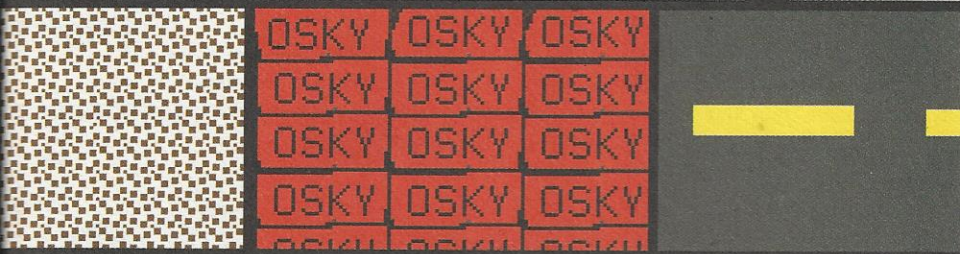
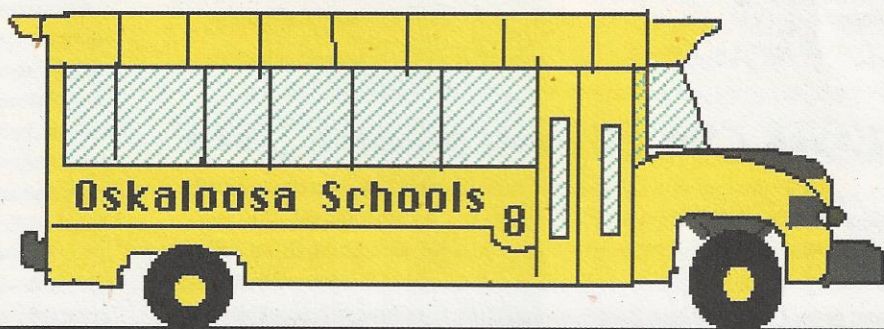


# TOUR OF OSKALOOSA



A "Kid's Eye-View" of  
Oskaloosa, Iowa

# Lots of Oskaloosa History!

Oskaloosa is a city with a lot of history! One piece of history is about The Narrows. On June 11, 1835, a location on a high ridge between Des Moines and the Chiquaqua Rivers (Skunk River) called The Narrows was chosen for a small fort. When the territory was opened in 1843, The Narrows was a post between the Mississippi and points west on a traveled trail. Today this place is called Oskaloosa. At the bandstand (which is on The Narrows) you can dump a cup of water on the south side, and it would eventually get to the Des Moines River. If you dumped it on the north side, it would get to the South Skunk River! (Chiquaqua).

A second piece of history is about the first settler in Mahaska County. The first settler in Mahaska County was William Canfield. He put up a trading post on the Des Moines River. Canfield later brought his trading post to Oskaloosa. He built the first home here after the town was established in 1844.

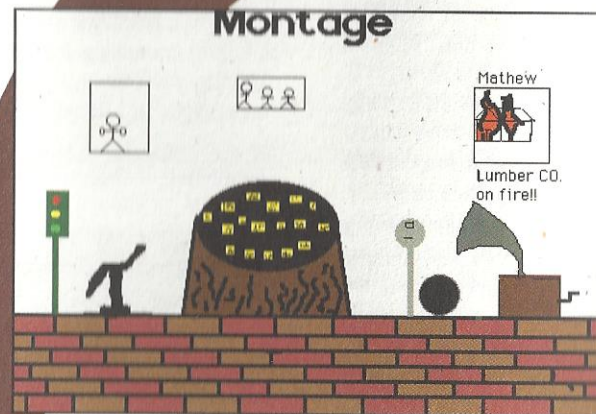
Did you know that in 1844 Oskaloosa was a pioneer village containing only 13 crude cabins and 2 stores? Boy! The town sure did grow fast. By 1853, when it was incorporated, Oskaloosa had a population of about 1,000. Hey! Oskaloosa was opened for settlement May 1, 1843, and was chosen as the county seat on May 1844.

