



THE MINNESOTA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL PLANNING MANUAL



Prepared by the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission
State Veterans Service Building, St. Paul 1, Minnesota



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The future offers a bright new era for the people of Minnesota. In 1958, our state will be one hundred years old, and we will cross a threshold of time into a promising new century.

It is fitting to commemorate this historic occasion of our centennial by giving appropriate recognition to the great achievements of our first century as a state. But it is my sincere hope that in 1958, Minnesotans will do more than pay tribute to the past. It is my hope that, to the inspiration from our glorious past will be added a clear and courageous vision of the possibilities for an even greater future that lies just ahead.

New frontiers are at hand in every field—in science and technology, in the arts and culture, in business and industry, in education and the humanities. Let us spend our centennial year in dedicating ourselves to the task of conquering these new frontiers with a zeal equal to that of the pioneers who so successfully carved our great state from the wilderness one hundred years ago.

It is my privilege to cordially invite your full participation in commemorating Minnesota's one hundredth anniversary—by looking ahead and planning for the future as well as by pausing to pay tribute to those whose toil, diligence and faith have given Minnesota her rich heritage and record of progress.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Orville L. Freeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Orville" being particularly prominent.

Orville L. Freeman

GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA

**MINNESOTA STATEHOOD
CENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

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CENTENNIAL PLANNING MANUAL

CONTENTS

ORGANIZATION OF CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES	Page
Basic Membership.....	1
Publicity	2
Fund Raising.....	2
COMMISSION STAFF ASSISTANCE	
Publicity	3
Field Work	3
Audio-visual Materials.....	3
Speakers' Bureau	4
Centennial Bulletin	4
Pageant Director and Industrial Director.....	4
Centennial Supplies	4
PROGRAM PLANNING	
PROJECTS FOR ANY ORGANIZED GROUP	5
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	5
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	7
COUNTY FAIR	8
PROJECTS FOR SPECIAL GROUPS	
Fine Arts	9
Theater	9
Music	10
Arts and Crafts.....	10
Photography	10
Writers	11
Professional	11
Religious	12
Youth	13
Farm	13
Civic.....	14
Women's	15
Nationality groups	15
Conservation	16
Military.....	16
Sports	16
Business-Industry-Labor	17
School.....	18

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MINNESOTA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

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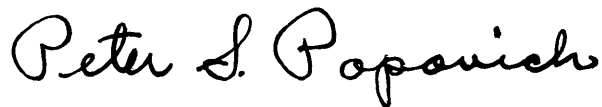
Mrs. Earl Preston
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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A CENTENNIAL

The occurrence of a centennial is a most important occasion from almost any standpoint, whether it be cultural, educational, governmental, or social. Properly observed, a centennial can be a tangible and vigorous expression of the hopes and philosophies of the sponsoring community, and can serve as a unifying influence for members of the community.

For the state of Minnesota, its 100th anniversary provides an excellent occasion to demonstrate the unity and community effort that have made the state great, and to renew our faith in the American, and the Minnesotan, way of life.

With the cooperation of every Minnesotan, both young and pioneer, Minnesota's centennial celebration in 1958 will achieve these goals and many more. We hope that everyone will begin now to make plans for this significant anniversary. Make 1958 the most outstanding year in the history of our state!

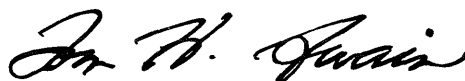


Representative Peter S. Popovich, Chairman
Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission

THE CENTENNIAL PLANNING MANUAL

Since January, 1956, extensive plans have been under way for a proper and fitting commemoration of Minnesota's centennial by statewide and county centennial committees and other organized groups throughout the state. To aid the thousands of Minnesotans who are participating in this planning, the Centennial Commission has prepared this planning manual containing organizational, program, and activity suggestions.

