

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Doug Williamson WJBC Forum Collection**

Processed by  
Doug Williamson  
Spring 2014

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1985-2002
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

Doug Williamson, born in Bloomington 8-8-1943, lived in Bloomington-Normal most of his life and taught in District 87 for 30 years. His father-in-law was Charles Merrill Smith, well known minister and best-selling author. For several years Charles did a program on local radio station WJBC, where local people could give their opinion in an every-other-week, two-to-three minute broadcast. When Charles died in the spring of 1985, Doug was offered the opportunity to take his slot and did Forum commentaries for 17 consecutive years.

## Scope

The collection includes approximately 430 Forums and a packet of miscellaneous items.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Miscellaneous

- 1.1 Letter of invitation (1985) to do Forum and letter of resignation (2002)
- 1.2 Communications from WJBC management about Forum procedures as well as a few WJBC editorials
- 1.3 1986-1987 list of Forum commentators
- 1.4 A few responses to Forum comments, pro and con
- 1.5 Copy of April 1984 *Post Amerikan* newspaper
- 1.6 A few duplicate forums and a list of titles of first 52 forums

### Folder 2: Forums 1985

- 2.1 "Hershey Road," March 18, 1985 (naming something in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.).
- 2.2 "Numbers" April 7, 1985 (taxes, other government numbers)
- 2.3 "East Side" April 18, 1985 (commercial strip on east side of town)
- 2.4 "VCR's" May 2, 1985 (problems arising from taping on VCR's and cost)
- 2.5 "Law and Justice" May 16, 1985 (taking a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class to presentation by Judge Witte)
- 2.6 "Comlara Park" May 30, 1985 (financial problems for park)
- 2.7 "Sports-The Ridiculous to the Sublime" (overreacting to sports, good of Special Olympics)
- 2.8 "We're number 127" June 27, 1985 (Bloomington ranking in poll of cities)
- 2.9 "Let the Punishment fit the Crime" July 11, 1985 (publishing names if caught in house of prostitution)
- 2.10 "Traveling" July 25, 1985 (random thoughts on two weeks of driving)
- 2.11 "Once Upon a Time" August 8, 1985 (cost overruns at Clinton Power Plant)
- 2.12 "A New Way of Going Broke-Unit Calling and the Teenager" August 22, 1985 (changes in phone billing)
- 2.13 "Learning a Little Lottery Lesson" September 5, 1985 (a friend and I buy lottery tickets, strike out)

- 2.14 "Local Spheres of Influence" September 19, 1985 (did not run until 10-3-85)  
(Bloomington-Normal divides town like Spain and Portugal did world)
- 2.15 "Bad News-Good News" October 17, 1985 (Services available to those in need)
- 2.16 "Untitled" November 14, 1985 (why we should vote in every election)
- 2.17 "Starting the Day with WJBC" (why we should listen to local radio)
- 2.18 "ISU Basketball" December 12, 1985 (role of basketball at ISU)
- 2.19 "Weather as Usual" December 26, 1985 (vagaries of weather in Central Illinois)

**Folder 3: Forums 1986**

- 3.1 "Gambling" January 9, 1986 (increasing lotto to twice weekly)
- 3.2 "Alcohol" January 23, 1986 (problems arising as Normal adjusts to being wet)
- 3.3 "Parking" February 6, 1986 (never enough parking in downtown Bloomington)
- 3.4 "Jumer's" February 20, 1986 (rumors about Jumer's coming to town, financing and type of food)
- 3.5 "Middle Schools Make Sense" March 6, 1986 (support of middle school referendum in Bloomington)
- 3.6 "Spring" March 20, 1986 (baseball, local and national)
- 3.7 "Democracy and the Phone Company" April 3, 1986 (choices in phone service)
- 3.8 "A New Recreational Opportunity" April 17, 1986 (the Constitution Trail)
- 3.9 "Giveaways" May 15, 1986 (beware of "free" giveaways)
- 3.10 "Coaching Opportunities" May 29, 1986 (coaching openings in Illinois)
- 3.11 "Old and New" June 12, 1986 (preservation of old buildings)
- 3.12 "Special Citizens" June 26, 1986 (Special Olympics)
- 3.13 "Normal's Drinking Problems" July 10, 1986 (one day licenses and food requirements for selling alcohol in Normal)
- 3.14 "IWU Writer's Conference" July 24, 1986 (scholarship honoring Dr. Charles Merrill Smith)
- 3.15 "Crossing Guards" August 7, 1986 (possible elimination of crossing guards in Bloomington)
- 3.16 "Summer Travel" August 21, 1986 (problems with summer travel)
- 3.17 "East Oakland" September 4, 1986 (criticism of power company tree cutting on East Oakland)
- 3.18 "Sister Cities" September 18, 1986 (looking for a Russian city, suggestion that Bloomington-Normal might benefit from a sister city relationship)
- 3.19 "The System" October 2, 1986 (comments on Illinois' social services system)
- 3.20 "The Muddy Old Mackinaw River" October 16, 1986 (Mackinaw River as recreation but also as a source of destruction)
- 3.21 "Monetary Giveaways" November 13, 1986 (TIF districts in a conservative area)
- 3.22 "Will the Del-Van Rise Again?" November 27, 1986 (adult movies and what to do with old Del-Van Theater)
- 3.23 "Off Track Betting" December 11, 1986 (gambling on the horses, but not at the track)
- 3.24 "Christmas" December 25, 1986 (Christmas joys and inconveniences)

**Folder 4: Forums 1987**

- 4.1 "Debt of Honor Campaign" January 1, 1987 (honoring those who served in Vietnam)

