



150 YEARS
of STATEHOOD
1858 · 2008

A SESQUICENTENNIAL

*J*OURNEY
2005-2008

MINNESOTA STATEHOOD
SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
FINAL REPORT

This report is submitted to the Minnesota State Legislature by the members of the Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial Commission:

Cay Shea Hellervik, Commission Chair,
Personnel Decisions International, Minneapolis

Reatha Clark King, Commission Vice-Chair; Chair,
Capital, Grants & Legislative Committee, General
Mills Foundation, Minneapolis

Sen. Don Betzold, Fridley

Rep. Sondra Erickson, Co-Chair,
Subcommittee on Education, Princeton

Tess Hohman, Co-Chair,
Communications, General Mills, Excelsior

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Sen. Gen Olson, Program Committee, Minnetrista

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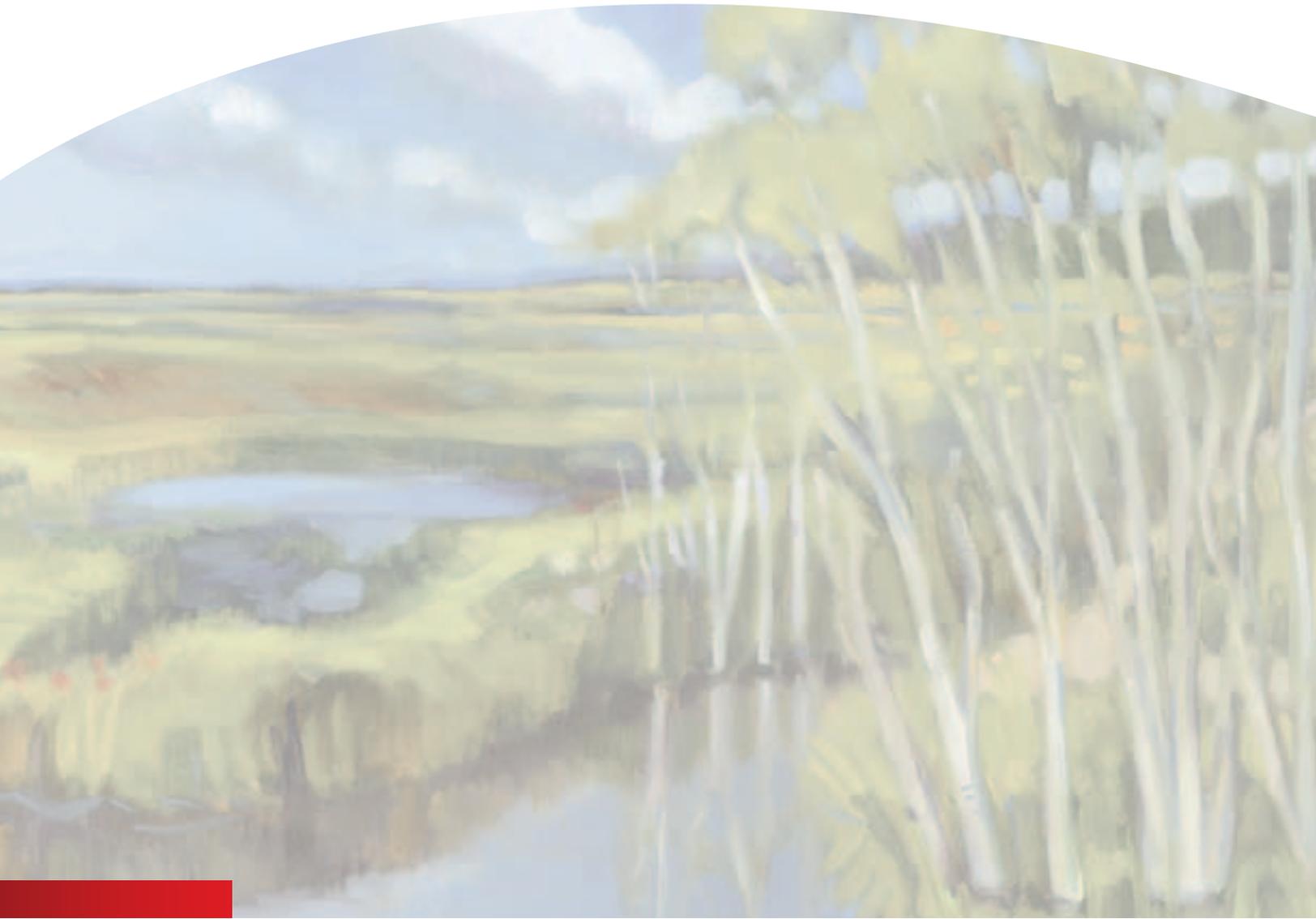
Mark F. Peterson, Chair, Program Committee,
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A SESQUICENTENNIAL *JOURNEY* 2005–2008

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LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

December 2008

Dear Fellow Minnesotans:

When we began this journey nearly four years ago, none of us could imagine the challenges and opportunities we would encounter in trying to wrap our arms around something as vast and encompassing as 150 years of Minnesota statehood.

Like Minnesotans before us, we rolled up our sleeves and dove in, gathering strength from the enterprising spirit that has always marked Minnesota's hopes and dreams. We endeavored to commemorate Minnesota's history and celebrate the accomplishments of the millions of people who have come before us and those who continue to live, work, play and achieve here. We also hoped to use this time as a springboard to inspire our fellow citizens to engage in planning for Minnesota's future well-being.

Thanks to the help and support of thousands of Minnesota citizens — and their generous gift of \$1.6 million authorized by the State Legislature, which was matched several times over by community, corporate and foundation funds and in-kind donations — the Sesquicentennial challenge was met through opportunities for Minnesotans to learn, grow, and we hope, prosper into our next 50 years.

Reaching five million people scattered over 87,000 square miles was a test indeed, but the test was answered by an extraordinary grassroots response. People in small towns, townships and urban neighborhoods caught the anniversary spirit, expressed through creative endeavors and team efforts that helped mark this occasion, to remember where we came from and envision where we are headed.

Minnesotans recognized that statehood is a precious privilege and responsibility in 2008. It was a year which saw the state host its first national political convention in over 100 years — the Republican National Convention. It was a year in which America elected its first African-American president. It was a year in which government at local, state and federal levels worked together overtime to rebuild — in record time — the Interstate Highway 35W bridge that had collapsed into the Mississippi River just five months before our 150th anniversary year began.

Finally, it was a year in which Minnesotans connected again through the ideals of statehood, through the sense of belonging to, and being responsible for, something greater than our individual selves. Minnesota is indeed a place — and a state of mind and heart — that we all cherish.

We have been privileged to serve the state and its citizens to plan and organize this historic 150th anniversary of statehood. This Final Report of the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission touches on many anniversary highlights. We hope it will spark more memories from this special year and be a record for those who follow us in paying tribute to the state we all call home.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial Commission

Cay Shea Hellervik, Chair

Reatha Clark King, Vice Chair

Sen. Don Betzold

Rep. Sondra Erickson

Tess Hohman

Sarah Janecek

Rep. Morrie Lanning

Cal Larson

Rep. Diane Loeffler

Elizabeth McMullen

Sen. Pat Pariseau

Mark F. Peterson

Sen. Gen Olson

Sen. Ann H. Rest

Dallas Ross

Rep. Loren Solberg

Joe C. Swedberg

Jane Leonard, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MINNESOTA'S STATEHOOD SESQUICENTENNIAL was a year of commemoration to reflect on and learn from our past. It was a year of statewide celebration to rediscover our state, showcase our people and achievements, and connect us as Minnesotans. And it was for many, a once-in-a-lifetime catalyst to unite us, to rededicate ourselves to creating a thriving and innovative future.

In 2007 and 2008, through more than 500 events, over 150 grant projects, arts and culture exhibits, presentations, music and literature creations, Minnesotans endeavored to tell all the stories that shaped this land, our culture, our people and our destiny — from before statehood to the present to the years beyond our own time.

We accomplished this statewide Sesquicentennial programming and participation with modest funding from the Minnesota State Legislature (\$1.6 million over a period of 3.5 years — about 32 cents for each of the 5 million people living in Minnesota.) We matched that funding nearly three fold with private and community-based contributions of cash and in-kind resources to generate a total investment of \$4.5 million.

For nearly two years, these investments went back to communities and organizations across the state in the form of Sesquicentennial grants, local events creation and promotion, and to fund major statehood programs including the Plan for Our Future, Statehood Week (May 11-18, 2008) and the Minnesota State Fair (August 21-September 1, 2008.)

These investments proved to be a strong catalyst for civic engagement and community capacity building at local, regional and state levels. They helped start and strengthen efforts that will reverberate for years to come. For more details, see the events, programs and grants descriptions and listings in this report.

We pledged to our funders to engage at least 1 million Minnesotans “to learn from the state’s past, reflect on lessons from both its success and failings, and get engaged in planning for Minnesota’s future well-being.” This became the Sesquicentennial

Pledge to ensure that this 150th anniversary of statehood would be both meaningful and memorable to all Minnesotans who took the time to participate.

Based on our data collection (grant project records, event tallies, media exposure) more than 1 million Minnesotans participated in the Sesquicentennial, in telling and listening to the stories inspired by the 150th year of statehood.

The Commission could not have accomplished this without the help and determination of thousands of volunteers statewide. These citizen volunteers in small towns and urban neighborhoods saw in the Sesquicentennial an opportunity to stir and organize teams of people to accomplish together what individuals could not do alone. They jumpstarted community projects that may have been languishing for lack of inspiration and saw beyond the current day to leave a legacy for generations ahead.

Projects in every one of Minnesota’s 87 counties told the compelling stories of our shared home, Minnesota. These projects ranged from:

- Many Nations One Circle project in Evansville (pop. 561), in west central Minnesota, which honored our Native American and immigrant roots to
- Minnesota is Our Home opera written and performed by the 4th graders at Linwood School in St. Paul (pop. 270,000) to the
- Speaking of Home exhibition on the diversity of our citizens. Displayed in a downtown Minneapolis skyway, it was viewed by thousands of people each day as they walked past or drove by to the
- Minnovation exhibit at the Minneapolis Public Library of Minnesota’s inventions and patents throughout statehood to the
- 150 years of Rural Life project in Pleasant Hill Township, Winona County to
- Oral and pictorial history projects in Madelia, Waseca and Walker.

These, and other projects and events, showcased Minnesotans’ ingenuity, accomplishments and contributions in arts and culture, science and technology, business, public affairs, education and compassion worldwide.

From city to town to village to township to public and nonprofit organizations, Minnesotans harnessed their creative minds and hearts to help us all

remember the essence of statehood. Statehood is ultimately about democracy, choosing democracy as a way of life, a way of deciding and getting things done together, and putting service above self for the common good.

The Sesquicentennial was for Minnesotans in 2008 a time to reflect and then a time to act, to do our best and be our best, to call upon all the good we are capable of in a difficult era, a national and global time of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. We gained inspiration from our past and then looked to the future, embracing hope, aspiration, confidence and courage.

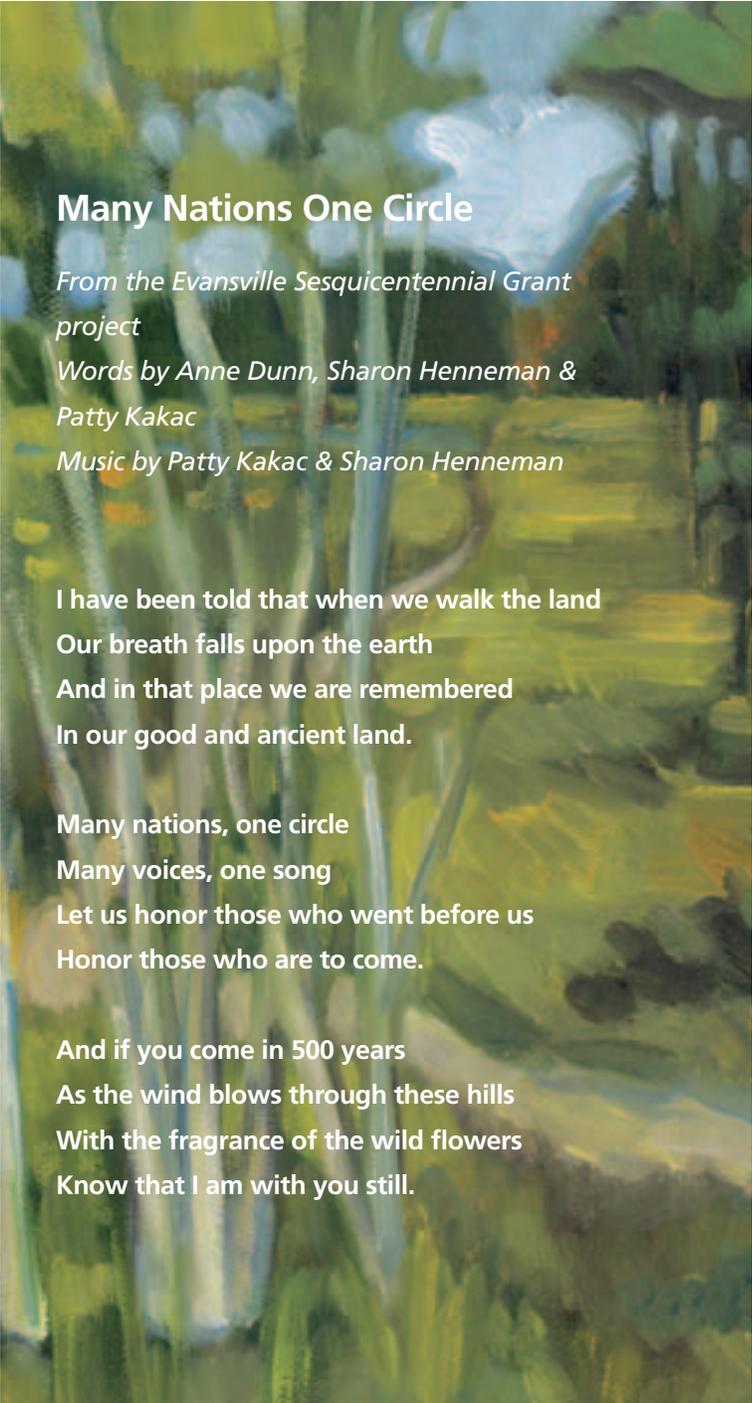
We can move forward into our next 50 years with an expanded vision and a renewed sense of purpose, inspired by the sacrifice and perseverance of those who walked this land before us.

This Final Report of the Commission captures all of Minnesota's Sesquicentennial stories in three sections that mirror our work plan: Time of Preparation, Time of Celebration & Commemoration, and Time of Reflection & Legacy.

However, no written record can adequately contain the outpouring of spirit we witnessed across the Minnesota landscape.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Minnesota these past two years as executive director of the Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial Commission. I came to this job with a deep love for my home state. I leave it with a much deeper understanding of, and respect for, the complexities and continued promise of our state and its people. We are many voices. We are one state. We are many nations, one circle. And Minnesota is our home.

Jane Leonard
Executive Director
December 2008



Many Nations One Circle

From the Evansville Sesquicentennial Grant project

Words by Anne Dunn, Sharon Henneman & Patty Kakac

Music by Patty Kakac & Sharon Henneman

**I have been told that when we walk the land
Our breath falls upon the earth
And in that place we are remembered
In our good and ancient land.**

**Many nations, one circle
Many voices, one song
Let us honor those who went before us
Honor those who are to come.**

**And if you come in 500 years
As the wind blows through these hills
With the fragrance of the wild flowers
Know that I am with you still.**

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

Cay Shea Hellervik
December 2008

History of the Commission

In 2005, the First Special Session of the State Legislature enacted a law (Chapter 1, Article 4, Section 121) regarding the Minnesota Sesquicentennial anniversary. Here's how the law read:

Sec. 121. Sesquicentennial Commission

Subdivision 1. Commission Purpose

The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission is established to plan for activities relating to Minnesota's 150th anniversary of statehood. The Commission shall create a plan for capital improvements, celebratory activities and public engagement in every county in the state of Minnesota.

Subd. 2. Membership

The Commission shall consist of 17 members who shall serve until the completion of the Sesquicentennial year of statehood, appointed as follows:

1. nine members appointed by the governor, representing major corporate, nonprofit and public sectors, selected from all parts of the state;
2. two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
3. two members appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;
4. two members from the majority party in the senate, appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees; and
5. two members from the senate's minority party, appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees.

Subd. 3. Compensation & Operation

Members shall select a chair from the membership of the Commission. The chair shall convene all meetings and set the agenda for the Commission. The Minnesota Historical Society shall provide office space and staff support for the Commission, and shall cooperate with the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to support the programs of the Commission.

Meetings shall be at the call of the chair. The Commission may appoint an advisory council to advise and assist the Commission with its duties. Members shall receive no compensation for service on the Sesquicentennial Commission. Members appointed by the governor may be reimbursed for expenses under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subd.3.

Subd. 4. Duties

The Commission shall have the following duties:

1. to present to the governor and legislature a plan for capital grants to pay for capital improvements on Minnesota's historic public and private buildings, to be known as Sesquicentennial grants;
2. to seek funding for activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of statehood, and to form partnerships with private parties to further this mission; and
3. to present an annual report to the governor and legislature outlining progress made towards the celebration of the Sesquicentennial.

Subd. 5. Commemorative Coin

The Commission may arrange for design, production, distribution, marketing and sale of a commemorative coin. Proceeds from sale of the coin are appropriated to the Commission.

Subd. 6. Expiration

The Commission shall continue to operate until Jan. 30, 2009, at which time it shall expire.

The legislature appropriated \$50,000 to be used by the Commission the first year, with \$50,000 to be used the second year for planning and support of its mission. Later amendments in 2007 and 2008 to the enacting language eliminated the capital improvements grant requirement, encouraged the Commission to be as energy efficient as possible, allowed the Commission to conduct meetings by telephone, authorized production and sale of a commemorative license plate, and directed the Commission to use the Plan for Our Future results to provide feedback for the Minnesota Milestones. The legislature also appropriated an additional \$1.5 million between 2007 and 2008 to carry out the work of the Commission.

The Commission began formal meetings in the spring of 2006.

Executive Committee & Other Commission Committees

Executive Committee

Cay Shea Hellervik, Chair
Reatha Clark King, Vice Chair

The members of the Executive Committee were Rep. Diane Loeffler, Sen. Don Betzold, Commissioner Tess Hohman, Commissioner Joe C. Swedberg, Sen. Ann H. Rest, Rep. Morrie Lanning and Commissioner Mark F. Peterson. The majority held major committee responsibilities, all generously offered wisdom, guidance and genuine care and concern to, and for, the work of the Commission. Their ideas became the basic fabric from which the work of the Commission was cut.

The Executive Committee worked to establish committees, create a strategy for the Commission, and design the organizational structure of the Commission. The committees they established were:

Capital, Grants, & Legislative Committee

Reatha Clark King, Chair

This committee sought the fiscal resources necessary to carry out the mission, legislation, legal and fiscal relationships of the Commission. It also worked with the other committees to develop policies and procedures for the Sesquicentennial Grant Program.

Engage the Public/Plan for Our Future Committee

Sen. Ann H. Rest & Rep. Morrie Lanning, Co-chairs

This committee worked with partner groups to ensure that leaders and citizens in all 87 counties of Minnesota were aware of and engaged in the Sesquicentennial and in the creation of the Plan for Our Future. They also worked to partner with other government agencies, the private and nonprofit sectors and neighboring states. The completed Plan for Our Future document is available in the online version of the Commission's Final Report.

Program Committee

Mark F. Peterson, Chair

This committee developed, along with partners, the signature events and programs of statewide impact for the Sesquicentennial. It also coordinated with independent efforts in the public, private and nonprofit sectors to help promote those programs and events that commemorated the Sesquicentennial.