The commission hopes that all centennial programs will stress the educational, cultural, social and historical values which can result from an outstanding and dignified commemoration of the state of Minnesota's 100th anniversary. It is hoped, too, that all programs will carry out the themes of "Selling Minnesota to Minnesotans and to the rest of the nation," and "Paying tribute to the past and dedicating ourselves to the demanding future." If these goals are achieved, the centennial program will have a far-reaching and lasting benefit for the state and its people.



Thomas H. Swain, Executive Director
Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission

THE ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN FOR DEVELOPING A CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

In order to achieve a successful centennial, the greatest possible number of Minnesotans must participate in the planning and execution of the 1958 program. With this thought in mind, the Centennial Commission has developed its organizational program in a twofold manner.

Statehood centennial committees are being organized in Minnesota counties to plan commemoration programs on the local level. The general program plan of these county committees is to incorporate the centennial theme in county fairs, annual community celebrations, school participation, banquets and other festivities, honoring pioneers, writing histories of organizations and county governmental units, pageantry, expositions of county resources, and the building of historical museums. Special emphasis is being placed on the encouragement of participation in centennial events by youth groups.

In addition to the county committees, statewide committees encompassing all fields of activity are being organized to develop programs in these special areas which will benefit all citizens of the state. These committees are as follows:

Business-Industry-Labor is working to "sell Minnesota" and to introduce the "look ahead" approach into the thinking of business, industry, and labor. Emphasis will also be on opportunities for youth, the accomplishments of the past century, and the future potential for the state.

Committee on the Arts will sponsor activities in the fields of art, music, literature, and the theatre. Plans are to send art exhibits, symphony, choral, and other groups around the state with special centennial programs and exhibits.

Education - this committee will tell the story of the contributions made by educators to the development of better living in Minnesota; to develop centennial programs in the schools, colleges, and universities; to aid the county and local committees in school participation programs. Visual aids, pageants, brochures, convocations, yearbooks, and other media will be employed to tell the education story. A special project is the preparation and publication of a Resources Guide which will supplement the State Guide for Instruction in Social Studies in the study of Minnesota. *

Pageant and Community Celebration. The program here will be the sponsoring of centennial pageants for production in certain state parks, and for communities.

Peoples and Nationalities. A committee to tell the story of the nationality groups which have helped make Minnesota strong - the story of what each ethnic group contributed to Minnesota culture. Folk festivals will be sponsored. Century family certificates will be awarded to persons whose ancestry in Minnesota goes back 100 years.

* This Resources Guide will be available at cost through the Centennial Commission.

Health. This committee will inform Minnesotans about progress in the field of health during the past century, the advantages of living in Minnesota from a health standpoint, and the contributions made by Minnesotans in the fields of research and other health areas.

Libraries. Essentially a committee of professional librarians who will develop resource materials and develop special exhibits to promote the centennial.

Agriculture Committee will concentrate on telling the story of agriculture for the past 100 years; developing audio-visual materials to tell this story; coordinate planning with the Minnesota State Fair for 1958 and county fairs.

Government. A committee to inform Minnesotans and particularly the youth, about "government in action" in our state.

Religion. A committee to develop and coordinate a religious program for Statehood Day weekend in May, 1958 which will emphasize the part all religious groups have played in developing Minnesota.

Commemorative Stamp committee will obtain authorization for issuance of a commemorative stamp by Washington, D. C. and supervise selection of a design, publicity, and first-day issuance proceedings.

Women's Committee. A committee composed of outstanding Minnesota women who will undertake one or more major projects designed to contribute to better living in Minnesota. This group will also encourage a program of study in women's clubs on Minnesota history, and the part women have played in the development of the state.

Youth. A committee organized to stimulate and coordinate centennial activities of youth organizations; to point up opportunities for youth in Minnesota.

Promotion and Publicity. Organized to assist in promotion of major centennial events and programs, and to promote new, favorable attitudes toward Minnesota on a national and international basis.

Sports. The responsibility of the sports committee is to introduce the centennial theme in all sports events and contests in 1958, and encourage promotion of special centennial events for 1958. The committee will also invite national and international events to Minnesota for the centennial year.

