

Stephenson County

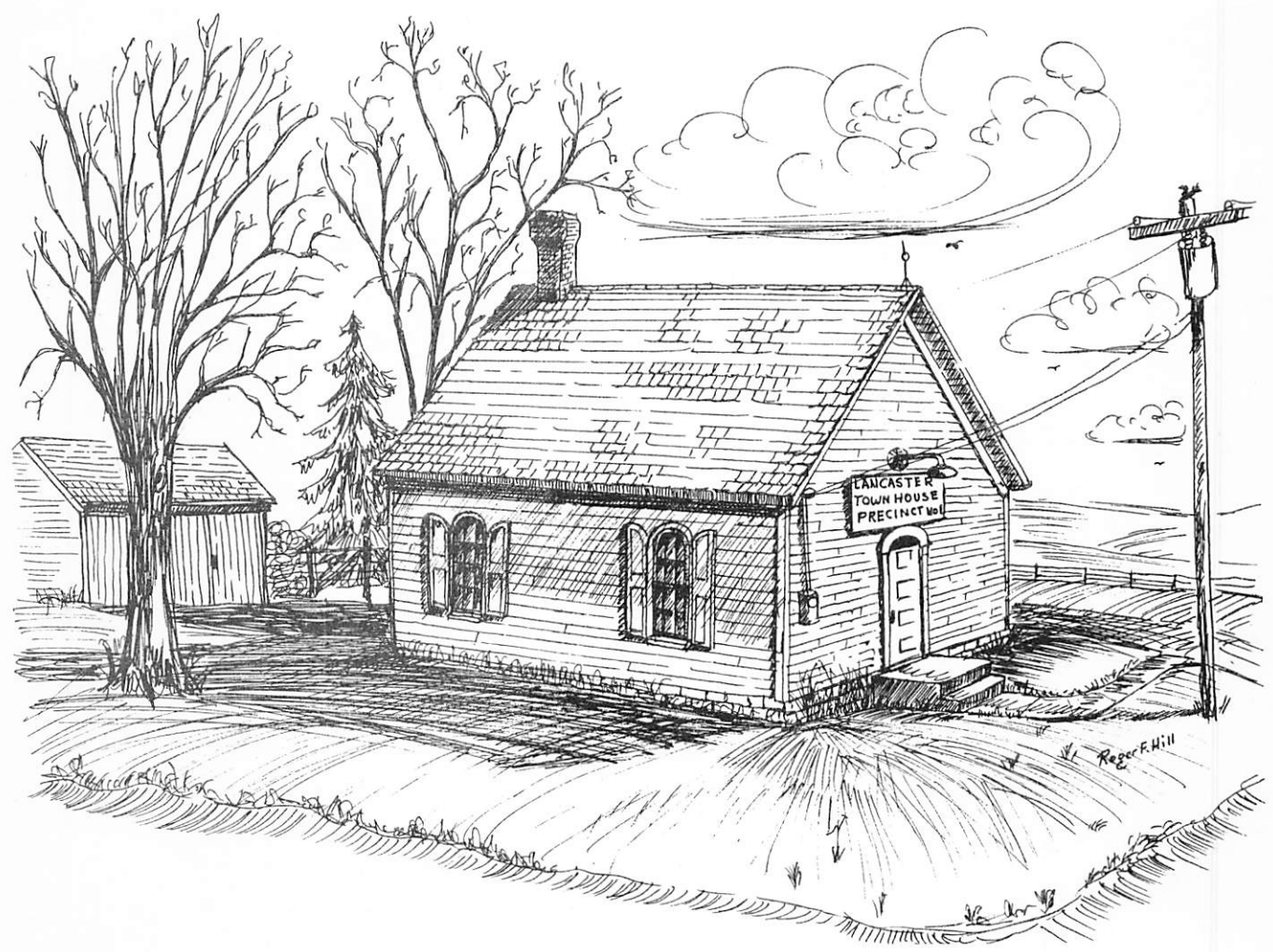
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3/9/76 Products

TOWN
76
MEETING

TOWN MEETING "76"

"PEOPLE OF STEPHENSON COUNTY
SHAPING THE FUTURE"



HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FREEPORT, ILL.

14 FEBRUARY 1976

A BICENTENNIAL EVENT SPONSORED BY

© THE STEPHENSON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

HORIZON'S COMMITTEE



DO WE CARE ENOUGH?

We are quick to assert the rights that are guaranteed each of us by our Constitution. This is good! Are we nearly as prompt in assuming the duties that citizenship imposes on us? I think not!