Communications Subcommittee

Tess Hohman & Joe Swedberg, Co-chairs

This subcommittee worked with the staff and volunteers to develop communications vehicles that promoted and marketed the Sesquicentennial message, programs and events, including logo design and use, Web site, printed and electronic communications, and media relations.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION MET MONTHLY FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

Establishing a Mission & Strategies

The Executive Committee decided to invite a consultant from Wisconsin to brief them about that state's 1998 Sesquicentennial celebration. With examples from the Wisconsin experience, the Executive Committee formed a nucleus of ideas that was accepted by the Commission and adopted as core concepts by which we operated in the coming years.

Consultant Judy Plante, director of management analysis and development from the state's Department of Administration, worked with the Executive Committee, designing discussions and leading sessions with the Commission to develop its mission, goals and desired attributes for the celebration. Her work with us created a lasting memory and documents that served to guide all of us.

Our Mission statement was:

The Commission and its volunteers will strive to increase pride in our state by:

- Achieving broad participation of the people of Minnesota, visitors, local communities, institutions and organizations in activities across the state;
- Raising awareness and educating Minnesotans by telling the stories of our past, recognizing the indigenous people of Minnesota, and learning from them and the many ethnic groups that have come and continue to come to Minnesota;
- Developing a shared vision for the state's future,

- by engaging Minnesotans in civic dialogue;
- Leaving a lasting legacy through print, visual, musical, and other reminders, as well as media documentation;

So that all might have a meaningful perspective on the impact our state has had in the past and will have on the future for Minnesotans, the nation and the world.

The Commission's work

Central to the operation of the Commission were matters regarding organization, including recruiting staff and volunteers, hiring staff, evaluations, personnel issues, policies for employees, office setup and furniture. These were critical contributions made by the Executive Committee and required hundreds of volunteer hours before full-time professional staff were hired.

Personnel Decisions International donated my time and that of my assistant during these early months, as well as office furniture. This allowed the Commission to save the full amount appropriated by the legislature for later essential Commission salaries and grants.

With the goal of involving as many citizens as possible, members of the Executive Committee worked tirelessly traveling the state and speaking to thousands of citizens, especially at Minnesota Township Association meetings and other gatherings.

The Commission engaged over 100 Sesquicentennial Ambassadors throughout Minnesota. These Ambassadors served the Commission well by encouraging citizens to check out the critical information on the Sesquicentennial Web site, helping motivate as many Minnesotans as possible to become involved in events and to apply for grants from the Commission.

As a result of these efforts, combined with Sesquicentennial communications and outreach, the Commission received hundreds of requests for grants and ideas related to activities and events that were being planned independently all over Minnesota, whether the Commission was funding them or not. The Web site became a clearinghouse of events and projects for the people of Minnesota to reference.

Reatha Clark King served an immense number of hours on the Executive Committee, and as chair of the Capital, Grants and Legislative Committee, she devoted hundreds of volunteer hours. Reatha sought the fiscal resources necessary to carry out

our mission, and she personally oversaw its finances. She also worked closely with the Commission chair to develop policies and procedures for the Commission, as well as the Sesquicentennial Grant Program.

Executive Committee members contacted hundreds of corporations, state agencies, nonprofit groups and foundations, and engaged them in the process of bringing essential funding to the Commission.

The Executive Committee worked with Commission staff to organize their travel to the five Capitals for a Day and coordinated with Gov. Tim Pawlenty so he could be at the honorary Capitals during Statehood Week, where he greeted thousands of Minnesotans.

The Executive Committee prepared reports and budgets for the governor and legislature, not only for funding but also for the purpose of keeping them informed.

The Executive Committee, Program Committee Chair Mark F. Peterson and Commission members spent many months visioning and outlining ideas for the events and activities of the Sesquicentennial celebration. During this phase, we vetted hundreds of ideas. The Commission worked hard to limit the number of ideas to keep within our budget. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Commission decided which events or projects we would reject, support in our literature and on our Web site, and which projects we would try to fund.

Other members of the Executive Committee contributed their time as well, including Rep. Diane Loeffler, who assisted us with legislative relations, outreach for the Plan for Our Future project and the Web-based mapping of events. Sen. Don Betzold guided us on many matters regarding legal and military issues. Sen. Ann H. Rest was instrumental in securing the Minnesota Twins as partners for the Statehood celebration. She worked tirelessly on getting license plate legislation passed, as well as co-chairing with Rep. Morrie Lanning the implementation of the Engage the Public/Plan for Our Future work mentioned in more detail later in this report.

I want to thank all of the Commission members, our Executive Director Jane Leonard, and all of the staff, Fellows and volunteers who worked so hard to bring this celebration and commemoration to all Minnesotans. The remainder of this report will illustrate the wide scope and depth of programming that made the Sesquicentennial dreams come to life for all Minnesotans.

TIME OF PREPARATION JULY 2006 TO MAY 2008

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

THIS SESQUICENTENNIAL WAS more than community celebrations and special events. At its heart, it was about engaging the citizens of Minnesota to think about their state, to learn what Minnesotans want the future to be like, and what they are willing to commit to doing to make that future a reality.

The Sesquicentennial Plan for Our Future: Many Voices-One Minnesota is just that – a plan for a future crafted by the citizens of the state. To capture their hopes, dreams and visions for Minnesota, the Sesquicentennial staff, in partnership with the Regional Development Commissions, encouraged a series of community conversations held throughout the state.

In a message to these conversation groups, Executive Director Jane Leonard said, “Minnesota is a vast and diverse state, by geography and by culture. It is a daunting challenge to capture all of who we are today, where we have come from, and where we are heading. That is the magnificent opportunity we have before us. We can, through the Sesquicentennial lens, connect people to learn from our past and prepare for our future progress.”

Moderators at the community conversations, as well as an online survey, asked participants:

- “What do you want the future to be like for the next generations?”
- “What are the key issues and challenges we have to deal with to ensure the future we envision will become reality?”
- “What would you like to tell Minnesotans 50 years from now that you are personally working on today to ensure they have the same or better quality of life you have now?”

These conversations, which were one of the first ways Minnesotans became engaged with the Sesquicentennial, began in 2007 and carried through much of 2008. For an in-depth discussion of the process and resulting document, see pg. 25.

The Plan for Our Future was presented to the State Legislature and will be available for other public use in conjunction with the many “plans” created by

other organizations representing the different sectors and fields of discipline (such as land use, environment, health care) that encompass Minnesota policy development.

The Plan is available online at www.mn150years.org and is archived along with other Sesquicentennial official papers at the Minnesota Historical Society.

SESQUICENTENNIAL PLEDGE
DURING THE
SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR,
I WILL ENDEAVOR TO LEARN FROM
THE STATE'S PAST, REFLECT ON LESSONS
FROM BOTH ITS SUCCESSES AND
FAILINGS AND GET ENGAGED
IN PLANNING FOR
MINNESOTA'S FUTURE WELL-BEING.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising began in earnest with a \$100,000 planning grant from the Minnesota State Legislature. Downturns in the economy and competition from other events and festivals made fundraising challenging, but we met our goal of \$4 million by raising a total of \$4.5 million in cash and in-kind.

The Commission held a funders' briefing in June 2007 at the St. Paul Hotel, and again in October at Eastcliff, the University of Minnesota's president's house. These briefings helped current and potential funders grasp the big, detailed picture of the Sesquicentennial goals, strategies and opportunities.

Another fundraising event was hosted at the St. Paul Hotel in February 2008 by Commission Chair Cay Shea Hellervik and the Sesquicentennial staff. The reception program provided an opportunity for many notable Sesquicentennial supporters to tell personal stories of their love for Minnesota, including former Gov. Al Quie and current Minnesota House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher.

As of December 2008, the exact total of funds and in-kind raised was \$4,483,600. This included:

From the State Legislature

\$1.6 million in appropriations (\$100,000 in 2005, \$750,000 in 2007, and \$175,000 & \$575,000 in 2008)

Matched by

\$375,600 cash from foundations, organizations & individuals
 \$384,500 cash from corporations
 \$1,071,500 in-kind from corporations & organizations
 \$652,000 cash match from communities & organizations for state Sesquicentennial grants
 \$400,000 in-kind match from communities & organizations for state Sesquicentennial grants

We matched one-to-one the initial state appropriations of \$850,000 within one year – May 2007 to May 2008 – and met the Bush Foundation challenge grant match (three-to-one) within one month, April 2008. The total Bush Foundation grant was \$226,000.

Of the cash received from all sources (except the \$652,000 cash match from communities and organizations for grant matches,) \$585,000 went directly to local communities and organizations as Sesquicentennial grants. The remaining \$1,775,100 went to plan and implement events and programs of statewide scope, including Statehood Week and the 2007 and 2008 State Fair exhibitions.

The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission thanks the following for their generous donations of funding and in-kind assistance:

Our Partners

Minnesota Historical Society
 University of Minnesota
 Minnesota State Colleges & University System
 Special thanks to: Minnesota State Legislature, the Governor's Office, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Minnesota Supreme Court, and the many state agencies supporting the Sesquicentennial including the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Education, Human Rights, Natural

Resources (State Parks), Explore Minnesota Tourism and Veteran Affairs
 Minnesota National Guard
 Minnesota's private colleges
 Minnesota's regional public library systems
 Staff & volunteers at the James J. Hill House
 Sesquicentennial volunteers across the state

Sesquicentennial Presenting Sponsors - \$250,000 & above

People of Minnesota, through an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature

Personnel Decisions International
 TPT-TV - The Minnesota Channel

Trailblazers: \$100,000 to \$249,999

Bush Foundation
 Minnesota State Fair

Voyageurs: \$50,000 to \$99,999

AgStar
 BBDO
 Bell Museum of Natural History

Dolan Media

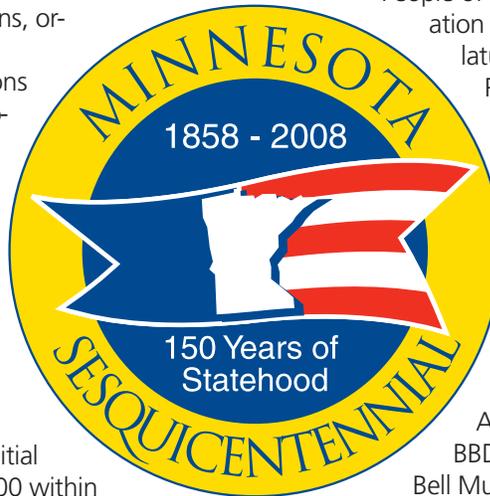
KARE-11
 Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation
 Miller
 Travelers

Founders: \$25,000 to \$49,999

Blandin Foundation
 General Mills Foundation
 Minnesota Twins
 Minnesota Vikings
 Securian
 Skyline Design
 Target

32nd State Club: \$10,000 to \$24,999

Citizens League
 Comcast
 Eureka Recycling
 F. R. Bigelow Foundation
 Heroic Productions
 Midwest Coca-Cola Bottling Company
 Minnesota Federation of Stamp Clubs
 Pioneer Press
 Public Affairs Company
 St. Paul Foundation
 St. Paul Hotel



Stagetime Productions
Toro
Troje
US Bank
Xcel Energy

**Sesqui Stewardship Club:
\$1,000 to \$9,999**

A & A Engraving
Best Buy
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
CHS Foundation
Cinequipt
Dot.com.printing.inc.
ECM Publishing
Ecolab, Inc.
Grotto Foundation in memory of founder Louis W.
Hill, Jr.
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hormel Foods
Melrose
Metro Transit
Minnesota Rural Partners, Inc.
N. Judge and Reatha Clark King Family Fund of the
Minneapolis Foundation
Northwest Airlines
Padilla Speer Beardsley
RiverPoint Media Group, Inc.
SuperValu
Tunheim Partners
Visual Impact
Weber Shandwick
Wendells
Private Individuals

Minnesota Memories level: Up to \$999

Woman's Club of Minneapolis
State Government Meeting Planners Group
The Minnesota Association of Cooperatives Educa-
tion Foundation
Two Fools Vineyard
Private Individuals

Special Event & Project Partners

City of St. Paul
Emergency Foodshelf Network & Taco Bell
Members of the Minnesota Private College Council
Minnesota Public Radio
Minnesota State Patrol & Capitol Security
Nodin Press
Old Minnesota Song of the North Star Big Top
Chautauqua
Plant Management Division of the Minnesota De-
partment of Administration
Roseville Visitors Association

Sesquicentennial Honorary Capitals for a Day:
Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Detroit Lakes, New Ulm
& Winona
Sesquicentennial Wagon Train
United States Postal Service for the Minnesota State-
hood Commemorative Stamp
Vintage Aircraft Flyover

Media Partners

KARE-11
Pioneer Press

SECURING PARTNERS

Any journey is easier, more fun and filled with more experiences when you have good travel partners. It was the same with the Sesquicentennial journey. Key partners added event expertise, depth of knowledge and breadth of exposure to the Sesquicentennial. These Sesqui journey partners were:

Minnesota Historical Society

What better institution to capture the sweep and scope of Minnesota's history than the Minnesota Historical Society? Following the Sesquicentennial's lead to create an inclusive, interactive commemoration, the MHS solicited nominations for the 150 people, places and things that changed and shaped Minnesota.

More than 2,700 entries came in from Minnesotans living in every corner of the state, as well as across the globe. MHS Director Nina Archabal said, "It was an unprecedented degree of participation. And who better to tell us about Minnesota than the people who live here?"

A committee of MHS staff, community members and subject experts selected the final 150, basing their choices on the compelling case made by the nominator, as well as the potential for each topic to be developed into a successful piece of the exhibit.

So who and what made the final cut? Bob Dylan and Prince. The GPS and Greyhound Bus systems. Hubert H. Humphrey and Elmer L. Andersen. John Beargrease and the American Indian Movement. The 1980 Olympic Hockey Team and Patty Berg. Burma Shave signs and the Kensington Runestone. Plus 138 more.

The MN 150 exhibit opened October 13, 2007, the 150th anniversary of the vote by Minnesota Territory residents on the proposed state constitution. (It was

JOIN THE OFFICIAL ORDER OF
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sesqui-Scouts



**PLEDGE TO UPHOLD SESQUICENTENNIAL*
VALUES OF \$1.50 OFF EACH VISIT.**

*10th anniversary of website
Hey, kids of all ages! Join the Sesqui-Scouts and get
discounts at 26 sesqui-mazing historic sites and museums!

Ask for a brochure to find out more!
Or, visit www.mnhs.org/sesqui

OFFICIAL SESQUI-SCOUT PLEDGE

HOLD UP YOUR RIGHT HAND IN
THE SESQUI-SALUTE AND
SESQUI-SOLEMNLV VOW:

ON MY HONOR, I WILL TRY:

- TO VISIT ALL 26 HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS OR AT LEAST THE ONES MY PARENTS WILL TAKE ME TO,
- TO DO MY BEST TO LEARN HOW TO PRONOUNCE "SESQUICENTENNIAL,"
- TO HAVE A SESQUI-FUN, SESQUI-SAFE, SESQUI-ORDERLY SESQUICENTENNIAL,
- TO BE A GOOD SESQUI-CITIZEN AND HELP MY FELLOW SESQUI-SCOUTS EVEN MY BROTHERS AND/OR SISTERS.

MN150 Wiki (collection of pages that can be modified by users) at the historical society's Web site, www.mnhs.org, by submitting their comments and creating their own MN150 lists.

Also on the Web site, users could become "Sesqui-Scouts" by taking the official pledge and printing out an ID card good for admission discounts at any participating state historical sites and museums and \$5 off on an MHS membership. All historical sites and museums were encouraged to develop Sesquicentennial-related events, programs and exhibits.

Also at each site, kids could choose from several Sesquicentennial rub-on tattoos including: Sesquilicious!, Sesqui-Lightful! and Vote for Sesquatch.

To draw visitors to its sites, the MHS published The Official State Sesquicentennial Guide to Minnesota

accepted, 30,055 to 571.) Each year, 350,000 visitors tour the History Center exhibits, and a majority of them viewed MN 150. At the end of the Sesqui year, MN 150 will continue as a major exhibit at the Center.

Others have checked out the top 150 through the book, *Minnesota 150: The People, Places and Things that Shape Our State*, by exhibit developer Kate Roberts. And more have participated in the

History. This fun, fold-out guide showcased, through photos, compelling graphics and words, the Society's sites and museums, a timeline of Minnesota history and objects from its collections. The MHS also held a free open house at its 26 historical sites and museums on June 1, 2008.

In addition, the MHS created an eye-catching "Sesqui-Sensational" advertising campaign to spotlight its activities throughout the Sesquicentennial. Lory Sutton, chief marketing officer for the MHS, said, "The ad campaign was a humorous take-off on the word 'Sesquicentennial,' which newscasters and citizens alike had trouble pronouncing and remembering, much less knowing the definition!"

The campaign targeted women ages 35 to 50 who typically set the social agenda for their families and friends – in other words, the people who plan and organize trips to historic sites.

Sutton said, "We wanted the Sesquicentennial campaign to stand out from the usual historic-patriotic-tourism approach by doing something memorable and fun. We built the buzz with election yard signs, tattoos, the Scout pledge and more."

Using visuals like those in the ad campaign, the MHS played on the 2008 election by developing yard signs that read, "Vote for Sesquatch!" and featured a tall, furry, furtive creature running into the distance.



The MHS also held a Media Resource Day in February to acquaint journalists and members of the media to the range of programs, services and other resources to help them research, illuminate and enrich the Sesquicentennial Year.

Office of the Secretary of State

To commemorate the Sesquicentennial, the Office of the Secretary of State sponsored a number of initiatives focused on governance and governing, including:

- **Bringing the Declaration of Independence to Minnesota.** To underscore where democracy begins, the

Office, in partnership with Dolan Media, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Sesquicentennial Commission, arranged for an original version of the Declaration to be on exhibit in May 2008 at

the Minnesota Historical Society. During Statehood Week, 20,000 people viewed the DOI, as it is affectionately known.

- **Achieving record voter turnout.** With the goal of “80 in ‘08,” the Secretary of State’s office sought to improve voter turnout, especially among those who face significant barriers including military service people and the hearing and visually impaired. Once again, Minnesota was the national leader in voter turnout, and almost reached the campaign’s goal with a 78 percent turnout.
- **Presenting a history series.** These public events exploring the history, current state of affairs and future challenges of the Office included working with the Minnesota Historical Society on protecting documents in the digital age and a seminar on facilitating commerce.
- **Honoring Minnesota’s public servants.** This initiative had four parts: voting in honor of a veteran; a reunion for the thousands of Minnesotans who have served the Office of Secretary of State; publication of a special Sesquicentennial edition of the “Blue Book,” the manual of the Minnesota State Legislature; and a statehood ceremony honoring those who serve – public servants, citizen volunteers and members of the armed forces.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

In the words of the MHS’ ads, 2008 was a “Sesqui-sensational Summer” to visit the state’s amazing, beautiful and diverse state parks. With gas prices hovering around \$4 per gallon and a wobbling economy, many residents opted for “stay-cations” – vacations closer to home. Where better to explore the state’s history, culture and geography than at a state park? To jumpstart these Sesqui journeys, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources offered free admission to all state parks and sites on June 1, 2008.

The DNR’s goal was to offer at least 150 new Sesquicentennial-related programs. As Claire Plank, state park Sesqui event planner said, “The state parks just grabbed the Sesquicentennial and ran with it.”

- All 72 parks were required to buy a Sesqui flag and fly it at the entrance. All non-uniformed staff wore Sesqui pins.
- The DNR produced a coloring book of state symbols for the parks’ youngest visitors.
- Staff and naturalists at the parks tailored programs to their park’s particular history or geography.

More than 250 programs were presented throughout the year. They were publicized on the Sesquicentennial’s Web site as well as through a new program brochure designed especially for the 150th anniversary of statehood. They ranged from “Stories in log and stone” at Old Mill State Park to “Fishing techniques of the past” at Sibley State Park to “Minnesota birds since statehood” at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park to “Biking into the North Shore’s past” at Gooseberry Falls State Park.

