

**McLean County Museum of History**

**McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1981**

Processed by  
Mary Alice Wills  
Fall/Winter 2016/17

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1981
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

## Brief History

The McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration commemorated the founding of McLean County 150 years before in 1831. It was held on April 25 and 26, 1981 with a theme of "McLean County: Proud Heritage, Promising Future." This two-day celebration was held at the county seat of Bloomington with a parade through Normal and Bloomington. Each township furnished a float with all 31 townships participating. Local bands were engaged; the Crafts Committee sought individuals to demonstrate weaving, quilting, whittling, painting, etc. The reconstructed Miller-Davis law office in downtown Bloomington was formally dedicated. The Pantagraph published a special Sesquicentennial section in their April 21<sup>st</sup> edition. Logo contests with prizes for kindergarten through high school added to the fun. The Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee included representatives of the townships, universities, and area historical societies, as well as other organizations.

## Scope

The collection contains the McLean County 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee's correspondence, publicity releases, parade organization, activities and entertainment info, contest awards, programs and brochures, financials, contact lists, etc. The Sesquicentennial section of the April 21, 1981, *Pantagraph* is also included

## Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: McLean County 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

- 1.1.1 To Dr. Robert S. Eckley, Pres. IWU, from Bruce Callis, VP McLean Association of Commerce, re: organizing the sesquicentennial, December 29, 1980.
- 1.1.2 To Barbara Dunbar, Dr., McLean County Historical Society, from Bruce Callis, VP McLean Association of Commerce, re: organizing the sesquicentennial, December 29, 1980.
- 1.1.3 Anniversary Committee Proposed Agenda, no date.
- 1.1.4 McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration Executive Committee Minutes, January 29, 1981.
- 1.1.5 McLean County Historical Society letter to Committee Members regarding suggestions from last meeting for upcoming celebration from Barbara Dunbar, 2 pages, January 30, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.1.6 To B. Dunbar from Bruce Callis, appreciation for leadership participation in Sesquicentennial Celebration, January 30, 1981
- 1.1.7 McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration Executive Committee Minutes, February 3, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.1.8 To Rosco McPherrin from Bruce Callis regarding formation of Sesquicentennial Committee, February 4, 1981, and attached correspondence.

- 1.1.9 To the Mayor from Barbara Dunbar, form letter sent on behalf of Sesquicentennial Committee requesting participation, February 4, 1981.
- 1.1.10 McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration Executive Committee Minutes, February 18, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.1.11 Sesquicentennial Committee, items to be considered, 2 pages, February 19, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.1.12 Note to Barb Dunbar from Ben Rhodes enclosing minutes of February 18, 1981.
- 1.1.13 McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee, areas to discuss, 2 pages, February 24, 1981.
- 1.1.14 McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee Minutes, February 25, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.1.15 Letter to Mayor Godfrey, Town of Normal from Ben Rhodes regarding February 25, Sesquicentennial meeting.
- 1.1.16 Form letter to Sesquicentennial Committee members from Ben Rhodes regarding minutes of February 18 meeting.
- 1.1.17 Ben Rhodes regarding minutes of March 10 meeting 2 items
- 1.1.18 Sample letter to townships, March 5, 1981.
- 1.1.19 McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee Minutes, March 10, 1981. 2 copies and list of McLean County Township Supervisors (2 pages).
- 1.1.20 McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee, March 25, 1981.2 copies.
- 1.1.21 Handwritten notes, to-do list, April 2, 1981.
- 1.1.22 Sesquicentennial Committee, Goals Committee 2 pages, 2<sup>nd</sup> copy of page 1 only.
- 1.1.23 McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee Minutes, April 15, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.1.24 McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee Minutes, May 20, 1981.
- 1.1.25 McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee, Subcommittee names w/contacts \*, 2 copies.
- 1.1.26 McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee lists, 2 copies.