Two hundred years ago we were given a form of government based on the recognition of the value of the life of each citizen, and ever since we have been struggling to make the government operate to insure that the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is not a meaningless phrase. Success and failure have crowned our efforts.

Hundreds of thousands have sacrificed their lives in time of war to insure the rights we have. Others have, through the dedication of their lives, made possible the cultural and material things we now enjoy.

This is the time to recognize that citizenship imposes duties upon us, and that we must each in his own way fulfill the obligations our form of government requires of each citizen. We must participate and actively share in the task of making representative government work. Apathy has no place in such a system.

Let us be informed, seek public office, express ourselves at the ballot box and concern ourselves with the problems of others as well as our own. We owe that much to those who have made possible the government we have, to ourselves, and those who come after us.

Everett E. Laughlin
Judge Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

"Town Meeting 76"
February 14, 1976

DEDICATED

4

JANUARY

1976



OUR CITY

There's not much here
of the glint and glare
Of a city's pounding pace;
It's quiet here with some to spare,
Just a wide spot in the road
sort of place.

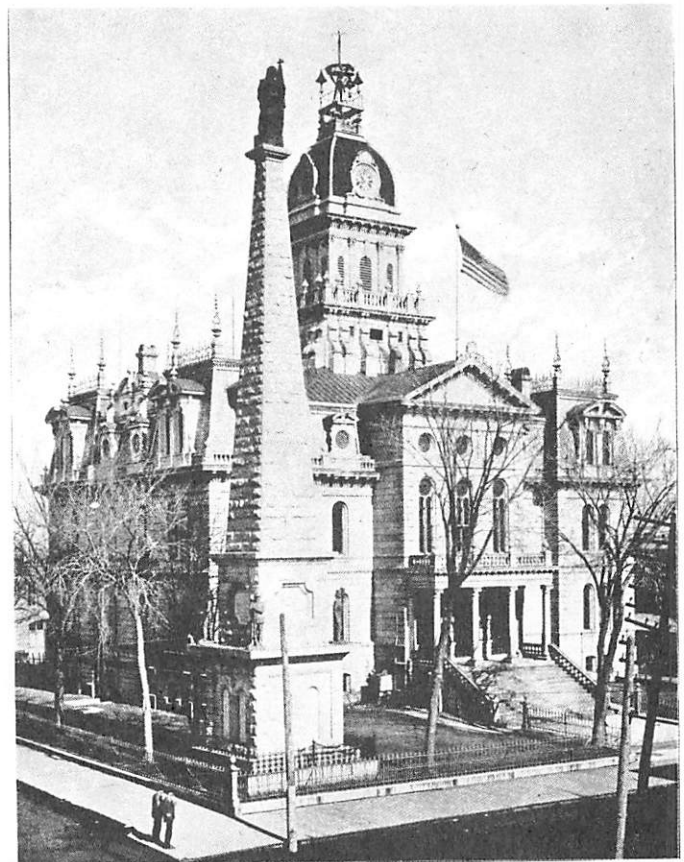
Evenings are generally
a time of rest,
The folks are all done
with their chores,
And the young fry are yellin'
and doin' their best
To ignore the summons indoors.

We don't have skyscrapers
nor dirty slums,
There's no tavern,
not even a store;
No roaring traffic, fact is,
it barely hums,
If it moved much slower
it'd snore.

Street lights come on,
neon you know,
That's about all of the
"bright lights" we've got,
But a neighbor walks by
and calls a "Hello,"
Or drop in, we visit a lot.

The twilight glow frames
grand old trees,
Thrush and robin settle
in for the night,
There's a clean scent of meadow
on the gentle breeze,
And withal a persuasion
that everything's right.

Joseph Calvin Schofield
Rock Grove,
Stephenson County,
Illinois



STEPHENSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

1870 - 1974

Recognition & Acknowledgements

Appreciation and thanks are extended to the following people who have made "Town Meeting 76" possible.

Hosts

Everett E. Laughlin - General Chairman "Town Meeting 76"
George E. Koehler - Chairman, Stephenson County Board
Ethel Ziegler - Supervisor, Freeport Township and
Chairman Township Supervisor's Assn.
Mark B. McLeRoy - Mayor - City of Freeport
Howard Sims - President, Highland Community College

"Town Meeting 76" Committees

General Coordination - Glenn Schwendiman - Wirt C. Gilliam
Attendance - John B. Whiton
Facilities and Decor - Neal Lathrop - LeRoy Wilson
Entertainment - James Berberet
Meeting Brochure - Richard Shouer - Peter Valencia
Luncheon Arrangements - James Bergagna - W. C. Gilliam
Publicity - James P. Wilson
Registrars - John B. Whiton, Matie Suggs, Pat Burt, Sidney Stone
Typists - Bertha Walter, Lucille VanRaden, Helen Schwendiman