- 4.2 "Illinois House" January 22, 1987 (turning Illinois House into residence for Diamond Star employees)
- 4.3 "The Right to Bear Arms in Prison" February 5, 1987 (an early look at concealed carry)
- 4.4 "Camelback Bridge" February 19, 1987 (is the bridge a serious traffic hazard?)
- 4.5 "Another Planting Season" March 5, 1987 (declining crop prices)
- 4.6 "Protest Picketing" March 19, 1987 (George Lincoln Rockwell's followers return)
- 4.7 "Honoring Dr. King Still an Issue" April 2, 1987 (follow up to first forum, still nothing named in honor of Dr. King)
- 4.8 "Bloomington-Normal Airport" April 16, 1987 (questions on airport expansion)
- 4.9 "65 Miles an Hour" April 30, 1987 (raising the interstates from 55 mph to 65 mph)
- 4.10 "Historical Normal" May 14, 1987 (paying someone to identify historical sites in Normal)
- 4.11 "Sex, Public Schools and the House of Representatives" May 28, 1987 (laws to teach abstinence and prevent dispensing birth control in schools)
- 4.12 "Roadblock on I-55" June 11, 1987 (against state police roadblocks for DUI)
- 4.13 "Credit Cards" June 25, 1987 (aggressive pushing of credit card use and story about Richard Jones and his hundreds of cards)
- 4.14 "Another Word on the Roadblocks" July 9, 1987 (response to letter from Bloomington Chief of Police, Louis DeVault)
- 4.15 "Bloomington-Normal Liquor Commissions" July 23, 1987 (policies of the two bodies)
- 4.16 "Harmonic Conversion" August 20, 1987 (actions based on ancient Aztec symbols)
- 4.17 "Snow Removal" September 3, 1987 (plans for alternate parking during snow removal)
- 4.18 "Shorter Hours at Bob Knapp's" September 17, 1987 (interests of small businesses versus stricter enforcement of DUI laws)
- 4.19 "Tougher Dog Laws in Illinois" October 1, 1987 (new legal definition of "vicious" dogs)
- 4.20 "Supply and Demand" October 15, 1987 (malls and golf courses)
- 4.21 "Tuesday's Election" October 29, 1987 (the duty of voting even if not sure)
- 4.22 "Dan Walker" November 12, 1987 (governor turns criminal after being in office)
- 4.23 "Some Thoughts on Thanksgiving" November 26, 1987 (tongue in cheek thankfulness)
- 4.24 "Cholesterol and the Holidays" December 12, 1987 (bad eating habits at the holidays)
- 4.25 "Christmas Eve" December 24, 1987 (a rambling discourse on the holiday season)

**Folder 5: Forums 1988**

- 5.1 "Good Weather, Canoes and New Laws" January 7, 1988 (licensing canoes)
- 5.2 "Sex at Logan Correctional" January 21, 1988 (pregnancies within the prison)
- 5.3 "Jailing Them Young" February 4, 1988 (a nine year old goes to jail in McLean County, are there alternatives?)
- 5.4 "School Referenda" February 18, 1988 (support of new Bloomington middle school and new tax levy)
- 5.5 "Grocery Store Smoking Ban" March 17, 1988 (first time smoking is banned in the twin cities)
- 5.6 "Drug Testing" March 31, 1988 (how to decide who to test)
- 5.7 "Amtrak Station" April 14, 1988 (Bloomington and Normal compromise on location of new Amtrak station in Normal)
- 5.8 "Continuing Disaster at Clinton" April 28, 1988 (IPC asking for even more funding)

- 5.9 "Lawyers and Advertising" May 12, 1988 (lawyers gain the right to advertise)
- 5.10 "Loitering Youth in Normal" May 26, 1988 (teenagers take over the Broadway hill in Normal for their summer recreation)
- 5.11 "Illinois Special Olympics" June 9, 1988 (a word for the ISO summer games)
- 5.12 "The Amtrak Situation" June 23, 1988 (follow up on April 14, more complications for rail service)
- 5.13 "Racism in McLean County" July 21, 1988 (racist calls to WJBC)
- 5.14 "Cutbacks at Funk Seeds" August 4, 1988 (a county institution goes international)
- 5.15 "Zoning Problems" August 18, 1988 (small starter homes and two grocery stores near each other)
- 5.16 "A Response to Food Stamps and Sterilization" September 29, 1988 (answering another Forum commentator's remarks on these subjects)
- 5.17 "Bloomington Signs" October 27, 1988 (taking exception with Bloomington snow removal signs)
- 5.18 "Dilemma of the Death Penalty" November 10, 1988 (anti-death penalty)
- 5.19 "Phone and Mail Solicitations" November 24, 1988 (increase as holidays near)
- 5.20 "Freedom From Religion" December 8, 1988 (how to look at First Amendment)
- 5.21 "Some Thought on the Christmas Season" December 22, 1988 (generic piece on Christmas season)

**Folder 6: Forums 1989**

- 6.1 "Parking" January 5, 1989 (different issues on parking problems in twin cities)
- 6.2 "Pontiac's Time Out Box" January 19, 1989 (inappropriate student punishment)
- 6.3 "Garbage" February 2, 1989 (recycling aluminum cans)
- 6.4 "A Questionable Dam Idea" February 16, 1989 (thoughts on building a dam on Mackinaw River)
- 6.5 "Normal's New Liquor Signs" March 2, 1989 (bars having to post signs warning of dangers of alcohol to pregnant women)
- 6.6 "Lexington Video Laws" April 13, 1989 (anti-pornography protestors)
- 6.7 "Government Aid to Private Schools" April 27, 1989 (arguments against)
- 6.8 "Local Dilemmas" May 11, 1989 (problems with no easy answers)
- 6.9 "Gored by the Golden Goat" May 25, 1989 (automated aluminum recycling)
- 6.10 "Starting up the Nuclear Power Plant—Again and Again" June 8, 1989 (4 billion dollars and it still isn't working right)
- 6.11 "The Camelback Bridge" June 22, 1989 (what to do with bridge, traffic safety vs looks)
- 6.12 "Legislation- Pass and Fail" July 6, 1989 (laws being considered in Illinois legislature)
- 6.13 "Water and Numbers" July 20, 1989 (calculating water use during the drought)
- 6.14 "The Man from the Klan" August 3, 1989 (response to KKK speaker on WJBC)
- 6.15 "High School Drug Testing" August 17, 1989 (why random is wrong)
- 6.16 "Cub Fans-A Different Breed" September 14, 1989 (all is futility)
- 6.17 "Campus Drinking" September 28, 1989 (growing use in colleges and connection to sexual assaults)
- 6.18 "University Center" October 12, 1989 (government giving in to private interests)
- 6.19 "Organ Donors" October 26, 1989 (supporting organ donor line on driver's license)

- 6.20 “Ridiculous Promotions” November 9, 1989 (silly free offers)
- 6.21 “Mixed Signals on Drugs and Alcohol” November 23, 1989 (trying to reach kids while society touts the joy of alcohol)
- 6.22 “The Dilemma of Giving” December 7, 1989 (feeling guilty about holiday giving”
- 6.23 “Procrastination Problems” December 21, 1989 (fluff piece on bad habits)