Military personnel will tell the story of Minnesota's military history.

Trade associations and other groups also are being encouraged to participate in centennial planning, and many are organizing centennial committees within their organizations.

This manual has been prepared to serve all of these groups -- the county and statewide committees, and other volunteer groups who desire assistance in programming activities.

All local centennial committees are urged to coordinate their plans and activities with the statewide committees where practicable. The work of these statewide committees will often dovetail into the work of other planning groups, particularly the county statehood centennial committees, and for effective, over-all coordination of centennial planning, it is suggested that all committees notify the Centennial Commission of planned events for 1958 and the dates scheduled for them.

Suggestions for planning

MINNESOTA'S CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

The suggestions presented in this manual are general in nature, and not intended to be all-inclusive, "how-to-do-it" guides. The manual has been written primarily to serve as an "idea book" to stimulate local planning as well as to generate more ideas by individuals and groups.

In several cases, more specific suggestions on program plans can be obtained from the Centennial Commission office. Such items are marked with an asterisk ().*

*It should be noted that many projects presented require early and extensive planning, such as the preparing of a county history. These ideas are marked with a double asterisk (**), and here again, additional advice on carrying out these projects is available from the Centennial Commission.*

ORGANIZATION OF CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Basic Membership

Hundreds of centennial committees are being organized to develop commemoration programs. It is recommended that every committee, no matter how small or large, have certain basic features if it is to function effectively.

1. A cross section of interests should be represented on the committee if it is to be a large one. Cooperative thinking from all walks of life is essential in centennial planning.
2. The following officers should be chosen: president or chairman; vice presidents or vice chairmen; secretary; treasurer; publicity chairman.

In the case of a small committee, the officers listed above usually form the executive committee. In a large committee, it may be necessary to elect an additional group to serve as a board of directors which can make certain policy decisions, appear at important functions, and generally guide planning and assist the executive committee.

Sub-committees may also be feasible to represent special planning groups such as agriculture, pageants, publicity, religion, health, education, business, industry, labor, county fair, county historical society, etc. In many cases, the executive group of an already organized organization, such as the historical society or county fair board, may serve as a sub-committee.

As a rule, the board of directors governs the sub-committees. If the group is large enough, each director can govern one sub-committee. The size of sub-committees will vary according to the scope and objectives of the over-all committee.

Expenditures of funds. Committee which plan to expend substantial sums of money are advised to draw up a written agreement or by-laws which will delegate responsibilities in regard to the disbursement of such centennial funds.

Publicity

Every centennial committee should have a publicity representative who devotes time to contacting all publicity channels in order to get full coverage of important centennial activities during 1958. Listed below are a few ABC's for the publicity chairman:

1. Personally contact the following media to gain their cooperation in publicizing Minnesota and state and local centennial activities:
 - + All county newspapers.
 - + Local radio stations.
 - + Area TV stations.
 - + Locally published magazines.
 - + House organs and plant newspapers.
2. The publicity committee can sponsor, promote, and distribute the following:
 - + Centennial buttons or badges (good fund raising project).
 - + Direct mail brochures which have been prepared locally or by the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission.
 - + Window posters advertising centennial events and the promotion of Minnesota.
 - + Centennial souvenirs such as stickers, maps, pamphlets, centennial china plates.
3. Sell the idea of a special centennial edition to the local newspaper. Advise the editor of the desire to emphasize Minnesota's advantages and opportunities for youth.
4. Keep in touch with the publicity department of the Centennial Commission so that a mutual exchange of newsworthy items may be made.
5. Get in touch with writers, artists, and advertising personnel who can devote volunteer time to writing news releases, drawing posters, and helping with publicity contacts.
6. Disseminate news of your centennial committee to all interested media. At the same time, send a copy of all news releases and resulting clippings to the Centennial Commission so that centennial news can be properly coordinated, and so that community and group centennial news will become part of the permanent statehood centennial record.

