

SEPT. 1995

TO THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE INTERESTED IN PAST PIONEER DAYS, JANICE WEST, MYSELF AND SEVERAL OTHERS THAT HELP TO PIONEER THE PIONEER DAYS HAVE BEEN REMINISCING ABOUT EARLIER FESTIVALS. AS WE APPROACH OUR TWENTY FIFTH YEAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME PAST EXPERIENCES.

THE LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS HAD A PROJECT. THEY WERE ALL TO DO A SMALL HISTORY ABOUT THE TOWN. AS WE ATTEMPTED TO HELP THEM WITH INTERVIEWS WITH SOME ELDERLY FOLKS IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE DISCOVERED MANY WONDERFUL, INTERESTING THINGS. AT THE SAME TIME WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A COMMUNITY CENTER.

SEVERAL OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS SAID THEY WOULD LIKE FOR US TO HAVE ANOTHER CELEBRATION SIMILAR TO THE 1951 CENTENNIAL. WELL JANICE BEING THE HISTORY BUFF, SHE IS, THOUGHT ABOUT WRITING A BOOK ON THE TOWN HISTORY, AND I'M LISTENING TO ALL THE SUGGESTION OF THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE. TOGETHER WE DECIDED TO ~~DO~~ TRY AND HAVE A ONE TIME FESTIVAL. ALL PROCEEDS FROM BOTH WOULD BE DONATED TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER FUND. ASSUMING THERE WERE ANY PROFITS.

WE CALLED UPON ALL THE YOUNG MOTHERS THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT. THE RESPONSE WAS OVERWHELMING. WE CALLED UPON THE CHURCH'S AND ALL OTHER ORGANAZATIONS, SUCH AS THE LIONS CLUB, MASONS, AMERICAN LEGION (I WAS NOT THIER EMPLOYEE AT THIS TIME) POLICE DEPT. , FIRE DEPT, HOME EC. CLUBS, WE MADE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH ALL THE BUSINESS OWNERS AND INDIVIDUALS.

THE ENTHUSIAM WAS SO GREAT, WE HAD TO GO FORTH WITH THE IDEA.

HOWEVER, ALL THE BUSINESS PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS, AND ADULTS WERE NOT THE REASON FOR IT'S SUCCESS. IT WAS THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN TOWN FROM AGES TEN THROUGH HIGH-SCHOOL.

WE ALLOWED THE KIDS TO BE PART OF ALL THE DECISION MAKING, I WAS AMAZED AT THEIR GREAT IDEAS. THE KIDS WENT DOOR TO DOOR TALKING TO EVERY ONE ABOUT PIONEER DAYS AND THE COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT, ALSO SOLICITING MONEY TO PAINT THE TOWN HALL. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THEY GOT ENOUGH MONEY AND FIFTEEN TEENS PAINTED THE BUILDING AND SPRUCED UP THIS TOWN, LIKE IT HAD NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE OR AFTER.

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY COPIES OF THE THE 1971 HISTORY BOOK WERE PRINTED FOR US BY GOODWILL PRINT SHOP. BOOKS WERE SOLD FOR THREE DOLLARS. ALL COPIES WERE SOLD THE FIRST DAY.

BECAUSE, WE HAD NO FUNDS TO START WITH. MY HUSBAND JOHN AND I TOOK OUT A ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR NOTE FROM CITIZENS BANK TO PAY EARLY EXPENSES.

WE CHARGED TEN DOLLARS FOR BOOTH SPACE OR FIFTEEN WITH ELECTRICY.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT ALL ACTIVITY WOULD BE CENTERED AROUND
TURN OF THE CENTURY FAIRS.
BECAUSE OF THE MANY FREE GAMES, A FAMILY COULD COME TO PIONEER DAYS
WITHOUT SPENDING MUCH MONEY.

EACH ORGANAZATION WAS DESINATED A GAME TO BE IN TOTAL CHARGE OF.
THEY WOULD PROVIDE ALL PRIZES AND CONDUCT THAT GAME.
THIS WAY, THE COMMITTEE DID'NT HAVE TO BE EVERY WHERE.

SOME OF THE GAMES AND CONTEST WERE:

HUSBAND CALLING	SACK RACE
HOG CALLING	EGG TOSS
GREASED PIG	FROG JUMPING
GREASED POLE	HAY STACK HUNT
ROPE PULLING	HORSESHOES
WOOD SPLITTING	LOG CHOPPING
BEST DRESSED PIONEERS	OLD FASHION BATHING SUITS
BEARD. CONTEST	WATERMELON EATING

OTER ACTIVITIES WERE THE HORSE PULLING CONTEST (BIG ATTRACTION)
GARDEN TRACTOR PULL.

ONE OF THE FAVORITE THINGS WAS THE JAIL. IF YOU DID'NT WANT TO
GO TO JAIL, YOU COULD BUY A JAIL BIRD IN ADVANCE AND WEAR IT.

REASONS FOR GOING TO JAIL, IF MEN DID'NT HAVE A BEARD OR MUSTACHE
OR DRESSED IN PIONEER ATTIRE.

WOMEN MUST BE DRESSED IN PIONEER ATTIRE ALSO.

SOMEONE COULD BAIL YOU OUT FOR TWENTY FIVE CENTS. IF YOU
PAYED YOUR OWN BAIL, THE COST WAS ONE DOLLAR.

