of World Records the previous record was a 10 leaf clover found in England in 1966 and another in Ohio in 1972. Tammy Albers of Holstein found an 11 leaf clover June 4. It will be a short lived record for Tammy if Kevin's clover meets all qualifications.