Did you know Oskaloosa and Mahaska County were named after Indians? Oskaloosa was named after a Creek Indian princess named Ouscaloosa. Ouscaloosa's name means "Last of the Beautiful". Mahaska County was named after Chief Mahaska (White Cloud) from the Ioway tribe and was staked out in 1844.

Another piece of history is about coal mining. The first mining was done in deep shaft mines. There were 38 mines at one time in Mahaska County. Many people became rich by mining coal. After awhile strip mining started. Today most of the coal mines are gone in Mahaska County.

A last piece of history is about the railroads in Oskaloosa. Oskaloosa once had 20-30 trains stop here each day. Oskaloosa also had 8 sets of railroad tracks here. One railroad was called the Rock Island. It linked Oskaloosa to Des Moines to Chicago. The train cars carried coal and other supplies. The trains also brought Ringling Brothers & Barnum & Bailey Circus.

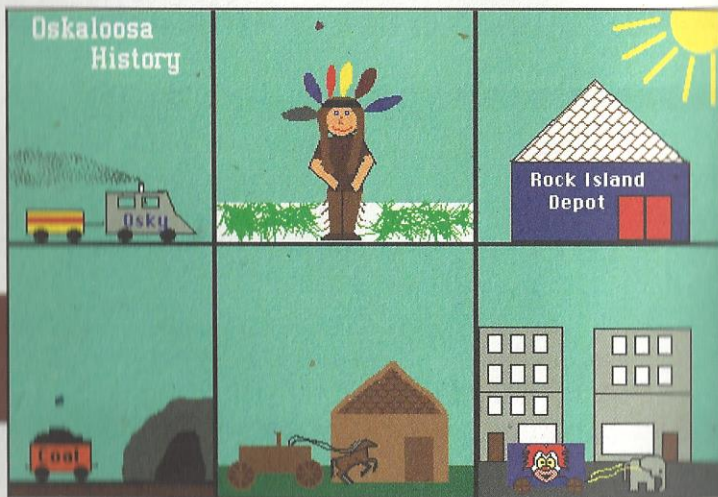
Wow!!! There is a lot of cool history about Oskaloosa!

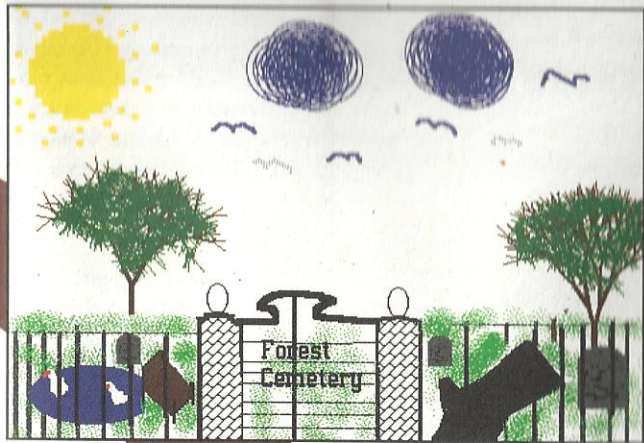


## Montage

If you like learning about history, come and visit the montage. It is full of historic things like old photos, postcards, signs, newspaper clippings, and antiques like a Civil War cannon ball, an old school desk, and an old barber chair. Other antiques are an old music player and replicas of the store fronts torn down to build the mall. You will find the montage at the northwest end of the Penn Central Mall.

The people who built the montage were Tom Stone and Marv Smith. The idea came from Jeanie Bieri and Joe Crookham. It was finished in April 1986. The montage is 80 feet long and 15 feet high. Chuck Russell also helped with the montage by donating local artifacts. Erma Glattly helped identify places and people represented in the montage. Once you see how neat it is, you'll never want to leave!





**Awesome  
Oskaloosa**

## *The Enchanting Forest Cemetery*

If you want to relax or have fun, Forest Cemetery is the place! You can go sledding, biking, ice-skating, and walking. You can even feed the swans! Many people have enjoyable picnics under the big shady trees.

Forest Cemetery is full of history! It dates back to the 1860's and covers over 60 acres of land. Go see the cannon by the Civil War Cemetery on the west side. There are many monuments like the Companion Monument, Veteran's Monument, and Prayer Monument. On Memorial Day the "Avenue of Flags" is displayed. This wonderful place is located on J Avenue East between North Ninth and North Eleventh!!