"Town Meeting 76" Staff

Institute of Cultural Affairs

Assisted By

Liason - Cathy Whitney
Lecture - Charles Moore
Lecture - Marge Tomlinson
Workshop - Dr. Ed Ames
Workshop - Sandra True
Workshop - Richard Hamje
Workshop - Jacqueline Kelder

Alfred Abramowitz
Debbie Burt
Larry Patterson
Jerry Gantt

Stephenson County Bicentennial Commission

Glenn Schwendiman - Chairman
Neal Lathrop - Vice Chairman
Helen Grob - Secretary
Robert Vinson - Treasurer

Heritage Committee - Leonard French
Helen Henze
Festival Committee - Edward Leibig
Stephen Riser
Horizon Committee - John B. Whiton

Co-Chrmn.

Co-Chrmn.

Chrmn.

Thanks and recognition is also extended to the following:
The Illinois Bicentennial Commission and the Stephenson County Board for underwriting the major costs for "Town Meeting 76".
The Institute of Cultural Affairs for stimulus and help; To Roger F. Hill for the sketching Lancaster Town Hall done expecially for "Town Meeting 76"; To Joe Schofield for his poem "Our City" which is included in his privately published collection "On the Trail"; To Philip L. Keister and the Stephenson County Historical Society for the 1837-1853 Road Map; To Glenn C. Hutchison for the current map of Stephenson County; To Highland Community College administration and staff for facilities and help; To lunchtime entertainers for enjoyment and relaxation.



FAMILY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Guild B

In the arena of family guidance and faced with lack of interest in needs of family, of youth, and of races, the present challenge is to deal with family disintegration, prejudices, and ignorance of problems and opportunities that are available, as seen in rise in youthful crime, high divorce, frustrated youth and lack of (parental) guidance.

LACK OF FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Guild B

In the arena of family relationship and faced with prejudice, social pressure, and inflation the present challenge is to deal with more loving family structure. The need is seen in juvenile decline, divorce rate, and family breakdown.

PERMISSIVE SOCIETY

Guild D

In the arena of social problems and faced with lack of wisdom, "me first" attitude, refusal to face facts, the present challenge is to deal with a permissive society as seen in lack of parental guidance, poor use of voting privilege, lack of leadership candidates, and poor church attendance.

LACK OF COMMUNITY CONCERN

Guild D

In the arena of directed individual involvement concern and faced with lack of communication and information, fear of voicing own opinions, not knowing how to work together, and "me-first" attitude, the present challenge is to deal with self-interest before concern of community. This is seen in poor voter turnout, courthouse issue, poor attendance at government meetings, and the fight over desegregation.

SERIOUS PARTICIPATION

Guild C

In the arena of cultural commonality and cultural concerns and faced with individual attitudes, level of integrity, lack of family unity, and lack of self-concepts, the present challenge is to deal with negativism, multitudes of choices, TV, individual involvement, affluences known by no other nation or society in history as seen in unemployment level, concept of east side/ west side, vote swapping, mandated legislation without enabling or appropriation bills, and citizen's complaint after governmental due process.

IMPROVE SELF IMAGE

Guild A

In the arena of personal esteem and faced with general apathy the present challenge is to deal with negative attitude as seen in disrespect, lack of involvement, vandalism, and voter apathy.

CREATING AWARENESS

Guild A

In the arena of cultural awareness and faced with ignorance, apathy, lack of knowledge and information, the present challenge is to deal with inadequate knowledge as seen in inaccuracy and misrepresentation by the media and in interpersonal communication, (school integration problems, child abuse).

RECREATE FAMILY

Guild C

In the arena of our cultural society and faced with spouses working, lack of maturity and discipline and lack of human understanding, the present challenge is to deal with youth apathy and lack of family unity as seen in numerous divorces, loss of individualism, alcohol and drug problems.

CITIZEN-POLITICAL FRUSTRATION

Guild C

In the arena of political commonality--welfare, archaic systems and changing society and faced with people wanting immediate pleasure, the present challenge is to deal with people desiring services but being unwilling to pay for them in time, money and effort, as seen in families being on welfare year after year, and lack of attendance at public meetings.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Guild B

In the arena of economic commonality and faced with a lack of public concern, public funds, and governmental cooperation, the present challenge is to deal with necessary economic growth, balanced by concern for the environment, as seen in the lack of flood control and lack of new industries.