**Folder 7: Forums 1990**

- 7.1 “Bold Predictions for the 90’s” January 4, 1990 (tongue in cheek predictions)
- 7.2 “More Friction in Local Politics” January 18, 1990 (twin city merger issue appears again)
- 7.3 “Banning Earrings” February 1, 1990 (frivolous school rules and adults who forget what they did in high school)
- 7.4 “False Alarm” February 15, 1990 (vast number of false alarms received by local police and fire agencies)
- 7.5 “Few Solutions, Much Lip Service” March 1, 1990 (lots of goals for our society, little money to back them up)
- 7.6 “A Few Good Women” March 15, 1990 (beginnings of the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards)
- 7.7 “Some Thoughts on the Eureka Situation” March 29, 1990 (Eureka companies request that workers take a cut in pay or the plant closes)
- 7.8 “Trees” April 12, 1990 (replacing dead and dying trees and early thoughts on paper recycling)
- 7.9 “Housing the Handicapped” April 26, 1990 (angry responses to building homes for those with special needs in neighborhoods)
- 7.10 “Downtown Fire Problems” May 10, 1990 (problems with bringing older buildings up to code)
- 7.11 “Paying College Athletes” May 24, 1990 (Illinois House passes law to give athletes a stipend, have a little fun with what could happen with that)
- 7.12 “The Death Penalty in Illinois” June 7, 1990 (reasons for abolishing the death penalty)
- 7.13 “The House at Linden and Willow” June 21, 1990 (tearing down an historic home near ISU and replacing it with cheaply built student housing)
- 7.14 “Normal’s New Truancy Law” July 5, 1990 (applaud Normal for trying to deal with this problem but they face a mountain of difficulties)
- 7.15 “Amendment Fever” July 19, 1990 (Constitutional amendments are often attempts at a quick fix to much more complicated problems)
- 7.16 “Bradley University and Public Funds” August 2, 1990 (against any subsidizing of private schools)
- 7.17 “Choice of Forum Topics” August 16, 1990 (taking a new forum member to task for not staying local on their topic and getting hyper about a national issue)
- 7.18 “Local Improvements” August 30, 1990 (Bloomington-Normal’s high ranking on desirable places to live and residents making improvements on their own dime)
- 7.19 “Waiting for Amtrak” September 13, 1990 (scheduling difficulties and inaccurate information)
- 7.20 “Downtown Development” September 27, 1990 (satirical criticism of Bloomington-Normal monetarily helping businesses coming to the twin cities)
- 7.21 “The 1990 Campaign” October 11, 1990 (foolishness of political ads in Illinois)

- 7.22 “Driving Highway 51” October 25, 1990 (support for building Interstate 39)
- 7.23 “The Election of 1990” November 8, 1990 (suggestions for changing the way we vote in Illinois)
- 7.24 “Anti-war demonstrations” November 22, 1990 (local effort to hold politicians accountable for their actions, shades of the 60’s)
- 7.25 “The Old ISSCS Grounds” December 6, 1990 (question of who owns this property and why local government can’t find out)
- 7.26 “Santa Puts Coal in Politicians’ Stockings” December 20, 1990 (local city governments act like two year olds in local disputes)

**Folder 8: Forums 1991**

- 8.1 “DUI Laws for 1991” January 3, 1991 (society beginning to take DUI more seriously)
- 8.2 “The Gulf Crisis” January 17, 1991 (arguments for not invading Iraq)
- 8.3 “Feeding at the Public Trough” January 31, 1991 (misuse of public funds in Illinois by retirement/rehiring double dipping)
- 8.4 “Too Many Holidays?” February 14, 1991 (response to comments about teacher’s having too many days off and too easy a job)
- 8.5 “St. Joseph’s Chest Pain Unit” February 28, 1991 (duplication of hospital services and new unit at St. Joseph)
- 8.6 “Lake Issues” March 14, 1991 (proposed police shooting range at Comlara and raising spillway dam by 5 feet)
- 8.7 “A Patriotic Proposal” March 28, 1991 (voting is as much or more a patriotic gesture as displaying yellow ribbons)
- 8.8 “Questionable State Spending” April 11, 1991 (opposing state funding of a group lobbying to have Illinois become a site for nuclear waste disposal”
- 8.9 “A Tough Earth Week” April 25, 1991 (dealing with plastic bags, grass clippings and aluminum cans before community recycling)
- 8.10 “City of Bloomington” May 9, 1991 (complimenting Bloomington’s prompt response when my cars almost went into the sinkhole that developed in front of my house)
- 8.11 “No Title” May 23, 1991 (new county fairgrounds as example of too many governmental units)
- 8.12 “Tourism and Summer Activities” May 23, 1991 (gains and losses in local recreation facilities)
- 8.13 “Housing Authority ID Cards” June 20, 1991 (the downside of public housing residents having to carry ID cards to prove they are residents)
- 8.14 “Fourth of July” July 4, 1991 (politicians telling us what we want to hear)
- 8.15 “Gambling in McLean County” August 1, 1991 (silliness of “cracking down” on illegal gambling and x-rated videos)
- 8.16 “Local Law Enforcement” August 15, 1991 (wasting time and resources on victimless crimes)
- 8.17 “School Merger” August 29, 1991 (arguments for merger and against the ideas of another forum commentator)
- 8.18 “Police Road Blocks” September 5, 1991 (DUI roadblocks an inefficient tool and a violation of rights as well)
- 8.19 “Staying Power and Law Enforcement” September 26, 1991 (problems with keeping focused on problems such as underage drinking)

- 8.20 “Manipulating Pension Funds” October 11, 1991 (Illinois politician’s drastic mishandling of pension funds)
- 8.21 “Native American Burials” October 24, 1991 (disrespectful way Illinois treats remains of Native Americans)
- 8.22 “University of Illinois and the NCAA November 7, 1991 (comments on NCAA investigation of University of Illinois)
- 8.23 “Political Term Limitations” November 21, 1991 (arguments against term limits)
- 8.24 “A Local Appearance Code” December 5, 1991 (difficulties of building codes when the damage has already been done)
- 8.25 “The Old Normal Theater” December 19, 1991 (fundraising for and proposed uses for the restoration of the Normal theater)