## **Super City Square**

You should go to the city park because in the summertime you can listen to the city band. While sitting down and listening to the music, you can get free popcorn! If it rains, the concerts are at Penn Central Mall. On any day you can sit in the historical bandstand and watch nature. The first bandstand was a narrow wooden structure built around 1876. It was placed over a capped city well. By 1882 a new bandstand replaced the first one. This one was sturdier but still made of wood. It was used continuously until 1912 when the new one that stands today was built. In 1991, to raise money for restoring the bandstand, P. Buckley Moss painted a picture of the bandstand. The city park also received new landscaping, lighting, and walks.

The square also has a statue of Ioway Chief Mahaska (White Cloud). It pictures him in full dress of an Ioway Chief. It is seven feet in height and is on a five foot base of granite. The statue of Chief Mahaska was a gift to the citizens of Oskaloosa by James Depew Edmundson.

Once a year artists bring to the City Square beautiful art work for viewing and buying. "Art in the Square" is held on the second Saturday of June. If it is raining, it is held at Penn Central Mall. In the summer and fall you can enjoy fresh vegetables at "Farmers' Market". People come from all over to "Farmers' Market" to sell their tasty vegetables. It is held weekly, summer through fall, on Tuesdays at 4 P. M. and Saturdays at 8 P. M. In August, Oskaloosa celebrates "Sweet Corn Days". There is corn on the cob... all you can eat!

So come on walkers, bikers, readers, tourists, and everyone else to our lovely square in downtown Oskaloosa!

Unfold for more  
information!

# FUN FACTS

about

## Oskaloosa

Did you know that...

...Admiral Byrd took horehound drops from Oskaloosa's Underwood Candy Company to Antarctica?

...The first college in Oskaloosa was named the Oskaloosa College? It was moved to Des Moines and renamed Drake College.

...Oskaloosa's telephone history dates back to 1881? The first switchboard was placed in service here by the Iowa Telephone Company and served about 100 telephones!

...Oskaloosa has an Emmy and an Oscar winner? Musco won these awards for lighting college football and the film "All the Right Moves". Musco does permanent and mobile lighting.

...The Oskaloosa Hospital was open for patient care in 1907? In 1917 it became Mahaska County Hospital.

...Many years ago there were 20 grocery stores and 27 men's barber shops in Oskaloosa? No beauty shops!

...In the past Oskaloosa was know for trains, coal, agriculture, and parades?

We hope you learn many interesting facts about the present and past of Oskaloosa. "Kid's Eye-View" of Oskaloosa only represents a few of the many wonderful places and establishments that exist in Oskaloosa.

"Kid's Eye-View" of Oskaloosa was written and produced by the 1994-1995 fifth grade class of Webster Elementary School, 508 South Seventh, Oskaloosa, IA 52577.

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Ben Berg	Adam Harris	Desiree Ray
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Shane Callahan	Adam Hol	Michael Schakel
Bryan Canny	Brandon Kramer	Adam Schefers
Jason Carter	Kelsey Legvold	Brandon Schultz
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Sara Decker	David McClure	Dana Sullivan
Kimberly Dunham	Melissa McGrew	Kathryn Tomlinson
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Principal: Neal Hadden

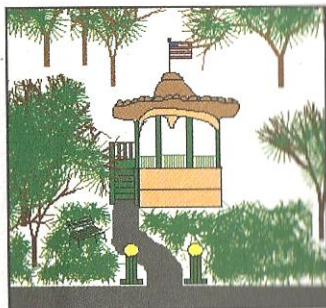
Graphic Artist: Julie Ver Steegh

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J C Penny  
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Mahaska State Bank  
McKinley Advertising  
Midland Savings Bank FSB  
Musco Charitable Foundation  
Oskaloosa Herald  
Oskaloosa Rotary Club  
Oskaloosa Vision Center  
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*Brochures are available at the Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce,  
124 N. Market, Oskaloosa, IA, 52577.*