LACK OF LOCAL CONTROL

Guild B

In the arena of economic resources and distribution and faced with a lack of local action and ineffective state and federally imposed solutions, the present challenge is to deal with the inaction of the local community and overaction of the state and Federal governments, as seen in federal and state welfare programs.

LACK OF COMMUNITY CONCERN

Guild D

In the arena of economic commonality and faced with lack of guidance in vocational training, labor and industry cooperation needed, and lack of communication between government and the taxpayer, the present challenge is to deal with lack of community concern as seen in not enough use of exercising the right to vote, lack of flood control, and meager attendance at meetings of government bodies.

ACHIEVING A BALANCE BETWEEN NEEDS AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES

Guild A

In the arena of economic resources and faced with the following blocks: lack of skilled labor, large unorganized female work force, and lack of coordination between vocational education opportunities and business needs, the present challenge is to deal with making decisions about use of natural and human resources, as seen in local housing development vs. agricultural uses, inavailability of middle income housing, lack of opportunity for advancement for women and vocational training for youth which is unaccepted by local business.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Guild A

In the arena of individual responsibility and faced with faulty sense of value, greed, and lack of self discipline, the present challenge is to deal with misdirected motivation, as seen in overlapping of agencies, social services, token desegregation and loss of the volunteer incentive.

RESOURCE MISUSE

Guild C

In the arena of resource management and improper use of resources and faced with the declining resource reserves and increasing generation of waste, the present challenge is to deal with the comparative efficiencies in modes of transportation, industry and utilities, as seen in present and past systems of common operation and production.

SELFISH MOTIVES

Guild B

In the arena of local governmental efficiency and faced with the lack of harmony the present challenge is to deal with provincialism as seen in separate services and facilities of tax supported bodies.

LACK OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Guild D

In the arena of corporate justice (political) and faced with material values (materialism), uncertainty about laws, unavilable information, excess of information, and vague, blurred issues, the present challenge is to deal with lack of real citizen participation; unwillingness of people to govern themselves, as seen in low voting turnout, quality people are not involved, poor participation at the precinct level, and complacency caused by self-satisfaction.

LACK COMMON SYSTEM FOR MAKING DECISIONS

Guild D

In the arena of corporate welfare and faced with poor use of resources, imbalance of priorities and fear of being honest, the present challenge is to deal with a common system for making decisions as seen in responding to crises as compared to a plan ie; snow-plowing, money over education, ie; cutting of arts;and newspaper decides what news is in order to sell more papers.

INEFFECTIVE PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Guild B

In the arena of pulitics and faced with lack of communication, knowledge and clear priorities, the present challenge is to deal with the inability of individuals to publicly express themselves, as seen in letters to editors, columns, managed poorly.

RESPONSIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Guild A

In the arena of political society and faced with general apathy, lack of political efficacy, and lack of trust of governments, the present challenge is to deal with lack of governmental and personal responsiveness and responsibility,as seen in President Nixon (Watergate) -- County courthouse issue.

(UNTITLED)

Guild C

In the arena of political commonality and faced with the issues of bureaucracy, failing courts, folks not roting, the present challenge is to deal with getting faster action in the courts, honesty from our judicial staff; the need to have more individuals committed to good government; increased voter participation, as seen in Stephenson County

SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Guild c:

We the Citizens of Stephenson County, in order to develop Public awareness propose to develop a system of coordinated social services through social service leaders being brought together, developing feasibility study, opportunity for community input on social services need and the presentation of services available via mass media.

CULTIVATION OF FAMILY AND PERSONAL VALUES

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to create an atmosphere of nurture where a family can operate effectively propose church attendance and teaching of high moral values as a daily standard through participation in worship and work, encouragement of attendance, evaluation of spiritual values and priorities and setting good examples.

MAY HERITAGE RULE

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to keep our heritage propose community celebrations through parade, pageant, dedication of village bell, and balls.

INSTILLING RESPONSIBLE SERVICE IN EVERYONE

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to encourage civic or social responsibility, propose to present specific tasks in existing activities through media and one to one relationships and through compensation or reward for efforts given by the people affected by the activity.

CREATING POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to gain a more positive atmosphere and recognize achievement in the community propose to encourage "building up" instead of "tearing down" and to make our thanks known to good workers through articles in the papers, announcements on radio and TV, phone calls, personal notes and letters to folks who are contributing to the good of the community.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

Guild A

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to educate consumers for confidence and self reliance propose consumer affairs agency through finding local sponsor group, review comparable activity in other communities. Define area of activity and publicize it.