The DNR lured kids into exploring the great outdoors by hosting a Geocaching History Challenge for the Sesquicentennial. Basically, geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt. Using a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) device, the geocacher enters the coordinates of the treasure, then goes in search of it. Here’s how the challenge worked:

- Began May 11, Minnesota Statehood Day.
- Geocaches containing collectible, Minnesota history cards, Sesqui medallions or trinkets and a log book were hidden in each of the state’s 72 parks and recreation sites.
- Participants could download the coordinates from www.geocaching.com.
- Anyone new to geocaching could visit a demonstration site at one of 16 state parks. If they didn’t have a GPS unit, they could check one out at the park.

In addition, *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, the DNR’s quarterly magazine, published a special Sesquicentennial article in each edition during 2008.



SINGER-SONG-WRITER ANN REED PERFORMED IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT MINNESOTA IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING HER SESQUICENTENNIAL TRIBUTE SONG.

Explore Minnesota Tourism

Explore Minnesota Tourism helped travelers explore Minnesota through a comprehensive listing of Sesquicentennial events and events on its Web site: www.exploreminnesota.com. Visitors to the site just searched "Sesquicentennial." The department also featured Sesquicentennial events in its quarterly tabloid promotional newspaper, *Explore Minnesota* and electronic newsletter.

University of Minnesota

Founded in 1851, the University of Minnesota has played an integral role in the development of the state and its people. To recognize this special relationship, the University hosted events on each of its campuses honoring Minnesota during the academic year 2007-2008.

A university-wide committee, chaired by Thomas Fisher, dean, College of Design, and Ann Pflaum, University of Minnesota historian, helped plan and coordinate activities offered in the Twin Cities as well as at the Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester campuses.

Some events became part of commencements, convocations or lectures, others were developed especially for the Sesquicentennial. Among them were:

Crookston:

- At commencement exercises, Crookston choir performed "Shines for All to See," the official Sesquicentennial song composed by U of M School of Music faculty member Dean Sorenson.
- Orlin Ostby, Northwest School of Agriculture Class of '57, recreated a 40-day, 420-mile walk with an ox and ox cart along the Old Pembina trail. This walk originally was re-enacted in 1958 for the Minnesota Centennial by Delmar Hagen, who hired Ostby in the 1950s as a farm hand.

Duluth

- The campus sponsored a four-part lecture series called, "American Indians in Minnesota: A Personal History." It featured speakers including authors, performers, educators and Native American leaders exploring topics such as contemporary civil rights, governance, economic development, literature and culture.

Morris

- The sixth annual Symposium on Small Towns was dedicated to the Sesquicentennial. All of the small towns nominated for Capital for a Day were recognized with special certificates of appreciation from the Sesquicentennial Commission. The symposium, "The Power of Small: Building Solutions for Energy Self-Reliance," included a concert by Minnesota storyteller and singer Peter Ostroushko, as well as Sesquicentennial displays.

Rochester

- The newest of the U's campuses held three events based on the theme: "The Power of Medicine, Education, and Technology in Rochester: A Look at the Past, Present and Future."

Twin Cities

- The Weisman Museum on the U of M campus mounted an exhibit "By the People for the People: New Deal Art in Minnesota." It focused on Minnesota art of the 1930s.
- "Celebrating Discovery: Our Past and Our Future" was a series of four faculty panels held at the Campus Club. Topics of the panels were: "Arts and the Built Environment: Changing Symbols and Realities in Suburban Living," "Agriculture, Forestry and the Natural World," "Changing Demographics: Snapshots of a New America and a New Minnesota," and "A Changing World: Past and Present Threats to the Public's Health."

Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society

A group of more than 40 leaders in the Minnesota legal community came together to form the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society. Modeled after the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society, the new nonprofit organization was dedicated to collecting, preservation and promoting Minnesota's judicial history. The Sesquicentennial gave the MSCHS an ideal platform for launching its activities. It took part in the Statehood Week events and updated publication of bar memorials for all members of the Minnesota Supreme Court since its inception.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

There are Centennial Farms, and now there are Sesquicentennial Farms. In honor of the state's anniversary, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture recognized 90 families who have retained ownership of their land for 150 years or more.

These families were invited to Sesqui-Century Farm Day at the Sesquicentennial Big Top Chautauqua during the 2008 Minnesota State Fair. As part of the recognition ceremony, they received a certificate from Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson, which was signed by Commissioner Hugoson and Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The day also featured a display of the Sesquicentennial Farms. The Sesquicentennial Farm recognition program will become an annual event through a partnership with the Minnesota Farm Bureau.

The Department of Agriculture also added special Sesquicentennial sections to its Web site and its *AgMag* publication for schools, which continued through the year.

Minnesota National Guard

Minnesota ranks 26th among states in population, but 5th in military service. That military connection was in full view during the Statehood Weekend Festival and the Commemoration Ceremony on May 18, which was dedicated to "Honoring Those Who Serve."

- F-16s of the 148th Fighter Wing opened the ceremony at 6:58 p.m. (18:58 in military time) with a roaring flyover to mark the state's admission to the Union.
- Maj. Gen. Larry W. Shellito, adjutant general for the state, thanked members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families for their commitment and sacrifices.
- 100 service members participated in a march to the Capitol steps, complete with flags representing all the state's National Guard battalions and wings.
- Lt. Col. Greg Thingvold, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion, addressed his family and the crowd via satellite link from his base in Iraq.

The National Guard also provided a link to the Sesquicentennial on its Web site.



NATIONAL GUARD JETS OPENED STATEHOOD CEREMONIES WITH A FLYOVER ON MAY 18 AT 18:58.

Minnesota Department of Human Rights

To help tell the story of human rights in the state, staff from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights created an in-depth DVD, "150 Years of Human Rights in Minnesota." It includes photos, text and voice-over that chronicle the milestones marking the struggle for human rights in Minnesota. The DVD debuted at the annual Human Rights Day dinner in December 2008.

Minnesota Public Radio

To help tell Minnesota's story at its Sesquicentennial, Minnesota Public Radio created a special section on its Web site to showcase MPR's Sesqui programming. The section, called "Minnesota Arrival: A Sesquicentennial Survey," included:

- **Tell Your Story.** New and established Minnesotans, whether they came from near or far, were invited to tell their story on the social network, www.gather.com. Many included videos that could be viewed on the site.
- **Song for Minnesota.** As part of MPR's Troubadour concert series, singer-songwriter Ann Reed toured greater Minnesota and performed at six MPR-produced Sesqui concerts. Along the way, she gathered suggestions and inspirations for a new song about Minnesota, which she premiered at the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul on May 3. Visitors to the MPR site could hear the "Song for Minnesota," as well as others she wrote following her travels.

- **News.** MPR created more than 20 news stories covering Sesqui events and issues ranging from presidential hopefuls from the state to stories from the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps to a memoir written by a Hmong immigrant to the Native Americans' view of the Sesquicentennial. All were available via audio links on the site.
- **Minnesota 150 quiz.** Visitors could take a quick online quiz to test their knowledge of Minnesota's past.
- **Resources.** This section provided links to a variety of Sesquicentennial Web sites and historical resources.

TELLING THE SESQUI STORY

One of the greatest, nonstop challenges of the Sesquicentennial was communicating to the public about everything that was happening and how they could participate. Not only did the staff need to communicate the date for a community conversation, details about the geocaching event or how to buy a souvenir medallion, it also needed to engage Minnesotans, excite them about the Sesquicentennial and convey the broad reach of the Sesquicentennial activities.

Sesqui on the Web

With limited staff and financial resources, as well as an ever-changing calendar of events, the most effective vehicle for reaching diverse audiences was the Sesquicentennial's official Web site, www.mn150years.org.

The site served as a one-stop shop for the Sesquicentennial. The home page was a lively introduction and changed as events and highlights changed. A visitor could find links to the Sesqui-related blog, listen to the Sesqui song, watch a video of noted Minnesotans reading the Declaration of Independence, check out photos of the historical fact for the day, or explore a Spotlight Tour of the state.

With a quick click, visitors could find the following information:

- **Grant programs.** Interested citizens could learn about the program and apply online for grants to fund Sesquicentennial-related activities.
- **Community programs.** These included the Sesquicentennial cookbook, the Community Spirit

program, Capital for a Day, volunteer opportunities and more.

- **Events.** Visitors to the site could check a month-by-month calendar for events, read about them, or search them from an interactive map, thanks to the help of Commission member Rep. Diane Loeffler and the legislative GIS mapping service. Anyone hosting an event related to the Sesquicentennial could add it to the listings, which would also be loaded on the clickable map.
- **Merchandise.** The Web site provided ordering information for a variety of Sesqui memorabilia: the commemorative medallions, cookbook, gear, and flags and banners.
- **Background info.** This section covered Commission members, a historical timeline, fact sheets, links, sponsors and suggestions for raising awareness about the Sesquicentennial.
- **And more.** Visitors could find contact information as well as all the news releases for the Sesquicentennial.

The Web site also provided a way for people to register to use the official logo for their local events, programs and activity materials. Hundreds of requests came in, resulting in the logo being used statewide. Some of the nearly 200 uses included: White House Easter Egg and Christmas ornament, tissue boxes, collector matchbooks, Bemidji Woolen Mills blanket, Chisholm Fire Days cake, medallion for the Spielmannszug Karneval Klub, and collector Red Wing Pottery jars and trivets.

The Web site had 8,100 links to it from other sites. The blog, written by Sesqui staff members, started in May, 2007 and nearly 400 posts were made to it. The Sesqui-blog was viewed more than 17,500 times; readers posted 55 comments.

Other communication vehicles complemented the Web site including news releases, a monthly e-newsletter and special-use publications such as a Sesquicentennial highlights brochure, a tent-shaped program for the 2008 State Fair Chautauqua and a "State-Constitution-on-a-stick" for the 2007 State Fair booth.

The Sesqui news releases were picked up directly by media outlets or served as a springboard for the development of local stories. By year's end, they had generated thousands of news clippings from every corner of Minnesota, which are archived at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Many newspapers and media Web sites developed Sesqui promotions, including a MN150 fact of the day in the StarTribune, and special Statehood Day sections in the StarTribune and Pioneer Press.

Speeches & Special Appearances

Commission members and staff were privileged to be honored guests and guest speakers at more than 100 events and meetings with community and organization hosts. These included Rotary luncheons, club meetings, historical society annual meetings, time capsule openings, dedication ceremonies, school presentations and other gatherings.

The Sesqui staff created special PowerPoint, video presentations and generic speech materials that could be used with a speaker or as a stand-alone presentation. These tools enabled Commissioners, staff and others to promote special and general aspects of the Sesquicentennial programs, grant availability, event logistics and overviews in person or from afar.

Commission staff also held a mini conference in Roseville in early fall 2007 to help grant recipients, event planners, vendors and others better understand the general framework, themes and work plan of the Sesquicentennial and to encourage networking between participants across the state.

PROMOTING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

To capture the attention and imagination of Minnesotans across the state and raise their awareness of the upcoming Sesquicentennial, the staff planned a series of promotions beginning in 2007.

Kick-Off Press Conference

On March 1, 2007, Gov. Tim Pawlenty hosted a press conference at the State Capitol to announce plans for the Sesquicentennial celebrations, introduce Commission members and the newly hired executive director. It was fitting that a snowstorm blustered outside, nearly 150 years to the day the U.S. Congress passed an act allowing voters in Minnesota Territory to begin work on becoming a state.

Gov. Pawlenty was joined by Commission members, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and Supreme Court Associate Justice Paul H. Anderson, who held up his weathered, but still colorful, copy of the special section created by the Minneapolis Star newspaper in 1949 for the Territory's Centennial.

The governor outlined the purpose of the Sesquicentennial observance, saying that "today we remember the perseverance and determination of Minnesota's early leaders who brought us together as a state, and we look forward to another 150 years of the enterprising and innovative spirit that makes Minnesota special."

Pawlenty announced plans for a matching grants program, fundraising efforts and events at local and state levels. He also submitted to the State Legislature a request for \$2 million to fund the Sesquicentennial (eventually the Legislature allocated \$1.6 million) to be matched by communities, corporations, foundations and individuals — which did occur, nearly three times over.

Also that day, Yves Roux, vice president and creative director of the marketing and advertising firm BBDO, unveiled the official Sesquicentennial logo, the first in-kind contribution to the Sesquicentennial by a Minnesota corporation.

Minnesota Rural Summit

In May 2007, the annual Minnesota Rural Summit devoted its theme and timing to the Sesquicentennial, hosting the conference in Brainerd, May 10-11. "Thriving by Design" looked ahead at Minnesota's future — land use, changing demographics, cultural diversity, etc. — after looking back at the effects of 150 years of settlement.

Minnesota's regional public library systems also agreed to be hosts and shepherds for the Sesquicentennial banners and journals, which made their first appearance at the Rural Summit. Over the next 12 months, two — and eventually four — sets of banners and journals made their way

GOV. TIM PAWLENTY SIGNS THE FIRST SESQUI AMBASSADOR BANNER THAT TRAVELED TO LIBRARIES ACROSS MINNESOTA DURING 2007-2008.



across Minnesota via community libraries, stopping for up to three weeks at each location.

The banners became the Commission's roving ambassadors well before there was adequate staff and funding for more complicated programming and outreach. Library staff hosted events and programs around these materials. Thousands of people viewed the banners and signed the journals, recording their thoughts about Minnesota and hundreds of local newspapers printed stories and photos.

The first banner was autographed by nearly every state legislator, the governor and Minnesota's two U.S. senators at one of two events: the State of the State address in St. Cloud in February 2008 and when the banner arrived at the State Capitol steps on May 11, 2008 for the Statehood Day ceremonies. The journals and banners are archived with the Sesquicentennial collection at the Minnesota History Center.

2007 Minnesota State Fair Booth

If you want to reach Minnesotans from every corner of the state and every walk of life, have a booth at the Minnesota State Fair, the Great Minnesota Get-Together. And give away something on a stick. That's exactly what the Sesquicentennial staff did for its first major promotional event that lasted 12 hours a day for the 12 days of the fair.

Minnesota Constitution Day is August 29, the constitution also was celebrating its 150th anniversary, so the timing was perfect to focus on statehood at the late-August to early-September fair.

Visitors to the booth received not only information about the Sesquicentennial and how to get involved, but also took away a souvenir "Constitution-on-Stick" — a stick-mounted flyer with the Democratic-signed version of the first Minnesota Constitution printed on one side and the Republican-signed version on the other.

A birthday cake for the state; a flag-raising by Sesquicentennial Commission members, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and constitutional expert and Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Paul H. Anderson; participation in the daily fair parade by Sesqui staff and Commissioners in 1850s

COMMISSION VICE CHAIR REATHA CLARK KING WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CREATING A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR MINNESOTA'S ANNIVERSARY.

garb; and visits from characters Trix the Rabbit (General Mills) and Spammy (Hormel) were Sesqui highlights of the 2007 fair.

Besides beginning to engage the public in the Sesquicentennial, the booth served another purpose — to collect mailing and e-mail addresses for a comprehensive list of people wanting more information or interested in volunteering for the big events to come in 2008.

Community Spirit Program

Stillwater was one of the first towns in Minnesota, so it's only fitting that the kick-off of the Sesquicentennial's Community Spirit Program was held at "The Birthplace of Minnesota" on September 18, 2007 at the Water Street Inn. Helping with the launch were a local fourth-grade class, Main Street merchants and the Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Community Spirit Program served as a clearing-house for "street graphics" — Sesquicentennial flags, large-sized banners, light-post banners and sidewalk decals — for communities to get in the Sesqui spirit. Communities could even request large-scale graphics for buildings or special decals to turn cars into Sesqui-mobiles. The Community Spirit Program also offered Sesqui gear ranging from pins and medallions to caps and t-shirts to travel mugs and souvenir license plates.

Sesquicentennial stamp

The Mississippi River begins its journey to the Gulf of Mexico in Minnesota. From earliest times, it was the site of settlements and commerce. That's why the great river was chosen as the subject for the Minnesota Statehood Commemorative stamp.



Minnesota photographer Richard Hamilton Smith captured a view looking north from Winona of a glass-smooth river reflecting the late-afternoon sun, dotted with islands and spanned by Winona's iconic bridge. The stamp's design was unveiled and announced at a reception on October 6, 2007 at Winona State University, which also celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2008 and is the oldest publicly supported college west of the Mississippi.

The stamp was officially dedicated and made available nationwide on May 17, 2008 as part of the Statehood Week festivities. Commission Vice Chair Dr. Reatha Clark King was instrumental in making the inquiries and following through with the U.S. Postal Service to ensure that Minnesota's 150th anniversary stamp became a reality.

Capitals for a Day nominations

St. Paul is the official capital of Minnesota, but to raise awareness of and celebrate the state's diverse ecological "biomes," cultures and people, it shared that honor with five other Minnesota cities during Statehood Week, May 11-18, 2008 and throughout the remainder of the Sesquicentennial Summer.

Rather than working within the imposed county and regional/district government borders of the state, the Sesquicentennial staff adopted Minnesota's unique ecological and geological features for the regional zones. The concept behind this decision was to encourage people in Minneapolis, for example, to understand that they share the same kind of ecological landscape as a small town in northwestern Minnesota.

The biomes were defined as the coniferous forest of the northeast; the tallgrass aspen parklands of the northwest; the deciduous forest that bisects the state diagonally from Ada to Zumbrota; the western prairie grasslands; and the driftless area of the far southeast.

This project also helped the state's residents understand how unique Minnesota is, and why we love and seek to preserve our great outdoors. It's the only place in the North American continent where three major biomes converge — deciduous, coniferous, and prairie. This makes Minnesota's plant and animal life exceedingly diverse.

In October and November, 2007, Minnesotans were encouraged to submit an online nomination at www.mn150years.org, including an essay of up to

150 words, of communities to serve as a Capital for a Day that best represented the people, culture and heritage of the region. Once the nominations were closed, the entries were divided by region prior to online voting. Voters could read the nomination essays, then make their selection of one community in each region. Nearly 11,000 visitors participated in the online poll.

The five honorary Capitals were announced December 5, 2007 at a press conference with Gov. Pawlenty. He presented the mayors of Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, New Ulm, Thief River Falls and Winona with official Capital for a Day certificates.

Each community organized hundreds of volunteers and planned months of Capital for a Day-inspired celebrations and events. The communities also were featured on their own day during the Statehood Week festivities (see pg. 21.)

Highway welcome signs

To let travelers know that Minnesota is an exceptional place filled with exceptional people celebrating its 150th anniversary of statehood, signs announcing the Sesquicentennial were placed at every highway entry point into the state by 2008. The signs, measuring 5.5 feet by 2.5 feet, read, "Minnesota 1858-2008, 150 Years of Statehood."

Special signs also were installed at highway entrances to each of the Capital for a Day cities.

All highway signs were scheduled for removal in early 2009 and will be offered for sale: \$500 for each of the 67 signs on a first-come, first-served basis. Communities, businesses, individuals and organizations that buy them could display them as lasting reminders of this special year.

Sesquicentennial song

The weather was frosty on January 12, 2008, but the music was hot. The Sesquicentennial Song, "Shines for All to See," debuted at the Roseville Jazzfest. Commissioned by the Sesquicentennial Commission and the Roseville Visitors Association, the upbeat music and lyrics were written by Dean Sorenson, director of jazz studies and the Minnesota Jazz Band at the University of Minnesota.

Called "a good, sing-along song," the Sesqui song praises the beauty, people, cultures and traditions, lakes and waterways of the place Minnesotans call

home. The song was sung by choirs, audiences and individuals throughout the Sesquicentennial Year.

Sesquicentennial license plates

There are vanity vehicle license plates and then there are special plates — license plates that allow owners to show their support for the environment, the troops and, starting in 2008, the Sesquicentennial.

Commission member and State Sen. Ann H. Rest, State Rep. Mary Murphy, Duluth Mayor Don Ness and Secretary of State Mark Ritchie unveiled the Sesqui plates at a ceremony outside the Maritime

Museum in Duluth on August 13, 2008. Duluth was chosen because it marks the beginning of State Scenic Highway 61 that runs along Minnesota's famed North Shore.