**Folder 2:      Publicity**

- 1.2.1 Press release announcing the two-day celebration, on WJBC news, February 24, 1980, 2 copies.
- 1.2.2 Form letter to representative in each township informing of goals and encouraging suggestions, subcommittee list, March 5, 1981, 2 letter copies.
- 1.2.3 Press release: Entertainment Groups sought for sesquicentennial celebration, request to townships for musicians and dancers, March 31, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.2.4 “McLean County Sesquicentennial celebration,” *Pantagraph*, schedule for events, April 21, 1981.
- 1.2.5 Handwritten *Daily Pantagraph* Sesquicentennial topics for week of April 19 through April 25.
- 1.2.6 “Daily Pantagraph Schedule,” handwritten notes for each day from April 19 through April 25.
- 1.2.7 “Sesquicentennial Celebration Schedule,” no date.

**Folder 3:      Parade**

- 1.3.1 McLean County Historical Society letterhead handwritten note to Mohammed Temple, Peoria, regarding bands and cars.

- 1.3.2 Instructions for parade participants.
- 1.3.3 Handwritten list of bands.
- 1.3.4 Carbon to Robert Wombacher re: Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales parade participation, February 26, 1981.
- 1.3.5 Parade subcommittee summary of 2/25/81.
- 1.3.6 Handwritten list of Parade Units: 5 items.
- 1.3.7 Telephone message to Ben from Sgt. Leary of Bloomington Police regarding parade route, 2/27.
- 1.3.8 Letter from Benjamin Rhodes to Sargent Leary formally requesting a permit for a parade on Saturday, April 25, 1981 at 12:00 p.m., March 5, 1981.
- 1.3.9 Illinois Wesleyan University letterhead form letter to school District Superintendents requesting participation in the Sesquicentennial parade, March 6, 1981, includes 4 page list of Superintendents.
- 1.3.10 Anheuser-Busch letterhead to Barb Dunbar re: Clydesdales unavailable, March 9, 1981.
- 1.3.11 IWU letterhead to Mr. Wombacher re: Clydesdales, March 13, 1981.
- 1.3.12 Illinois Wesleyan University inter-office communication from Ben Rhodes to Security Office indicating permission granted for parade use of a parking lot on April 25, dated March 13, 1981.
- 1.3.13 McLean County Historical Society letterhead to Mr. Aggertt re: oxen and covered wagon in parade, March 16, 1981.
- 1.3.14 Illinois State University, Laboratory School letterhead to Ben Rhodes indicating copy of parade participation request was forwarded to Metcalf and U-High principals, March 16, 1981.
- 1.3.15 Illinois Wesleyan University letterhead to Mohammed Temple's illustrious Potentate from Ben Rhodes requesting Shriner's participation in the Sesquicentennial Parade, March 17, 1981.
- 1.3.16 Saybrook-Arowsmith Community schools letterhead to Ben Rhodes declining invitation to participate in the parade, March 18, 1981.
- 1.3.17 Handwritten list of Parade Entries, March 30, 1981.
- 1.3.18 ACI letterhead to All Parade Participants regarding check-in procedures and line-up times from Parade Committee, April 17, 1981.
- 1.3.19 Illinois Wesleyan University inter-office communication to Chuck Adam, Head of Security, from Ben Rhodes regarding availability of McPherson's lobby on day of parade, April 20, 1981.
- 1.3.20 Inter-Office Memo, City of Bloomington, to Paul Gastineau from Sgt. Leary to drop off barricades for parade, April 21, 1981.
- 1.3.21 Special Order No. 12-81, To: All Police Personnel, From: Chief of Police, memo with duty assignment roster, barricades, and parade route along with 4 maps of parade route, April 22, 1981, 2 copies
- 1.3.22 McLean County Historical Society letterhead to Ben re: Aggertt oxen, Clydesdales, funds, and certificates, No date.
- 1.3.23 Yellow notebook, ¾ sheet with names, addresses and phones for livestock and pork.