(UNTITLED)

Guild A

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to eliminate bureacracy in local government by increasing participation of individuals in local government through purge of the "double standard" and BASIC law and order.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Guild A

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to stimulate individual responsibility by example and leadership and education propose supporting leadership through encouraging better communications at all levels, compliment, criticize and suggest with decision makers.

AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL BALANCE

Guild A

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to achieve proper balance of industry and agriculture at the local level propose greater knowledge of value of each economic segment through the creation and activities of a county Chamber of Commerce, increased field trips by the community to agriculture and industry, and awareness of positive benefi~~ts~~ of industry and agriculture. Disseminated through the media.

CITIZENS AND LEADERS SET PRIORITIES

Guild A

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to engage the grass roots of the county with the leadership for increasing the participation and responsiveness of the citizens, propose that the County Board hold evening meetings instead of day sessions, publicize the meetings and issues one week in advance so that daytime workers could attend and serve on the Board, through the formation of task forces for identifying the problems and situations, determing the amount of time for accomplishing the goals and setting out the weekly tactical steps for action and evaluations.

CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITY

We the citizens of Stephenson County Illinois, in order to elicit more citizen input propose to instill pride of citizen participation through teaching civics at all levels, family-living courses, youth training and improved communication and cooperation between tax supported bodies and electors.

BETTER INFORMED CITIZENS

We the citizens of Stephenson County, Illinois, in order to develop a more knowledgeable citizenry propose an educational program through seminars, media communications, short courses, workshops, panel discussions and communications with representatives.

DIRECT CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

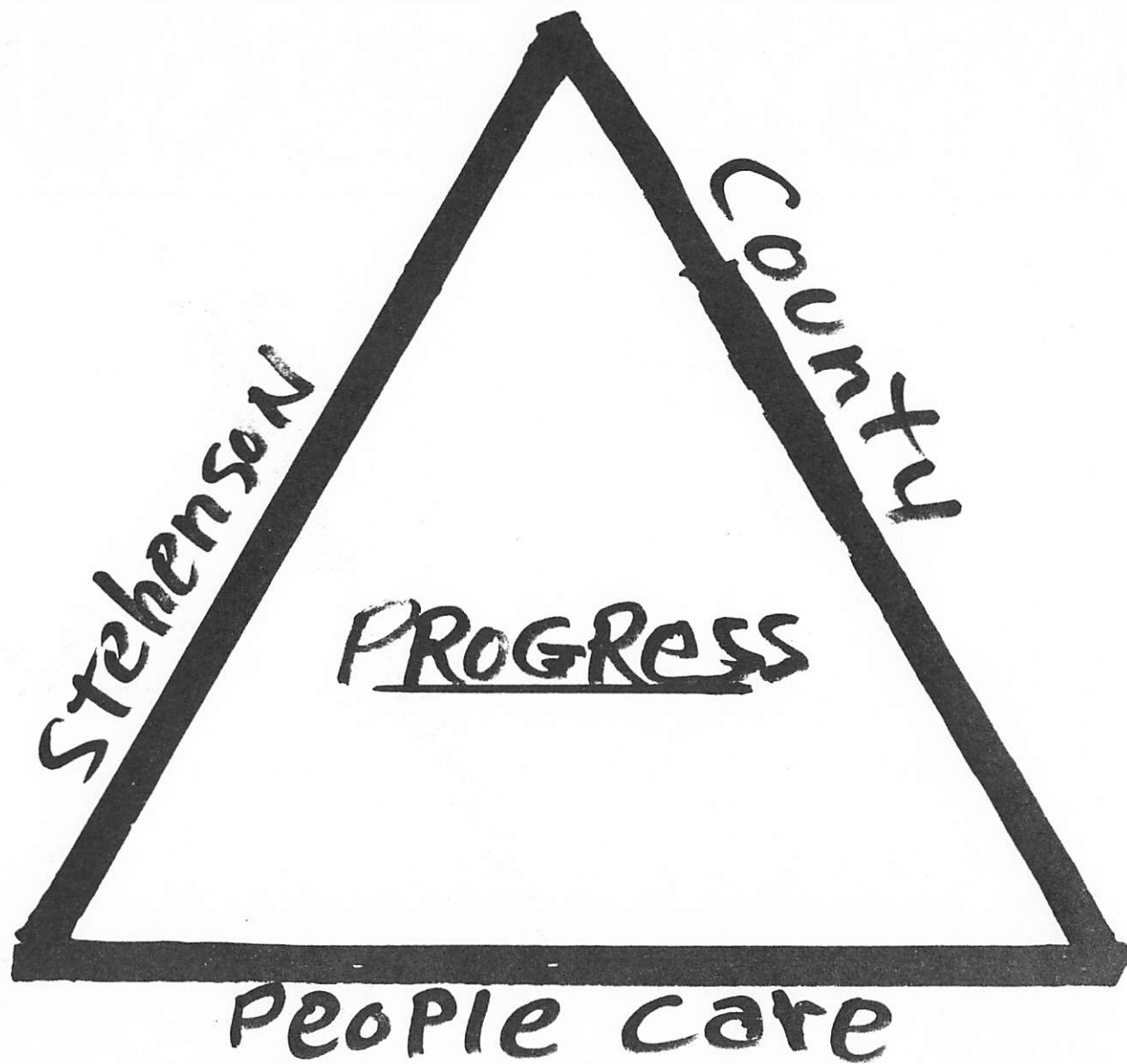
We the citizens of Stephenson County, Ill. in order to maximize direct citizen impact on government propose the creation of neighborhood action groups through telephoning neighbors, scheduling meetings, communicating views to councils, and obtaining publicity.