Sen. Rest, was instrumental in shepherding the plates through the lengthy approval process at the State Capitol. She was helped in these efforts by other

Commission members who also are state legislators and co-sponsor State Sen. Scott Dibble.

As a side note, people asked why the license plates weren't available earlier in the Sesquicentennial Year. Ironically, Minnesota has so many vanity plates that the legislature had become cautious in approving new ones. But honoring statehood prevailed, and the plates went on sale from 2008 until 2011.

Price of the plates are \$35, with \$25 dedicated to the Sesquicentennial Commission to support programs and activities during the Sesqui year. Funds leftover and those raised after the Sesquicentennial will benefit the restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol.

Volunteers

The Minnesota Sesquicentennial would not have happened without the thousands of grassroots volunteers across the state.

The Commission began its work with a full-time staff of one. Eventually, full-time staffing rose to four, with several Sesquicentennial Fellows (current college students and recent graduates) contributing their time and talents from Summer 2007 until the Commission's sunset in January 2009.

For the Statehood Week and State Fair in 2008 alone we needed — and got — 300 and 600 volunteers respectively, working shifts of three hours or more. Thousands of hours of volunteer time were donated by community leaders and citizens both young and young at heart. They produced more than 500 officially recognized events, over 150 grant projects, plus the Capital for a Day events in Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Detroit Lakes, New Ulm and Winona.

In an age when everyone is pulled in so many directions by other community responsibilities, it was heart warming and inspiring to see people turn out to help, excited by the Sesquicentennial.

We can't include the 3,000-plus people on our mailing list in this report, but you'll find the list of Sesquicentennial Ambassadors on pg. 34. These volunteers served as a conduit for information between their counties and the Sesquicentennial staff.



TIME OF COMMEMORATION & CELEBRATION MAY TO SEPTEMBER 2008

SUMMER 2008 LIVED up to its billing as Sesqui-Sensational. One blockbuster Sesquicentennial Commission event kicked off the summer in May, while another provided a grand finale in September and scores of community, state park and historical site events amused, educated, informed and thrilled participants in between. The following is an overview of the key events; there's an addendum that lists all Sesqui events from January through December 2008 at the back of this report.

STATEHOOD WEEK, MAY 11-18

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became a state. May 11, 2008 should have been the ideal date for commemorating this momentous anniversary. But a big one-day celebration would have clashed with two other time-honored Minnesota traditions: the fishing opener and Mother's Day. Instead, May 11, 2008 kicked off more than a week's worth of events focused on statehood, democracy, public service, and of course, fun.



May 4-11

Wagons, ho! On May 11, Wagon Master Jon Olson led the 19 wagons of the Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial Wagon Train out of Cannon Falls to begin an eight-day re-creation of an authentic pioneer journey.

- More than 135 people participated in the wagon train, which wound its way from Cannon Falls to Red Wing to Hastings to Inver Grove Heights then on to Fort Snelling.
- Along the way, townspeople were invited to visit the wagon camp and take part in the heritage festivities.
- The wagon train arrived on the State Capitol grounds in St. Paul and took part in the Statehood Day commemoration.

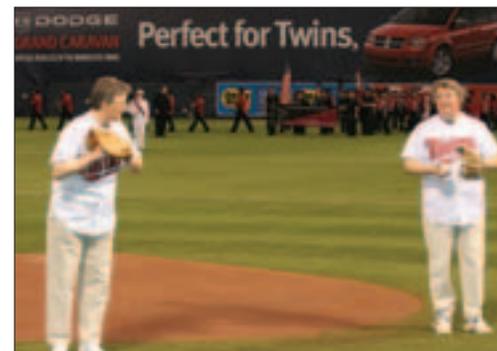
May 6-18

A copy of the original Declaration of Independence was placed on display at the Minnesota Historical Society, thanks to the efforts of Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Commission member and Dolan Media executive Sarah Janecek, and the MHS and Commission staffs. The MHS estimates that nearly 20,000 viewed the document free of charge.

May 10

The Minnesota Twins baseball team played the World Series Champions, the Boston Red Sox. The game was dedicated to the Sesquicentennial, and

- The Metrodome concourse featured Sesqui videos playing on the game monitors and Sesqui signage.
- The Twins wore a special Sesqui logo uniform patch.
- More than 30,000 fans received a Statehood Week invitation postcard when they arrived at the ballpark.
- Pre-game ceremonies included a flag raising, introduction of the Sesquicentennial Commission members, singing of the Sesqui song by the combined choirs of Armstrong and Cooper High Schools in Robbinsdale, and throwing of the ceremonial first pitches by Sesquicentennial Executive



MINNESOTA TWINS JANE LEONARD OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL AND HER SISTER KARIN SONNEMAN TOSS OUT THE FIRST PITCH AT A TWINS GAME.

NEARLY 20 WAGONS PULLED ONTO THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOLLOWING THEIR WEEK-LONG JOURNEY FROM CANNON FALLS.

Director Jane Leonard and her Minnesota twin sister Karin Sonneman of Winona.

- During the 7th inning stretch, Sesqui Commission member Sen. Ann H. Rest led the crowd in baseball's national anthem, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Sen. Rest was instrumental in working with the Twins to arrange this tribute and quintessentially Minnesotan way to kick-off a week of festivities.

May 11

On the official Statehood Day, Gov. Tim Pawlenty, state and federal elected officials — including all the state legislative leaders and U.S. Sens. Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar — and the Sesquicentennial Commissioners gathered for a short commemoration ceremony on the steps of the State Capitol. They also were on hand to greet the Sesquicentennial wagon train and recognize the Sesquicentennial Essay Contest winners.



GOV. ORVILLE FREEMAN AWARDS THE CENTENNIAL BABY CERTIFICATE TO DWAYNE OSTREM AND HIS MOTHER IN 1958.

Former First Lady Jane Freeman, whose husband Orville Freeman served as governor during the Statehood Centennial in 1958, introduced the Centennial Baby

Dwayne Elton Ostrem. Ostrem was born May 11, 1958 at Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis, practically 100 years to the moment that Minnesota became a state. He is now a civic leader and bank vice president in Rushford, Minn. In 1958, he won the WCCO radio contest to become Minnesota's Centennial Baby.

May 12-16

Now it was time for the Capitals for a Day to shine. Each honorary capital, nominated and elected online by Minnesotans, hosted unique events to showcase its community and region. Sesqui staff and Commission Chair Cay Shea Hellervik boarded vehicles after the Statehood Day ceremony and made the rounds of the Capitals celebrations. At each stop, the ceremonies included a brief speech by Gov. Tim Pawlenty or Lt. Gov. Carol Molnau, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and a community conversation to discuss the Plan for Our Future. The rest was up to the individual Capitals. Here are some highlights:

- **Bemidji, May 12.** A community-wide pancake breakfast and flag raising at City Hall were followed by a horse-drawn wagon tour of the town and lunch in Diamond Point Park. Festivities wrapped up with a theater performance that evening.
- **Thief River Falls, May 13.** Community events included an address by the governor, the unveiling of the Sesquicentennial cancellation stamp in honor of the state commemorative stamp, an art and local resources and businesses exhibit, a breakfast honoring local businesses and a picnic at the ice arena.
- **Detroit Lakes, May 14.** Detroit Lakes used this opportunity to dedicate a lakeside sailboat sculpture and host a picnic for the community complete with boat rides and giveaways. Lunch ceremonies featured former Gov. Al Quie and current State Auditor Rebecca Otto. There also was a huge community trade show in the afternoon at the lakeside pavilion where local organizations displayed their resources, a farmers market sold local foods and crafts, and stained glass art show participants showcased their work on the sparkling windows surrounding the pavilion. The community held a dance the night before.



A WORKER NETS A CATFISH FOR THE DNR'S CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING CONTEST IN THE MINNESOTA RIVER AT NEW ULM.

- **New Ulm, May 15.** A pancake breakfast filled the sports arena; a dedication ceremony at the museum reminded attendees of New Ulm's unique place in Minnesota history; a lunch and band concert entertained visitors and residents; Lt. Gov. Molnau helped release a huge catfish for the DNR contest into the Minnesota River (It was caught and released several weeks later; the lucky angler won \$1,000.); and a city-wide picnic in the park featuring music and dancing ended a great day.

- **Winona.** The day started with a Native American sunrise and reconciliation ceremony and tours of the city, surrounding bluffs and historic banks and businesses. City Hall hosted the student-run “State Legislature,” with Gov. Pawlenty opening the session. A flag-raising and honor guard salute preceded unveiling of the state stamp depicting Winona’s slice of the Mississippi. The Winona celebration wrapped up with a picnic by the river, readings by its poet laureate, an all-city aerial photo and fireworks.



WINONA RESIDENTS ASSEMBLED TO FORM THE SHAPE OF MINNESOTA DURING CAPITAL FOR A DAY FESTIVITIES.

May 17-18

Culmination of Statehood Week was the Statehood Weekend Festival held on the State Capitol grounds. An estimated 22,000 visitors attended the two-day celebration, which included:

- **Sesquicentennial stamp unveiling.** Introduction of a life-sized version of the stamp was marked by a flyover by vintage airplanes, including one of the first, pre-World War II airmail delivery planes and rare World War II-era warbirds — the P-38, P-52 and other fighters, bombers and trainer planes.
- **Exhibits, entertainment.** Supported and organized by the State Agency Working Group, the exhibits showcased state resources. Sesqui gear was available for purchase and entertainment reflected the diversity of Minnesota performers.
- **Commemoration Ceremony.** Both solemn and exhilarating, this centerpiece of Statehood Week featured a flyover of four Minnesota Air National Guard F-16s; performances by the All-State Choir led by renowned conductor Philip Brunelle and the University of Minnesota Jazz Band; the Honor Song presented by the Leech Lake Nation; a Sesquicentennial address by Gov. Tim Pawlenty; a 100-soldier march by the Minnesota National Guard; satellite link to Minnesota soldiers in Iraq; and grand-finale fireworks.

SUMMER OF SESQUI EVENTS

The following is a snapshot of activities that took place during the Sesquicentennial Summer. Some were funded by Sesquicentennial grants, some were part of annual community celebrations, some were new events just for Sesqui-time, but all told Minnesota’s story through innovative programs, events, exhibits, presentations and performances. (See all 500 beginning on pg. 46.)

- *Celebrating Change and Resilience*, an interpretive exhibit of the Ojibwe culture.
- *Land of 10,000 Lakes: Minnesota’s 150-year connection to water* enacted by Heart of the Beast puppet theater.
- *They Chose Minnesota*, an oral history and DVD of older and more recent immigrants.
- *Held in the Heartland: German POWs in the Midwest*, a bus tour to POW detention sites in Minnesota.
- *Obsidian Arts: 150 years of African-American Artists in Minnesota*, an exhibit and documentation of black artists’ work since statehood.
- *The State We’re In: Critical and Creative Approaches to Minnesota’s History at 150*, a conference and research event hosted by St. John’s University, Collegeville.
- *Lakes Bluegrass Festival*, held at the Cass County fairgrounds.
- *Before the Plow*, a presentation about the Des Moines River landscape near Jackson.
- *Voyageur Canoes on the Rum River*, a family tour at Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park.
- *Dakota City Chautauqua*, a musical theater salute to Dakota County in 1858 held at the fairgrounds.
- *Lake of the Woods Master Gardener Tour*, a tour of the county’s northland gardens.

Sesqui Spotlight Tours

Minnesotans and visitors were invited to blaze their own trail and become acquainted with the state’s unique natural areas through the Spotlight Tours. Each tour showcased a region of the state hosted by its Capital for a Day winner: tallgrass aspen parklands, prairie, deciduous forest, coniferous forest and driftless area. The tours, which could be found online at www.mn150years.org, featured the towns, events, attractions, parks, historical sites and special beauty in the regions. The Web site provided links to help travelers plan their visits.

Walking the Pembina Trail

Ox carts trundled along the Pembina Trail from Winnipeg to St. Paul, establishing our capital city as a major trading center. Over 400 miles and 40 days, Orlin Ostby, his family and Pum the ox pulling an authentic Red River ox cart retraced the trail July 1-August 21, arriving in St. Paul on the opening day of the State Fair. Ostby was inspired to take on this challenge by his friend, Delmar Hagen, who accomplished the same walk for the Minnesota Centennial. Online users could follow their progress at www.walkingthepembinatrail.com.



MORE THAN 100,000 FAIR GOERS TOOK IN EVENTS AND EXHIBITS AT THE 2008 STATE FAIR CHAUTAUQUA.

Sesquicentennial at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair

In the two, gleaming white, flag-topped, air-conditioned, circus-style tents of the State Fair Chautauqua 150 Years of Statehood Big Top, Minnesotans came together for one last blockbuster event of the Sesqui Summer. Over 100,000 people passed through the tents and during the 12-day run of the fair, they could:

- Watch daily performances of "Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star," a compelling, original musical tribute written especially for the Sesquicentennial by Warren Nelson, Fairmont native and director of the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua. More than 40,000 people watched these engaging and enlightening shows.
- Listen to experts and join in the discussion of issues including natural resources, innovation, health and wellness, arts and culture and educa-

tion as part of "Minnesota Real and Imagined: What Minnesotans Need to Know for the Next 50 Years." The programs were taped and later rebroadcast by partner organization TPT - The Minnesota Channel, thanks to funding by the Bush Foundation.

- Buy Sesqui gear.
- Tour a changing schedule of exhibits, many of which were funded by Sesquicentennial grants or hosted by Sesquicentennial Commission partners.
- Pick up a copy of *Make It Minnesotan!*, the official Sesquicentennial cookbook, and have it signed by one of the contributors.
- Recognize Sesqui sponsors.
- Get a souvenir Sesqui Big Top Chautauqua fan with a schedule of all events in the tents. To promote the Sesqui Big Top, 30,000 fans also were handed out at the August 23, 2008 pre-season game between the Minnesota Vikings and the Pittsburgh Steelers.
- Honor the Sesqui-Century farms and the families who operated them. Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson led the tribute to the state's agricultural heritage and future.
- View scenes from Minnesota's history on the big screens between events in the Big Top, thanks to programs such as Minnesota Minutes, based on the Bell Museum's award-winning documentary, "Minnesota: History of the Land."
- Celebrate Minnesota's past and present through storytelling, interviews and more.

SESQUICENTENNIAL SALUTE TO MINNESOTA BUSINESSES

The event was the 13th Annual Minnesota Development Conference. The highlight was a Sesquicentennial salute to Minnesota businesses that recognized their legacy of innovation and their support for the Sesquicentennial. Commission member and State Rep. Sondra Erickson presented a certificate of appreciation to The Travelers Companies, Inc., Minnesota's oldest corporation in operation (started around the time of statehood) and one of the major sponsors of the Sesquicentennial State Fair exhibition.

TIME OF REFLECTION & LEGACY MAY 2008 TO JANUARY 2009

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR closed on December 31, 2008, but many of the major activities were designed to have a lasting impact on the state and to leave a legacy of information about this point in the state's history. These are the projects that encouraged reflection about the past and captured Minnesota's aspirations for the future.

MANY VOICES – ONE MINNESOTA: SESQUICENTENNIAL PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

Plan for Our Future was a key Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission project to explore Minnesotans' vision for the future and their role in creating that future. The Commission's Engage the Public, Plan for Our Future Committee, co-chaired by members State Sen. Ann H. Rest and State Rep. Morrie Lanning, organized the statewide effort. Planning began in Fall 2006, with implementation starting in Spring 2007.

The resulting report, *Many Voices – One Minnesota: A Sesquicentennial Plan for our Future*, was carefully constructed to thoughtfully and accurately represent Minnesota in 2008 and serve as a roadmap to measure and guide our progress into the future. It included:

- concerns of current citizens,
- opinions of community leaders,
- work that is being done in the legislature, and
- work of other civic-involvement organizations.

To gather this wealth of information, Minnesotans participated in community conversations hosted in more than one-third of the state's counties or responded online to these questions:

- What do we want the future to be like for the next generations?
- What are the "got-to-deal-with" issues if we're going to make that future real?
- What would you like to tell Minnesotans 50 years from now that you are working on today to ensure they have the same or better quality of life you have now?

Community conversations took place between Fall 2007 and Summer 2008 in more than 30 counties in eight Regional Development Commissions and in the Twin Cities metro area. These town hall-style meetings were open to everyone and facilitated by staff members from the RDCs working in partnership with Commission staff. Facilitators led the meetings, following a format and guidelines developed by the Sesquicentennial Commission.

Each meeting lasted one and a half to two hours and was divided into two segments: a period for participants to write answers to the questions, and one for group discussion. All of the written, anonymous responses were collected and sent to the Sesquicentennial Commission where they were recorded and organized.

The responses fell into several broad categories: economy, education, transportation, environment, health care, social issues and government. Overall, citizens were both engaged and thoughtful in their responses.

Coming directly from Minnesotans, these responses form the heart of Plan for Our Future. Many thanks are owed to the RDCs for their willingness to organize and host the community conversations. The responses form a fascinating record of how Minnesotans feel regarding our state's opportunities and challenges for the future.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS, LIKE THIS ONE IN BEMIDJI, PROVIDED INSIGHTS FOR THE PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE.



Staff also interviewed community leaders and professionals representing the cultural and socio-political spectrum of Minnesota. These apolitical interviews were the idea of Commission Vice Chair Dr. Reatha Clark King and were made up of questions from the community conversations, as well as those about the participant's area of expertise and perspective.

Minnesota is fortunate to have many organizations working toward a brighter future. To highlight their efforts and gauge progress on issues, the Plan for Our Future report also contains a list of those organizations and summaries of their current work. This progress report was designed not only to help future generations learn from what we were doing in 2008, but also describe our priorities and values and what we were doing to ensure progress.

And finally, letters were sent to each of the RDCs requesting summaries of their regions, including current and future challenges and opportunities. These reports helped tie the rest of the information together and provided the most accurate snapshot of Minnesota, by region, in 2008.

The final product, *Many Voices – One Minnesota: A Sesquicentennial Plan for Our Future* is a thoughtful, and thought-provoking look at Minnesota in the year 2008 — our concerns, our desires, and our ideas of how to ensure Minnesota maintains and improves its celebrated culture, commitment to civic engagement and high standard of living. This report hopefully will serve as a living document, functioning as a reminder of where we stand today so we and others who follow may take informed steps forward.

SESQUI PLEDGE & CIVIC ANGAGEMENT PROJECT

At the end of the Sesquicentennial Year, the Commission and staff wanted to look back and see that they had accomplished three key objectives:

- Used the Sesquicentennial as a time to commemorate and learn from our past and tell the stories that should be told so we can move forward with better understanding and compassion;
- Celebrated who we are today as Minnesotans; and
- Recognized the Sesquicentennial as a catalyst to plan for our future to ensure that the next generation of Minnesotans can enjoy the same — or higher — quality of life.

These objectives coalesced around a statewide civic engagement initiative called “Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined,” which debuted under the Big Top Chautauqua tent at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair.

Thanks to funding from the Bush Foundation, and partnership with Twin Cities Public Television and the Citizens League, we offered more than 40,000 State Fair goers a chance to learn about Minnesota history — its grand achievement as well as its painful moments — through the Big Top Chautauqua production of “Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star.”

To further engage State Fair visitors with the people and organizations that give Minnesota its rich traditions and diversity, Sesquicentennial Grant project partners staffed fascinating, interactive exhibits in the smaller Chautauqua tent or led performances and discussions under the Big Tent.

Nearly 50,000 visitors had the opportunity to learn more about Native American culture, the early history of the computer industry in Minnesota, the experiences of Minnesota's “Greatest Generation,” how to preserve historic barns and farmsteads and much more.

