

Sully, Iowa Quasquicentennial 1882-2007

When several businesses and a number of homes were constructed in the Lynn Grove Township area known as Sully, the residents decided the town should be platted in 1882. The town was named for a railroad man, Alfred Sully, in a gesture of gratitude for his willingness to serve the town's needs with a rail station. Cyrus Taylor, an early pioneer and owner of many acres of land, gave 40 acres of his farmland for the town site. Sully was incorporated Feb. 28, 1901, and there were 150 residents. Usually increased population, new homes, and more businesses determine if a town is improving. Sully has certainly continued to grow and improve since its beginning in 1882 and even more since the town's centennial 25 years ago in 1982 when the population of Sully was 823. Sully had 904 residents at the time of the 2000 census. Sully is in the southeast corner of Jasper County, Iowa, surrounded by many productive farms.

Sully celebrated 100 years Aug. 6-8, 1982, and a book including all of the town's history was created. Many copies of these are still available, so it was determined that now, 25 years later, a cookbook would be published and photos of new business areas and updated information would be included. The town's three-day celebration for the centennial included the centennial parade, threshing and plowing demonstrations, a pageant, musical programs, and fireworks to fill the sky with celebration. Duane Ellett and his dog puppet, Floppy, were on hand to entertain youngsters and there were horse and buggy, helicopter, and airplane rides offered. U.S. Senator Charles Grassley offered the official opening and the churches in Sully held a hymn sing and community worship service to close the three-day event.

Antique farm machinery was on display and quilts were made and auctioned for the centennial. Local men grew beards and became "Brothers of the Brush" with hopes of having the longest or nicest beard that week. Sully folks were honored for being the oldest or traveling a great distance to join the celebration, while some ladies and girls were named Past, Present, and Future Queens. Now, 125 years of existence is being celebrated in the town of Sully!

The town square, originally known as Central Park, was planted with maple trees and had a bandstand where the Sully Band played in the wood structure in 1901. Now there is a rose garden where this stood. The bell on display was originally in the water tower in 1912, then it was replaced by the fire siren in 1925. It was placed in the town square park in 1973 and visitors along with area small children enjoy ringing it! The park has a playground area maintained by the Sully Lions Club and Fourth of July celebrations are centered around this town square park each year.

The northeast corner of the square has a restored Deep Rock gas station transformed into beautiful flower gardens maintained by the Sully Garden Club. When Hackert Sales and Service (skid loader dealership and rental business) moved to a new building east of the cemetery, the city purchased the site for the Garden Club.

Former buildings on the east side of the square have been razed and new ones have taken their place. Sully Telephone Association built a business area which houses Sully Family Health Center, First State Bank, Aysia's Floral Creations, and the Diamond Trail News. Upstairs are five apartments. Located just south of this building is Sully Telephone Association which offers telephone service and Iowa Network Services' DSL computer internet connections to the community. Their new vehicle building with a grassy area in the front is the former location of Sully Manufacturing. The Social Freeze ice cream store and restaurant is south of this and once was a veterinarian's office and they offer soft serve ice cream, sandwiches, and movie rentals. The next building is the now empty corner grocery store. The Faithwalkers Reformed Church youth group meets in this building.

On the southeast corner is the Ver Ploeg Building which houses antique machinery. The United States Post Office lobby is now open 24 hours a day when new boxes with key entry were added. There are two apartments above the post office. The Trophy Shop is the next business on the south side of the town square. Awards, advertising supplies, apparel with embroidery or screen printing, and cloth bags are available there, along with U.S. Cellular cell phones. Clarence Van Der Zyl and his family continue to serve area residents' insurance needs along with housing the law office of John Terpstra of Brierly Charnetski LLP and tax business consultant Rusty Van Wyk of Konek and Company. The next business is the Coffee Cup Café which offers daily home-cooked meals. Friday night is pizza night and Saturday night is fried chicken night at the café. You can stop in anytime for a delicious slice of homemade pie, too! The former Ken's Barber Shop is the seating area in the café now. Across the alley west is the former bank building which now is Sully Health and Professional Center and Chad Fikse Chiropractic,

Edwin Dieleman, CPA, Grinnell Family Dentistry, and law office of Matthias, Campbell, Tyler, Nuzum, and Rickers share offices in this building.