EFFICIENT, CREDIBLE GOVERNMENT

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to foster more efficient and credible government propose a businesslike process of administration and public information through a Peace-Corp system utilizing doctor and master degree students from universities.

OF, BY, FOR, THE PEOPLE

We the citizens of Stephenson County in order to place final governmental authority in the hands of the people propose referenda be required for important decisions, provide referenda at public request, make referenda binding on public officials, through changes in state and county laws by enlightening the public through direct mailing and impartial news participation.



STEPHENSON COUNTY TOWN MEETING '76
February 14, 1976

SONG: BALLAD OF STEPHENSON COUNTY
(Tune: The Battle Hymn of the Republic)

When the pioneers were coming, and the Indians were here,
First we made machinery, and then we brewed the beer.
Jane Addams lived in Cedarville, and Abe debated here.
Our heritage is great.

Chorus:

Glory, Glory Pecatonica
Glory, Glory Pecatonica
Glory, Glory Pecatonica
We'll dam you, damn you, yet

There always will be problems, as there always were before
Education, conservation, roads and busses to our door.
Economy and poverty and anathy and more.
Our problems aren't too great.

Our eyes can see the beauty of the green, abundant land.
We need to work together on the challenges at hand
Our children will appreciate and fully understand,
Our future will be great.

"TOWN MEETING 76"

"People of Stephenson County Shaping the Future"

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

SIGNATURE	TOWN	SIGNATURE	TOWN
Glenn Schwendeman	Freeport	Robert Shroake	Freeport
Edw. D. Ziegler	"	Heeneb Fairbairn	Redist
Winnie Anderson	"	Carl Fairbairn	Redist
Doris E. Lenka	Freeport	Roger T. Heil	Freeport
Ron Noble	Freeport	Mark A. Hilly	Freeport
WAYNE NELSON	Redist	David A. Kahan	Freeport
Jim Berberet	Freeport	Le Roy E. Wilson	Cherryville
Delvrie Burt	Freeport	Neil W. Ladner	Freeport
Volmer O. Swift	"	Ralph Enstrom	Freeport
Henry S. Swift	"	Melba B. Brekke	Monroe
Wm C. Gilliam	SILVER CREEK	Jane Nelson	Monroe
DARLENE V. GILLIAM	"	Mary Bolin	mil
JOAN OSBURN	Freeport	Maurine Bolin	"
Dick Luthin	Freeport	Harmon G. Harney	Freeport
Loone Stone	Freeport	Gene V. Harney	"
Loone Stone	"	George A. Koshen	Freeport
Ernest E. C. C.	Freeport	Kenneth A. Gillgren	MILWAUKEE
Doug Kalha	Redist	Sharon Hoffmar	Freeport
Nancy Eggert	Milwaukee	Linda Plenger	Redist

"TOWN MEETING 76"
"People of Stephenson County Shaping the Future"

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

SIGNATURE	TOWN	SIGNATURE	TOWN
Ann Linnell	O'ville	John J. Jones	Freeport
Mary L. Donker	Rockledge	Fred Madden	Freeport
Richard F. Spencer	FRPT	Bob Madden	Freeport
R. E. B. Burkman	FRPT	Floyd Walker	"
Mary E. Ledwith	Freeport	Sarah Spear	"
Mabel L. Schoch	"	Jim Spear	"
Helen Heng	"	Rev. Ernest Curry	
Sue Townsend.	ICA Chicago.	Vivian Shaw	
Onell Ruth	Freeport	Carl Smith	
Danell G. Shippee	Freeport	Sue Gorman	Freeport
Raymond D. Carpenter	Freeport	Richard Lumby	"
Dorothy M. Borden "SAM"	Freeport	Kay Miller	Sherman Valley.
Leona Carpenter	Freeport	Lucile Paulsen	Rockledge
Sue Carpenter	Freeport	Henry Baeth	Freeport
Lucy Fisher	Freeport	Marie Bertlett	Winnebago
Lucille L. Lattin	Freeport	Bion Burkett	Winnebago
Harriet Miller	Freeport	Gerold W. Osborne	Freeport
Pat Mc Carley	Delate	Catherine Whitney	Chicago
Mrs. Norma Traller	R. I. Freeport	DON SCHMID	Rockford