#### **Folder 4: Activities and Entertainment**

- 1.4.1 Telephone message to Ben from Bill Spencer regarding barbershop chorus, February 19.

- 1.4.2 II. Program Subcommittee, McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee, 9 items for the ACI attention, handwritten, 3 pages, 2 copies.
- 1.4.3 Telephone message to Ben from Barbara Elby regarding program suggestions, March 4.
- 1.4.4 Illinois Wesleyan University inter-office communication to Carol Brandt from Ben Rhodes regarding inclusion of Wesleyan students and tentative schedule of activities, March 17, 1981.
- 1.4.5 "Afternoon Entertainment – Margo Mendoza," handwritten list of 7 groups, 1 page, no date.
- 1.4.6 "New Contests Named: Sesquicentennial Committees Formed," three new contests named with descriptions, 1 page, no date, 2 copies.
- 1.4.7 "Sesquicentennial (Don't Miss This Opportunity)," application for craft, parade, and entertainment entries, 1 page, no date, 2 copies.
- 1.4.8 "Sesquicentennial Celebration Schedule," flow of events for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1 page, no date, 3 copies (1 w/bands named).
- 1.4.9 "Entertainment: (other than Celebration Schedule), list of mostly crafts, one page, no date.
- 1.4.10 "Contest Awards," 6 categories listed and prizes to be awarded, 2 pages, 2 copies, no date.
- 1.4.11 "Contest Committee," handwritten photocopy of various contests, two sided, no date, 2 copies.
- 1.4.12 "History Sleuths," overview of History Contest, ½ page typed, 2 copies, no date.
- 1.4.13 "McLean County #1 Sesquicentennial history contest," *Pantagraph*, ¼ page ad, no date.
- 1.4.14 Four poems, 2 pages, no date.
- 1.4.15 "UM" The University Museums (ISU) letterhead listing Names For Certificates; First Place Winners: 5 names listed, 1 page, no date, 2 copies.
- 1.4.16 "McLean County Sesquicentennial," 1 page essay by Nathan Price describing accompanying logo for the 150 year celebration, 2 pages, no date.
- 1.4.17 "Contests/Awards," 1 page listing details.
- 1.4.18 City of Bloomington letterhead to Barbara Dunbar re: use of Wither's Park for "teepee" and tomahawk show, April 23, 1981.
- 1.4.19 "R.O.E. – Mc/De Newsletter," 4 page brochure with school news for the counties of Mclean and DeWitt including the Sesquicentennial Celebration Contest, March 1981.

**Folder 5: Sesquicentennial Awards**

- 1.5.1 Four 3"x 1 ½" peel off stickers with Sesquicentennial logo.
- 1.5.2 One 6" x 2" red ribbon, printed with McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1831, 1981 in gold letters.
- 1.5.3 Certificate "Presented to Greg Wascher," with McLean County Sesquicentennial logo.
- 1.5.4 Certificate "Presented to Harriet Rust," with McLean County Sesquicentennial logo.
- 1.5.5 Certificate "Presented to Ed Madigan," with McLean County Sesquicentennial logo.
- 1.5.6 Certificate "Presented to Art Kimball," with McLean County Sesquicentennial logo.
- 1.5.7 Letter from Barbara Dunbar to Dick Middleton re: silver dollars to be used as awards, March 11, 1981, copy of prices and info. 3 pages
- 1.5.7 Letter from Lelah V. White on Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter letterhead to Ben Rhodes, DAR contributing \$150 for winners of essay contest, April 10, 1981, w/envelope.

- 1.5.8 Carbon copy of letter to Mrs. Lyle E. White from Ben Rhodes expressing appreciation to DAR and naming contest winners, May 4, 1981.
- 1.5.9 Form letter to recipients of certificates from Ben Rhodes, no date.
- 1.5.10 Note 7 ¾" x 5 ¾" – Sesquicentennial certificates hand-lettered, \$12.00, Angie Naffziger, no date.
- 1.5.11 "McLean County #2 Sesquicentennial history contest," and "Lexington teacher wins quiz, No. 1" *Pantagraph*, no date.

