First Gateway Signs Installed

The cooperative effort between the John Deere Foundation, John Deere Waterloo Works, Iowa Department of Transportation and the National Park Service came to fruition the week of October 4, 2004, as five gateway signs were installed to enhance the visitor experience of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area in northeast Iowa.

“This is the infrastructure for the heritage area,” said Don Short, executive director of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. “These gateway signs will help give the heritage area its identity for residents and visitors.”

The five signs are located at the following locations:

Location 1: Top of Iowa Site, southbound on I-35 just before exit 214.
Location 2: Des Moines, northbound on I-35 between Mills Civic Parkway and the mixmaster.
Location 3: Des Moines, eastbound on I-80 between 74th St. and the mixmaster.
Location 4: Dubuque, westbound on Hwy 20, west of Hwy 20/Locust St.
Location 5: Davenport, westbound on I-80, just after the bridge.

NPS Regional Director Visits Heritage Area

How would you like to visit Hansen’s Farm Fresh Dairy, Wapsiprincon Mill Museum, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquariums, Hurstville Lime Kilns, Tabor Home Winery, Grout Museum District and Fossil & Prairie Park and Center? How about meeting dozens of people? How about doing this all in two days? Well, that is exactly what Ernie Quintana, Regional Director of the National Park Service Midwest Region, did when he visited the Heritage Area this past summer.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) had the distinct honor of being the first National Heritage Area to host the new National Park Service (NPS) Midwest Regional Director. His primary purpose of the trip was to learn first hand what a heritage area is, what they do, and how they do it.

Throughout the two-day adventure, SSNHA partner sites, communities, trustees, staff and tried to capture what the Heritage Area is through a variety of cultural, historical, and farm experiences.

Ernie first arrived in Waterloo and was greeted with open arms by the Jay and Jeanne Hansen family of Hansen’s Farm Fresh Dairy in Hudson, where Ernie learned how the Hansen’s and their four adult children and their families are bottling milk straight from the farm to the store delivering it the old-fashioned way, by delivery truck.

During each site visit, Ernie was able to gain an understanding of what has been accomplished in this region, and how the Heritage Area role differs from sites and communities, and what sites desire to become.

Because we could not possibly tour the entire Heritage Area, Silos & Smokestacks hosted an evening reception at the Grout Museum in Waterloo. Nearly fifty Heritage Area stakeholders attended a dinner where they had the opportunity to speak with Ernie one-on-one about their particular role in the Heritage Area and their goals. Ernie also recognized Effigy Mounds National

SSNHA Grant Application Due Nov. 1

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) grant applications are now available for projects that preserve and interpret America’s agricultural stories.

Eligible grant projects must be located in one of the 37 counties within the Heritage Area and provide a 1-1 non-federal match to the grant request.

There is $50,000 available for projects including technical assistance, educational programs, interpretation, marketing, sites, and event programming. Grant awards may range from $1,000 to $10,000.

Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations, local or regional governments, or federally recognized Indian Tribes.

Grant applications are due postmarked November 1, 2004, and they are available online at http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/partner/grants.html. You can also call the Silos & Smokestacks office at 319-234-4567 to request a hard copy.

Ernie at the Wapsiprincon Mill Museum in Independence tying flour bags.
Your Support is Needed

America’s agricultural heritage is shared daily through Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area partnerships and activities that celebrate Iowa’s land, people and communities. It is a story of the unique timing, resources, culture, and cooperative efforts that combined to shape Iowa’s agricultural experience. It relates Iowa’s agricultural role in America’s rise to global significance. The story is of opportunity, challenges, and the belief that each individual can make a meaningful difference that provides new opportunities!

Your financial support is needed to preserve and celebrate Iowa’s compelling agricultural story. Each dollar you gift to Silos provides needed leverage for additional federal funding to preserve and share Iowa’s rich agricultural heritage. Share the legacy that lives on in N.E. Iowa’s land, farm, and communities!