"TOWN MEETING 76"
"People of Stephenson County Shaping the Future"

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

SIGNATURE	TOWN	SIGNATURE	TOWN
Mrs. Strocker	Freeport	Mrs. Emerson Parke	Rock City.
Dr. A. D. Shepherd	Freeport	Willy Peterson	Fpt
Charles B. Perin	Freeport	John B. Whiton	Frpt.
John Perin	Freeport	Dick Shower	Fpt.
Frank A. Frey	Freeport	Alvin L. Wire	Win.
Glenn E. Wire	Win.	Betty Meyers	Alvin
Catharine Wire	"	James R. Duffrin	Fpt.
Fay Kuster	Orange	Harlan Regney	Harlan
Joyce Germani	Rock City	Howard R. Statham	Int.
Mrs. Merrill Welling	Rock City	Rose TerHark	TV 23 Freeport
Mrs. David Natz	Rock City	H. W. Kilpatrick	Rock City
Raymond Collins	Freeport	Robert W. Miller	Freeport
Mrs. H. M. Volk	Dakota	Howard V. Sims	Freeport
Don Hutchison	R 3		
Wally Hutchison	R 3		
E. A. Rutz			
Bruce Walter			
Edith W. Offenhuis			

"TOWN MEETING 76"
"People of Stephenson County Shaping the Future"

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

SIGNATURE	TOWN	SIGNATURE	TOWN
Becky Glow	Mt. View	Frank Conant	Freeport
Jim Wilson	Freeport	Mayer Mark B. McLeary	Freeport
Rosemary Albright	Chicago	Edward Brooks	Freeport
Ken Kreis	Freeport	Dunc Binsell	Freeport
Ruth Irene Kaiser	Freeport	Ken French	"
K. A. H. H.	Freeport	Helen Schwendman	Freeport
Barbara Canoco	Chicago	Sue Schwendman	Freeport
Cathy Bayer	Chicago	Aden Michael Page	Freeport
Ruth Hunsberg	Chicago	Matis Suggs	Freeport
Bea Kreese	Freeport	Andy Ayres	Chicago
Nancy Falgate	Freeport	Nancy F. Otte	N.W. Ill. Taman Luna Ill.
Terry Gant	Lena	Dr. Bud Ames	OAK PACK
Lva Mays	Orangeville	Tom West	MONROE
Ruth Allen	Orangeville	Joan West	Monroe
Carole Frisch	Freeport	John Wilson	Freeport
Pat Burt	Freeport	Chuck Myken	"
V. Lett Hart	Rockledge		
Emily Knight	Freeport		

SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

1976

Stephenson County

Jan. 4	Stephenson County Court House Dedication
Jan. 14	Film Lecture - Wilderness "76" - H. C. C.
Jan. 26	Liberty Bell Replica tours schools
Feb. 4	The New Arizona Rotary Film Lecture
Feb. 6	Salute to Great Americans- Consistory Auditorium
Feb. 7-8-14-15	"THE WHITE HOUSE" - Winneshiek Players
Feb. 14	"Town Meeting 76" - H. C. C.
Feb. 20-21	"THE MUSIC MAN" - All School Musical - Fpt. Jr. H.S.
Feb. 28	Pearl City Bicentennial Costume Ball - Holiday Inn Fpt. Phelps Bros. - Illinois Bicentennial Gospel Music Ambassadors - Consistory Auditorium
Mar. 13	YWCA American Arts and Crafts
Mar. 13-14-18-19-20	Winneshiek Players 50th Anniversary Snow
Mar. 17	(Rotary) Film Lecture - Alaska - Fpt. Jr. H.S.
Apr. 2-3	Rock City Style and Costume Show
Apr. 3	Freeport Schools Bicentennial Fair
Apr. 15	Bicentennial Tea - Orangeville
Apr. 29	"Meet the Presidents" YWCA Luncheon
May 1	Freeport Schools Bicentennial Parade
May 7-8-14-15	Musical Drama - "1776" - Consistory Auditorium
May	Freeport Memorial Hospital Open House
May 16	Bicentennial Community Fun Day - Orangeville
May 30	Ridott Memorial Day Parade - 3:00 P.M.
June 3	Film Lecture - "The Spirit of 1776" - H. C. C.
June 7-13	Stephenson County Dairy Days
June 14	Flag Day
June 19	Green Hills Council Girl Scouts-Pioneer Day Festival (Milledgeville)
June 23-26	Davis Days Festival
June 26	Bicentennial Balls - Freeport
July 3	Community Celebrations in County - Pearl City, Lena, Rock City and other
July 4	Commemorative Assemblies
	Pageant and Fireworks at County Fairgrounds
*July 5	The County Bicentennial Parade - Freeport
July 15	Bicentennial Festival USA - Orangeville
July 24-25	Antique Engine Show
Aug. 7-8	Old Settler's Day - Cedarville
Aug. 16-23	Stephenson County Fair
Aug. 28	Freeport Debate of 1976 (Tentative)
Sept. 19	Wessell's School Dedication