**Folder 6: Programs/Brochures**

- 1.6.1 "Miller-Davis Building," fold-out brochure of building history, 2 copies.
- 1.6.2 "McLean County Sesquicentennial," brochure, history of McLean County Courthouse.
- 1.6.3 "McLean County Bicentennial Celebration 1976," program, events, locations, 4 pages.

**Folder 7: Revenue**

- 1.7.1 To John Wenum, Ph.D., McLean County Board from Ben Rhodes regarding \$1,000 sponsorship fund, March 5, 1981, 2 pages.
- 1.7.2 To Susan Kroll, ACI from John R. Nord, Commercial Disposal Inc., offering support and services for April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, March 4, 1981.  
Reverse side has notes from a Sesquicentennial meeting.
- 1.7.3 To Roscoe McPherrren, Chairman, March 9, 1981, Inter-Office Memo to Barbara Dunbar from Bambridge Peterson, March 9, 1981, and copy of above letter to John Wenum - all regarding the \$1,000 contribution, 4 pages.
- 1.7.4 To Bambridge Peterson, County Administrator, from Ronald Dozier, States Attorney, regarding the \$1,000 donation, March 9, 1981, 2 pages.
- 1.7.5 To William Frautschi, from Margot Mendoza regarding monies left in the Bi-centennial Funds, March 10, 1981.
- 1.7.6 To Bill Frautchi from Ben Rhodes regarding funding assistance, March 11, 1981, 2 pages.
- 1.7.7 "Budget," yellow, lined notebook paper, handwritten Revenue and Expense items, March 17, 1981.
- 1.7.8 To Ben Rhodes from Bambridge Peterson, regarding the \$1,000 contribution, March 18, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.7.9 To Barbara Dunbar from Bambridge Peterson regarding the \$1,000 payment to McLean County Historical Society, March 18, 1981.
- 1.7.10 Memo to Ben Rhodes from Susan Kohnen, ACI, congratulations, April, 28, 1981.
- 1.7.11 To Wanda Gibson from Ben Rhodes, appreciation for pledge of \$150 from Womens Division of ACI, May 1, 1981.
- 1.7.12 Form letter regarding balance of monies from donors to McLean County Historical Society from Ben Rhodes, May 8, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.7.13 To Ben Rhodes from LaWanda Henry, Bloomington Federal, regarding \$10 check drawn on closed account, May 12, 1981 (check enclosed), and To Nadine Reining from Ben Rhodes regarding returned \$10 check, May 13, 1981, and to Mrs. Siept Brethorst from Ben Rhodes regarding their returned \$10 check, May 29, 1981, 3 pages plus check.
- 1.7.14 "Crafts," yellow, lined notebook paper, handwritten list of names @ \$10 each, and Brethorst "bounced" noted, no date.

- 1.7.15 "Sesquicentennial Committee," yellow lined notebook paper, handwritten list of receipts.  
Reverse side – expenses, no date
- 1.7.16 Sheet of notebook paper with miscellaneous handwritten notations on checks received, no date.

