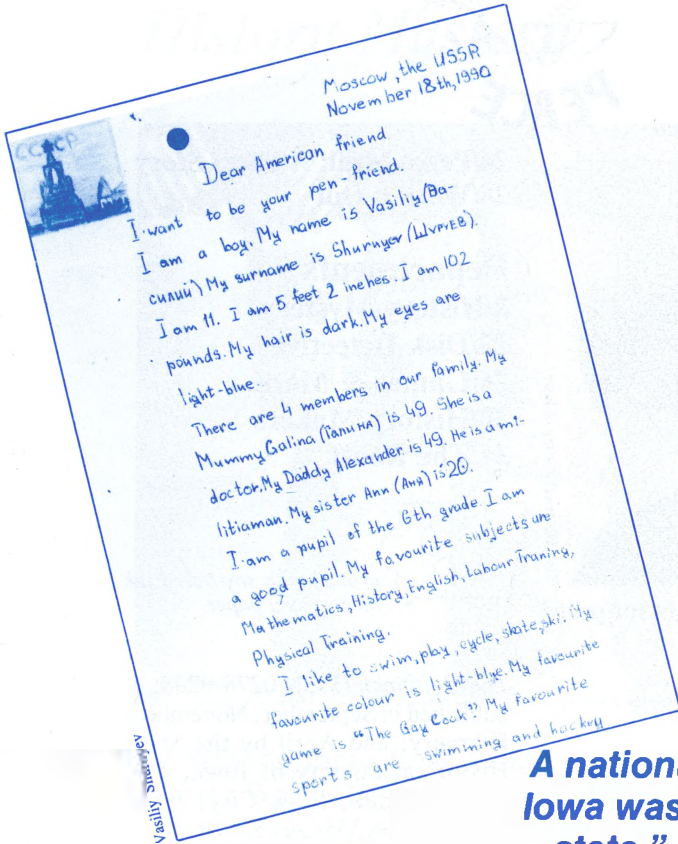


IOWA'S PEACE TRADITION



A national newspaper reported that Iowa was "perhaps the most antiwar state." Is it true? If so, what does it mean?

STUDENTS AT Carpenter Elementary School in Monticello, Iowa, recently sent a big package to their pen pals in the Soviet Union. They carefully packed tapes of American music, coins, baseball cards, postcards, and drawings. The pictures you see on these pages arrived from

their Soviet pen pals. The subject of the drawings? Global peace.

Jennifer Schreiner, 11, wrote to her pen pal, Olya, in Moscow:

"What's it like in the Soviet Union? Do you have seasons like we do? Do you have snow?"

What kinds of sports do you have? I have so many questions. What kinds of food do you grow in your country?

"I am writing this letter from the computer we got for Christmas. We have many holidays that we celebrate. What holidays do you celebrate in the Soviet Union?"

"My favorite subjects are

Image of Mickey Mouse © The Walt Disney Company

Art, Science, and Math. My hobbies are reading, drawing, and swimming. My favorite things to eat are ice cream, popcorn, fruit, chips, watermelon, macaroni, and pizza. I hope that we can write to each other all the time even when school is out.’’

Writing letters to people around the world is just one thing to do to support peace. In this issue of *The Goldfinch*,

you’ll discover what “peace” really means. You’ll meet Iowans who have worked for peace. Games, activities, and stories will suggest how you can live peacefully, too.