Note: This list of events having a Bicentennial emphasis are those made known to the calendar committee. Others will no doubt be announced. Some dates and events may be tentative. Watch and listen for announcements and publicity. Send announcements to Stephenson County Calendar Committee, County Court House, or telephone Mrs. Henry Boettner, 232-9594.

*Address inquiries or register entries for the county Bicentennial Parade on Monday, July 5, 1976 to Bicentennial Parade Committee, Kiwanis-County Clerk, Stephenson County Courthouse, Freeport, Illinois, 61032.



SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

1975

Stephenson County

- March 11 Stephenson County Bicentennial Commission appointed.
- Apr. 5 Freeport Woman's Club Bicentennial Program "Common Sense."
- 18 Freeport Journal-Standard Bicentennial History Series begins.
- May 1 Orangeville Bicentennial Seal Contest winner announced.
- 5 J. C. Penny Company makes music packet available to schools.
- 15 Historical Society Bicentennial opening program.
- 17 County Flag Design Contest announced.
- 28 Bicentennial community recognition given county.
Commemorative buttons sold.
- Jun 14 Freeport Journal-Standard begins guest editorial series.
- 14 Childrens Flag Day Parade - Dairy Days.
- 28 Afolkey "Stroll into Yesterday" at Fisher's Grove.
- July 2 Elks Lodge becomes ARBA Bicentennial Flag distributor.
- 4 Bicentennial Flag raising in all communities.
Program and Fireworks at County Fairground.
- 13 Wessel's School Picnic - German Valley.
- 15 Rothstein's Bicentennial Mural appears.
- 25-27 Old Time Threshing and Antique Show.
- Aug. 2 Cedarville "Day in the Village."
- 8-10 Freedom Train at Rockford
- 11 Bicentennial church quilt project started.
- 27 Lincoln-Douglas Debate reenactment.
- Sept. 6 Artists and Craftsman's Show - Mini Royalty Contest.
- 11 Cedarville gets museum grant.
- 15 Union Loan Bicentennial Award Art Show.
- 25 Historical Society announces Industrial Museum.
- Oct. 8 Bazaar Americana - St. Joseph's Church.
- 10 Highland College "America 76" film series begins.
- 11 Historical Society tour of county.
- 30 Retired teachers publish Reminiscence.
- Nov. 5-7 Village Bazaar & Circuit Rider at First Methodist Church.
- 8 Elder William Brewster Chapter Daughters of the American
Revolution erect Tutty Baker cabin marker.
- 12 Freeport Library announces oral history project.
- 13 Bicentennial Workshop for educators.
- 22 Orangeville box luncheon.
- 24 Freeport Public Safety Building dedicated.
- 28 Cedarville Museum opens.
- Dec. 3 Charity Ball - Americana
- 23 County Flag Contest winner recognized.



The above list is but a sampling of activity in the county. Some of these events as well as many others which would normally occur will combine to make the Bicentennial year memorable in Stephenson County history. Here are others: Highland Arts Council formed; Roger Hill preserves county history in his sketches; Ben H. Miller Park improvements in German Valley; "Indian Gardens" saved by Jane Adamsland Park Foundation; Childrens Bicentennial Parades; Special Bicentennial programs in nearly every organization; First Presbyterian Bicentennial lecture series; "God of our Fathers" Freeport Cablevision series; Lena historical pictures; "The Rivalry" on National television; A new post office at Lena; Dedication of a Community Park in Rock City----- There are many Stephenson County people involved in meeting the cultural-economic-political challenges identified and discussed at "Town Meeting 76".