Fund Raising

The promotion and execution of a centennial commemoration at the local level can be financed in several ways. Listed below are a few of the fund raising projects which have been proved successful.* For details, write directly to the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission.

**Local centennial celebrations held in Minnesota during the past few years have, almost without exception, been successfully financed and sufficient funds have often been left over to provide a donation to charity or for civic and industrial betterment. Additional information on these celebrations is available through the Centennial Commission office.*

1. Sale of centennial souvenirs

Souvenirs can be developed on a local level, such as a centennial plate, button, or badge. Many items will be developed for sale on a statewide basis. These can be secured either directly from the producing firm, or through the Centennial Commission office as soon as they are available. Write for additional information.

2. Concessions at community events.

3. Gate receipts at such events as horse shows, sports festivals, pageants, banquets.

4. Direct donations by local groups and organizations, and business firms.

5. "Indirect" contributions through the underwriting of centennial events which will pay their own way through gate receipts; donations of prize monies, publication of centennial literature promoting Minnesota, building of a centennial headquarters. Contributions of time by individuals also often makes financial success possible.

Certain centennial projects on a statewide basis undoubtedly will be financed by funds from the 1955 and the 1957 legislature. Information on state legislative appropriations will be included in the Statehood Centennial monthly bulletin.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM THE STAFF OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The staff of the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission offers the following aid to volunteer groups interested in promoting Minnesota's centennial:

Publicity

The commission staff will advise publicity chairmen and their committees on how to establish contact with publicity media, and how to maintain good public relations with other groups. The staff will also suggest possible publicity projects.

Field Work

The commission's field representative will assist local centennial planning groups with advice on such matters as pageants, county fair and other programs, and other local events with a centennial theme. He will visit each county statehood centennial committee chairman as often as possible, and keep in touch with them at all times through correspondence.

Audio-Visual Materials

Motion pictures and other audio-visual materials on Minnesota can be obtained for use at meetings, banquets, and schools by writing the Publicity and Promotion director of the commission.

Speakers' Bureau

A speakers' bureau is being set up on a statewide basis and information on availability of speakers will be obtainable by writing the commission office. It is suggested that county statehood centennial committees also maintain a speakers' bureau to serve its own area.

Centennial Bulletin

A centennial bulletin containing news and progress on all Minnesota Centennial activities is being mailed to several thousand Minnesotans each month. Through this bulletin, those working on centennial planning learn of the ideas of others, gain advice on how to plan projects, and keep in touch with the commission's over-all operation.

Important news, such as legislative decisions, actions by state and county committees, fund raising suggestions, and other ideas will be featured in these monthly bulletins.

Anyone who wishes to be on the mailing list is advised to write to the commission office.

Pageants

The commission plans to have a pageant director on its staff who will assist and advise those sponsoring both locally produced and statewide pageant productions.

Industrial Director

The commission plans to have on its staff an industrial representative who will help coordinate the programs and projects of industry throughout the state with the over-all centennial program.

CENTENNIAL SUPPLIES

Souvenirs

Centennial souvenirs, such as bumper stickers, chinaware, window cards, place mats, buttons, decals, envelopes, stationery, and calendars, etc., are currently being produced under private sponsorship. If a need arises for such souvenirs - for a banquet, for example -- please contact the Centennial Commission for information on where and how to obtain them. Many of these will also be available for sale by local centennial committees.

Centennial Emblem

Reproduction art on the centennial emblem is available from the promotion director of the Centennial Commission for use in publications, posters, letterheads, and centennial souvenirs.

Program Planning

PROJECTS FOR ANY ORGANIZED GROUP

Listed below are general suggestions for centennial projects suitable for most organized groups. Further suggestions on how to develop the following projects will be supplied by the Centennial Commission upon request.

