

**Acknowledgment.** We appreciate the technical assistance of Mark Barnes, Guillermo Ramirez, and Deborah Steely.

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## INSTITUTE NEWS

### Henry A. Wallace Honored with Festivities at Birthplace

Henry A. Wallace was recognized last October in Iowa with a dinner in honor of the extended family of Henry A. and Ilo Browne Wallace, the dedication of his birthplace, and an all-day country life folk festival. The dinner program, which was hosted by Pioneer Hi-Bred International and Iowa State University, gave tribute to the "Wallace family legacy," which continues today with his daughter, Wallace Institute Honorary President Jean Wallace Douglas, and his sons, Robert B. Wallace, and H.B. Wallace.

The tribute particularly praised Henry A. Wallace, who represented "good farming, clear thinking, and right living," and planted the seeds that grew such Iowa State programs as agronomy and applied statistics into international powers."

Wallace's birthplace in Greenfield, Iowa, was dedicated as the Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center, and celebrated with a country life festival which featured theater, puppetry, music, poetry, and the works of Iowa artists.

The birthplace dedication address was given by former Iowa Senator John C. Culver who said that Wallace "would have enjoyed this scene. Much of what he held dear is represented here today. The joy and satisfaction of rural life. The honor and duty of family. The importance of cooperative effort, the beauty of nature, the value of conservation. These were essential elements of Henry Wallace, the private man and the public figure....We know he believed the land and the people who tend it are the foundation upon which all civilization rests. Like Thomas Jefferson, he believed the farmer was performing God's work."

Culver described Wallace as a man who "lived in cities large and small; travelled the world and knew its leaders; edited an influential farm journal and a famous magazine; blazed new trails in economics, statistics, and plant genetics; founded a great business, served in the Cabinet, became vice president of the United States and ran for the presidency—but his guiding principle was grounded here, in the soil of Adair County."

Wallace's birthplace, according to Culver, is "an unusually fitting memorial to his life

and work. Here on this farm, and in this modest farmhouse, we can see expressed the values that informed his life: The great drama of sowing and reaping; the satisfaction of hard work; our responsibility to the land and to our fellow man; the dignity of common people, the beauty of nature, the glory of God.

"And, of course, family. The great importance of family to the Wallaces, and the peerless contribution the Wallace family made to American life and agriculture are symbolized by this site."

Wallace's heart and soul never left the land of his birth, Culver said. "His was a lifetime of unprecedented service to the cause of agriculture and scientific work that revolutionized world food production to the benefit of all mankind. The efforts made to preserve land were among his proudest accomplishments."

Culver ended his address by quoting Wallace himself, who said, "The improved quality and increased abundance of life is a progressive matter and has to do not only with human life but with all plants and animals as well...the highest joy of life is complete dedication to something outside yourself."

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