**Folder 8: Expenses**

- 1.8.1 Irvin Bros. check stub (no number), three entries in Sesquicentennial parade, \$75.00.
- 1.8.2 IWU, Ben Rhodes, bill for copies, scratch pad, \$4.58, March, 1981.
- 1.8.3 ACI invoice Jan., Feb., Mar. Xeroxing, Envelopes, Postage, \$92.42, March 10, 1981.
- 1.8.4 The Copy Shop, post cards, \$8.00, March 20, 1981, original and carbon.
- 1.8.5 The Pilot Rock Press invoice, 10 Certificates of Award, Mar. 30, 1981.
- 1.8.6 IWU, Ben Rhodes, Postage Meter, invoice not totaled, April, 1981
- 1.8.7 Evergreen Communications, check stub 15231, \$25.00, April 13, 1981.
- 1.8.8 Bloomington Broadcasting Corp. check stub 006823, \$25.00, Parade, April 13, 1981.
- 1.8.9 IWU invoice, Ben Rhodes, no description, .35, April 16, 1981.
- 1.8.10 IWU invoice, Ben Rhodes, no description, .35, April 17, 1981.
- 1.8.11 McPrinter Offset invoice to IWU, Ben Rhodes, 17 x 23 Negative & Positive, \$30.00, April 17, 1981.
- 1.8.12 Metal Décor invoice w/envelope to IWU, Ben Rhodes, John McLean plaque, \$528.72, April 21, 1981.
- 1.8.13 Lowell's tape recorder, \$24.84, April 21, 1981.
- 1.8.14 Wonderlin Galleries, frames, \$110.65, April 22, 1981.
- 1.8.15 Rose Sporting Goods, Ribbons, \$12.50, April 24, 1981.
- 1.8.16 IWU invoice, Ben Rhodes, no description, \$4.10, April 24, 1981.
- 1.8.17 Howard Kelley, Sound services \$160, April 25, 1981.
- 1.8.18 ACI invoice w/cc to Ben Rhodes, Xeroxing, Postage, Envelopes, \$58.96, April 28, 1981
- 1.8.19 Memo on McLean County Historical Society letterhead to Ben from Barbara noting enclosure of Kelley's bill and invoice, plus thanks to Ben, May 4, 1981.
- 1.8.20 Envelope to Ben Rhodes, w/ bills from Joy Haning, postage and telephone calls, \$30.58, May 8, 1981.
- 1.8.21 Memo to Ben on University Museums, ISU letterhead from (signature not legible) noting postage \$3.46 for Sesquicentennial notification letters, May 13, 1981.
- 1.8.22 Check stubs:
 

136836	14/5/81	Howard Kelly Sound	160.00
136837	14/5/81	Joy Haning	30.58
136838	14/5/81	McPrinters Offset	30.00
136839	14/5/81	Pam Yeast	45.00
136840	14/5/81	Roslyn Walker	3.46
136841	14/5/81	McLean County Historical Society (to close account)	18.77
- 1.8.23 Bloomington Federal business card, Ethel B. Land, Savings Counselor.
- 1.8.24 "McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee," one page listing bills paid, May 1, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.8.25 "McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee," one page listing bills paid, May 14, 1981.
- 1.8.26 "PARADE/ETERTAINMENT EXPENSES," eighteen entries, \$1,120, no date, 2 copies.

- 1.8.27 "Sesquicentennial Committee," yellow, lined, handwritten outline of people and events expense, no date.
- 1.8.28 Three miscellaneous scraps of paper w/names, phone numbers.

**Folder 9: John McLean, McLean County Documentation, Poetry**

- 1.9.1 Letter to Ms. O'Green from Ben Rhodes re: check to cover black & white picture of John McLean, February 12, 1981, and to Mrs. Dunbar from Elmer Parker re: John McLean's parents and portrait, January 24, 1981.
- 1.9.2 Congress of the United States letterhead to Ben Rhodes from Rep. Ed Madigan re: enclosed portrait of John McLean, March 3, 1981, enc. portrait (all incased in plastic).
- 1.9.3 To Mr. Kikendall, Metal Décor, from Ben Rhodes re: proposed plaque, March 11, 1981.
- 1.9.4 To Mr. Rhodes from Fred Eggers, Metal Décor, price quotation and description of plaque, March 13, 1981.
- 1.9.5 To congressman Madigan: Thank you for the portrait of John McLean with schedule of Sesquicentennial events on Saturday, April 25, 1981, March 17, 1981, 2 pages.
- 1.9.6 Letter to Ben (sender unknown) regarding official beginnings of McLean County, July 31, 1980.
- 1.9.7 Letter to Barbara from John Wenum re: location of county seat.
- 1.9.8 Excerpt from *Pantagraph*, July 4, 1900, description of McLean county seat located April 25, 1831, 4 copies.
- 1.9.9 Four poems: Harlan McConigle Pate, Lazlo J. Comquat, Clambrough Van Schooner, and Francix X. Balleywhom, 4 verses each, 2 copies.