Annual Giving Levels (check which apply)

- Platinum Leaders ($10,000 & above)
- Gold Cultivators ($5,000-9,999)
- Silver Sustainers ($1,000-4,999)
- Bronze Supporters ($51-999)
- Friends of Silos & Smokestacks ($50 & under)

I am interested in learning how I can support Silos & Smokestacks

- in my will (leave a gift)*
- with a planned gift (annuity, trust, IRA, insurance)*

Amount Enclosed:

Names: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
State: _______ Zip: _______
Telephone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Signatures(s): ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

Make checks payable to:
Silos & Smokestacks Nat’l Heritage Area
PO Box 2845
Waterloo, IA 50704-2845

*Silos & Smokestacks is a number of Iowa’s legacy

World Food Prize Harvest Festival includes Heritage Area Events

The statewide World Food Prize celebration will be held throughout the month of October, called Harvest Festival. The festival honors the work of Dr. Norman Borlaug and his efforts to end hunger. The following events sponsored by Heritage Area sites will celebrate agriculture, food production, the environment, hunger and the humanitarian legacy of individuals like Dr. Norman Borlaug, former President Hoover, and former Vice President Wallace:

- Ackley, Iowa. Farmers Market, Oct. 4 at 5 p.m.; Harvest of Artists, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oct. 5-10; and Motor Iowa 1000, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Oct. 5: 641-847-2191.
- Frobich Foundation for the Preservation of Farm Tractor History. Tours 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. every weekend in October: 24397 Froblich Road, McGregor, 563-536-2841.
- Gilbertson Conservation Education Area. Country Heritage Community Maze, noon - 8 p.m. Wed-Sun through October 31. 22580 A Ave., Elgin, 563-426-5740.

Visit, continued from pg 1

Monument and Herbert Hoover National Historic Site each with the National ADA Accessibility Award. Out of a nationwide competition only two awards were given, and they were to sites in the Midwest Region, who happen to both be in Iowa! Congratulations to our Iowa National Park Service partners!

Upon his leave, Ernie commented, "I am convinced that telling national stories on regional living landscapes is the wave of the future and this region is an excellent example of how to succeed."

When we asked Ernie about his visit to the Heritage Area he said, "I am impressed with the warmth, dedication and enthusiasm displayed by everyone I met. The regional stories are rich with spirit, determination and a willingness to work hard, traits that I saw in every handshake, exhibit and demonstration. The National Park Service, especially the Midwest regional office, is honored to work side-by-side with residents who are preserving, conserving and uncovering hidden stories along the landscapes known as Silos & Smokestacks. Please pass on my sincere thanks to everyone who opened their homes, sites, stories and time to assist me to gain a strong understanding of the challenges, successes and future plans for Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. I am only sorry I did not have time to meet more of the partners and friends of the region."

A special thanks to Sue Pridenore for her assistance in making Ernie’s visit possible. Also thank you to the many folks and sites that helped make Ernie’s visit special.

Heritage Area Represented at State Fair

Silos & Smokestacks had another successful booth at the 2004 Iowa State Fair in the Iowa Tourism Building. A big thanks goes to the 42 volunteers who helped staff the booth and to the sites who provided trivia and donated prizes.

LIFE Tours Finalist for TIA Award

The Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) has selected a Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSSHA) program for recognition in the Cultural Heritage category for its annual Odyssey Awards. Each year at TIA’s Marketing Outlook Forum, The Odyssey Awards are presented to organizations representing the best of emerging trends in the industry.

Living an Iowa Farm Experience Tours (LIFE Tours) was recently chosen as a finalist in the competition for this prestigious award. LIFE Tours offers the opportunity for their groups to experience modern agriculture in all its diversity and complexity.

Travelers on the coaches may visit a 1000-head dairy operation, tour an implement dealership, hand feed live buffalo from a wagon, enjoy a meal in a farmhouse, tour a restored 19th century round barn, buy a painting at a farm-based art gallery, or walk through heirloom vegetable gardens.

The LIFE Tours program will be featured in a display of finalists at this years Marketing Outlook Forum in Phoenix this October.
Partnership Management Plan Available For Comment

The Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area has revised its Partnership Management and Action Plan and is available for final comment.

The Management Plan is a document to guide the Heritage Area in achieving its mission to preserve and tell the story of American Agriculture and its global significance through partnerships and activities that celebrate the land, people and communities of the area.

The final draft is available at the Silos & Smokestacks office, 209 W. 5th St., Mezzanine Level, downtown Waterloo. All comments must be made in writing and received by November 1, 2004.