The F & M Bank is located on the southwest corner of the square. F & M brought 24-hour banking to Sully with the first ATM machine. The former city hall building is now Sully Plumbing and Heating. This store also sells general hardware supplies. Next to the north is the new Sully Community Center which is the location of the city clerk's office, council chambers, a large community social room, and the Sully Community Library. The library is very active, serving rural and city residents and the collection has over 15,000 books, videos, audios, and DVDs for all ages.

Another new area in town is the business park on the west side of Sully on First Avenue. Kruseman Implement moved their farm equipment and repair business to this area and the old building remains in the Kruseman family. In the business park, you will now find Sully Manufacturing, Tim Dunsbergen Construction Services, West Side Storage Units, Mike Van Soelen's M & M Express, Azure Biodiesel, Randy DeVries' Center Point Electric, Carroll Harthoorn Seeds, and Arland Vander Leest Storage. On the east side of 1st Ave. is Zylstra Express Trucking and Craig Maasdam's Fast Trax Sports which sells SkiDoo and Kawasaki utility vehicles. Maasdam also owns the former Sully Body Shop building.

Farther west of Sully is Sully Truck Wash sitting atop a hill and specializing in livestock truck washouts. Garden Chapel Funeral Home with main location in Pella has a Sully location at 11892 Hwy F-62E. Star Auto Truck Repair continues to service vehicle needs. JANCO Industries' metal fabrication is also connected to this building. Sully Archery Pro Shop is located at the Greg Lewis residence. Classic Car Wash is housed in another former service station and Schmidt Lumber and Pole Builders offers farm and commercial building products. Sully Farm Supply builds grain bins and sells farm grain dryers and augers. Matt Drafahl repairs small engines along with selling mowers at Matt's Mowers which is located in the east side of the brick building on the corner of 1st St. and 7th Ave. Casey's General Store is a convenience store offering carry-out pizza, fuel for vehicles, and general food items for sale along with fast food take-out. South of Casey's is Bill Moes Plumbing and Heating Electrical and Mechanical Contractors. They also have a new building for their vehicles at this site. The Sully Christian Reformed Church is pastored by Jack Gray at 103-9th Avenue and has a congregation of 156 families.

The Lynnville-Sully School first began classes at this complex for all grades K-12 in March, 1982. Since the opening, new additions and remodeled areas to the school include a new weight room, consumer science rooms, greenhouse, computer rooms, science room, and running track. The girls' basketball team had a three-peat for wins in the state in 1997, 1998, and 1999. Several teachers in the school are now former graduates of the school which certainly shows pride for L-S! East of the school is the new building for school buses and behind this is the new Diamond Trail Fitness Center. This building was built with the help of a Vision Iowa Grant within three years of its inception. Not only is this an exercise area and fitness facility for the community, there are dance classes offered in tap, ballet, and jazz. Pella Regional Health Center also offers rehabilitation services and physical therapy in this building. One mile east of this area is the Sully Cemetery. New neighbors to the cemetery are the Lynnville-Sully Veterinary Clinic and Hackert Sales and Service dealer for skid loaders and equipment rental and repair and H & H Rentals storage units.

On the south side of Hwy. F 62 E is Lynnville Transport which is a livestock trucking company owned by Marty Vander Molen. On the southeast edge of Sully is the city ball park. There are tennis courts, basketball courts, sand volleyball, playground equipment, a large sandbox, shelter houses, and a concession stand along with two softball and baseball fields. Across this street at 92nd Ave. E. is the Sully Christian Grade School. This K-8 facility opened in 1913 and provides a well-rounded Christian education. West of the school at 12559 S. 92nd Ave. E. is the Sully Community Church. Pastor Jerry Morningstar leads the congregation of 90 families. The former building of the Community Church at 4th Ave. and 8th St. was purchased by Jad Van Der Zyl. The Sully Municipal Airport L41-34-20 N Longitude 92-50-51 W is a public-use grassy field landing area. Across the street north on 8th Street is the former Kruseman Implement building and Sully Transport, Inc., a common carrier of liquid products including petroleum, LP gas, anhydrous, ag chemicals, and fertilizer products.