1. Study programs based on Minnesota's development, and highlighting its many "firsts" in education, business, industry, health. It is suggested that such programs should stress opportunities for youth in Minnesota, and the opportunities in Minnesota for people (families) to "live like kings" on a moderate income. (Good housing, good food, access to recreational facilities, good water supply, outstanding vacationland, good schools, superior medical centers, etc.)
2. Style shows featuring changes in fashion (men, women, and children) during the past 100 years.
3. Skits and plays based on Minnesota, or local history.
4. Banquets to honor Minnesota leading citizens and community leaders who have made substantial contributions to the progress, welfare, and development of Minnesota.
5. Feature centennial speakers, films and other audio-visual materials at programs. The Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission can furnish information as to the availability of outstanding speakers who will travel to community meetings.
6. Collection and preservation of historical articles, including photographs, diaries, artifacts, furniture, Indian items.
7. Publication of organizations' history in its official newspaper or magazine.
8. Sponsor special radio and TV programs with Minnesota Centennial theme.

GENERAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1. Encourage community-wide letter writing to relatives and friends living outside of the state of Minnesota, inviting them to spend their 1958 vacation in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," and to share in the exciting centennial activities in their community and state.
2. Encourage store window exhibits and displays to boost Minnesota's centennial throughout 1958 -- such displays create and build interest in the centennial.

3. As a centennial project plan an all-community excursion in 1958 to famous historic sites, or to a part of Minnesota which holds current news interest, such as the Northern Minnesota taconite development, or attend a pageant such as Pipestone's "Song of Hiawatha" on a group tour.
4. Many Minnesota communities hold one or more annual celebrations. In 1958, these communities which hold local celebrations can incorporate the centennial theme into the entire program, especially parades. Local festivals provide an excellent opportunity to hit the centennial theme hard.

- a. Pageants, plays, tableaux based on "This is Minnesota" or Minnesota history, can climax the day's activities. Pageants usually can run beyond a one-day celebration. One example of subject matter might be the re-enactment of a local disaster.

Pageants can be professionally written and produced, or local talent can be employed. The Centennial Commission can be of specific assistance on this projects. Write for information such as the names of professional pageant producers and the financial phases of putting on a pageant.

- b. The county statehood centennial committee can sponsor or promote a special centennial float for the local parade (as can any group). "Minnesota of the Future" could be the float theme, or "Minnesota Today and Yesterday." Historic events can be dramatized in floats sponsored by business firms and community organizations.

Books and other information on parade float planning are available. Write the commission office for information on where to obtain these books.

- c. Encourage the wearing of pioneer costumes during your community's annual celebration day.

- d. Sponsor a food bazaar on your community's annual celebration day.

If your community does not stage an annual celebration, the year 1958 would be an opportune time to start one. Talk to your local Chamber of Commerce and community leaders.

5. Stage a sports festival - either tying this in with the annual day of celebration, or putting it on by itself as a special centennial project.

In connection with the sports festival, an Old Timers' baseball game could be a feature. Bring in a sports figure with a regional or national reputation to add prestige to the sports festival. Sponsor sports exhibitions and contests. Honor a local sports "great" - either a performer or a person who has devoted time toward building community interest in sports.

6. Almost every town and city has celebrities who have gone from their home town in Minnesota to fame. These people may be working in the field of journalism, on magazine staffs in metropolitan areas, be a movie star, stage star, radio or television personality, national or international

politicians, executives in the Motion Picture industry, executives in industry, or important in countless other fields. Use the centennial as an occasion for inviting these celebrities back, and give them special honors.

Given sufficient advance notice these dignitaries can assist in publicizing the fact that they are returning to their native state to help in her 100th statehood anniversary commemoration. If they are unable to come due to previous commitments, perhaps they can lend their names to help publicize the event in their home town on invitations, etc.

7. Honor the members of families of famous people.
8. Community barbecue -- pioneer style.
9. Burial ceremonies for a "time capsule" containing historical information and 1958 Statehood Centennial programs, a special centennial edition of the local newspaper if one is published, or the regular edition for the week or day.

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

County historical societies, where they are established, can promote many centennial activities which will be of benefit both to themselves and to the community.

