

MARYLAND BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
Worcester County Division
Meeting
December 11, 1975

A meeting of the Worcester County Division, Maryland Bicentennial Commission was held at the new Worcester County Library in Snow Hill, Thursday, December 11, 1975, opening at 8 p.m. with the chairman, Mr. Robert Robertson, Jr. presiding.

Present were members of the Commission as well as representatives of the Bicentennial Commissions of Ocean City, Mrs. Garnet Ward; Snow Hill, Mr. George W. Gering; Pocomoke City, Mrs. Mary Ellen Frostrom; and Mrs. Jeanette Congdon, representing the Worcester County Garden Club and the Verrazanno Festival Committee. Commission members included Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Esther Flory, Ron Russell, Prentiss Howard and Mrs. Isabelle K. Leach. In the absence of Mrs. Mildred Brittingham, secretary-treasurer, there were no minutes of the June 5 meeting and no treasurer's report.

The meeting opened with a showing of the National Bicentennial Commission film, "We're Having a Birthday" a copy of which the County Commission has purchased for \$69 and which is available for the use of local groups and can be borrowed from the County Library. Mr. Robertson said there are informational brochures on the film which he will mail to schools and civic groups which may want to borrow the film.

Mrs. Congdon observed that the film may be too late to act as an inspiration and guide to the schools which, she said, already have well developed plans for the celebration. There followed a discussion, pro and con, about the efforts being made by school children and teachers. Mr. Robertson showed a collection of reports from schools in the county. Mr. Gering said he didn't feel that the schools were cooperating with the local commissions but were "going along on their own". Mrs. Flory disagreed, pointing to the splendid cooperation of the schools during the recent opening of the county library when children dressed in Bicentennial costumes acted as guides and a special Bicentennial singing group performed

Mrs. Frostrom said she thought that due to the preparations underway in the schools, children are already much more aware of their heritage. She also cited some of the plans on which her commission has been cooperating with the schools, such as the planting of Liberty Trees on Arbor Day, 1976.

Mr. Robertson introduced Ron Russell, a CETA Program employee who has been assigned to work up a brochure for Worcester County showing some of the old homes and other places of interest. The brochure is to be given away at the information center from May to October next year.

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Mrs. Congdon pointed out that the already existing VIEW-Trail 100 would provide an excellent natural path for a tour of the county and that it ought to be incorporated into the brochure. Mr. Russell, who lives in Berlin, had never heard of the VIEW-Trail but promised to consider this as a starting point.

Mrs. Congdon reported that the Verrazanno Festival Committee plans to hold a costume ball at the Ocean City Convention Hall October 2. She said the Festival will not be held at Ocean Pines this year as has been done in the past. She said the first activity of the Bicentennial Year will be the Greens Tour sponsored by the Worcester County Garden Club for next Sunday, December 14. She said a celebration to be held at All Hallows Episcopal Church in Snow Hill on July 4, 1976 will be the focal point of the Garden Club's Bicentennial plans.

Mr. Gering reported that the Snow Hill Commission has plans to make tapes of the reminiscences of some of the oldsters in the county, talking about events they remember from many years ago. He said the tapes will be preserved in the Purnell Museum. Another plan is to refurbish all the old flags in the town. There are also plans for walking tours and a brochure of old homes and other points of interest. He said his Commission is working on plans for a festival May 23 to 25 which will feature arts and crafts, the Pocomoke River and a real gala.

Mrs. Ward reported that plans at Ocean City would center around a birthday celebration and bicentennial celebration over the Labor Day weekend but that details have not yet been worked out.

Mrs. Frostrom spoke of the Cypress Festival being planned for Pocomoke in July and said it will include a hymn-sing and the tolling of all church bells in the city on July 4. Pocomoke's plans will also include some form of celebration centering around the Costen House.

Mrs. Congdon said there ought to be a central publicity campaign to promote all the activities planned for the county, pointing out that national and state-wide publicity would inform tourists of local plans. She suggested that Mrs. Leach would be the logical person to coordinate such a campaign. No action was taken on her suggestion.

Mr. Robertson read a letter from the State Bicentennial Commission in which it was suggested that all activity should be centered in Annapolis on July 4. This was not favorably received by those present because each town has already made plans for a local celebration.

He also read a letter from the University of Maryland about a stage production with a Bicentennial theme which will be available upon request during the school term of 1976. Mr. Robertson suggested this might be a good program for the February meeting of the Worcester County Historical Society and agreed to look into this possibility.

Mr. Robertson introduced Prentiss Howard who has prepared a design for the Commission's proposed information center to be located at the Md.-Va state line. This is a small booth, 8ft by 12ft. which would resemble a typical Eastern Shore dwelling of Colonial times. It would provide a

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shelter for persons working in the booth and a small storage space. Mrs. Leach made an alternate suggestion that for the same expenditure in money, perhaps the old St. Mary's Parish House could be moved onto the information center site, thus at the same time preserving one of Pocomoke's oldest existing buildings and providing a larger information center where visitors could come in and sit down while getting directions. No action was taken on this suggestion but Mr. Robertson promised to give it some thought.

Mrs. Frostrom announced that both the national and state Bicentennial Flags would be presented and dedicated at special ceremonies at the City Hall in Pocomoke on Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m.

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The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "I.K. Leach".

I.K. Leach, sec. pro-tem.

WORCESTER COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Treasurer's Report

December 11, 1975

Balance in bank 6/5/75 ----- \$431.63

Receipts:

Sale of 1976 calendars (60) ----- 115.50
----- \$547.13

Disbursements:

Xeroxing minutes for 6/5/75 meeting ----- \$ 3.60
Postmaster - stamped envelopes and postcards ----- 10.00
* Welk Press Inc. (100 calendars, tax & shipping chg.) ----- 133.19
Eastern Shore Printers (letterheads and envelopes) ----- 42.68
National Archives Trust Fund (Bicentennial USA film) ----- 62.75
Lucas Advertising Consultants (1000 Bicent. buttons) ----- 84.68
----- \$336.90
Balance in bank 12/11/75 ----- 336.90
----- \$210.23

* Pocomoke Bicentennial Committee sold 9 calendars at Fire House celebration
- we realized only \$1.50 per calendar -.

Savings account plus interest at this time - \$2623.38

Submitted by

Mildred C. Brittingham
Mildred C. Brittingham, Sec. & Treas.

Question - should money be transferred now from the savings account to the checking
account? If so - how much?

MCB

50 Calendars for Snow Hill "Greens Tour"
Dec. 14, 1975

Those calendars unsold — what shall
we do with them?

Please calls:—

Dec 1 — V. Bagli
WBFL

Dec 4 — WOK Press

Give to schools in the County?

quantities of methane gas.

In these areas there are no sanitary landfills but there are ^{open} burning dumps.

A number of water sampling sites are to be named. 1 site west of the store on the Fairmount Road will surely be.

It was suggested that the group take a field trip on ^{Saturday} Nov. 15th and visit the sewer treatment plants at Snow Hill and