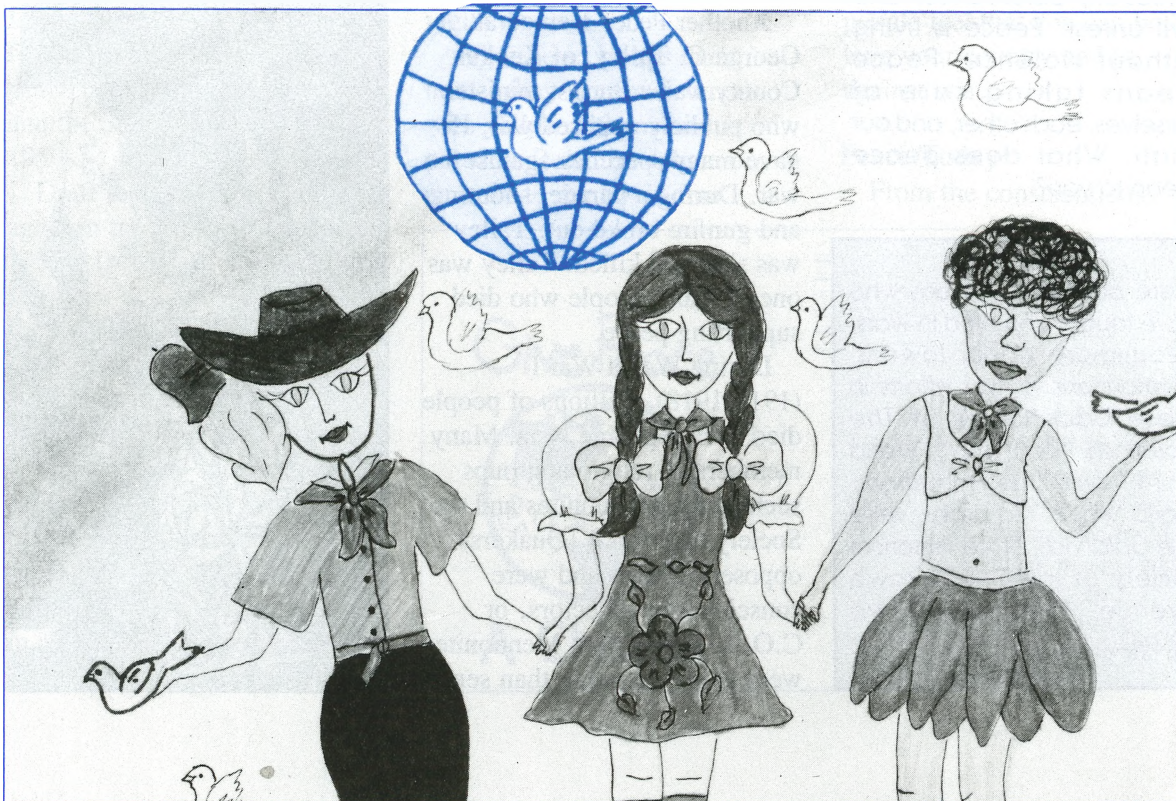
During Times of War

During the American Civil War (1861-1865), one million people were killed, wounded, or lost. About 7,500 Iowa men

were **drafted** (selected for military service). But not all of them went to war. About 1,200 Iowans paid substitutes to take their places.

Some Iowans were against the war because they thought it wasted lives and money. They supported peaceful solutions to end the conflict. These people were called Peace Democrats. Some people thought the Peace Democrats were traitors. They

Soviet kids sent drawings and letters to their pen pals in Monticello, Iowa. Getting to know other kids from around the world is just one of the many ways Iowa students are working for peace.



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What is peace?

It can have many definitions. It is more than the absence of war. It is freedom from confusion, disturbance, and civil unrest. Peace is living without violence. Peace means taking care of ourselves, each other, and our Earth. What does peace mean to you?

There are many lowans who have fought and died in wars. Read more about lowans' contributions to war efforts in these back issues of *The Goldfinch*: "Civil War," "World War I," and "The Homefront: World War II." To order, write *The Goldfinch*, State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

were given the unflattering name of "copperheads." (The name comes from the copperhead snake which has a poisonous bite, meaning that their opinions were sharply critical.) Newspaper editor Dennis Mahoney, of Dubuque, was arrested and put in jail in 1861 for publishing criticisms of the war and of President Abraham Lincoln. He was released after three months in prison only after signing a paper swearing loyalty to the United States.

Another Peace Democrat, George C. Talley, of Keokuk County was a Baptist minister who publicly opposed war. He gave many speeches against the war. During a parade, shouting and gunfire broke out. Talley was shot and killed. Talley was one of many people who died supporting peace.