If a county historical society does not exist in your area, the centennial year is a logical and ideal time to promote and establish one.

1. The local historical society can sponsor a series of programs on the county and state's history. These programs can be at both an adult and a children's level, and can be given in schools or at community meetings. The programs could also be tape-recorded and broadcast over the local radio station, if there is one. Programs can be lectures, plays, pageants, skits, photographic exhibits, films.
2. Special museum exhibits can be featured during the centennial year. Modern Minnesota as well as Pioneer Minnesota can be highlighted.
3. Special tours for adults and school children can be promoted -- to historic sites, to the Minnesota Historical Society, to the local society where one exists. Distribution of centennial literature, which will be developed by 1958, can be a feature of the tours. Through these tours, participants can gain broader knowledge of the state.
4. The society, as a centennial feature, could write or encourage the writing of biographical sketches of prominent county citizens, living or dead, for publication in the newspapers, and reference material in the society archives.
5. Plaques could be dedicated to persons who have made a substantial contribution to the community's or county's development, or to persons who have become nationally famous from the area.

6. During the centennial year, the society could honor those responsible for founding the local historical society and furthering its work.

THE COUNTY FAIR

The county fair is one of the best vehicles available for carrying out Minnesota's centennial program, for its basic goal in any year is to promote the county and state and to exhibit the accomplishments of its people. Centennial committees can work closely with county fair officials in putting on some of the following projects. A good county fair centennial program can serve as a climax to local centennial events in 1958, as will the Minnesota State Fair on a statewide basis.

1. A "centennial day" at the county fair featuring a historical parade or a pageant highlighting important historical events and outstanding accomplishments of the county.
2. Develop a "centennial theme center" on the fairgrounds where the county statehood centennial committee can headquarter and carry out such activities as registering pioneers, tape recording interviews with pioneers, and passing out centennial literature.

Special radio programs or TV telecasts could emanate from this centennial center and feature special programs set up by local centennial committees in cooperation with county fair officials.

3. Set up special food bazaars featuring famous regional and Minnesota culinary dishes. This could be a project for a women's organization, a church, or a service club. This is a good money raising project.
4. Grandstand program should be developed. This could be a pageant, a special presentation of pioneers, a festival or musical show featuring Minnesota songs, dances, and historical highlights.

The grandstand program could also be a "repeat" of one held 50 or 75 years ago. Newspaper accounts of county fair grandstand programs held many years ago are often quite detailed, and would provide a good base for planning a re-staging of a program. Local talent could be used, or professional talent brought in.

5. A square dance program and "pioneer sing fest" could be a daily feature at the county fair. These could be costume affairs featuring either nationality costumes or pioneer dress. The dance program could also feature dances from one hundred years ago to the modern day -- for examples, demonstrations of the waltz, Charleston, Turkey Trot, Bunny Hug, Big Apple, Lindy, the Virginia reel, and square dances.
6. Stage a centennial picnic on the fair grounds. At the picnic, play pioneer games and hold sports contests, modern or pioneer. At the picnic, feature an Old Timers' baseball game.

7. Farm organizations can sponsor special exhibits depicting the history of agriculture in their area and in the state. This can include such things as an exhibit of pioneer farm tools; the setting up of a pioneer kitchen, living room, or country store. Demonstrate farming methods, such as threshing, as compared with 1958.
- * 8. Conservation demonstrations could be part of the special centennial features at the county fair. These can be cooperatively sponsored by farm organizations, the Department of Conservation, county fair officials.
9. School exhibits should feature the centennial theme. Play up opportunities for youth in Minnesota in the fields of agriculture, conservation, forestry.
10. Revive interest in fair exhibits and competition in such fields as canning, weaving, crocheting, rug making, and other crafts.
- ** 11. Award ribbons can carry a special centennial imprint. (These will be cherished in the years to come.)
12. Set aside one day of the fair as "Homecoming Day" and plan a special program for all who return to their community for the special day. Issue special invitations to those who have achieved prominence in the state, region, or nation.
13. Encourage business-industry-labor groups to cooperate in building a special exhibit at the fair which will depict commercial and industrial progress in the area.
- * 14. Utilize the official Minnesota Centennial emblem in decorations, exhibits, displays, placards. Write the commission office for reproduction art. Address inquiries to the publicity and promotion director.
15. Industrial exposition featuring local industry.