Below is a representative list of exhibit and presenting partners for the Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined initiative:

- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Cultural Resource Center
- Explore Minnesota Tourism
- Minnesota Historical Society
- Citizens League CitiZing! Online Civic Engagement Project
- Friends of Minnesota Barns
- Minnesota Bar Association & Historical Society of the Minnesota Supreme Court
- TRACES Museum of History and Culture
- Minnesota's Greatest Generation Film Festival Award Winners
- In the Heart of the Beast Theatre production of “Land of 10,000 Lakes”

Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined also inspired Minnesotans to think about the future of our state. On the fairgrounds and in the Chautauqua exhibit tent, citizens were invited to take a survey updating the Minnesota Milestones, an ongoing effort to shape state planning and policies organized by the State Legislature.



PANELISTS DISCUSS THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES AS PART OF MINNESOTA@150, REAL & IMAGINED AT THE STATE FAIR.

Minnesotans were also able to listen to and interact with some of the state's more provocative thinkers and doers through lively discussions on arts and culture; education; business innovation; health and wellness; and the environment. These discussions were designed to inform citizens about the present status of these issues and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

With funding from the Bush Foundation and through our partnership with TPT, these five live discussions were taped, edited, and aired on the Minnesota Channel 17 in Fall 2008. Additional copies were created and distributed across the state to public and academic libraries, educators and groups such as foundations and planning commissions. For details about the programs, see pg. 54.

SESQUICENTENNIAL LEGACY & MICRO GRANT PROGRAM

In May 2007, the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated \$325,000 for a Sesquicentennial Grant Program to encourage Minnesota communities and organizations to create meaningful and memorable Sesqui programs. In June 2008, an additional \$260,000 in grant funds was designated for Commission-chosen projects with statewide significance.

The goals of the Grant Program were to:

- achieve broad participation of the people of Minnesota, visitors, local communities, institutions and organizations in activities across the state;
- raise awareness and educate by telling the stories of our past, recognizing the indigenous people of Minnesota, and learning from them and the many ethnic groups that have and continue to come to Minnesota;

- develop a shared vision for the state's future by engaging Minnesotans in civic dialogue; and
- leave a lasting legacy through print, visual, musical and other vehicles, as well as media documentation.

The Commission staff, in conjunction with the Grant Subcommittee of Commissioners, developed the following criteria for awarding the grants. All grant recipients were required to:

- align with Sesquicentennial goals;
- reflect the Sesquicentennial themes of arts & culture; health & wellness; business & innovation; environment; or education.
- show evidence of sufficient planning;
- demonstrate appropriate community outreach, involvement and co-sponsorship; and
- demonstrate the ability to execute the proposed plan.

Grants were awarded in two categories: Micro Grants of up to \$1,000 and Legacy Grants of \$5,000-\$7,500. To gain additional public and private support, all Sesquicentennial Grant recipients were required to match their award one-to-one with cash and/or in-kind and donated goods and services.

Micro Grants

Many more grant applications were received than could be funded. For the two Micro Grant award

WASECA COUNTY RECEIVED A MICRO GRANT TO DEVELOP AN EXHIBIT OF PHOTOS AND STORIES OF COUNTY RESIDENTS.





A COORDINATOR SHOWS OFF ARTWORK FOR A PHOTO AND ART EXHIBIT OF OJIBWE CULTURE CREATED BY THE WHITE EARTH LAND RECOVERY PROJECT IN CALLOWAY.

rounds in August and December 2007, 186 proposals were submitted, but only 108 projects could be funded. The Commission ensured that all 87 Minnesota counties had programs and activities funded by Micro Grants.

Legacy Grants

Competition for Legacy Grants — awards of up to \$7,500 for projects aiming to create enduring creations or investments — was even greater, and only \$150,000 was available to fund them. Once again, two award rounds were offered. The initial round, held in September 2007, attracted 52 proposals totaling more than \$350,000 in requested funds. Of these, 16 proposals met the scoring cutoff. In round two, 114 grant applications were submitted, with 16 scoring high enough to merit funding.

A full list of the Micro Grants, Legacy Grants and statewide grants can be found on pg. 36.

Impact of the Grants

Sesquicentennial grants made a remarkable impact in communities large and small. We can't describe each one in detail, but from our experiences, we found the Sesquicentennial Grant Programs grants to be:

Catalysts for action and additional support

Although recipients were required to match each dollar received with a dollar in cash or in-kind or donated goods, the average match at the time of funding was nearly to three to one. By the time most projects were complete, the matching donations were closer to five to one, underscoring the leveraging capacity of an initial public investment.

Individual and community 'capacity-enhancers'

The vast majority of grant recipients were first-time applicants for public funding. Not surprisingly, staff

provided considerable technical assistance, both during the application phase and to help grantees complete required reporting. We believe this investment of time — although a real challenge, given the Commission's thin staffing — will continue to reap benefits because individuals and community groups now feel "empowered and educated" in seeking public and private support for projects.

For example a Becker County township grant recipient said, "The application process and reporting were a stretch for our small group, but we learned a lot along the way. We think we know enough now to compete for other grants."

In addition to honing fundraising skills, the application and implementation process prompted development of new community alliances that will endure beyond the Sesquicentennial project. As one recipient said, "Through an impressive collaboration between the county, the cities, the county park board, the schools and a host of other organizations, the 850 residents of Lac Qui Parle County who attended this event spent a day together in a nearly unknown park and celebrated their history and heritage."

Stimulus to local cultural and natural resources

The reference above to use of little-known resources was echoed by a number of grantees. Numerous professional staff at regional parks and heritage sites reported that grant-funded projects garnered much-needed exposure and visibility, even in their home regions.

A grantee from Rock County said, "One result was that everyone had the opportunity to learn more about Blue Mounds State Park, its herd of bison, its walking and hiking trails along the cliff line, and hopefully many of these people will return to the park."

At least 20 organizations, both in the metro and in Greater Minnesota, told us that the one-time infusion of funds enabled them to experiment with programs and formats that attracted new audiences.

For example, metro-area project directors with Minneapolis' Marcy Open School and Mill City Museum, said, "Our diverse student body is a microcosm of the changing population in Minnesota. And yet many of these families do not participate in the broader culture of our city. The hands-on exhibits at the Museum are especially useful to families for whom English is not a first language."

Renewing civic and community identity

Commission staff received numerous accounts of the ways in which even very small grants had an impact beyond their size. Organizers for Rothsay's (pop. 500) 125th anniversary events that attracted 2,000 visitors, said, "There was a huge swell of community pride. People came to town who had not been here for years. It refocused our effort to continue a yearly celebration and renewed community spirit."

MORE SESQUI LEGACY PROJECTS

Through several projects, the Sesquicentennial will continue beyond December 31, 2008. These legacy projects include:

State Fair Big Top Chautauqua CDs

Performances of "Old Minnesota Song of the North Star" were recorded and made available on CDs through the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua's gift shop at www.bigtop.org. The State Fair Chautauqua attracted enough attention and participation that an effort is underway to bring it back in 2009.

Sesquicentennial commemorative stamps

Due to the interest and enthusiasm generated by the Sesquicentennial stamp, the Sesquicentennial Commission and U.S. Postal Service held a "second-day issue" ceremony June 14, 2008 at the historic Ard Godfrey House in Minneapolis. Godfrey was the first postmaster of Minneapolis, which also was celebrating its 150th anniversary.

At the ceremony, collectors were able to purchase special \$5 caches with the Minnesota stamp and a sketch of the Ard Godfrey House, thanks to the efforts of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis which manages the House, and the Minnesota Federation of Stamp Clubs.

The Federation was a steady partner throughout the Sesquicentennial Year, helping to host key events surrounding the commemorative postage stamp design and official release. The stamp remained on sale through 2008.

'Make It Minnesotan!' Sesqui cookbook

One of the insights into a time, a place and its people are the foods they cook and enjoy. Led by



Sesquicentennial Fellow Claire Plank, a committee of volunteers created *Make It Minnesotan!*, a cookbook that captures the flavors and foods – and the stories behind them – that make Minnesota cooking unique.

SESQUICENTENNIAL FELLOWS PROMOTE THE SESQUI COOKBOOK AT A SUMMER EVENT.

The recipes gleaned from more than 800 entries represent all 87 counties and reflect the remarkable diversity of the state's population and the broad sweep of its history.

Published by Nodin Press, a Twin Cities-based publishing house, *Make It Minnesotan!* is available for \$19.95 online through the Sesquicentennial Web site, www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com, as well as many local stores and attractions. To market the book, committee members and contributors appeared at numerous book signings throughout the state. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook benefited the Sesquicentennial and restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol.

'Greetings from Minnesota!' Sesqui mosaic

Visitors to the Food Building at the Minnesota State Fair can sample a taste of the Sesquicentennial for years to come. "Greetings from Minnesota!" a monumental, mosaic-tile postcard depicting scenes from Minnesota was installed on the north side of the Food Building during the 2008 state fair. We hope it's still there for the Bicentennial!



SUSAN WARNER WAS THE LEAD ARTIST FOR THE "GREETINGS FROM MINNESOTA" MOSAIC.

Lead artist on this public-arts project was Susan Warner of Mississippi Mud Works in Minneapolis. Throughout the Sesquicentennial Year, hands-on opportunities were offered in communities statewide so citizens could work on the piece.

Sesqui license plates

Sesquicentennial plates were approved by the Minnesota Legislature during the summer of 2008. Vehicle owners can purchase these special plates through the Department of Public Safety/Driver and



SEN. ANN H. REST SHOWS OFF THE FIRST SESQUICENTENNIAL LICENSE PLATE.

Vehicle Services and online when they renewed their license tabs.

Price of the plates is \$35, with \$25 dedicated to the Sesquicentennial Commission to support programs and activities during the Sesqui Year. Because the plates are available for three years, funds raised after the Sesquicentennial benefit the restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol.

Archives

The Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial archives are made up of the official documents, correspondence, work papers, and notes from the Sesquicentennial Commission and are stored at the Minnesota History Center.

The archives also stretch across time and space to represent as many of the Sesquicentennial artifacts as possible from 2005 to early 2009. These include commemorative items such as medallions, flags, official cookbook, locally produced items and written, audio and/or visual materials from the grant projects, events and programs, particularly anything that features the official logo of the Sesquicentennial.

We are All Minnesotans – Thank You, Minnesota!

On January 6, 2009, the Commission hosted the final public celebration of the Sesquicentennial. It was a two-hour open house reception at the State Capitol to thank all the volunteers and legislators who had been instrumental in supporting and carrying out the 150th statehood anniversary events and activities.

Participants ate state-shaped cookies and viewed the photo and video record of the Sesquicentennial journey from 2007 through 2008. It was a chance — until the bicentennial in 2058 — to gather the Minnesota family in the one home we all share, the State Capitol building. It reinforced another value we share – that we are all Minnesotans, no matter whether we were born here or just arrived several weeks ago.



MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE & BICENTENNIAL PLANNERS OF 2058

IN CLOSING THIS report, Sesquicentennial Executive Director Jane Leonard and staff wanted to share their insights into planning such a massive commemoration. A more in-depth analysis is archived with Leonard's working files at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul.

If you want to do a good job planning for the Bicentennial of Minnesota Statehood, we suggest:

- Begin initial meetings of interested people and organizations about 10 years beforehand to brainstorm and gather support.
- Four years out, make sure you are doing serious planning, fundraising, recruiting of volunteers and hiring full-time paid staff.

The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission began serious work two years ahead to plan for and implement the statehood anniversary. They began hiring paid staff one year from the Sesquicentennial Year, which began January 2008.

Even though the Commission managed to raise private support, two years was not enough time to fully tap corporations and other funders for major sponsorships. These organizations plan several years in advance how their sponsorship, philanthropic, and marketing funds will be allocated.

Try to avoid competing with other major events the state might be hosting in and around the anniversary year. Coordinate in advance to partner with potential competitors for dollars and media attention. 2008 was an unusual year for national events in Minnesota. The Sesquicentennial had to compete for corporate sponsorships with the Republican National Convention, the National Figure Skating Championships and the U.S. Women's Golf Open.

We coordinated as much as we could with these national, annual and high visibility events. However, they drew far more attention from potential sponsors because they could guarantee corporations valuable exposure year after year. Being a one-time event can make it difficult to convince funders it's worth their investment.

- Clearly delineate the entertainment and educational aspects of the anniversary, especially when you are asking for financial support. Both aspects are important for commemoration and celebration, but they require different approaches and attract different funders and audiences.
- Hire a good staff that includes people knowledgeable and skilled in fundraising, promotion, marketing, grant making, and community and economic development.

Marketing is key because you have to help citizens relearn the concept of statehood. It's an abstract concept — statehood is an invisible status conferred on a place and its people by the U.S. Congress. 150 years after receiving that designation, statehood is taken for granted, even though we depend on it for nearly everything we do for our entire lives.

Promotion is important because recognizing a significant anniversary gives us a chance to — as they said for Minnesota's Centennial in 1958 — “sell Minnesota to Minnesotans.” You have a rare opportunity to help people rediscover their history and explore the unique and fun places from a different perspective. It's a chance for people to be passionate students and tourists in their own state.

Grant making to communities and organizations is critical to help increase engagement. Even the micro grants of \$1,000 or less that we made to small towns, neighborhoods and local organizations across the state seeded teamwork and renewed interest in preserving, promoting and showcasing the incredible creativity Minnesotans possess.

Be prepared to render lots of technical assistance in the grant-making process at the local level. Many organizations that apply for anniversary funding do not have the experience to deal with the abundance of paperwork required by government funding.

Community and economic development experience is a must because so much of what we did for the Sesquicentennial involved community and organizational outreach. Each of the 150 grants and more than 500 events happened because citizens worked together on a common goal, inspired by the occurrence of the Sesquicentennial.

Minnesota's Indigenous Peoples & the Sesquicentennial

Recognizing the indigenous people of Minnesota, the earliest inhabitants of the land well before statehood, was a main goal set early on by the Sesquicentennial Commission. It should be a prominent part of the Bicentennial observances.

Teaching, learning and increasing our understanding of the American Indian experience and culture are central to understanding why Minnesota at statehood was a crucible, in every sense of the word.

At the time of statehood, Minnesota was a complex mix of cultures, attitudes and values colliding during an era in our nation's history — the 1850s and 1860s — in which the very union of states was in question. What happened then reverberates to this very day and into our future.

Minnesota's admission to the United States stood on the fulcrum of American tragedy and triumph. Immigrants and manifest destiny were pushing older worlds aside for westward expansion, and a Civil War was soon to test the essence of our nation's democratic ideals. As in many other states, the entry into, and early days of statehood, was a difficult time for American Indian cultures.

During the Statehood Sesquicentennial, many people would be paying attention to the wide swath of Minnesota's history, from pre-statehood to the present day. The Sesquicentennial was an ideal time for many stories to be told and learned again.

Commission staff met with tribal leaders and staff members of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to encourage the involvement of Minnesota's 11 American Indian nations (seven Anishinaabe reservations and four Dakota communities) in the Sesquicentennial observances.

Several Dakota communities declined to participate directly in the official Sesquicentennial activities. However, many alternative events and educational opportunities took place, created by tribal members, scholars and partner groups, such as the Truth and Reconciliation gathering organized by the Winona Dakota Unity Alliance for their Capital for a Day observances, and public seminars such as "American Indians in Minnesota: A Personal History" at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.



MEMBERS OF THE CASS AND LEECH LAKE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS GATHERED AROUND THE STAR QUILT MURAL THEY HELPED CREATE.

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council staff and Commission staff worked together to use Statehood Week and the 2008 State Fair to raise awareness of American Indian history, culture and resources for further learning.

Several grant projects emphasized American Indian culture and history, as well as collaborative efforts between white and American Indian community members.

The Star Quilt Mural project by the Boys & Girls Club in Leech Lake & Cass Lake stands out as most symbolic of these projects. The Star Quilt is a gift that represents both an end and a beginning, and is an object of both honor and function in everyday American Indian spiritual life. The morning star design is similar to the Sacred Circle, representing life's continuous circle. For many Northern Plains tribes, the Star Quilt is one of the most honored gifts a family can give or receive.

This intergenerational project featured boys and girls, ages 6 to 18, who worked together with adults and elders to create the mural. They gave to all Minnesotans something very sacred. They gave us stories depicted in their paintings that help us remember — and never forget — who we are today, where we came from, and where we are headed.

Bicentennial planners, take note and good luck.

SUPPLEMENTAL SESQUI INFORMATION

Sesquicentennial Staff

Staffing for the Commission began with one full-time person — the executive director — in March 2007. By May, as funding increased, another full-time staffer was added. We also reached into the college and post-graduate arenas to form a corps of Sesquicentennial Fellows who took on responsibilities far beyond their years of experience.

For full-time staff and Fellows, this was a win-win arrangement. The Commission could accomplish the necessary community outreach, day-to-day legislative and organizational relations, fundraising, public relations, and office operations with a limited staff budget. The Fellows received an experience of a lifetime, which prepared them for career opportunities and challenges.

By summer of 2008, the busiest time of the entire Sesquicentennial, we had 14 full- and part-time people on board: four full-time staff, plus 10 Fel-

lows and interns. They coordinated 150 grant projects, 500 events and managed hundreds of volunteers (600 alone for the 12-day run of the State Fair.) They also planned and implemented the two major statewide events — Statehood Week in May and the State Fair in August.

As the anniversary year wound down in the fall of 2008, staff fell back to four full-time members and an average of four Fellows and part-time interns. They closed out events, activities and reports until the Commission sunset in January 2009.

Staff

Denise Cumming, office assistant & archivist
Jane Cunningham, grants & development manager
Jane Leonard, executive director
Karen Rickert, executive assistant & financial officer
Ann Treacy, Webmaster
Audrey Williams, office volunteer

Sesquicentennial Fellows

Eric Anunobi, administrative coordinator
Laura Barrato, community events coordinator
Tane Danger, communications director
Rachel Garaghty, Plan for Our Future coordinator
Daniel George, planning coordinator
Megan Jung, grants outreach coordinator
Claire Plank, community outreach coordinator
Andrew Ranallo, Plan for Our Future coordinator
Stacy Sielaff, Plan for Our Future coordinator
Mong Vang, multi-media specialist

Summer & Fall 2008 Interns

MacKenzie Collins
David Johnson
Meera Mansingh
Rebecca Peichel
Nick Sarnicki

SESQUICENTENNIAL MBASSADORS

These volunteers served as the Sesquicentennial Commission staff's eyes and ears and helped engage citizens in their county. They were a touch point for providing information to the communities in their area and for updating the Commission staff on local activities. Their contributions helped make

STAFF SHOWS OFF THE NEW SESQUI HIGHWAY ENTRANCE WELCOME SIGNS THAT WERE INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE STATE.



the Sesquicentennial a truly grassroots, memorable and meaningful event. Thanks to all of you!