Turning the corner north is the area of SCE (Sully Cooperative Exchange). Their departments include fertilizer and chemicals, elevator grain services, main office, and an oil station. More businesses are behind the Co-op. These include Rees Lease freight trucking company, the City of Sully maintenance building, Van

Maanen Electric, Synergy Hog Production, and Van Zante's Sully Construction dozer and tiling. Turning east at the Sully Co-op Oil Station on 5th Street is the Sully Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Department building which was the former site of the old creamery building. Dedicated volunteers offer their time, using the best of modern equipment for fire fighting and ambulance service and they also have a staff of certified EMTs. The buildings east of this are storage for the Sully Co-op. The Community Locker does butchering, meat processing, and meat curing. They sell meats in individual packages along with delicious dried beef and meat sticks. BZ Auto Company offers collision repair in the location of the former welding shop. Behind is BZ Storage Units. North of the Sully Co-op Oil Station on 6th Avenue is Skyline Ready Mix Cement and the Sully Co-op Lumber and Construction Service.

Other Sully businesses include: Rod Rozendaal Drain Cleaning, Randy Vander Weerdt Builders, Fopma's EG Venture, Scholten and Sons Home Builders, Jad Van Der Zyl's JADCO, Norma Beerends' Sweet Creations Bakeshop, Eckles Music Entertainment, IBP Hog Buying Station, Maasdam Sorghum Mill, Earth Works, Duane Ver Ploeg Antique Farm Machinery Rebuilding, Kruseman Fertilizer, Co-Line Welding, Summit Builders, Country Store Building Supplies, Harold Rozendaal Mason Contractor, Martin Marietta Aggregates Rock and Gravel, Bob Nikkel Wall Sawing, Olympic Genetic Center, Gorman Rozendaal Washer Repair, Randy Rozendaal Stump Removal, S & S Upholstery, Tim Smith Electric, L & L Concrete Construction, Scott Nikkel Ag Lime, Eldon Nikkel Trucking, Carroll Fopma Trucking, Willie Scholten Trucking, Cen Pe Co Oil Sales, Bernie VanDerPol Auction Services, Les Laverman Woodworking, and Kevin Laverman Remodeling. With over 80 businesses in our small community you can see that this town has good work ethics!

North of Sully on E. 124th St. S. is the Family Christian Center which is owned by the Lynnville Friends Church. The First Reformed Church is at 807 3rd Street and Pastor Roger Punt and Youth Pastor Brice Hoyt serve the congregation of 245 families. Other churches in the area include St. Andrew's Lutheran Church which is located five miles west of Sully at 8290 Hwy. F 62 E. with 20 families attending. South of Sully at 12014 Hwy. T 33 S. is the Sully Meeting Room where those gathering there meet simply as members of the body of Christ.

Organizations and clubs in Sully include the Sully Lions Club, Sully Garden Club, Après Midi Club, Sully Senior Citizens, Sully Business Assn., Sully Development, and Sully Health Foundation. The Sully Retirement Homes offer 13 units built in the 1970s on 8th Avenue. There are also several rental homes and apartments available along with homes and lots for sale, including the new North Ridge Estates housing development. The city connected to Rural Water and eventually the water tower was torn down. In 2005, a local option sales tax 1% increase was passed to make improvements to the community and reduce property taxes.

Sully is within 25 minutes of the larger cities of Pella, Grinnell, and Newton and within an hour of Des Moines, the state capital. Sully is the ideal community for people who seek work in the city but appreciate small-town life for their families.

Perhaps you remember Sully when it had three grocery stores, the barber shop, the blacksmith, or hitching posts. Sully is not businesses or just bricks and mortar, it's the spirit of its people who make the town come alive and who will welcome you warmly to enjoy and share their proud heritage with them. They will make you feel immediately at-home. On the streets, you will experience a greeting or a wave hello. There are no stop lights and fewer stop signs than in years past. The town is filled with overly nice and selfless people ready to lend a helping hand at a moment's notice. We are blessed with lots of young families and children and enough grandmas and grandpas to love them all. We have lost a lot of friends, young and old, unfortunately, but new faces take their place in our community and are welcomed. Sully is known for its cleanliness, work ethic, and religious environment -- traits passed down through our rich Dutch heritage. Take time to drop by and visit our city in the heart of Iowa!