THE JAIL WAS FOR ADULTS ONLY:

CHARLIE KOUNS WAS THE TOWN JUDGE AT THIS TIME, THE JUDGE
SAT AT A TABLE ORDERING PEOPLE TO JAIL FOR VARIOUS REASONS.
OLIVE (POLLY) CASEY TAUGHT SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY FOR FIFTY
THREE YEARS. MRS. CASEY LED A WOMENS TEMPERANCE MARCH WITH
A GROUP OF ELDERLY WOMEN BEATING ON POTS AND PANS MARCHING
DOWN THE STREET SINGING (BRINGING IN TH SHEEVES) THEY ENTERED THE
TAVERN AND AMERICAN LEGION, TAKING PEOPLE OUT BY THE EAR AND
THROWING THEM INTO JAIL.

(THIS WAS GOOD CLEAN FUN)

CERTAIN MEN WERE DEPUTISED TO TAKE CARE OF THE JAIL:

ANOTHER ATTRACTION WAS DWANE EILARS CAKE, DWANE MADE A CAKE
FOUR BY EIGHT FOOT OF PIONEER WHITESTOWN. FREE CAKE
AND PUNCH WERE SERVED AT THE STREET DANCE.

PEE WEE KING AND RED STEWART FROM THE GRAND OLE OPREY WERE
A SPECIAL ATTRACTION. THEY WROTE TENN. WALTZ AND MANY OTHER
HITS. TICKETS WERE SOLD IN ADVANCE. PERFORMANCE WAS AT THE
SCHOOL GYM.

THEY WERE THROWN INTO JAIL AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVED. WE PASSED
THE HAT TO BAIL THEM OUT, SO THEY COULD PERFORM.

A BANK ROBBERY WAS STAGE WITH CO-OPERATION OF THE BANK. JUST AS THE PARADE WAS ABOUT TO START A CANNON WAS SET OFF ON THE RAILROAD TRACK. EVERYONE NATURALLY LOOKED THAT DIRECTION TO SEE THE ROBBER COME RUNNING OUT TO JUMP ON THE LITTLE DONKEY TO TAKE OFF. THE BANK TELLERS WERE SCREAMING AS DWANE EILAR DRESSED AS A WOMEN WAS THE ROBBER. .

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HEADLINES OF THE PAPER READ:

THEY DANCED ALL NIGHT IN WHITESTOWN:

OVER TEN THOUSAND ATTENDED WHITESTOWN PARADE:

THE PARADE WAS KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN LEGION PARADE. SIX BANDS WERE IN THE PARADE, EVERY ORGANAZATION AND CHURCH MADE A FLOAT. WE EVEN HAD A HUGE FLOAT FROM MAYFLOWER AND MOST LOCAL MERCHANTS. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

THE PIONEER LASSIE PRESENTED ALL TROPHYS AND RIBBONS AND KEPT BUSY THROUGHOUT THE EVENT.

THE SENIOR CITIZENS HAD HISTORY DISPLAYS AND WERE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR TOWN.

TIMES WERE FUN : WE HAD COMMUNITY PRIDE: WE ALL WORKED TOGETHER:

I WOULD LIKE FOR THE NEW PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TO TAKE PRIDE IN OUR PAST, AND CONTINUE OUR PROUD TRADITION. I KNOW, WHEN THEY TOOK OUR SCHOOL, THEY TOOK A PIECE OF EACH ONE OF US. LETS TRY TO REUNITE AND BE THE HAPPY FUN LOVING COMMUNITY WE ONCE WERE, LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE AND PROUD OF OUR PAST.

THANKS FOR ALLOWING ME TO REMINISCE, PERHAPS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED. I WISH I COULD REMEMBER MORE.

LOIS LINDKEY

THE WEEKEND WAS SO SUCCESSFUL, PEOPLE WANTED TO CONTINUE. WE PAYED THE THOUSAND DOLLAR NOTE AND HAD MORE THAN THIRTY TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS IN THE BANK.

WE ALLOWED ALL PEOPLE DOING DEMONSTRATIONS OF PIONEER ACTIVITY FREE SPACE AND THEY COULD SELL THEIR WARES. WE HAD A BLACKSMITH, BROOM MAKER WEAVER AND OTHERS I'm UNABLE TO REMEMBER.

TOWN MARSHAL DON SORTOR WAS A GREAT HELP WITH EVERYTHING. DON GREW A LONG HANDLEBAR MUSTASCHE AND CLOTHES TO GO WITH THE TIMES.

OUR SIGNS WERE MADE ON OLD SCRAPES OF WOOD AND HAND PAINTED BY DON AND MYSELF. EVERYTHING WAS ROUGH IN THE PIONEER DAY TRADITION.

THE CHURCHES STOPPED SERVICES EARLY ALL AT THE SAME TIME. THE CONGREGATIONS MARCHED TO TOWN TOGETHER FROM THEIR CHURCH CARRYING THEIR CHURCH FLAGS.

THIS WAS OUR FIRST COMMUNITY SERVICE. IT WAS HEADED BY THE PASTOR FROM THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

I ATTENDED MANY FESTIVALS IN INDIANA AND INVITED CRAFT PEOPLE TO WHITESTOWN.