

Title: Milwaukee County Bicentennial Commission

Reference Code: Mss-2120

Inclusive Dates: 1971 – 1976

Quantity: 6.0 cu. ft.

Location: WHN, J115-J116
OS SM “M-1” (2 items)

Abstract: As early as 1971, the Milwaukee County Historical Society (MCHS) and representatives of the history departments at Marquette University and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee met informally to begin planning for the county’s observance of the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976. The following year, Milwaukee County Executive John Doyne requested MCHS to submit recommendations regarding how the county should celebrate the Bicentennial. The resulting program was a collaborative effort by multiple organizations and included exhibits, published histories, historic markers, architectural surveys, lectures, parades and pageants.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, brochures and related materials.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English

Arrangement:

Folder Heading	Box #	File #
Material pertaining to the Milwaukee County Bicentennial Committee		
Activities: Newspaper clippings, brochures, publications	1	1
Bulletin Board Requests – Copies of requests for the MCBC’s Bicentennial Bulletin Board program.	1	2
Bicentennial Suggestions – Brochures, pamphlets and other material suggesting ways for various community groups to get involved in the bicentennial celebration. These were mailed to groups on a mass basis.	1	3
Publications – Includes copies of: (a) Bicentennial bibliography of the MCHC’s collection; (b) a complete set of the <i>Minuteman</i> and the <u>Bicentennial Newsletter</u> .	1	4
Requests for Financial Aid – Copies of request for financial assistance/support for community sponsored Bicentennial activities received by the MCBC.	1	5
Mailing Lists – A complete set of mailing lists of people/organizations/institutions who received Bicentennial information from the MCBC.	1	6
Speeches	1	7

Community Bicentennial Committees/Commissions Activities		
Contents: A community-by-community file made up of newspaper clippings and other materials submitted by various Bicentennial organizations that describes the Bicentennial programs of each political subdivision in Milwaukee County. Files: Bayside – Milwaukee	1	
Community Bicentennial Committees/Commissions (continued) Files: Oak Creek – West Allis Also included are files that describe Bicentennial programs of other organizations, institutions such as colleges, school systems, and clubs, and the Bicentennial Committee correspondence, memos, monthly reports	2	
Bicentennial Coordinator's Papers.		
The correspondence and other papers of Gary F. Keller, Bicentennial Coordinator of the Milwaukee County Historical Society 1/2/75-12/31/76.	3	
State and Federal Bicentennial Material		
State Bicentennial Commission – Papers, articles, brochures, calendars and other addenda that describe the activities/programs of the Wisconsin American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.	3	1
Bicentennial Publications – Copies of the Federal, Bicentennial Administration's <i>Bicentennial Era</i> (1-70-1-71), <i>Bicentennial Newsletter</i> (Vol. 3-Vol. 4), and the <i>Bicentennial Bulletin</i> (10-30-72 – 02-17-75).	3	2
<i>Bicentennial News</i> – Federal Bicentennial publication (6-18-73-7-76)	3	3
<i>Bicentennial Times</i> – Federal Bicentennial publication (Vol. 3, No. 1 – Vol. 3 Oct. 1976)	3	4
Federal Publications – Misc. federal bicentennial publications designed to inform and describe Bicentennial programs.	3	5
Misc. material on aspects of the Bicentennial celebration.		
Ethnic – Material pertaining to ethnic groups' participation in the Bicentennial celebration, program suggestions, a bibliography of ethnic and minority groups in the American Revolution contained in the MCHS's collection, and newspaper and magazine clippings from local and national publications.	4	1
Finances – Material relating to the financing of the Bicentennial celebration including grant applications from the Wisconsin Bicentennial Commission, the Department of the Interior, and notes from a meeting of the Wisconsin Federation of Museums.	4	2
Freedom Train – Information about the Freedom Train including data about the train, articles from various local and national publications about its reception at stops, and material about the Train's proposed stop in Milwaukee.	4	3
How to Fly the Flag – Four brochures which describe the correct procedures for displaying the American flag.	4	4
Illinois Correspondent – Copies of the <i>Illinois Correspondent</i> , the official	4	5

publication of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission. Autumn 1972-Summer 1976 (incomplete)		
Michigan Bicentennial Review – Copies of the <i>Michigan Bicentennial Review</i> , the official publication of the Michigan Bicentennial Commission. September 1973-July 1976 (incomplete)	4	6
Other Commissions – Brochures from the South Dakota and Whittier, California Bicentennial Commissions.	4	7
Peoples Bicentennial Commission – Newspaper and magazine clippings, posters, a button, and copies of the PBC's publications.	4	8
Religious – Information on the Bicentennial activities of the Catholic, Episcopal, Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and other faiths. One file has newspaper clippings which describe local and national religious activities along with two other files that have Bicentennial suggestions for religious organizations.	4	9-18
Misc. Newspaper Clippings and Magazine Articles relating to the Bicentennial. (<i>Time</i> , <i>Newsweek</i> , <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> , <i>Bugle American</i> , etc.)	4	
Misc. Product Advertisements and Commercial Items Pertaining to the Bicentennial		
A) Half of the box contains various advertisements about Bicentennial products.	5	
B) Another portion has a number of Bicentennial-related publications.	5	
C) A small portion has material about misc. political causes that occurred during the Bicentennial era.	5	
American Issues Forum Material and Whitefish Bay Ethnic Survey.		
Content: Brochures, calendars, and correspondence pertaining to the American Issues Forum, a discussion, participation program intended to get Americans discussing historic and contemporary problems. The Whitefish Bay Ethnic Survey contains raw data accumulated by researchers investigating the ethnic origins of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin.	6	
ITEMS TRANSFERRED TO MULTIMEDIA COLLECTION:		
– Recordings list for 9 oral history cassette tapes, 10-26-78		
– Album "Salute to the Bicentennial: Folk Songs USA 1976!" performed by classes at Hartford Avenue School.		
ITEMS TRANSFERRED TO MUSEUM COLLECTIONS		
One Milwaukee County Bicentennial Committee Bicentennial Bulletin Board		
One cardboard Bicentennial "Tower" (display)		
Five-Seven Bicentennial posters, calendars, etc.		
3' x 5' Bicentennial flag wrapped in a plastic bag and a 5 ½" x 3 ½" Bicentennial flag.		

Memorabilia: Numerous items which show the commercialization of the Bicentennial celebration including beer and soda cans, a Bicentennial T-shirt from the Milwaukee Bicentennial Commission, a baseball, packages with Bicentennial markings, a commemorative coin, a milk carton, soap, and sugar and stamps.		
OVERSIZE ITEMS	LOCATION	
Certificate of Merit from Milwaukee Public Schools	OS SM "M-1"	
Vignettes of American History, Milwaukee Journal Co. July 4 th , 1976	OS SM "M"	