**Folder 9: Forums 1992**

- 9.1 “Christian Coalition of Illinois” January 2, 1992 (the Christian Coalition and gambling in Bloomington)
- 9.2 “Health Care Crisis Hits Home” January 16, 1992 (Illinois Senator Dixon looks for answers to health care problems)
- 9.3 “Traveling by Train” January 30, 1992 (support for the idea of rapid railroad service and keeping Champaign from taking our service)
- 9.4 “Charitable Giving” February 13, 1992 (beware of misleading information and outright scams when giving to charities)
- 9.5 “Bloomington City Council” February 27, 1992 (kudos to the Council for not closing Country Club Place to through traffic and for not insisting on buying “American”)
- 9.6 “Politics” March 12, 1992 (not recorded, too close to election-nonsense of primary elections)
- 9.7 “Preventing Armed Robbery” March 26, 1992 (do proposed solutions deal with robbery problem or simply transfer it to another location)
- 9.8 “Sensitivity to Gender, Race and Beliefs” April 9, 1992 (seemingly small comments can contain things painful to certain groups)
- 9.9 “Just How Safe are We?” April 23, 1992 (growing numbers of declining neighborhoods in Bloomington-Normal and complex solutions)
- 9.10 “How far Can a University go in Disciplining Students?” May 7, 1992 (can or should a university discipline off-campus student behavior? That time is probably gone)
- 9.11 “A Conservative Voice on Forum” May 21, 1992 (new conservative commentator used up all the standard right wing rants in his first forum)
- 9.12 “Sheriff Brienen becomes a Republican” June 4, 1992 (we lose our only democrat and McLean County is truly a one party system)
- 9.13 “Who Will Benefit from Illinois’s Gambling Laws?” June 18, 1992 (gambling is here to stay and the question is which groups get to cash in on the bonanza)
- 9.14 “Let’s Forget an Exhibition Facility” July 2, 1992 (early thoughts on building an exhibition/coliseum-are there enough facilities already)
- 9.15 “Twin Cities’ Traffic” July 16, 1992 (problems with local traffic and need to find alternative routes)
- 9.16 “Graffiti” July 30, 1992 (Bloomington passes a law but how much graffiti is there and why hasn’t 20 year old stuff been covered)



- 9-17 "Bloomington's Water Supply" August 13, 1992 (short term heavy rains puts water plans on back burner)
- 9-18 "Making the State Fair pay for Itself" August 27, 1992 (need to raise fee structure for state fair)
- 9-19 "The Bloomington Board of Police and Fire Commission" September 10, 1992 (serious question about former police chief being appointed to this body)
- 9-20 "Normal's Odd Liquor Code" September 24, 1992 (passing a toothless law that only creates inconvenience)
- 9-21 "The Election of 92" October 8, 1992 (reluctance to face the real issues)
- 9.22 "Facing the Gang Problem" October 22, 1992 (the idea that small towns are somehow immune from gangs and drug problems)
- 9.23 "McLean County Historical Society" November 5, 1992 (great improvements at the museum)
- 9.24 "The Chicago Casino and Dollars for Education" November 19, 1992 (proposed Chicago casino and excuses for building it)
- 9.25 "Trouble at Caterpillar" December 2, 1992 (labor woes between Caterpillar and UAW)
- 9.26 "Soldiers in the classroom" December 17, 1992 (Pantagraph editorial proposing former soldiers be guided to education even though there is no shortage of teachers)
- 9-27 "Predictions for 1993" December 31, 1992 (some tongue-in-cheek predictions)

**Folder 10 Forums 1993**

- 10-1 "Snow Paralyzes McLean County's-Ability to Think" January 14, 1993 (overreacting to a few inches of snow and not listening to see if your school is closed)
- 10.2 "Fund Raising at the Malls-More than a money issue" January 28, 1993 (malls and cookie cutter developments making the community less interesting)
- 10.3 "Local Judges Norplant Ruling" February 11, 1993 (where to draw the line on forced sterilization)
- 10.4 "Nuclear Power-The Cost is Just Beginning " February 25, 1993 (millions of dollars and still no solution to disposing of nuclear waste)
- 10.5 "Schools, Casimir Pulaski, Black Teachers, Etiquette and Firearms Safety" March 11, 1993 (issues faced by local schools)
- 10.6 "Polls—Pantagraph and Perot" March 25, 1993 (Pantagraph call-in poll has no validity, neither does Ross Perot's poll)
- 10.7 "The Annual Graduation Prayer Fight" April 8, 1993 (an attempt by religious groups to promote the idea of a state religion)
- 10.8 "Local Heroes" April 22, 1993 (civilian arrest doesn't qualify as heroism)
- 10.9 "Illinois Prisons and Politics" May 5, 1993 (a very serious problem and a nonsensical answer to the situation)
- 10.10 "Historical Residential Districts" May 20, 1993 (not always a good idea to let others control what you can do with your property)
- 10.11 "Helpful Hints on Writing a Forum" June 3, 1993 (taking another forum commentator to task for not following the rules)
- 10.12 "McLean County's Extended Day Program" June 17, 1993 (comments on an after school program for juvenile offenders to receive academic help)
- 10.13 "Abraham Lincoln's Law Papers" July 1, 1993 (discovery of more Lincoln material and question of who should benefit from the find)

- 10.14 "What to do with the Camelback Bridge" July 15, 1993 (suggestion to make the bridge a pedestrian walkway and close the street)
- 10.15 "Sorting the Garbage" July 29, 1993 (the days before single stream recycling and having to separate yard waste)
- 10.16 "Using McLean County's Police Dogs" August 12, 1993 (questionable drug bust at the county fairgrounds)
- 10.17 "Letting your T-shirt do the Talking" August 26, 1993 (t-shirts and freedom of speech)
- 10.18 "Women in Illinois Politics" September 9, 1993 (growing number of female candidates and what they might bring to public office)
- 10.19 "Normal's \$150 Garbage Fine" September 23, 1993 (inequality of punishments for various crimes)
- 10.20 "When the Crime Wave is in Your Neighborhood" October 7, 1993 (how even petty crime can change the behavior of a large neighborhood)
- 10.21 "Building Lot Sizes on the West Side" October 21, 1993 (some controversy over Habitat for Humanity lot sizes, many fine old neighborhoods have small lot sizes)
- 10.22 "Confessions of a Secular Humanist" November 4, 1993 (answer to a listener who said teacher were secular humanists ruining society)
- 10.23 "Too Much Reality" November 18, 1993 (bemoaning the excessive coverage of celebrities, reality shows and lack of hard news)
- 10.24 "Illinois Gets an A in the DUI Wars" December 2, 1993 (grade given by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, criteria for grade seems weak, maybe grade inflation)
- 10.25 "Court Decisions on Birth Rights" December 16, 1993 (difficult court decision who has say so in birth issues)
- 10.26 "Dreams of Golf" December 30, 1993 (some thoughts about all the golf course development going on during this period)