Ambassadors by county

Becker: Roxann Daggett
Beltrami: Doug Fuller
Big Stone: Norm Shelsta
Brown: Charles Enter
Carlton: Patti Almquist, Anne Dugan, Milo Rasmussen
Carver: Joe Hoppe
Chippewa: Tim Douglass
Chisago: Scott Friday
Clay: Arlen Stangland, Lisa Vedaa
Clearwater: Allen Paulson
Cottonwood: Linda Fransen, Norm Holmenn, Cheryl Hanson, Cathy Peterson
Crow Wing: Carrie Ruud
Dakota: Arlen Erdahl, Denny MacNamar, Mike McGinn, Sean Nienow, Bob Stassen
Dodge: Randy Demmer, Kathy Demmer
Douglas: Rachel Barduson, George Cassell
Faribault: Don Ziegler, Clara Vereide
Fillmore: Greg Davids, Kenric Scheevel
Freeborn: Jean Eaton
Goodhue: Steve Sviggum
Hennepin: Diana Houston, Barb Sykora
Houston: Greg Davids
Isanti: Robert Eastlund
Itasca: Don Boese
Kanabec: Judy Soderstrom
Kandiyohi: Richard Larson
LeSueur: Jim Donovan, Peg Donovan
Lyon: Arlene Lesewski, Ellayne Velde-Convers, Harry Weilage
Martin: Scott Higgins
McLeod: Lori Pickell-Stangel
Meeker: Dean Urdahl, Steve Dille
Mille Lacs: Pat Braun, Michelle McPherson
Morrison: Greg Blaine
Murray: Doug Magnus
Norman: Don Merkens
Olmsted: Fran Bradley, John Hunziker, Sheila Kiscaden
Otter Tail: Roxann Daggett, Bob Block
Pennington: Faye Auchenpaugh
Pine: Becky Lourey
Pipestone: Bud Johnston, Mick Meyers
Pope: Tim Douglass, Jim Palmer, Karna Palmer
Ramsey: Warren Anderson, Lee Bradford
Rice: Ray Cox, Dianne Hohrman
Rock: Jane Wildung
Sherburne: Ramona Doebler

Sibley: Eldrene Ebert
Stearns: Jim Knoblach
Steele: Laura Resler
Stevens: Mary Hill
Swift: Marlys Gallager
Traverse: Marcie Conroy, Tammy Conroy
Washington: Pat Conley, Karen Klinzing
Winona: Michael Charron, Karin Sonneman
Wright: Tammi Dahlman
Yellow Medicine: Tim Douglass, Dave Zmiglewski



STATE AGENCY WORKING GROUP

MEMBERS OF THE STATE AGENCY WORKING GROUP MET TO PLAN STATEHOOD WEEKEND.

This group of dedicated state employees ensured coordination of Sesquicentennial-related events and initiatives throughout the state agency system. They worked closely with key agencies that created their own Sesquicentennial planning committees, such as the Secretary of State's office, the court system and the departments of agriculture, education, natural resources and tourism. The State Agency Working Group also helped plan, along with the Commission's Program Committee, the activities of the Statehood Day and Weekend events.

Representing their respective government bodies, agencies or departments were:

Dean Alger, Secretary of State
Bryce Anderson, Department of Natural Resources
Paul H. Anderson, Supreme Court
Roger Bjork, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Keith Bogut, Finance
Gary Caldwell, Health
Brianna Chambers, Education

Jane Cunningham, Sesquicentennial
 Kathy Dummer, DNR
 Sue Gens, Minnesota State Arts Board
 Linda Gremillion, Minnesota State Council on
 Disability
 Terry Gunderson, Human Services
 Cay Shea Hellervik, Sesquicentennial
 Georgie Hilker, Iron Range Resources
 Kristine Hiller, DNR
 Blane Iffert, Minnesota National Guard
 Andrea Kajer, Minnesota Historical Society
 David Kelliher, MHS
 James Kirkpatrick, Human Rights
 Leann Kispert, Tourism
 Jane Leonard, Sesquicentennial
 Linda McDonald, Veteran Affairs
 Jennifer Osborne, Metropolitan Mosquito Control
 District
 James Pointer, DNR
 Nate Prouty, Public Affairs
 Dave Radford, DNR
 Linda Radimecky, DNR
 Lisa Reiter, Employee Relations
 Darla Riley, Agriculture
 Noah Rouen, Public Affairs
 Mary Somnis, Iron Range Resources
 Paul Strandberg, Agriculture
 Colleen Tollefson, Tourism
 Pat Turgeon, Veteran Affairs

MINNESOTA MILESTONES SURVEY SUMMARY

In 2008, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Commission to provide ways for Minnesota citizens to give input to the Minnesota Milestones, a series of goal statements for the state's progress, which were produced in the 1990s and updated most recently in 2000.

A grand total of 3,223 respondents from more than 444 different Minnesota ZIP codes completed the Minnesota Milestones ballot. The majority of participants declined to provide geographic or demographic information but opinions of all kinds were expressed; some regarding the 19 Minnesota Milestones, while others focused on the general state of Minnesota as we move into the future.

Full results of the survey were given to the Legislature and the Minnesota Milestones committee, organized by the Departments of Administration and Management and Budget for consideration in the 2009 legislative session.

SESQUICENTENNIAL GRANT PROGRAM

Through Micro and Legacy grants, the Sesquicentennial had a lasting, meaningful, and even fun, impact on every community and region of the state. The following dedicated individuals made up the Grants Review Panel and rose to the challenge of choosing which projects would receive grants from a large and impressive group of proposals:

Pamela Holt
 Hennepin County Library, Minneapolis
 Ruth Johnson,
 Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter
 Reatha C. King
 Sesquicentennial Commission member,
 Minneapolis
 Sen. Ann H. Rest
 Sesquicentennial Commission member,
 New Hope
 Lois Schmidt
 Bremer Foundation, Tracy
 Reena Shetty
 Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud
 Judy Sutter,
 Minnesota Department of Education,
 Coon Rapids
 Mike Worcester
 Cokato Historical Society

Grant Recipients

(by county)

Aitkin

Heritage Reunion, McGregor Area Historical Society, for tours, historic demonstrations and activities during Heritage Reunion week

Anoka

Celebrating the Season: A Civil War Christmas, Anoka County Historical Society, for historic re-enactment of Christmas at a recreated Civil War encampment

Sesquicentennial Wagon Train, Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission, for a wagon train traveling from Cannon Falls to St. Paul

Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, St. Louis, Washington

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at community sites

Becker

Forest Township: A 150-Year History, Forest Township, for research and a historical plaque for display in the township hall

Becker, Mahnomen

Photos and narrative exhibit Celebrating Change and Resilience: White Earth Land Recovery Project, for creation of an interpretive exhibit exploring 150 years of Ojibwe culture

Beltrami

2008 Head of the Lake Picnic/Commemoration, Headwaters School of Music and the Arts, for recreation of a 19th-century, day-long picnic & festival

Benton, Otter Tail, Wadena, Traverse

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung Concerts, Intermedia Arts, for research and performances about "unsung" Minnesotans

Big Stone

Clinton 125th Quasquacentennial Celebration, Clinton 125th Committee, for history programs to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Clinton and the state's Sesquicentennial

Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine

Sesquicentennial Visual Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

Blue Earth

150 Years of Statehood, 155 Years of Blue Earth County Celebrating Together: Exceptional People at an Exceptional Place, for support of a concert, library programs, and interpretive programs to mark the state's and the county's anniversaries

Junior Historians Talking Back to Tomorrow, Blue Earth County Historical Society, for oral history interviews to be broadcasted on local radio by students in grades 6-12

Brown

Guide to Brown County History Outdoor Signs, Brown County Historical Society, for creation and placement of five interpretive maps throughout Brown County

Carlton

Jay Cooke State Park Open House, Carlton County Historical Society, for historic demonstrations, displays, and re-enactments at the state park

Carver

Celebrating 150 Years of Farming & Agriculture, Waconia Chamber of Commerce, for a one-day festival and farmers market celebrating the importance of agriculture in Carver County

Twilight Camp in the North Star State, Autumn Ridge/Southern Stars Girl Scout Twilight Camp, for special Sesquicentennial programs about Minnesota geography at the 16th annual Autumn Ridge Girl Scout camp

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at community sites

Cass

Boys and Girls Club of Leech Lake Area, Boys and Girls Club of Cass Lake, for an intergenerational community mural project in Cass County

Leech Lake Agency Oral History Project, Cass County, for collecting and editing oral histories from the Onigum Ojibwe community

Chippewa

Sesquicentennial Visual Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

Chisago

Weekend Guest Program-Series 2008, Friends of Wild River State Park, for a series of programs about Ojibwe culture, historic flint knapping, blacksmithing and natural history

Clay

West Across Minnesota, Rourke Art Museum, for a traveling exhibit of works by noted Minnesota artists on the theme of settlement and expansion

Keeping in Touch in Clay County, Clay County Historical Society, for an exhibit about the use of various communication technologies

Clearwater

Courthouse Signage, Clearwater County, for new public signage at the Courthouse

Traveling Through Time: 150 Years in Minnesota's Historic Northwest, Minnesota's Historic Northwest (plus 13 northwestern Minnesota counties) for a traveling exhibit and postcard book exploring the history of the region

Cook

Ham Lake Fire, 1st Anniversary, Gunflint Trail Scenic Byway Committee, Gunflint Trail Association, for planting 150 white pine trees to replace trees lost in the Ham Lake fire

Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center, Gunflint Trail Historical Society, for acquisition of AV equipment, displays and dioramas for a new facility

Cottonwood

Cottonwood County Student Art Show, Cottonwood County Historical Society, for a county-wide, juried student art competition exploring 150 years of Minnesota and Cottonwood County history

Celebrating our Cultural Heritage in Cottonwood County, Cottonwood County Historical Society, for a county-wide arts project to create an intergenerational fabric arts project, theater production and a community-generated sculpture

Crow Wing

Annual Butterfly Release, Pelican Woods Cemetery and Nature Center, for a butterfly release program featuring 2008 Sesquicentennial themes

County Lines Anthology, League of Minnesota Poets, for support of a state-wide poetry anthology

Dakota

Art for Kids, Past and Present, Dakota Center for the Arts, for children's arts activities, including printmaking to celebrate the work of Wanda Gag, Minnesota artist and author

Dakota County Sesquicentennial Celebration, Dakota County Library, for a series of programs featuring artists, historians, and musicians in celebration of Dakota County's diverse history and cultures

Building Minnesota: General William LeDuc's Quest for Minnesota Statehood, Dakota County Historical Society, for a series of historic dramatizations featuring the life and times of General William LeDuc

Life in the Yards – An End of an Era, City of South St. Paul, for an exhibit and video documenting the history and significance of the South St. Paul stockyards

Celebrating Our Past as We Serve the Future, City of Farmington, for mounting of historic photos in the new City Hall building

Douglas

Sesquicentennial Book Project, Douglas County Historical Society, for research and compilation of a commemorative history text/DVD/CD and related community activities

Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts to augment the Evansville pioneer historic site

Faribault

Restoration of Pink Schoolhouse, Walnut Lake Township, for restoration of flooring and desks within the Walnut Lake Pink Schoolhouse living history site

Freeborn, Mower

Tales of Two Counties, Albert Lea Friends of the Library, for creation of two history plays based on local oral histories and other resources

Grant

Celebrating our Heritage, Sister City Fellowship of Elbow Lake, for a series of musical programs celebrating the Sister City Fellowship with Flekkefjord, Norway

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts

Hennepin, Washington, St. Louis, Carver, Anoka

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at community sites in several counties

Hennepin, Ramsey

Many Languages, Many Voices, One State: Their Legacy Past and Present, Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures and Minnesota New Visions in Action, for an exhibit on languages spoken in the state

Hennepin

150 Years of Hennepin Hospitals, County Medical Center History Museum, for an exhibit exploring the changing role of medicine and hospitals in the city's history

Land of 10,000 Lakes: Minnesota's 150-Year Connection to Water, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, for creating and presenting a puppet theater production exploring Minnesota's historic and contemporary relation to water

The Wireless Pond, Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum and Minnesota Coalition on Government Information, for a day-long public conference exploring issues relating to the preservation of and access to information

Partners in Minneapolis History, Marcy Open School, for research and development of a project on important people, places and events in history

Documentation of Minnesota Barns and Farmsteads, Friends of Minnesota Barns, for a state-wide effort to inventory historic barns and farmsteads

Twin Cities Juneteenth and Minnesota Spokesman Recorder African American History Timeline, Twin Cities Juneteenth, Inc., for a state-wide historical timeline to be featured during Juneteenth activities

Great River Road Travel Guide and Activity Book, Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission, for a travel guide featuring the history and geography of 21 Minnesota counties

They Also Chose Minnesota, Friends of the Immigration History Research Center, for an oral history project and DVD capturing the experience of "older" and "newer" immigrants to Minnesota

Minnovation: 150 Years of Ingenuity, Minneapolis Public Library, for an exhibit exploring inventions developed in Minnesota

Speaking of Home, Public Interest, Inc. and Intermedia Arts, for creation of public art in downtown skyways exploring cross-cultural notions of "home"

Walldogs on Nicollet, Lyndale Neighborhood Association, for community-conceived, professionally rendered murals along Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis

150 Years of African American Artists in Minnesota, Obsidian Arts, Minneapolis, for a visual arts exhibition and digital catalog about black artists in Minnesota since the time of statehood

Minnesota Voices, American Composers Forum, for new compositions to premiere at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair



Houston

Spring Grove Music in the Park, City of Spring Grove, for a series of concerts celebrating aspects of Minnesota history

Hubbard

Opening of the Great Northwest: Transportation and Tourism in Northern Minnesota, Headwaters Center for Lifelong Learning, for a series of public programs on the history of tourism and transportation in the Hubbard County region

Isanti

Cambridge Historic Overlook Walking Loop and Interpretive Signage, Cambridge, for an interpretive walking loop and signage

Itasca

Pengilly Centennial Celebration, Pengilly Centennial Committee, for a community-wide celebration and creation of a "community memory book" to mark Pengilly's centennial

Jackson, Murray, Lyon, Lincoln, Pipestone

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

Kandiyohi

Sibley State Park Open House, Sibley State Park Improvement Committee, for exploring stories, history, music and food that define the area and region

Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

ANYONE DRIVING OR WALKING IN DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS COULD VIEW THE SPEAKING OF HOME EXHIBIT IN ONE OF THE CITY'S SKYWAYS.

Lac Qui Parle

Lac Qui Parle Heritage Celebration, Lac Qui Parle County Economic Development Authority, for a county-wide celebration and educational programs on the history of the county's ethnic groups

Sesquicentennial Visual Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

Lake

Collecting Oral Histories of Two Harbors, Independent School District 381, for an oral history and DVD project by students in the school district

LeSueur

History for Kids, Le Sueur County Historical Society, for youth activities in five school districts as part of Le Sueur County's celebration of its Scandinavian heritage

Lincoln

Hendricks Troll Town, Hendricks Norwegian Heritage Committee, for locally created troll art as part of Hendricks' celebration of its Scandinavian heritage

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

Lyon

Box Car Days, Tracy Area Chamber, for support of the annual Box Car Days celebration in Tracy

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

Mahnomen

Mahnomen Health Center Art Project for the 50th anniversary, Mahnomen Health Center, for enlargement, mounting and framing of historic photos and new outdoor signage

Photos and narrative exhibit Celebrating Change and Resilience: White Earth Land Recovery Project, for creation of an interpretive exhibit exploring 150 years of Ojibwe culture

Marshall

Highlighting our History, Friends of the Old Mill, Newfolden Lions Club, Marshall County Historical Society, for a series of historic re-enactments and living history programs at the Old Mill Park

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for a new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

Martin

Fairmont Songs and Martin County Stories, Martin County Sesquicentennial Committee, for an original musical theater piece by Fairmont native Warren Nelson, founder of Big Top Chautauqua

McLeod

Oakland Cemetery Restoration Project, City of Hutchinson, for restoration of significant headstones in the historic Oakland Cemetery

Meeker

Remembering 150 Years of Minnesota and Meeker County History, Meeker County Historical Society, for a research and documentation of a project exploring significant people, places, and events

Mille Lacs

Sesquicentennial and Mille Lacs Lake Birthday Party, Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group, for interpretive programs and events in Mille Lacs County

Morrison

Rural School History and Events, Morrison County Historical Society, for programs exploring the significance and history of rural educators and rural schools

Mower

Rededication of M4 Sherman tank, Mower County Historical Society, for refurbishing and rededicating a WWII memorial erected during the 1958 Centennial celebration

Tales of Two Counties, Albert Lea Friends of the Library, for creation of two local history plays based on local oral histories and other resources

Murray

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

Nicollet

Norseland Community Sesquicentennial Celebration, New Sweden Township, for compilation of a community history book about the unincorporated community of Norseland

Treaty of Traverse des Sioux Central Exhibit, Nicollet County Historical Society, for renovation of an exhibit to interpret the circumstances surrounding the signing of the treaty

Norman

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for a new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

Olmsted

Minnesota at Its Sesquicentennial: Exceptional People in an Exceptional Place, Rochester Community College and University of Minnesota-Rochester, for a series of educational, travel and study programs

Hail, Minnesota! Choral Arts Ensemble, Rochester, for a premiere of four new works by Minnesota composers and CD recording

Otter Tail, Wilkin

Rothsay 125th Anniversary Celebration, City of Rothsay, for a series of educational events held as part of the city's 125th anniversary and in honor of the Sesquicentennial

Otter Tail

A County on Stage, Otter Tail County Historical Society, for support of student theater workshops culminating in a community history performance

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts to augment the Evansville site

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung Concerts, Intermedia Arts, for research and performances about "unsung" Minnesotans

Pennington

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for a new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

Rivers and Waters in Pennington County: Their Importance and Significance, Pennington County Historical Society, for a traveling exhibit exploring the history and impact of rivers in the development of the county

Pine

Minnesota: 150 Years, Pine City Public Schools, ISD #578, for a series of educators' professional development workshops and community programs exploring Sesquicentennial themes

Fire Relief House Project, Hinckley Fire Museum, for construction of a "fire relief house" replica to serve as new meeting and research space

Pipestone

Civil War Days, Pipestone County Museum, for historical re-enactments exploring Minnesota's role in the Civil War

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

Polk

Gully 100! Celebrating and Sharing our History, Gully 100! Committee, for a community-wide celebration, including history displays and re-enactments to mark the Sesquicentennial and Gully's Centennial

Historic Tent and Camping Gear Display, City of East Grand Forks Parks and Recreation, for a living history display of camping styles used by Native Americans, explorers and early settlers

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for a new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

Pope

Medallion Series, Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park, Inc., for a commemorative medallion celebrating the natural history of the region

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts to augment the Evansville site

Native American Heritage Programs, Pope County History Society, for a series of lecture-discussion programs on Native American cultures

Ramsey

"Como Te Quiero Minnesota," Adams Spanish Immersion School, for recording and dissemination of an original song

Minnesota Territorial Pioneers Traveling Exhibit, Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, for creating a traveling history exhibit on the life and experiences of Minnesota's earliest settlers

Minnesota Territorial Pioneers Portrait Collection Preservation, Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, for a state-wide project to support ongoing archival work and digitization of a collection of 2,000 portraits

L'Etoile du Nord Mosaic, L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School, for a mosaic created by students and East Side community members

Evening in the Park Series, Fort Snelling State Park Assn., for a series of four musical programs celebrating the history of the park site

Benson Airport Airshow and Historical Exhibit, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, for documentation and outreach related to the area's aviation history

Mississippi River Eco Journey, Art-Start, for a school-based curriculum exploring the history and significance of the Mississippi River watershed

At the Center: 150 Years at University and Prior Avenues, University UNITED, for research and exhibit development on the history of University and Prior Avenues

Many Languages, Many Voices, One State: Their Legacy of Languages and Cultures, Past and Present, Minnesota County on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures and Minnesota New Visions in Action, for an exhibit on languages spoken in Minnesota

CitiZing! MAP 150 Project, Citizens League, for creation and beta testing of an online civic-networking platform

Minnesota Voices, American Composers Forum, for new compositions to premiere at the 2008 State Fair

German POWs in the Midwest, 1943-46, TRACES Center for History and Culture, for exhibits and community dialogues on the experiences and interaction of "captors and captives"

2008 Vietnamese Community's Summer Festival, Vietnamese Community of Minnesota, for support of a Minnesota "Knowledge Bowl" and an essay contest for youth

Capitol River Council's Sesquicentennial Tree Project, Capitol River Council, for a commemorative plaque about the Sesquicentennial Norway pine on the State Capitol grounds

Penumbra Theatre Archives, Penumbra Theatre Company, for digitization of the theatre's video archives

They Also Chose Minnesota, Friends of the Immigration History Research Center, for an oral history project and DVD capturing the experience of "older" and "newer" immigrants to Minnesota



THE "GREETINGS FROM MINNESOTA" MOSAIC WAS PERMANENTLY INSTALLED ON THE STATE FAIR GROUNDS.