**Folder 10: Invitations and Regrets**

- 1.10.1 IWU letterhead to Don Freese re: McLean Stevenson invitation. March 16 1981.
- 1.10.2 Invitation to be a member of reviewing stand and other festivities. Full page detail of events, March 18, 1981.
- 1.10.3 Two paragraph sample invitation to join in celebration of Sesquicentennial, April 17, 1981. 2 copies
- 1.10.4 Lists of invitees: County Mayors, City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, State, and Federal, 5 pages.
- 1.10.5 Office of The Governor letterhead, Greetings: best wishes for the Sesquicentennial celebration, signed by Gov. Thompson. No date.
- 1.10.6 Office of the Governor letterhead, to Ben Rhodes: Gov. unable to attend Sesquicentennial, March 25, 1981.
- 1.10.7 United States Senate letterhead to Ben Rhodes, Sen. Dixon unable to attend Sesquicentennial, March 27, 1981.
- 1.10.8 Town of Normal letterhead to Ben Rhodes, Mayor Godfrey unable to attend all events, March 31, 1981.
- 1.10.9 Illinois Senator, to Ben Rhodes, John Maitland unable to attend, April 8, 1981.
- 1.10.10 Town of Normal letterhead to Ben Rhodes and Elmo Franklin, congratulations on parade, and absence due to surgery from Mayor Godfrey, April 27, 1981.

**Folder 11: Thank you, Committees, and Correspondence**

- 1.11.1 To Barbara Dunbar: Thank you from Ben Rhodes, April 28, 198, Thank you from George P. Van Hoorn.



- 1.11.2 To Elmo Franklin: Thank you from Ben Rhodes, April 27, 1981, Thank you from Don Munson.
- 1.11.3 To Peter Theriot, Pub.: Thank you from Elmo Franklin, April 27, 1981, 2 copies, Thank you from Ben Rhodes, April 28, 1981.
- 1.11.4 To Ben Rhodes: Thank you from Bruce Callis, January 29, 1981, Thank you from Don Munson, April 27, 1981, Thank you from George P. Van Hoorn, May 4, 1981.
- 1.11.5 To Timothy Ives, Susan Kohonen, William Frautchi, and Harold Liston, Thank you from Ben Rhodes, April 28, 1981. To Steve Vogel, Thank you from Ben Rhodes March 17, 1981.
- 1.11.6 To Sesquicentennial Committee from Bruce Callis on ACI letterhead, Thank you for contribution, May 7, 1981, 2 copies.
- 1.11.7 To Ben Rhodes, Thank you from Bruce Callis on ACI letterhead, May 7, 1981.
- 1.11.8 McLean County Sesquicentennial Committee – list of names.
- 1.11.9 McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee, names and addresses of chairmen and members and volunteers for various committees.6 pages,
- 1.11.10 Personal correspondence and responses: To Barbara Dunbar from Glenn/Ann Dodds regarding attending Sesquicentennial Celebration, March 26, 1981.  
Personal correspondence and response to Ben Rhodes from Charles/Eillen Volle regarding Sesquicentennial souvenir, June 4, 1981.

**Folder 12: Le Roy in McLean County**

- 1.12.1 Copy of Town of Le Roy plat.
- 1.12.2 Location and addresses of LeRoy businesses, 3 pages.

**Folder 13 Miscellaneous Planning, Contact Lists, and Maps**

- 1.13.1 Handwritten planning notes and lists for events and parade, 15 pages, undated.
- 1.13.2 Lists of: County Mayors, McLean County Township Supervisors (2 pages), McLean County Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee - Executive Committee, McLean County Board, ACI Board of Directors (2 pages). IWU campus map, Bloomington downtown map.

**Newspapers**

*“The Sesquicentennial Pantagraph,”* April 21, 1981, 57 pages.