**Folder 11 Forums 1994**

- 11.1 "Windshield Wiper Laws" January 13, 1994 (new law with \$75 fine attached, difficulty of remembering to do this)
- 11.2 "Courts Ordering Students to School" January 27, 1994 (attendance is not the same as education)
- 11.3 "Crime and Taxes" February 10, 1994 (new ways to deal with criminals are going to need new tax revenues)
- 11.4 "Questionable Fund Raising" February 24, 1994 (response to an article about huge administrative costs incurred by some fund raisers)
- 11.5 "Gambling in Illinois-What's the Limit" March 10, 1994 (gambling revenues in Illinois are hitting some snags and not providing promised economic benefits)
- 11.6 "A Major Spring Cleaning" March 24, 1994 (abandoned buildings that need to be demolished in Bloomington-Normal)
- 11.7 "Community Policing" April 4, 1994 (supporting idea of police on bikes and living in high crime neighborhoods)
- 11.8 "State Pension Funding and the Law" March 21, 1994 (politicians constant violation of state laws regarding public pensions, laws need more than passage, need enforcement)
- 11.9 "Leaking Water" May 5, 1994 (Bloomington's old water system is costing us money)
- 11.10 "Women of Distinction" May 19, 1994 (a pat on the back for this event honoring women in the twin cities)

- 11.11 "Politics too Complex to Work" June 2, 1994 (laws are written in such a complex manner even the lawmakers are stumped)
- 11.12 "Illinois Special Olympics" June 16, 1994 (a great example of volunteerism, community support and a great deal of good feelings)
- 11.13 "Mowing the Governor's Lawn" June 30, 1994 (governor's possible misuse of State Police to mow his 6 acre lawn)
- 11.14 "Searching for the Perfect Community" July 14, 1994 (many ideas on what makes the perfect town)
- 11.15 "Local Bias Laws" July 28, 1994 (defining discrimination a hard thing to do and most laws in this area have few teeth)
- 11.16 "Figuring the Economic Benefits" August 11, 1994 (arrival of big box stores not a guarantee of an economic windfall for the area)
- 11.17 "Buying Elections" August 25, 1994 (politicians too likely to kowtow to those who contributed big, should have to disclose sources)
- 11.18 "Widening City Streets" September 8, 1994 (widening streets have costs such as loss of lawns and mature trees)
- 11.19 "Getting on Each Other's Nerves" September 22, 1994 (seems like a month of different points of view going at each other)
- 11.20 "Scaring Ourselves to Death" October 6, 1994 (Pantagraph's strange rationale for dropping published birth notices)
- 11.21 "Governor Edgar Speaks" October 20, 1994 (governor's ad goes bad, his explanation makes it worse)
- 11.22 "Election Promises" November 3, 1994 (faulty reasoning in wanting term limits)
- 11.23 "Hotel/Motel Taxes" November 17, 1994 (comment on local hotel/motel taxes being so low)
- 11.24 "Getting Some Help at the Store" December 1, 1994 (difficulty of finding knowledgeable help in mega stores)
- 11.25 "Downtown Development" December 15, 1994 (repurposing old buildings can lead to serious difference of opinions)
- 11.26 "1994, A Year Like Most Others" December 29, 1994 (a look at some dark side events of the past year)

## **Folder 12 Forums 1995**

- 12.1 "Community Assessment of Needs" January 12, 1995 (encouraging people to fill out this form and return it)
- 12.2 "Deprived of Another chain Restaurant" January 26, 1995 (problems with opening of another chain restaurant, The Country Kitchen, adding to the mess on West Market)
- 12.3 "Enough of Winter Already" February 9, 1995 (signs that winter has been too long)
- 12.4 "Speedy Legislation" February 23, 1995 (even politicians admit that many laws are passed in such haste that they will have to be completely redone)
- 12.5 "Casimir Pulaski Day" March 9, 1995 (why such a minor figure was selected and what it means to the school year)
- 12.6 "Growth at Heartland Junior College" March 23, 1995 (Heartland's future plans and doubts that there is a place for athletics)
- 12.7 "Curtains at Pontiac Prison" April 6, 1995 (unbelievable that authorities would allow prisoners at Pontiac to have large curtains in their cells)

- 12.8 “Rating Universities-Academically” April 20, 1995 (rating academics at universities, a complicated issue that leads to misinterpretation and even juggling the numbers)
- 12.9 “Illinois Politics-The revenge Factor” May 4, 1995 (parties fight over regional airport, pay raises and gambling licenses)
- 12.10 “Can Ironwood be Profitable?” May 18, 1995 (poor planning of the course and driving range are big problems, alcohol sales are probably not the solution)
- 12.11 “Another Word on Dropping Soccer and Wrestling at ISU” June 1, 1995 (mysterious letters appear in mailboxes urging area athletes to avoid going to ISU)
- 12.12 “Paying for Your Obituary” June 15, 1995 (a bad policy that upsets more people than the Pantagraph anticipated)
- 12.13 “Pulling the Plug on Prison Education” June 29, 1995 (cutting back on funding for prisoner education a bad idea)
- 12.14 “Hospital Wars” July 13, 1995 (negative reactions of local hospitals when Carle Clinic looks at moving to twin cities)
- 12-15 “Uncollectible State Debts” July 27, 1995 (estimate that the state of Illinois has uncollected debts of around \$6 billion dollars and doesn’t expect to collect about half)
- 12-16 “Expansion for ISU-Problems for Normal” August 10, 1995 (inevitable expansion of ISU facilities often comes at high cost to established neighborhoods)
- 12.17 “Air Travel and Government Spending” August 24, 1995 (need for government to upgrade computer systems for air travel)
- 12.18 “Tom Ewing and Government Regulations” September 7, 1995 (some ideas are stupider than others but Tom Ewing’s desire to end all government regulation is at the top)
- 12.19 “Ripken’s Record-Another View” September 21, 1995 (consecutive games played falls behind other records in importance and is largely a matter of luck)
- 12.20 “Poor Choice of Words by Pantagraph Columnist” October 5, 1995 (columnist tries to milk humor out of serious situation, seems to favor one school district over the other)
- 12.21 “The Mackinaw River” October 19, 1995 (an overlooked recreational source, proposed state areas sound good but must be looked at carefully)
- 12.22 “Chief Illiniwek and Chief Wahoo” November 2, 1995 (time to dump all athletic symbols/mascots representing specific groups)
- 12.23 “The Hot Issues-The Chief, Gays and Merger” November 16, 1995 (main topics of conversation in many coffee shops)
- 12-24 “New School Waiver Law” December 13, 1995 (another ineffective law, schools may ask to opt out of various things, but law unclear in how to grant these requests)
- 12.25 “Getting a Water Meter” December 28, 1995 (difficulty in reaching the city to get one of the new water meters)

**Folder 13 Forums 1996**

- 13.1 “On Going to the Emergency Room” January 11, 1996 (the beginning of prompt care facilities to take the pressure off emergency rooms)
- 13.2 “Hotel Tax, the Fair and State Farm” January 25, 1996 (early talk on a west side exhibition center and raising the hotel tax)
- 13.3 “Charitable Tax Checkoffs” February 8, 1996 (telemarketing works while voluntary, no pressure checkoffs are weak)
- 13.4 “A New Twist in Voting Laws” February 22, 1996 (some ideas to increase participation in the voting process)