"Greetings from Minnesota," Minnesota State Fair Foundation, for permanent installation of a tile mosaic on the grounds of the Minnesota State Fair

Looking Forward: Invent Minnesota's High School Invention Initiative, Invent Minnesota, for student participation in an innovative initiative

Minnesota Heritage Songbook and CD, Fort Snelling State Park Assn., for research and recording of Minnesota's traditional music and songs

Minnesota Writers Hall of Fame, Friends of the Library, St. Paul Public Library, for development of a Web-based resource on Minnesota writers

Dialogues with Great Leaders Series DVD Project, Concordia University, St. Paul, for distribution of a DVD of historic dramatizations featuring key writings of Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Red Lake

The Story of Old Crossing of the North, Association des Français du Nord, for a readers' theater program and educational materials exploring the 1863 Treaty

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

Redwood

From the Inside Out: Celebration of Minnesota's Pioneer Women in Fashion and Song, Note-able Fashions, for living history programs at Redwood County libraries

Renville

Minnesota River: Gateway to Renville County Traveling Exhibit, Renville County Historical Society, for a traveling exhibit on the significance of the Minnesota River

Rice

Historic Musical Stage Play, Northfield Middle School, for a historical musical stage play by students at the Lockwood Opera House

Minnesota Sesquicentennial Vintage Base Ball Festival, Washington County Historical Society, for historic interpreters and players in the Vintage Base Ball Festival

Rock

Blue Mounds State Park Historical Prospective, Blue Mound Park Partners, for living history programs on natural history and the experiences of native Americans and early settlers

Roseau

Falun's 100th Anniversary and State's 150th Anniversary, Falun Township for a commemorative exhibit for the township's centennial celebration

Roseau Scandinavian Festival, Roseau Heritage Committee, for community arts programs, including Scandinavian dance workshops

Walking the Pembina Trail, Palmville Press, for support of an authentic ox cart journey along the Pembina Trail by Orlin Ostby and colleagues



ORLIN OSTBY, HIS FAMILY AND PUM THE OX RETRACED THE 400-MILE JOURNEY FROM PEMBINA TO ST. PAUL.

Scott

Scott County Baseball, Scott County Historical Society, for research and publication of a history of baseball and baseball players in the area

Murphy's Landing Historic Oak Savanna Project, Great River Greening, for establishing a historic oak savanna at the living history site in the Minnesota Valley

Sherburne

Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star, Elk River Area Arts Alliance, for a school and community performance of Old Minnesota: Songs of the North Star by Big Top Chautauqua

St. Louis

Storyteller Series, McCarthy Beach State Park, for a series of storytelling and living history programs on the culture and natural history of St. Louis County

Fire Days Celebration, Chisholm Area Chamber of Commerce, for hosting 2008 Fire Days, a community commemoration of the centennial of the fire that destroyed Chisholm

Virginia's First Mural, Virginia Community Foundation, for community mural project to celebrate the region's diverse history and culture

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at communities in several counties

Stearns

Paynesville Sesquicentennial-Looking Back, Moving Forward, Paynesville Area Historical Museum, for an outdoor mural and new historical timeline

Lake Wobegon Trail Covered Bridge and Sesquicentennial Historical Park Project, City of Holdingford, for creation of historical and interpretive markers as part of a larger park development

The State We're In: Critical and Creative Approaches to Minnesota History at 150, St. John's University, College of St. Benedict, and the Stearns County Museum, for a public conference and published proceedings exploring contemporary scholarship on Minnesota history

Steele

Preservation and Restoration of the Village of Rice Lake, Rice Lake Church Restoration and Preservation Group, for restoration of a historic landmark church in Rice Lake

Celebrate with the State in 2008, Willow Creek Intermediate School, for interdisciplinary community activities and intergenerational programs

Stevens

2008 Donnelly Threshing Bee, Donnelly Community Club, for the annual community threshing bee celebration and installation of a flag site on the local fairgrounds

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts to augment the Evansville site

Footsteps on the Trail, Stevens County Historical Society, for development of a children's book and exhibit on the early history of Native American and settler interactions

Swift

Sesquicentennial Visual Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

Todd

Fireworks/Veterans Tribute, Prairie Community Group, for a program honoring veterans as part of Sesquicentennial activities and Long Prairie's 125th anniversary

Traverse

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung Concerts, Intermedia Arts, for research and performances about "unsung" Minnesotans

Wabasha

Wabasha Sesquicentennial Community Spirit Project, City of Wabasha, for programs and art activities with Sesquicentennial themes

Wadena

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung Concerts, Intermedia Arts, for research and performances about "unsung" Minnesotans

Waseca

History of Minnesota Agriculture, FarmAmerica, for an interpretive exhibit on the importance of Minnesota agriculture, past and present

Portrait of Waseca County, Waseca Arts Council, for photo documentation and display of present-day people, landscapes and towns

Washington

Minnesota Sesquicentennial Vintage Base Ball Festival Washington County Historical Society, for support of historic baseball re-enactments

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at community sites

Watsonwan

Preserving the History of Minnesota Veterans, Madelia Veterans Memorial, Inc., for documentation and preservation of war veterans' stories

Wilkin

Rothsay 125th Anniversary Celebration, City of Rothsay, for a series of educational events held as part of the city's 125th anniversary and in honor of the Sesquicentennial

Winona

Winona Symphony Orchestra and Winona Symphony Orchestra Commemorate Minnesota's Statehood, Winona State University Concert Assn., for an original composition and concert marking the Sesquicentennial of the Winona State University and the Winona Symphony Orchestra

Historic Church Building Preservation Project, Minnesota City Historical Assn., for renovation and creation of a function archive at the historic Baptist Church site

150 Years Ago in Pleasant Hill Township, Ridgeway Community School, for a township celebration and living history display and activities, "circa 1858" Ridgeway Township

Wright

Wright County Celebrates Minnesota's Sesquicentennial, Wright County Historical Society, for a day-long, county-wide celebration and living history program celebrating Wright County's past

Yellow Medicine

Granite Falls Community Celebration, Granite Falls Historical Society, for research and displays pertaining to the region's tradition of ethnic and community festivals held as part of Western Fest

Sesquicentennial Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

GRANTS OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE

Capital Improvement Grants Program

Minnesota Historical Society, historic preservation grants for properties central to community redevelopment

CitiZing! MAP 150 Project

Citizens League, creation and beta testing of an on-line civic-networking platform

Chautauqua at the 2009 Minnesota State Fair

Minnesota State Fair Foundation, planning for a new historical Chautauqua program for the 2009 State Fair

Documentation of Minnesota Barns and Farmsteads

Friends of Minnesota Barns, state-wide effort to inventory historic barns and farmsteads

Excursions on the 261

Friends of the 261, excursions through the Mississippi Valley on a historic steam locomotive

German POWs in the Midwest 1943-46

TRACES Center for History and Culture, traveling exhibits and community dialogues on the experiences and interaction of "captors and captives"

Great River Road Travel Guide & Activity Book

Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission, travel guide featuring the history and geography of 21 Minnesota counties

"Greetings from Minnesota"

Minnesota State Fair Foundation, design and permanent installation of a tile mosaic on the grounds of the Minnesota State Fair

Minnesota Heritage Songbook and CD

Fort Snelling State Park Assn., research, recording and distributing a CD of Minnesota's traditional music and songs

Minnesota History Education Program

Minnesota Historical Society, student field trips and education program curricular support statewide

Minnesota Lincoln Bicentennial Advisory Committee

Minnesota Historical Society, activities undertaken as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial national and statewide project

**Minnesota Territorial Pioneers
Portrait Collection Preservation**

Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, state-wide project to support ongoing archival work and digitization of a collection of 2,000 portraits

Minnesota Writers Hall of Fame

Friends of the Library, St. Paul Public Library, development of a web-based resource on Minnesota writers

Missing Markers Project

Geological Society of Minnesota, erection of permanent markers at significant geological sites in Minnesota parks

Old Minnesota, Song of the North Star

Big Top Chautauqua, development and presentation Chautauqua-style historic presentations at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair

Orlin Ostby Ox Cart Project

Palmville Press/Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, re-enactment of the 1958 ox cart journey along the Pembina Trail

Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics (STEM) Mentoring and Internship Initiative

Minnesota High Technology Foundation, connecting students statewide with internships and mentors in high-technology related fields

SEQUI
COMMUNITY
CELEBRATIONS

From Afton to Zumbrota, hundreds of communities in every corner of the state celebrated the Sesquicentennial in their own unique ways. Some created special activities while others combined Sesqui celebrations with their traditional events. Lectures, exhibits, performances, hikes, tours, fairs, festivals, storytelling, shows — the list goes on, encompassing more than 500 commemorations. One thing they all had in common: a deep bond with this place they call home, Minnesota.

Afton

2008 Afton State Fair
Bison Reintroduction
Prairie Walk

Albert Lea

Freeborn County Sesquicentennial Celebration
Myre Big Island State Park Walk
“Tales of Two Counties”

Alexandria

Alexandria Celebrates the Minnesota Sesquicentennial
Douglas County Historical Society Open House
Knute Nelson Open House
Minnesota Firefighters State Convention

Altura

Fishing Festival
Fishing Techniques of the Past
Games of Minnesota’s Pioneers
Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Soldiers
Pioneer Home Fall Color Tour
Songs & Stories with Charlie Maguire

Amboy

Amboy Area Community Theatre

Anoka

Library Celebration of Minnesota Sesquicentennial

Apple Valley

Dakota County Sesqui-Celebration
Tribute to the Hall Brothers
New Orleans Jazz Band

Argyle

From Field to Flour
Grinding Days
Natural History Hike on the Ox Cart Trail
Stories in Log & Stone
Under Cart Wheels

Austin

“Tales of Two Counties”

Bagley

Bagley Sesquicentennial Parade & Fireworks

Bancroft

Big Island Rendezvous & Festival

Battle Lake

Fly Fishing on Heritage Lake
If These Walls Could Talk

Baudette

Lake of the Woods Master Gardener Tour

Baytown

Baytown Township’s 150th Celebration

Bemidji

Capital for a Day
Corn Maze
Geocaching 101, the History Challenge
Head of the Lake Picnic
Itasca’s Mysteries in History
Migrations: Minnesota Birds Since Statehood
MinnAqua Fishing History Day
Muskie Mania 2008
Tour of Paul Bunyan Foot Print
Walking Tour of Park Historic District
Wednesday History Walks

Big Fork

Building of a Park

Bloomington

Bloomington Loves Kids Carnival
Bloomington State of the City
Address
Bloomington 150th Anniversary
Celebration

Blue Earth

Celebrate the Sesquicentennial at
the Faribault County Fair
Giant Days

Brainerd

Brainerd History Walk
Crow Wing Canoe Day
Minnesota Poetry Anthology
Voyageur Canoe Tour: Paddling
into Minnesota's Past

Breezy Point

Butterfly Release

Brooklyn Center

150 Years in the Brooklyns
New Schwen Swiss Family Picnic

Browns Valley

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung
Concert by Elisa Korenne

Brunswick Township

150 Year Celebration

Buffalo

Wright County Historical Society

Caledonia

Houston County Fair
Songs of Old Minnesota with
John Berquist

Calumet

Geology Rocks!
Hike Through History

Cambridge

Cambridge Swedish Festival

Cannon Falls

Homesteaders Hoedown Live
Music (wagon train)

Carlos

Geocaching 101, the History
Challenge
Stories in Log & Stone

Carlton

Biking Through the Past
Geocaching 101, the History
Challenge
Hydroelectric Power Plant Tour
Jay Cooke Open House
Voices of the Park

Cass Lake

Muskie Mania

Center City

Ancient Art of Stone Tools
Art of Blacksmithing in 1858
From Prairie to Potatoes & Back
Again
Get Your Dancing Shoes
Historical Herbs for Health
Loggers' Tales-The Story of the
Great White Pine Logging Era
Maple Syrup From Tap to Table
Seegwan, a Celebration of
Spring
Visit with Anna Sheldon, 1876
Wildflowers of the 1800s on the
Old Military Road

Carver

Christ Community Lutheran
School Grandparents Day

Chanassen

Twilight in the Northstar State

Chisago

Ki-Chi-Saga Days

Clinton

Clinton 125th Quasquicentennial

Cloquet

Sesquicentennial Car Show

Collegeville

St. John's/St. Ben's

Columbia Heights

Celebrating the Season: A Civil
War Christmas
Library Celebration of Minnesota
Sesquicentennial

Comfrey

Before There was a Minnesota

Coon Rapids

Library Celebration of Minnesota
Sesquicentennial

Crane Lake

Crane Lake Voyageur Days

Crystal

Minnesota Stamp Expo

Currie

Lake Shetek in Nicollet's Time
On the Trail of Joseph Nicollet
Geocaching 101, the History
Challenge
Lake Shetek Revisited

Detroit Lakes

Capital for a Day

Dodge Center

Dodge County Ghost Town Tour

Donnelly

2008 Donnelly Threshing Bee

Duluth

American Indians & Human
Rights
American Indians in Minnesota:
• Karen Diver
• Heid E. Erdrich & Louise Erdrich
• David Treuer
• Paul LaRoche
Ann Reed's Troubadour Series
FinnFest
History of American Racism &
How It Affects Us as People
Home Grown Music Festival
License Plate Unveiling/Dedica-
tion
Minnesota State Constitution
Minnesota Statehood
Celebration
Owens Yacht Duluth Maritime
Festival

Eagan

Eagan Art Festival

Elk River

Agriculture Opener
Baby Animals Weekend
Old Minnesota: Song of the
North Star
Winter on the Farm: A Women's
Perspective

Ely

Bear Head Lake State Park Walk
Blueberry Art Festival
Boundary Waters Blues Festival
Ely Winter Festival
Harvest Moon Festival
History of the Lumber Industry
MinnAqua Bear History Fun

Erskine

Under Cart Wheels

Evansville

Many Nations One Circle

Fairfax

Digging into Fort Ridgely History

Fairmont

Fairmont Songs & Martin County
Stories
Walking Tour of Downtown Plaza

Falcon Heights

Minnesota Mineral Club

Faribault

Faribault County Fair, Celebrate
Sesquicentennial

Farmington

Civil War Weekend
Dakota County Chautauqua
Dakota County Sesqui-
Celebration
Saving Dakota County Barns
Minnesota Scottish Fair & High-
land Games
Spring Festival Open House
Village Holiday

Fergus Falls

Museum Days: The Fur Trade

Forest Township

Forest Township: A 150-Year
History

Forestville

Founders Day at Historic
Forestville
Lake Louise State Park Walk
They Built This Town

Fort Ridgely

Minnesota's Pioneer Women in
Fashion & Song

Fosston

Historic Landscapes Presentation
of 13 Townships in Polk
County
Art Reflecting on Minnesota's
150 Years of Statehood

Frontenac

Frontenac State Park Guided
Walk
Lighting up the Night: The His-
tory of Coleman Lanterns
Voyageur Canoe Tour: Paddling
Into Minnesota's Past

Georgetown

History of Potatoes & Pie
Photos & Memories of George-
town

Gilbert

Gilbert Centennial

Glenwood

Old Minnesota: Song of the
North Star

Glyndon

Prairie History Hike
Stories in Log & Stone

Grand Forks

Art Reflecting on Min-
nesota's 150 Years of State-
hood
East Grand Forks Heritage Days
Historic Tent & Camping Gear
Rendezvous

Grand Marais

Storytelling with Auntie Bev of
the North Woods

Grand Portage

Grand Portage 154

Grand Rapids

HERStory

Granite Falls

River & History Weekend
Western Fest
Geocaching 101, the History
Challenge
Historic Paddle on the Minnesota
River
Tribute to Western Fest
Yellow Medicine Agency in 1858

Hallock

Hallock Turns 125 Years Old

Hastings

Harvest Haunting
Hastings August Concert Series
Hastings Artist Show
LeDuc Historic Estate:

- General William LeDuc & Min-
nesota Statehood
- Civil War Weekend
- Currier & Ives Lecture
- Harvest Haunting
- Hastings Needlework Day
- Hastings People in the Civil
War
- Simmons Country Market
- Quality Antique Show/Sale/Ap-
praisals
- Modern Interpretations of His-
toric Designs
- Needlework Antiquities
- Musical Program & Reception
- Remembering Carroll Simmons
- Friends of LeDuc Estate Lecture

Vermillion Falls Walking Tour
MinnAqua Fishing History Fun
Prairie Walk

Hinckley

Foundations of the Past
Raising the "Relief House"

Hitterdal

Community Crime Watch

Houston

Pleasant Hill Township 150th
Anniversary

Huot

The Story of Old Crossing:
Chautauqua & French Festival
at Old Crossing & Treaty Park

Ivanhoe

Minnesota's Pioneer Women in
Fashion & Song

Inver Grove Heights

Brave Journey of an Orphan Train
Rider

Ironton

Cuyuna Iron Range Biking
History Tour

Isle

MinnAqua Fishing History Fun
Rediscovering Our State Heritage
Voyageur Canoe Tours: Paddling
Into Minnesota's Past

Jackson

Before the Plow in the Des
Moines River Valley

Jordan

Scott County Main Street to
Statehood
Ghost Town-Boom Town
Minnesota River Historic Canoe
Trip

Kabetogama

Land of the Lady Slipper Festival

Kingston

Save the Round Barn Bluegrass
Concert

Lake Bronson

Stories in Log & Stone

Lakefield

Before the Plow in the Des
Moines River Valley

Lakeville

Brave Journey of an Orphan Train
Rider
Dakota County Sesqui-
Celebration
Faces of History
An Afternoon with Maud Hart
Lovelace
Sesquicentennial Shots: 150
Years of Minnesota
Photography
"Up North" storytime
Tribute to the Hall Brothers New
Orleans Jazz Band

Leavenworth

Leavenworth Township is 150
Years Old

Little Falls

Exploring With Lieutenant Pike
The Natural Environment of
Charles A. Lindbergh
WPA Brought to Life, 1936
Voyageur Canoe Tours: Paddling
Into Minnesota's Past

Longville

Muskie Mania

Lutsen

Salmon Run History Cart

Luverne

Buffalo Days & Prairie History

Lynd

Great Camden Campout
Legacy of Company 2713

Madelia

Good Ol' Days

Madison

Lac Qui Parle Heritage Celebra-
tion

McGregor

Geocaching 101, the History
Challenge
Heritage Reunion

Mankato

Betsy Tacy Neighborhood Walk
Blue Earth Concert on the Court-
house Lawn
Day at the Dam
History of Seppman Mill
North Mankato Fun Days

Marine on St. Croix

Boom!
Ice Cream Social
Lighting Up the Night: History of
Coleman Lanterns
MinnAqua Fishing History Fun
Train Rides Through History
Voyageur Encampment

Mendota

Do Archeology
Fur Trade Adventure Day Camp
History River Walk
Mendota's Fête de la
St. Jean-Baptiste
Mendota Sesquicentennial

Milaca

The Legend of Paul & Babe

Minneapolis

Bdote Rivers & People
Coming Together
Ball of the Wild
CDI Back in Shape
5K Run/Walk
Celebrating Our Minneapolis
History
Celebrate Northeast Parade
CommonBond Playhouse Parade
Crosby, Stills & Nash
Friends of Minnesota Barns
The Story of Grey Cloud
Historic Main Street Walking Tour
Interpretive Historic Bike Tour
Jesus Christ Superstar
John H. Stevens Day
Literary Legends:

- Khaled Hosseini
- David McCullough
- David Sedaris
- Armistead Maupin

Little House in the Big Fort Day
Camp
Long Time Coming: Minnesota's
Sesquicentennial
Love Flute