PROJECTS FOR SPECIAL GROUPS

FINE ARTS

THEATER

1. Amateur playhouse groups could stage an original play based on history of their area, or Minnesota history.

Example: "Rifle, Axe and Plow" was played by University of Minnesota thespians during the 1949 Territorial Centennial.

Special matinees could be held for school groups.

2. Establish a "little theater" group if none exists, using the centennial as the incentive.
3. Sponsor pageant and playwriting script contests.

MUSIC

1. Sponsor a music festival featuring local talent, and perhaps other Minnesota talent from outside the community. This music festival could depict Minnesota history through music, or the music of the past 100 years. Community, college, high school, and church music groups could combine their talents for this festival.

Suggestion: The "100 Years of Music" festival could be divided into eras, and various groups assigned one part to perform - "Pioneer," "Jazz Age," "Modern," for example. Dance numbers could be included as well as instrumental and vocal selections, bands, orchestras, glee clubs.

- * Examples of special Minnesota music: "Minnesota Centennial Song - "My Minnesota Home," "By the Waters of Minnetonka," "Minnesota Rouser," "Minnesota Polka."
2. Revive an old-fashioned "cornet band" to perform during centennial year at civic and centennial functions.
 3. Sponsor a search for phonograph records and equipment of historical significance (an old cylindrical type phonograph, for example).

ARTS AND CRAFTS

1. Set up special arts and crafts exhibits (painting, carvings, handiwork, needlework) by Minnesota and local artists. These could be displayed in the lobby of a bank, in a civic auditorium along with an annual event, or in other public buildings. Work should be based on community or county or statehood theme.
2. Local groups or business firms could sponsor an art contest among school children, and the results could be exhibited in stores, banks, etc. This could include paintings, sculpture, and other handicrafts.

Work could depict such things as "Indian life in Pipestone area 100 years ago," "the Hinckley Fire," "Du Luth landing at the Mille Lacs lake area," "Building of Fort Snelling."

Modern Minnesota scenes could also be pictured in paintings.

3. Tours could be organized to metropolitan art museums, which will be holding special exhibits during the centennial year.

PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Photography clubs could concentrate on "Minnesota scenery," "Minnesota Historic Sites," and other Minnesota feature topics during the centennial year. Results could be displayed in a special exhibit. Statewide contests could be sponsored.
2. Photography clubs could sponsor an "attic hunt" to find pictures for their local historical society, or if there is no society, for the local newspaper,

Fine Arts

with the thought that the pictures of important historical significance could be made part of a historical society's collection if and when established. The newspapers perhaps would wish to print such pictures.

3. Photography clubs, in cooperation with historical societies where they exist, could sponsor a centennial photographic exhibit featuring both historic and modern pictures.
4. Photographers could document historic sites, perhaps on an assignment basis through a photography club or the local historical society. Prints could be furnished both the local and state historical societies for their historic picture files.

WRITERS

1. Writers and writers' organizations can contribute original skits, plays, pageants, tableaux, radio, and TV scripts. They can take responsibility for writing local history, and for writing promotional literature on the centennial.
- * 2. Writers and writers' organizations can serve the county statehood centennial committee by helping with publicity problems and serving in a liaison capacity between the committee and the local newspapers, radio, and TV stations.

Note: Examples of contributions by writers and writers' organizations to recent Minnesota community centennials are available by writing the Centennial Commission. (Pageant scripts, for example.)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

County and local professional organizations such as medical, dental, and legal associations can play a strong part in making Minnesota's Centennial a success. They can contribute in many ways; for example, distributing specific items which will further acquaint others with the role they play in our society such as booklets for supplementary school use. Research scholarships could be set up.