- 13.5 “New Ways to Raise Money” March 7, 1966 (emulate the sports world with all the sponsorship emblems to raise funds for government)
- 13.6 “The Tower at the End of the Runway” March 21, 1966 (communication tower at local airport might create safety hazard)
- 13.7 “Assault Weapons in the Legislature” April 18, 1996 (are politicians willing to allow weapons in the hands of visitors in the chambers where they work)
- 13.8 “Doing the Job Right” May 2, 1996 (drug sniffing dogs are not infallible as checks at airport and local high school prove)
- 13.9 “Saving Some Pennies on Gas and Beer” May 16, 1996 (small cuts on Illinois taxes on gas and beer will help the state very little)
- 13.10 “Knowing the Basics” May 30, 1996 (thoughts on school achievement tests and what if similar tests were administered in business)
- 13.11 “Problems with Reclamation” June 13, 1996 (what to do with old Chicago and Alton yards and ISSCS)
- 13.12 “Local Reaction to Church Burnings” June 27, 1996 (good people need to stand up to bad actions)
- 13.13 “Who’s Running Our Prisons” July 11, 1996 (are the inmates or employees in charge, depends who you ask)
- 13.14 “Lining Up for Liquor” July 25, 1996 (laws to regulate liquor sales in Normal are easily subverted)
- 13.15 “Repaying Student Loans” August 8, 1996 (not fair to single out teachers for not repaying student loans)
- 13.16 “Political Flip-Flops” August 22, 1996 (truth in political campaigning)
- 13.17 “The Odds Are Against You” September 5, 1996 (ridiculous odds when playing the new multi- state lottery)
- 13.18 “Aren’t We Getting a Little Too Pessimistic” September 19, 1996 (children raised in fear don’t have a very positive outlook of the future)
- 13.19 “The Demise of a Sports Fan” October 5, 1996 (changes in professional sports is not for the good)
- 13.20 “The Jerk Who Stole My Garbage Can” October 17, 1996 (not only took the can but they left the garbage”)
- 13.21 “Suspending Six Year Olds” October 31, 1996 (many student behaviors present a tough call for teachers as to how seriously to take things)
- 13.22 “Some Observations on Veteran’s Day” November 14, 1996 (some possible reasons for dwindling crowds on Veteran’s Day)
- 13.23 “A Politically Correct Thanksgiving” November 28, 1996 (playing with the facts of history to define political correctness)
- 13.24 “Rating TV Shows and Defining Porn” December 12, 1996 (a few Illinois legislators actually considering letting all 102 counties create their own definition of porn)
- 13.25 “Language” December 26, 1996 (a big flap over ebonics and the complexity of language in general)

**Folder 14 Forums 1997**

- 14.1 “School Funding Reform-The Smokescreen” January 23, 1997 (Speaker Madigan ties a lot of stupid ideas to possible school funding)
- 14.2 “Normal Railroad Crossings” February 6, 1997 (malfunctioning gates cause problems)

- 14.3 "A Few Thoughts on School Funding" February 20, 1997 (state constitution says state is primary funder of public education which it never lives up to)
- 14.4 "The Arnold Palmer Course" March 6, 1997 (rationale for having a variable fee structure at the new Palmer Golf Course)
- 14.5 "April 1 Election" March 20, 1997 (random thoughts on upcoming election)
- 14.6 "Judge Heiple's Dilemma" April 3, 1997 (member of Illinois Supreme Court abuses power to avoid legal action)
- 14.7 "Affirmative Action" April 17, 1997 (argument in favor of affirmative action)
- 14.8 "Normal's Drinking Problem" April 8, 1997 (problems with a big university, small town and alcohol and the two choice way of dealing with the problem)
- 14.9 "School Finance-Plan X-The Porn Tax" April 22, 1997 ( some in legislature want to create school tax partially based on porn which a few months ago they agreed they couldn't define)
- 14.10 "Rehabbing the Big Downtown" June 5, 1997 (take a look at Chicago for successful ideas in rehabbing and perhaps apply some to our towns)
- 14.11 "did a call in Forum from California, do not remember topic" June 19, 1997
- 14.12 "Welfare Changes in Illinois" July 3, 1997 (changes in Illinois' welfare laws should be tied to counseling and analysis of the job market)
- 14.13 "Not in Our Town-Sorting Out What's News" July 17, 1997 (media needs to do real news and not focus on wacko in the audience")
- 14.14 "Changes in Cable TV" July 31, 1997 (cable tv making changes before many of us have figured out old system)
- 14.15 "Traffic Woes" August 14, 1997 (road construction in the area can be a nuisance but doesn't come close to big cities and interstates)
- 14.16 "School Test Results and Funding" August 28, 1997 (hard to create a test that fits all and there is a need to address uneven funding in state)
- 14.17 "Edgar's Retirement Opens the Doors" September 11, 1997 (Gov. Edgar's decision to retire but not to chase after a senate seat has brought Republicans out of the woodwork)
- 14.18 "Green Space-The More the Merrier" September 25, 1997 (support for idea of a park in every new development)
- 14.19 "Diversity in Downtown Bloomington" November 9, 1997 (bars and residential areas not a great mix but we need to keep working on problem, not give up)
- 14.20 "Bloomington Ponders Tax Caps" October 23, 1997 (cap property taxes and likely to end up with variety of fees to cover necessary services)
- 14.21 "Halloween in Saybrook" November 6, 1997 (KKK costume wins first prize in Saybrook, Saybrook gets to appear in much larger news venues)
- 14.22 "Problems for Landlords" November 20, 1997 (Bloomington-Normal police create program to help landlords with problems of renting to gang members)
- 14.23 "Road Rage-The Latest Rage" December 4. 1997 (news stories that burn hot and then disappear)
- 14.24 "Tuition Tax Credits" December 18, 1997 (local letter to editor supporting tax credits to religious schools when not one dime of public money should go to parochial schools)

## **Folder 15 Forums 1998**

- 15.1 "Hot Topics" January 1, 1998 (a look at what issues will carry into the new year, led by Mitsubishi and ISU)

