

## EPILOGUE

The Shady Oaks/Rock Valley area is an integral part of Marshall County history. Almost 150 years after John F. Campbell staked his claim in Section 8 of LeGrand Township, the Treehouse is a bright spot as a tourist attraction, giving life and vitality to Shady Oaks.

I am writing these memoirs in the Indian Summer of my life. It is a beautiful, mild period in the late autumn, or early winter. That is, the season between summer and winter. It is a beautiful time to reflect, and writing this has been a revelation. It has created a living past, and excitement prevailed.

These stories are meant to connect the past with the present, like the "Family Tree" that connects the newest twigs to their roots. There is always a connection between the past and the present, old and young and living and dead. The invisible presences that I have written about will always dwell here.

A note of interest, "According to the Iowa Division of Tourism in 1994, each overnight visitor spends approximately \$95 per day." This means that Marshalltown and its residents benefit directly from visitor spending. Many people who come to the Treehouse stay overnight in Marshalltown. I am glad this attraction has contributed to the community.

We are spinning toward the millennium in an age filled with information and the acute loneliness of our impersonal society. Writing has frozen my thoughts for others to inspect. My zeal for Marshallmania, this inspiring history and record of achievements of the people and places, has provided many hours of enjoyment.

My legacy is to keep its memories and spirit alive through cherished stories and pictures of the people and places who were a part of this heritage. Here, at Shady Oaks, the magnificent oaks are a living shrine to the memory of the Rock Valley pioneers.

