

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 6th 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)