

Shining Stars and Everyday Heroes

~ by David Wilkinson



Teaching Iowa history is a responsibility of Iowa schools and teachers that sometimes gets lost in the shuffle of all other parts of the curriculum. Randy Lyon of Dubuque, in partnership with the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA), has developed a CD and card kit that teachers can use in teaching Iowa history.

“It’s about me!” is the focus of this new approach to Iowa history. Entitled *Shining Stars and Everyday Heroes*, the two-CD kit provided to Iowa educators by ISEA, contains:

- A one-of-a-kind CD encyclopedia of Iowa history containing 5,853 entries and 1,754 photographs
- Lesson plans for daily oral language skill practice (in punctuation, capitalization, and grammar) using Iowa history and reinforced by additional information in the encyclopedia

- Lesson plans for using Iowa history to teach graphing, map reading, use of reference tools—all skill areas of interest to districts focusing on the results of standardized tests
- Lesson plans that develop writing skills
- Lesson plans that develop interest and appreciation of the architectural heritage present in our Iowa communities
- Daily historical event calendars from Iowa and the United States
- A deck of cards and a game similar to “Fish” to introduce 52 figures from Iowa history

This approach to Iowa history features:

- A focus on the student
- A development of interest in Iowa history through the interests of the student
- A thematic group of units which can be used in any order.

The leaders at the ISEA Delegate Assembly April 12-13, 2007 in Ames were the first instructors in Iowa to receive copies.

Randy Lyon, the author, is a long-time member and Association

leader with years of experience in teaching elementary students, writing and history. A graduate in history from the University of Northern Iowa, he helped write three regional encyclopedias for Facts on File and a filmstrip series on archaeology at Tel Gezer, Israel for elementary students. He was the co-author of *Between Two Rivers: Iowa Year-by-Year* published by the Iowa State University Press. He has written multi-cultural calendars for ISEA and developed the daily history calendar now used on-line by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Mr. Lyon wrote a local encyclopedia of Dubuque. His *Faith and Fortunes: An Encyclopedia of Dubuque County* was written to raise money for the seven local historical societies of the county.

David Wilkinson is the Teaching and Learning Specialist with the Iowa State Education Association. He can be contacted at dwilkinson@isea.org

Mission Statement:

Iowa ASCD:
The source for developing instructional leadership.

On the diffusion of education among the people rest the preservation and perpetuation of our free institutions.

—Daniel Webster