

DHPC historic preservation award ceremony is May 2

The Decorah Historic Preservation (DHPC) will announce its annual historic preservation award during presentation 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2 in the Decorah Public Library mezzanine in conjunction with Historic Preservation Month.

The Commission is recognizing Elizabeth Lorentzen and Ed Epperly "for their contribution to historic preservation in the community through their well-researched and lively information panels, 'A Walk into the Past,' found throughout Decorah." The presentation will be followed by a short talk by Lorentzen.

Lorentzen recently retired from the Decorah Community School district after 42 years of service and was awarded the Art Educators of Iowa (AEI) 2010 Outstanding High School Art Educator. She has served the school district and community

with her talents and enthusiasm, was part of the reinvigoration of the Decorah Arts Collective, volunteers for the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission leading tours throughout the Broadway-Phelps Historic District and downtown Decorah area and has edited the popular book *Oil local architecture, "Vera Harris" Decorah Houses and Their Stories.*

Epperly, professor emeritus of education at Luther College began researching the 1912 Villisca axe murders as a college student. In 1955 he traveled to Villisca for the first time with two friends where they interviewed Dr. Cooper, the first physician to examine the victims and the crime scene. He is co-authoring a book with Tammy and Kelly Rundle on the famous unsolved murder and is the primary consultant on the documentary "Villisca: Living With A Mystery."