

## **2019 Award Winners**

### **The Hotel President**

The Hotel President is the newest member of the National Register of Historic Places in Waterloo. The hotel was originally built in 1929 and was considered a “showcase” hotel at the time with Waterloo being an important hub of industrial activity in the Midwest. In 1948 six wrestling promoters formed the National Wrestling Alliance at the hotel while the hotel was managed by Lark Gable grandfather of Olympic Gold Medal winner Dan Gable. In 1968 the hotel was sold and became subsidized housing for the elderly which it continues as today after a \$12 million renovation started in 2015.

### **The Courtyard by Marriot at Tech Works**

The Courtyard by Marriott at Tech Works has been open only for a short time but has already had an effect on the area to the northwest of downtown Waterloo bringing 191 new hotel rooms to the historic structure which cost \$43 million. The building was originally built in 1947 and the original architects would have never conceived the transformation that the building would have after being considered surplus by John Deere. The project was the brainchild of Developer Rodney Blackwell from the Quad Cities. Many of the original details of the building were retained in order to give the property the character it deserves.

## **Judy and Dean Toepfer**

Judy Toepfer and her husband Dean who passed away in 2016 have lived at 251 Alta Vista in the Highland Neighborhood for many years and Judy serving on the Historic Preservation Commission. According to Joyce Oaks who nominated the couple, before his death Dean made their bungalow shine as he was a true craftsman and restored much of the interior of the home along with spending a large amount of money to maintain the property. In addition to all the work he did around his home, Dean worked for John Deere for 34 years.

## **The Smokey Row Trio: Orrin Miller, Tim Kuhlmann, and Sue Pearson**

As part of the Smokey Row survey, the commission was required to include a 100 hours of volunteer labor to help make the project happen. Three people outside the commission worked long and hard to help get the project research done.

Orrin Miller was born in 1945 in Waterloo and served his country in the United States Navy from June, 1962 until June, 1968 then worked for John Deere which he retired from. In 1984 he started researching the history of Waterloo and Industrial Technology which go together since Waterloo's history and industrial development are so intertwined over the years. Orrin's tireless research was indispensable to the Smokey Row intensive level survey and we thank him for his important contribution.

Tim Kuhlmann grew up on a farm between Waterloo and Denver and he had fond memories of going to the Denver library with his school classmates. He attended Hawkeye School of Technology (now Hawkeye

Community College) and graduated with a degree in Accounting. After working in retail for several years he went back to school and graduated from UNI with a degree in studio art. For the past 15 years he has been an assistant librarian at the Waterloo Public Library and in the last 4 years became interested in local history and has compiled presentations on early Waterloo doctors, early Waterloo churches, Rath Packing, Chamberlain Manufacturing, Cedar Valley drive-in theaters, the history of South Street in Church Row, Waterloo theme parks, and early clothing stores. Tim is also the Vice-President of the Cedar Valley Historical Society.

This is the second time that Sue Pearson will be honored with an award from the Historic Preservation Commission. Sue served as one of the original members of the Historic Preservation commission lived in the Highland neighborhood at the time. Like Tim, Sue has worked for many years at the Waterloo Public Library as a Research Librarian and continues to support the efforts of the Historic Commission although no longer an actual member of the commission.