During World War I (1914-1918), millions of people died in Europe and Asia. Many members of religious groups such as the Mennonites and the Society of Friends (Quakers) opposed the war and were conscientious objectors, or C.O.'s. Some Iowa Mennonites went to prison rather than serve

in the war.

By World War II (1939-1945), Civilian Public Service camps were created to house C.O.'s. In Iowa, these camps were located in Crystal Lake, Cherokee, Denison, Ames,

A woman in Iowa City celebrates the return of troops from the Persian Gulf War.



Rodney White, Iowa City Press-Citizen

Cresco, and Mt. Pleasant. Some 12,000 men worked in 151 of the camps nationwide. Instead of going to war or prison, C.O.'s could live at one of the camps and help garden, cook, can, raise, harvest, or thresh crops, and build shelters.

As a result of both World War I and World War II, many people around the world suffered from hunger. Many Iowans such as Herbert Hoover and Dr. Norman Borlaug (BORE-log) helped to feed millions of people. Another Iowan, Roswell Garst, used food to make progress toward peace between the United States and the Soviet Union in the late 1950s.

Draft resistance appeared again in the 1960s and early 1970s. Draft card burnings, marches, and nonviolent protests made newspaper headlines. Read more about student protest against the Vietnam War on page 19.

Most Iowans supported the recent Persian Gulf War. Many people rallied behind Iowa troops, even if they were against the war. Some took part in antiwar rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and candlelight

A peacemaker is a person who:

- has a good attitude about things.
- cares about and accepts herself/himself.
- cares about and accepts others.
- is patient.
- talks out troubles and is kind and helpful.
- helps victims of oppression and racial discrimination.
- listens to both sides of a problem and understands.
- remains calm, polite, and friendly.
- does not fight.
- helps the starving and the poor.
- can compromise and work together with others as a team.
- helps people when they can't help themselves.
- is forgiving.
- lives everyday in a peaceful way. ☺

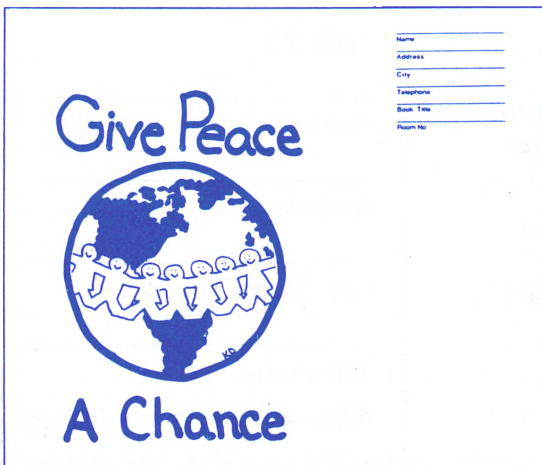
vigils.

When Iowa troops came home, they were welcomed with yellow ribbons and parades. Read the debate on page 23 to see how some

people feel that you can both love your country and be against war.

Peace Today

From the conscientious



This winning book jacket was drawn by a student in Primghar, Iowa. The contest was sponsored by the local peace links group, an organization supporting world peace.

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objectors in the Civil War to the Monticello students today, supporting peace is not always easy. In 1991, for example, a peace pole at a Primghar high school was vandalized. The pole said, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian. Some people were against planting the peace pole, because they felt

that it objected to their participation in the military. People who supported planting the pole said they did not mean to upset anyone.

"It was simply to remind people that peace cannot be taken for granted," wrote Deborah Fisch in Primghar's *The O'Brien County Bell*, "that it must be worked for, and that

all people around the world desire peace. True peace does not simply mean the absence of war. True peace involves justice, freedom, dignity, and the chance to live without prejudice or hunger. Peace is not the absence of one thing, but really the presence of many things." ♪

GEOSPHERE POSTER OFFER

The full GeoSphere world image is available to *Goldfinch* readers as a superb, beautifully printed poster! This poster, printed in full-color, measures 24" by 36" and is reproduced with a high-gloss finish on top quality heavy-weight paper.

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