- 15.2 "The Death Penalty" January 15, 1998 (more reasons not to impose this penalty)
- 15.3 "Downtown and Surrounding Areas" January 29, 1998 (phoniness of proposal for Heartland CC to rehab downtown buildings, good plan for Bloomington to fix some blighted areas)
- 15.4 "A Question of Growth" February 12, 1998 (Bloomington-Normal will continue to grow regardless of who is mayor)
- 15.5 "Teacher's Pension Fund" February 25, 1998 (firm handling pension funds manages to lose money in one of hottest markets ever)
- 15.6 "Campaign Tactics" March 12, 1998 (advantage for Illinois candidates who don't have to slug it out in primary election)
- 15.7 "Political Labels" April 9, 1998 (stupidity of forum commentator who believes teachers are part of a plot to destroy American families)
- 15.8 "The Continuing Tree Wars" April 23, 1998 (town of Normal orders Illinois Power to stop tree trimming until agreement is reached)
- 15.9 "Phone Frustration" May 7, 1998 (frustration with automated phone systems and growing number of menu choices)
- 15.10 "New Illinois License Plates" May 21, 1998 (plan to replace all Illinois car license plates and arguments about cost)
- 15.11 "Burning Sports Questions" June 4, 1998 (variety of tongue in cheek sports observations)
- 15.12 "Ignoring the Weather Warnings" June 18, 1998 (do too many warnings scrolling on bottom of tv screen make us tend to ignore them)
- 15.13 "Metal Detectors in Schools" July 2, 1998 (not an effective methods with too many doors and windows to guard plus prison like atmosphere)
- 15.14 "Heat and Electricity" July 30, 1998 (mild summer but local utility still peddles fear, Clinton power plant still shut down)
- 15.15 "The Rudeness of Others" July 15, 1998 (response to WJBC show where some callers felt entire cultures were rude, my experience is no real difference)
- 15.16 "Another Look at Metal Detectors" July 30, 1998 (very few places in America have much security)
- 15.17 "Ryan, Poshard and the Refrigerator Magnets" August 13, 1998 (does the incumbent Secretary of State in Illinois have an advantage with his name appearing everywhere)
- 15.18 "Sosa, McGwire and the Record" August 27, 1998 (Lots of fans not happy just like when Maris broke Ruth's record)
- 15.19 "Growth" September 10, 1998 (time for Bloomington and Normal and McLean County to get together on rule for development)
- 15.20 "Living Ethics" September 24, 1998 (encouraging attendance at an ISU sponsored series on issues of ethics)
- 15.21 "The Death of Political Dialogue" October 8, 1998 (thoughts on why fewer and fewer people are willing to watch political debates)
- 15.22 "No Clinton Power Plant This Year" October 22, 1998 (no power from the Clinton plant for 25 months and the cost last year for this was \$210 million dollars)
- 15.23 "The Election, Republicans and the Religious Right" November 5, 1998 (illegal placement of campaign signs)
- 15.24 "National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum" November 19, 1998 (remarkable museum in Chicago with all art by veterans)

- 15.25 "Illinois Road Problems" December 3, 1998 (Illinois ranks low in decent roads and those in power don't seem all that concerned)
- 15.26 "The Latest Plan for the Future" December 17, 1998 (the latest forecast for the future of Bloomington, 2020 to be specific)
- 15.27 "Looking at the New Year" December 31, 1998 (predicting big story of next year easy, Y2K and all the possible horrors)

#### **Folder 16 Forums 1999**

- 16.1 "Reaction to Illinois First" January 3, 1999 (McLean County unhappy with new laws but if Ryan runs again he will easily carry the county)
- 16.2 "Some Thoughts About Our Expanding Airport" January 14, 1999 (possibility of user tax and paid parking at the airport)
- 16.3 "Smoking in Prison and Early Release" January 28, 1999 (with so many lawyers in the legislature how do they pass laws that get overturned)
- 16.4 "Some Lessons in Getting Free Publicity) February 11, 1999 (man on Bradley and ISU campuses spouts racial hatred and the media follows, again and again)
- 16.5 "Finding a Challenger for Ray LaHood" February 25, 1999 (Democratic opponent, as yet unknown, has a huge uphill struggle)
- 16.6 "Orange Plates for DUI Offenders" March 11, 1999 (too many obstacles like the two car family or different colored plates for other crimes)
- 16.7 "The Township Dilemma" March 25, 1999 (local elections can be very important, township, school board, town councils make decisions impacting all of us)
- 16.8 "School Shootings" April 22, 1999 (more guns not the answer to increased safety)
- 16.9 "What is This Thing Called Multiculturalism?" May 6, 1999 (recounting two fellow commentators radically different take on this idea)
- 16.10 "Keeping Up with Technology" June 17, 1999 (buying our third computer but still hooked up to telephone line and learning a few more things)
- 16.11 "The Riverboat Sails No More" July 1, 1999 (strange law that gambling boats had to leave the dock and moves to eliminate that)
- 16.12 "Boring Sports Events" July 15, 1999 (definition depends on what you grew up with and what you like"
- 16.13 "Closing the Original Steak and Shake" July 29, 1999 (a place of importance to a couple of generations, still not worth saving)
- 16.14 "Hospital Wars" October 7, 1999 (fighting intensifies over coming of third major medical group to the twin-cities)
- 16.15 "A Few Initials in Dwight" October 21, 1999 (KKK on wall of visitor's locker room, administrators from Dwight come up with ridiculous reasons why)
- 16.16 "Recreation Space in the Twin Cities" November 4, 1999 (both towns doing a pretty fair job of working on recreations spaces)
- 16.17 "The Ten Commandments in the Classroom" November 18, 1999 (another in the never ending attempts to place religious material in schoolrooms)
- 16.18 "Private and Public Property Rights" December 2, 1999 (what to do when property owners can't be found or refuse to communicate with cities)
- 16.19 "The Changing of the Calendar" December 30, 1999 (prediction for Y2K, absolutely nothing but overreaction)