New Trustees Named

Jim Hosch  Clayton County Extension Service
Jen Holtkamp  Iowa Pork Producers
Fred Kirschenmann  Leopold Center

Leadership Advisors
Terry Braasch  Former Iowa Governor, President & CEO, Des Moines University
Rose Christiansen  Government Relations, Bigelow, Inc.
William Jenkins  Iowa House of Representatives
Patty Judge  Iowa Secretary of Agriculture
Stuart Juliann  Director of Government Affairs, Iowa League of Cities
Ambassador Ken Otten  President, World Food Prize Foundation
Robert Ray  Former Iowa Governor, Ray Enterprises
Karen Roth  Former US Congresswoman, Attorney at Law
Wesley Willis  Attorney, Willis Willey Law Office

Board of Trustees
Ruby Triplatt, Chair  Congressman, Waukee, IA
Bob Capron, Vice Chair  Former Iowa Agriculture, Food & Home Product Engineering Center, Research
Leif Vich, Treasurer  President & CEO, Community National Bank, Waterloo
Jim Rice, Past Chair  Mayor, Charles City
Betsey Barhorst  President, Muscatine Community College, Waterloo
Jerry Budler  Executive Director, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Dubuque
Robert Gunderson  Retired President, Whirl Products Co., Eldora
Jim Holzheimer  President and Chief Executive Director, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Des Moines
Jim Hosch  Chief Financial Officer, Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area
Fred Kirschenmann  Executive Director, Leopold Center, Ames
Steve Bolin  Vice President, SuiX Manufacturing Company, Marshalltown
Wade Wagner  Policy Coordinator, Cedar Rapids

Partnership Panel
Billie Bailey, Vice Chair  Senior Manager, District, Waterloo
Robert Cole  City Manager, Davenport
Phillie Horning, Chair  Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Waterloo
Katie Gouder  Senior Historian, Iowa, Des Moines
Geoffrey Grimes  Smithsonian Institution, Washington
Lance Hobbs  Iowa High School District, Moline
Phil Hennepen  Former Director, Illinois State Park District
Wes Johnson  Engagement Board Resource & Development, Hawkeye
Susan Klocke  Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Waterloo
Samuel Lapp  President & CEO, Community National Bank, Waterloo
Red Marriott  Farmers Co-Operation/Country Heritage Community, Davenport
Bob Nystrom  Public Relations, Pella, CB
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The Newsletter is published by Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area.

Please contact Candy Streed, Editor, at (319) 234-4567 or email at cstreed@silosandsmokestacks.org to submit story ideas.

Available For Comment

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Check out Silos & Smokestacks on the web at:
www.silosandsmokestacks.org
Ever wonder what it was like to live in a small Iowa town at the turn of the 20th century? You don’t have to wonder, you can visit Ushers Ferry Historic Village, located northeast of Cedar Rapids on a ten acre site in Seminole Valley. Ushers Ferry steps back into time and shows how Iowans used to live before conveniences, such as electricity or indoor plumbing. The Village is named for an early ferryboat operation that was established by the Usher Family in the late 1830’s. The property was then purchased by the city of Cedar Rapids in 1966, and the idea for the creation of a Pioneer Village was developed in 1973. In 1986, Pioneer Village was renamed to Ushers Ferry Historic Village to reflect its ties to the history of the Valley and the Usher family.

The site is filled with thirty plus homes and businesses, which include a general store, saloon, hotel, blacksmith, doctor, and school. Visitors can participate in the self-guided, hands-on tours which include different activities such as scrubbing clothes on a washboard, being a student in a one-room schoolhouse, feeding chickens, and mowing grass with a push mower.

Along with its numerous buildings and hands-on tours Ushers Ferry has to offer, the calendar at the Village is full of annual events. From the Grand Celebration of Brass Bands and Wild West Weekend in June to the Civil War Reenactment in September and All Things Scottish in October (and many more in between!), you’re sure to gain a perception of what it may have been like to live in Iowa all those years ago!

In addition to its regular events, Ushers Ferry also hosts a wide array of educational programs for Girl Scouts and school children. With the completion of a brand new visitors center in the spring of 2004, the Village looks forward to expanding its programming into the winter months.

If you would like more information on Ushers Ferry visit their website at www.cedar-rapids.org/ushers or call 319-286-5763.

By The Wayside Workshop a Success!

Participants showing off interpretive signs they developed for their sites.

20 sites participated in the workshop held earlier this summer.