Make a Difference Day: Fort Snelling
 MinnAqua Fishing History Fun
 Minneapolis Sesquicentennial
 Minnesota Innovation: 150 Years of Ingenuity
 Minnesota & Its People
 Minnesota Lynx Home Opener
 Minnesota River Historic Canoe Trip
 Minnesota Sesquicentennial Statehood Stamp
 Monthly Music in the Park
 National Geographic Live!
 National Service Learning Conference
 Natural History of Minnesota Wine
 Necohundah, the Eagle Catcher
 New Year's Eve Candlelight Walk
 Norway Day
 Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star
 Open House Day & Photo Contest
 Plan for our Future
 Plan for our Future, Northeast Minneapolis
 Relive the Second Minnesota State Fair
 Sam Abell, National Geographic Live!
 Sesqui-Boxing
 Sesquicentennial Bike Ride
 Sesquicentennial Concert: Lake Nokomis
 Sesquicentennial Concert: Calhoun-Isles
 Spamalot
 Spielmannszug Minnesota's Prinzenkronung
 Summer of 150th Celebration Kick-Off
 Timeline of the American Soldier
 U.S. Pond Hockey Championships
 Women of Mill City
 World War II Weekend

Minnesota City
 First Baptist Church Open House
 Minnesota City Day
 Native American History & Archaeology

Minnetonka
 Minnetonka Fire Dept. & City-Wide Open House
 Supreme Court Hearing

Montevideo
 Horse Power Event

Montgomery
 Kolacky Days

Monticello
 Fishing Technique of Minnesota's History & Cultures
 Open House Day

Moose Lake
 Junior Naturalists-Minnesota State Symbols
 Moose Lake State Park Walk

Mora
 Brunswick Township 150th Year Celebration

Morris
 Ann Reed Concert
 Power of Small: Building Solutions for Energy Self-Reliance
 World Touch Cultural Heritage Week

Nerstrand
 Land Remembers: The Outside-In Tour of Nerstrand Big Woods

New London
 Fishing Techniques of the Past
 Granite, Oak & Men
 Sibley State Park Open House
 Songs & Stories with Charlie Maguire
 U.S. Dakota War of 1862

New Ulm
 Bavarian Blast
 Build a Park on a Dollar a Day
 Capital for a Day
 Historic Marker Dedication
 Key Ingredients America
 New Ulm Popcorn Wagon Dedication
 New Ulm Pictorial Cancellation
 The State We're In: Stories of Minnesota's Past
 Wanda Gag House

Northfield
 "Harvest" Sculpture Dedication
 Lockwood's Brightest Stars
 Medicine Dream Journeys
 Wild West Roundup

Norseland
 Norseland Community Sesquicentennial

Oakdale
 Oak Meadows 10-Year Celebration

Onamia
 Ancient Villages, Log Drives & Homesteaders: History on the Lakeshore
 Biking into the Past
 Explorers & Archaeology
 Memorial Day Pow-Wow
 Mille Lacs Indian Museum & Trading Post, The People's Day
 Summer Solstice Concert
 Voyageur Canoe Tours: Paddling into Minnesota's Past
 Voyageur Canoes on the Rum River

Ortonville
 Babou, the French Fur Trader

Owatonna
 Extravaganza
 Songs of Old Minnesota with John Berquist
 Steele County Historical Society
 Steele County Fair

Park Rapids
 Itasca's Mysteries in History
 MinnAqua Headwaters History Fair
 Ozawindib Walk/5K, 21st Annual Tell Tales Told 'Round the Campfire
 Wednesday History Walks

Pelican Rapids
 Historic Hallaway Hill
 Turkey Days 125th Anniversary
 Storytelling with Auntie Bev of the North Woods

Pine City
 Pine City Open House

Pine River

Pine River Summerfest
Lakes Bluegrass Festival

Pipestone

Pipestone Civil War Days

Plymouth

Modern Indian Dance Academy
Music in Plymouth

Preston

Hardwoods Home Companion
Iron Mines in the Cornfield
Legends & Lore of Fillmore
County
Migrations: Minnesota Birds
Since Statehood
Valley of Forestville - 1858

Puposky

Minnesota Sesquicentennial Fall
Fest

Ramsey

Monroe Crossing Bluegrass Band

Red Wing

Red Wing Collectors Society

Rice

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsong
Concert by Elisa Korenne

Rochert

Early Settlers/Logging
Encampment
Tamarac History Tour

Rochester

Choral Arts Ensemble
Ed Fischer: 25 Years of
Cartooning
Honors Choirs of Southeast
Minnesota
How to Talk Minnesotan
Norwegian Centennial
Celebration
Rochester 150 Year Banquet
Rochester Rotary Club Honors
Statehood Week
Roosters Classic Vintage Base Ball
Festival

Rollag

Breakfast on the Farm

Roseau

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's
150 Years of Statehood
Hickory Wind
Hike Through History
Red River Ox Cart in the Park

Rosemount

Leprechaun Days

Roseville

Roseville Winter Jazz Blast
Wild Rice Festival

Rush City

Rush City Music & Art Festival

Sandstone

Banning Quarry Hike
Banning State Park Walk

Sauk Rapids

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsong
Concert by Elisa Korenne

Scandia

Statehood Day

Schroeder

Celebrate the Sesquicentennial
on the North Shore
Temperance River History Cart

Shakopee

Eagle Creek Fair
Independence Celebration
Minnesota 150
Minnesota River Bike Tour
Pa & Me Days
River Town Days
Scott County Cemetery Walking
Tour
Scott County Celebrates 150
Years
Scott County Historical Society
Strait House Picnic

Shevlin

Clearwater County Birthday Party

Side Lake

Local Area Tales

- Mining, Settlement, Logging
- Music & Tall Tales
- Music on the Range
- Tales of Side Lake
- Songs & Stories That Make
You Smile
- When I Came To This Land

Silver Bay

Tettegouche History Cart

Solway

Solway Celebration

Soudan

Soudan Underground Mine State
Park Walk
Heritage Days

Spicer

Archeology Day & Grand Open-
ing of History of Corn Exhibit

Spring Grove

Spring Grove Music in the Park

St. Anthony

6th Annual Fourth in the Park
Parade
St. Anthony Village Historical
Society Open House
St. Anthony Civic Orchestra

St. Cloud

St. Cloud 4th of July Fireworks &
Freedom Fest
St. Cloud Technical College 60th
Birthday

St. Michael

Round Barn Move

St. Paul

Afloat in the Wireless Pond
Ann Reed's Song for Minnesota
CLAC 30th Anniversary Dinner
Celebrate Minnesota
Charging Forward – 30 years of
Groundbreaking Music
Cookbook Day at the State Fair
Dakota Conflict Tour
Dry Bones Blues Music Festival
Historic Statehood Day
Celebration

Irish Heritage at the Hill House
 Lake Phalen Summer Festival
 Leap in for the Love of
 Minnesota
 Minnesota Statehood Week
 Minnesota Turns 150!
 Minnesota Sesquicentennial Call
 for Artists
 Minnesota Transportation
 Museum
 Minnesota Supreme Court His-
 torical Society
 Minnesota Territorial Pioneers
 Log Cabin
 Minnesota Voices
 Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung
 Concert by Elisa Korenne
 Minnesota's Progressive Republi-
 can Tradition
 Monthly Music in the Park Series
 Old Minnesota at the State Fair
 Reliving the Second Minnesota
 State Fair
 Remembering Supreme Court
 Justices
 Sesquicentennial Wagon Train
 St. Paul Saints
 Step Back To Statehood Camp
 Statehood Weekend Festival
 Supreme Court Justice Loren W.
 Collins (1838-1912)

Supreme Court Law Clerk
 Reunion
 Trial of Alvin "Creepy" Karpis
 Walking the Pembina Trail
 Welcome to the State Fair
 Wild West Frontier Fest on the
 Mississippi
 World War II Weekend

Starbuck
 Prairie History Hike

Stillwater
 Celebrating Minnesota's Sesqui-
 centennial Art Exhibit
 Minnesota Sesquicentennial Vin-
 tage Base Ball Festival
 Minnesota Statehood
 Celebration
 Minnesota Territorial Pioneers
 Annual Banquet
 Old Minnesota: Song of the
 North Star
 Saluting Minnesota's 150th
 Birthday
 Summer on the Porch

Sunburg
 Fishing Techniques of the Past

Taylors Falls
 Nation's 1st Interstate Park: Gla-
 cial Pothole History Walk

Thief River Falls
 Art Reflecting on Minnesota's
 150 Years of Statehood
 Capital for a Day
 View from the Ox Cart

Tracy
 81st Box Car Days Celebration

Trimont
 Trimont Chocolate Festival

Two Harbors
 Biking Into the North Shore's
 Past
 "CCC Boys" Stone & Log
 Legacy Walk
 Children's Day
 Geocaching 101, The History
 Challenge
 Open House
 Split Rock Lighthouse Park His-
 tory Cart
 Statehood Day
 "Young Men Building the Park"
 History Cart

Vesta
 Pioneer Women in Fashion &
 Song

Viking
 Viking Good Old Days

NUMEROUS
 COMMUNITY PA-
 RADES FEATURED
 THE SESQUICEN-
 TENNIAL.



Wabasso

Pioneer Women in Fashion &
Song

Wadena

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung
Concert by Elisa Korenne

Waite Park

Quilt Minnesota

Walker

Muskie Mania
Snowshoe at Shingobee Hills

Walnut Grove

Wilder Pageant

Waseca

Chautauqua 2008
150 Years of Minnesota
Agriculture
Homestead Tour
Ice Harvest 2008
Portrait of Waseca County

Waskish

Historic Fish Hatchery Tour

Watsonwan

Good Ol' Days

Watson

Lac Qui Parle Heritage
Celebration
Photos from the Past

Wayzata

Bushaway Road 150 Years
Minnesota Stamp Expo

Wheaton

K-2 Field Day
Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung
Concert by Elisa Korenne

White Bear Lake

Celebrate the Bald Eagle
Children's Carnival
Civil War Encampment, 1st
Minnesota
Flyers, Food & Fun at Benson
Airport
Minnesota Territorial Pioneers
Annual Banquet
Sesquicentennial Celebration
White Bear Lake Rotary Club
Banquet
White Bear Lake All-School
Reunion

Williams

Hike to the Zippel Townsite &
Fisheries

Willmar

Glacial Ridge Model T Tour

Windom

Minnesota Sesquicentennial
Legacy Grant Unveiling
Windom Riverfest

Winona

Capital for a Day
21st North American Prairie
Conference
Songs of Old Minnesota with
John Berquist
Winona State University
Sesquicentennial
Winona Symphony Orchestra
Centennial

Worthington

King Turkey Day Celebration
Windsurfing Regatta &
Unvarnished Music Festival



GOV. TIM PAW-
LENTY PRESENTS
THE CAPITALS
FOR A DAY
CERTIFICATES.

MINNESOTA @ 150, REAL & IMAGINED

Thanks to a generous grant from the Bush Foundation and partnerships with Twin Cities Public Television-the Minnesota Channel and the Citizens League, the live discussions held at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair were edited and reproduced in retail-ready DVD format.

Called "Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined: What Minnesotans need to know for the next 50 years," the discussions were tied to Sesquicentennial themes. Each of the five, 60-minute DVDs feature Minnesota's best thinkers, creators, and doers in the areas of education; health and wellness; environment and great outdoors; arts and culture; and business and innovation.

The following is a list of the DVDs, their subjects and panelists.

Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined: What Minnesotans Need to Know for the Next 50 Years

Arts & Culture

What is Minnesota doing at its Sesquicentennial year to ensure a thriving future? How has Minnesota changed since the 1958 State Centennial? What are the current images and stories we use to describe Minnesota?

Conversation One: The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission's Plan for Our Future Initiative

Conversation Two: The State We're In: Image and Identity, Then & Now

Panelists

Annette Atkins, Department of History, St. John's University

John Davis, director, Lanesboro Cornucopia Arts Center

Rachel Garaghty, Sesquicentennial staff

Jeff Kolick, professor of history, Southwest State University

Mary Lahammer, TPT TV

Jane Leonard, Sesquicentennial staff

Rebecca Peichel, Sesquicentennial staff

Kate Roberts, curator, Minnesota Historical Society

Business & Innovation

With its long history of entrepreneurship and innovation, especially in technology and health care, what does Minnesota need to do now to preserve its robust economy in the decades to come?

Conversation One: Sustaining a Culture of Innovation in Minnesota

Conversation Two: Young Inventors from The Invention Crew

Conversation Three: Taking Care of Business: The View from Main Street

Panelists

Bruce Corrie, College of Business & Organizational Leadership, Concordia University

David Gundale, St. Paul Public Schools

Deb Hess, Minnesota Inventors Congress

Mary Mathews, Northeast Entrepreneur Fund

Tom Misa, Babbage Institute

Kate Rubin, Minnesota High Tech Association

Ken Stone, Rock Solid Media

Education

What will our education system be like during the State's Bicentennial Year in 2058? Are we doing what's needed now for Minnesota to continue to prosper?

Conversation One: Vanishing Grads and Minnesota's Future

Conversation Two: 21st Century Schools: What's Needed?

Panelists:

Angie Eilers, Minnesota Growth and Justice

Joe Graba, Education: Evolving

Bill Green, Minneapolis Public Schools

Robert Holst, Concordia University

Peter Hutchinson, Bush Foundation

Vinodh Kutty, Hennepin County Office of Multicultural Services

Traci Parmenter, Admission Possible

Mitch Pearlstein, Center of the American Experiment

Lori Sturdevant, StarTribune

John Wade, Rochester Chamber of Commerce

Environment & Great Outdoors

Known for its abundant natural resources, Minnesota has historically been a leader in environmental health and stewardship. What's needed to ensure this legacy for future generations?

Conversation One: Understanding and Protecting Our Legacy

Conversation Two: Going Green in Morris: Building Sustainable Communities

Panelists

Marti Erickson, Center on Early Education and Development

David Fluegel, Center for Small Towns, University of Minnesota, Morris

Amy Kay Kerber, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Peggy Knapp, Hamline University

Charlie Maguire, Mello-Jam Music

Lowell Rasmussen, University of Minnesota, Morris

Deb Swackhamer, Water Resources Center, University of Minnesota,

Cathy Wurzer, TPT TV

Health & Wellness

Minnesota is recognized as one of the nation's healthiest states. Will we maintain this distinction in coming decades as costs rise and society ages?

Conversation One: Untangling the Health Care Knot: Prospects for Reform?

Conversation Two: All Above Average? What Kids Need to Thrive

Conversation Three: Age Wave

Panelists

Kathy Bakkenist, Ecumen

Mary Brainerd, HealthPartners

Jim Fries, Mercer Health Benefits

Karen Gervais, Minnesota Center on Health Care Ethics

Jan Hively, Vital Aging Network

Catherine Jordan, Achieve Minneapolis

Sean Kershaw, Citizens League

Dr. Jonathan Larson, Carver County Health Partnership

Sanne Magnan, Minnesota Department of Health

Pat Samples

Jim Schiebel

Ken Stone, Rock Solid Media

SESQUI BOOKS

For the Sesquicentennial, a number of authors focused their thoughts and creativity on the issues, history, people, culture and heritage of Minnesota. Following is a sampling of books published about Minnesota during the Sesquicentennial Year.

Creating Minnesota: A History From the Inside Out
Annette Atkins

Dakota Philosopher: Charles Eastman and American Indian Thought
David Martinez

Harriet Bishop: Woman of Contrast
Carolyn A. Ayres

Make It Minnesotan! Sesquicentennial Cookbook
Edited by Claire Plank

Minnesota 150: The People, Places, and Things that Shape Our State
Kate Roberts

Minnesota, Hail to Thee! A Sesquicentennial History
Karal Ann Marling

Minnesota on the Map: A Historical Atlas
David A. Lanegran

North for the Harvest: Mexican Workers, Growers, and the Sugar Beet Industry
Jim Norris

North Star Rising: Minnesota Politicians on the National Stage
Barry Casselman

Riding Into the Sunrise: Al Quie, a Life of Faith, Service & Civility
Dr. Mitchell Pearlstein

Shaping Minnesota's Identity: 150 Years of State History
Steven Keillor

State Fair: The Great Minnesota Get-Together
Susan Lambert Miller

Tales of the Road: Highway 61
Cathy Wurzer

What Does Justice Look Like? The Struggle for Liberation in Dakota Homeland
Waziyatawin, Ph.D.

Where One Voice Ends Another Begins: 150 Years of Minnesota Poetry
Edited by Robert Hedin

Wonders on Ice: Figure Skating in Minnesota
Moira F. Harris

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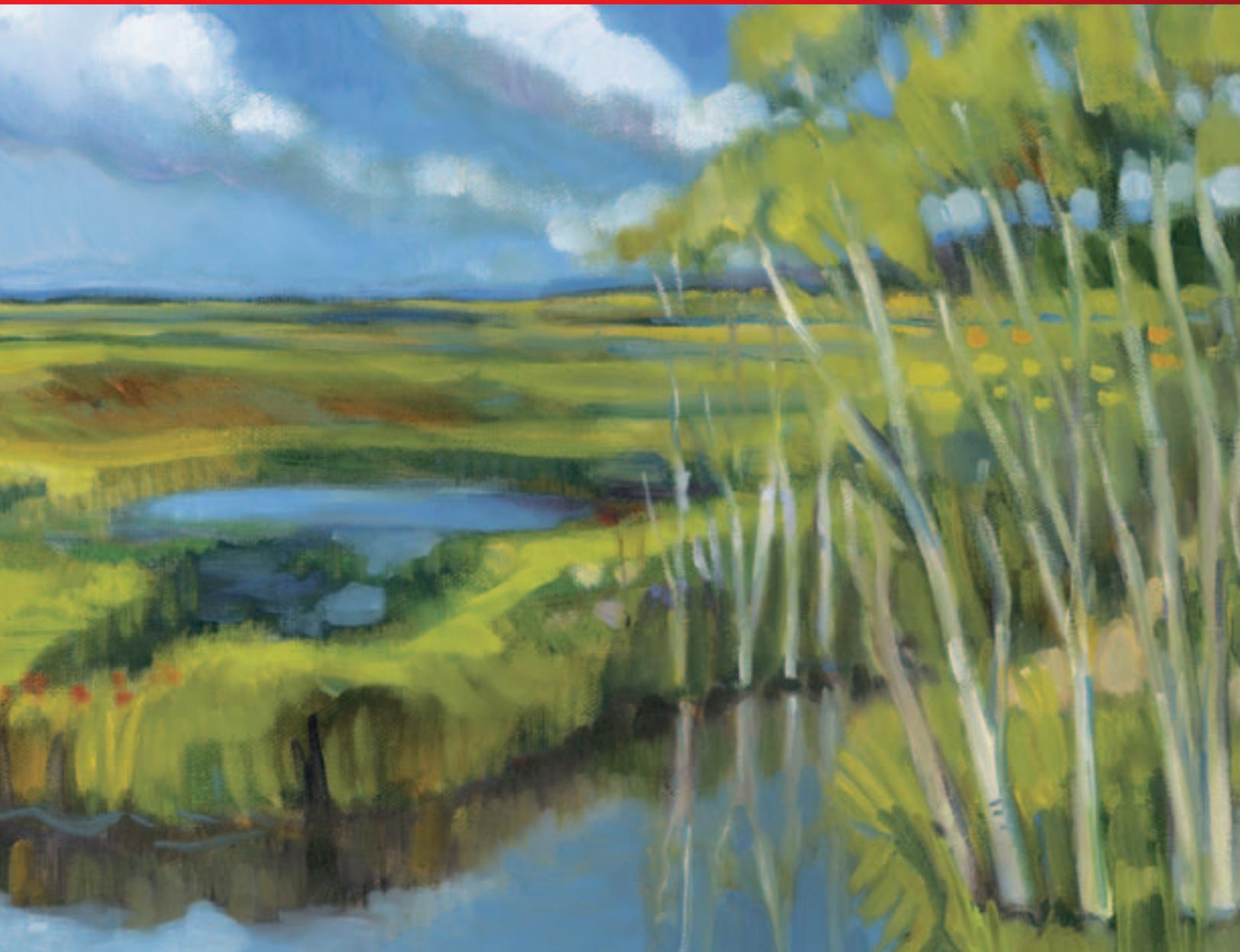
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150 YEARS
of STATEHOOD
1858 · 2008

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www.mn150years.org

The Commission's archives are located at the
Minnesota Historical Society, 345 West Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102