## **Folder 17    Forums 2000**

- 17.1 “The Pantagraph’s Name Policy” January 13, 2000 (accused criminals names not printed but policeman who fired at suspect finds his name in paper)
- 17.2 “Politics: Local and International’ January 27, 2000 (locally coroner’s race has some questionable tactics, internationally what to do with 6 yr.old Cuban defector)
- 17.3 “Ryan’s Death Penalty Moratorium” February 9, 2000 (support for this because there is no way to make a fair system and it has been proven that some innocent people are on death row)
- 17.4 “Rebuilding East Washington Street” February 24, 2000 (issues of demolishing old bridge and keeping brick road entrance to Davis Mansion)
- 17.5 “Problems in Day Care” March 9, 2000 (nothing wrong with stringent requirements for day care facilities and adequate enforcement)
- 17.6 “Fifteen Years of Forum” March 23, 2000 (memories of a decade and a half doing forums)
- 17.7 “Republican Turmoil” April 6, 2000 (McLean County’s middle of the road Republicans get a new leader, from the Christian right)
- 17.8 “Prairie State Exam” April 21, 2000 (newest state standardized test, endorsed by Pantagraph despite a host of problems)
- 17.9 “Getgeorgeryan.com” May 4, 2000 (Governor Ryan in trouble, new twist is that much of it is coming from the internet)
- 17.10 “Today’s Sports Page” May 18, 2000 (old days had stats and good stories on players, today crime, drugs, etc. grab the headlines)
- 17.11 “My Week on the Phone” June 1, 2000 (trying to reach a human on the phone)
- 17.12 “A Place for the Children’s Discovery Museum” June 15, 2000 (support for museum, taking a look at possible sites)
- 17.13 “A Couple of Taxing Problems” June 29, 2000 (two bad ideas, suspending the gasoline tax and eliminating the inheritance tax)
- 17.14 “Repeat DUI Offenders” July 13, 2000 (the problem in keeping track of repeat offender in Illinois)
- 17.15 “Farm House Zoning” July 27, 2000 (have we created an unconstitutional system where certain groups are allowed to do things the other isn’t)
- 17.16 “Merit Pay for Teachers” August 10, 2000 (an idea with so many flaws that it is unworkable)
- 17.17 “An Old Concept in Housing” August 24, 2000 (“new” concepts in housing can be found in older neighborhoods as well)
- 17.18 “Parking Concerns” September 7, 2000 (a variety of suggestions about parking in various hard to park parts of the twin cities)
- 17.19 “Building More Cells” September 21, 2000 (more cells at McLean County jail not the long term answer to overcrowding)
- 17.20 “Construction Zones” October 5, 2000 (need more of a police presence and more punitive fines)
- 17.21 “Prairie State Exam” October 19, 2000 (talked about in earlier forum, going to give test but standards have not been set and test likely to be replaced down the road)
- 17.22 “Good Things About Fall” November 2, 2000 (a season to be enjoyed but it changes rapidly)

- 17.23 “The 2000 Election as an Education Tool” November 16, 2000 (opportunity of a lifetime to learn about impeachment and the Electoral College)
- 17.24 “Traffic and the Holiday Season” November 30, 2000 (beginning to see some big city problems in our towns as well as some poor driving habits)
- 17.25 “Illinois Power’s Latest Proposal” December 14, 2000 (the fight between Bloomington-Normal and Illinois Power continues on into a new decade)

## **Folder 18     Forums 2001**

- 18.1 “Playing Games with Taxes” January 1, 2001 (like last summer’s gas price jump now natural gas is up with same solution proposed, a tax break)
- 18.2 “Illinois First” January 25, 2001 (this was a fund to upgrade the infrastructure of Illinois but part went to Quincy College for a health and fitness center)
- 18.3 “Arming the Population” February 8, 2001 (arming everyone in America will not be an answer to our crime problems)
- 18.4 “Uses for College Hills Mall” February 22, 2001 (farfetched uses in case College Hills Mall goes under)
- 18.5 “Illinois Loses Another Congressional District” March 8, 2001 (third straight census in which Illinois loses a congressional seat, fight over new map)
- 18.6 “Anti-gang Activities” March 22, 2001 (cooperation of different police departments seemed to help but is now slipping away)
- 18.7 “Forum Number 412” April 5, 2001 (difficult trying to keep local all these years but am still trying, a short tribute to Gene Lyle)
- 18.8 “Keeping up with the Neighborhoods” April 19, 2001 (it would be a good idea if city officials could walk neighborhoods and get ideas for improvements from residents)
- 18.9 “Regional Airport Developments” May 3, 2001 (discussions over best use of airports in Illinois for efficient travel)
- 18.10 “Publicity Where None is Warranted” May 17, 2001 (media, local and national, give too much attention to nuts who want the publicity)
- 18.11 “Some Monumental Topics” May 31, 2001 (group trying to raise funds for huge statue of Lincoln, a bad idea in so many ways)
- 18.12 “Choices in Front Porch Furniture” June 14, 2001 (college students and front yard sofas that are often torched when the year is over)
- 18.13 “Crime Stoppers in Peril” June 28, 2001 (this seems to be an effective program but is being challenged in a court in Quincy)
- 18.14 “A few More Glitches in a Complex World” July 12, 2001 (growing epidemic of unwanted telephone and computer marketing)
- 18.15 “Long Term Energy Solutions” July 26, 2001 (improved car efficiency helping but only a real alternative to fossil fuel will solve anything)
- 18.16 “Support Your Local Contractor” August 23, 2001 (want the job done right, call a local professional)
- 18.17 “Camelback Bridge” September 9, 2001 (changes not very dramatic but safety should be improved)
- 18.18 “September 11, 2001” September 20, 2001 (an indescribable event, Americans pull together, we must remember this is going to be a long term effort)
- 18.19 “A Return to the Routine” October 4, 2001 (America slowly getting back to routine, perhaps worrying about some small things would be a relief)

- 18-20 “The BJHS Bomb Threat” October 18, 2001 (coming so close on the heels of 9/11 students and staff took this seriously and everything was very orderly)
- 18.21 “Not a Banner Day for Normal” November 15, 2001 (Normal’s new banners not the right color, hard to read and ripped up by the wind)
- 18.22 “The Trouble With Communication” November 29, 2001 (trouble with some of the early internet services in our towns)
- 18.23 “Time for Some Disagreement” December 13, 2001 (effects of 9/11 still very strong and much unity in evidence but we are also starting to snipe at each other)

**Folder 19      Forums 2002**

- 19.1 “Travel in a Post 9/11 World” January 10, 2002 (our first flight through airport security, including trunk check here, most measures pretty spotty)
- 19.2 “Building an Arena and a Race Track” January 24, 2002 (arenas, race tracks, cultural districts and parking garage all on the agenda)
- 19.3 “Basic Rights Issues” February 7, 2002 (another forum commentator thinks it is ok to give up rights for security, an awful idea)
- 19.4 “Alternative News Stories” February 21, 2002 (a National Enquirer view of local news)
- 19.5 “The McLean County Historical Society” March 7, 2002 (supporting necessary repair work on the old courthouse, a terrific facility)
- 19.6 “Why the Nasty Campaigning?” March 21, 2002 (negative campaigning prevails even in staid McLean County)
- 19.7 “Republican Power Struggle” April 4, 2002 (infighting among McLean County Republicans, the old guard regains power)
- 19.8 “Seventeen Years of Forum Commentary” April 18, 2002 (looking back at doing 440 forums over seventeen years)