1. Professional organizations can sponsor special displays of equipment which will show progress during the past century. Explanatory literature can accompany such displays.
2. Publication of the county or local organization's history can be made a centennial project. These histories can be submitted for publication to the local newspaper or to professional magazines; they can be read at meetings, and made part of the association's archives.
3. Professional groups, such as the county medical association, can honor distinguished associates of the past and present who have made substantial contributions to their profession and to the development of their home area, their state, or the nation.

Professional Organizations

4. Organizations in the field of health can support the promotion of Minnesota as a healthful state in which to live; through their literature, the "health advantages" of Minnesotans can be emphasized. Examples: Invigorating climate; access to the world's most famous medical research center, the Mayo Clinic.
5. Establish memorials in honor of eminent person within the organization - the memorial can be in the form of money for research, lectures, a plaque, a building fund, scholarship to a student.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Statehood Day in Minnesota falls on May 11, 1958. The fact that this is a weekend date provides Minnesota's religious organizations with an excellent opportunity to combine commemoration services with the regular worship service. In a special commemorative service, the program can be built around the part religion has played in giving strength to its people and the development of the state. (A statewide committee on religion will coordinate the Statehood Day religious programs throughout the state.) Special projects aside from a religious service, might include the following:

1. Writing and publication of the institution's history through an official denomination publication.
2. Special awards or citations to pioneer families in the congregation (oldest in years attended, etc.)
3. Programs featuring dramatizations based on the life of the denomination's early leaders.
4. Special outdoor worship services in the style common to the pioneers - "under the oak trees," "on the river banks," etc.
5. Collection and preservation of historical articles used in worship services - a chalice, a Bible, a hymnal. A church museum could be established, however small.
6. Devote one religious worship program to the history of the denomination in Minnesota; contributions to pioneer living by missionaries, itinerant ministers, etc.
7. At mid-week services, utilize centennial speakers.
8. Sponsor religious radio, TV programs.
9. Work for national coverage of the religious aspect of Minnesota's centennial in denominational publications or non-denominational religious publications.

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

(4H clubs, FFA, FHA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, etc.)

1. Tours to historic Minnesota sites.

Write the Minnesota Historical Society or the Tourist Bureau of the State Department of Business Development for additional information on historic sites, or check with local Historical Society.

2. Collections of pioneer articles and pictures. For example, a treasure hunt for the oldest penny in town, or an attic treasure hunt for historical materials. The results of these treasure hunts could be displayed locally, and then turned over to the local historical society collection.
3. Youth organizations can invite older members of the community to visit their group and talk about the early days of the community.
4. Plan a special centennial year project such as the refurbishing of the local cemetery or some historic site which has been neglected. Start a centennial flower garden project, or the planting of trees. The project should be designed to improve the community and contribute to "better living."
5. Plan a "Minnesota Birthday Party" and feature pioneer games, dances, songs, sports. For example, an old-fashioned corn husking bee.
6. Make scrapbooks and picture postcard collections of Minnesota scenes for the club archives.
- * 7. Arrange to show Minnesota films at meetings. For information on films, write the Centennial Commission.
8. Study and perform for the public the national dances, customs, and crafts brought by our forefathers, and which have now become part of Minnesota living.
9. Incorporate the centennial theme into arts and handicraft projects (paintings, weaving, sculpturing).
10. Write original plays and skits which will dramatize local or state historical events. Perform at club meetings and at civic affairs.
11. Incorporate the centennial theme in all public displays and exhibits.

FARM ORGANIZATIONS

1. Study Minnesota history in organization programs.
2. Publish centennial cookbook featuring prized recipes of community.
3. Sponsor publication of group's history in local paper or through official organization newspaper or magazine. Strive for national coverage of planned events of 1958.

Farm Organizations

4. Give a centennial slant to special farm programs which are regularly scheduled affairs, such as conservation demonstrations, equipment demonstrations, field days, forestry days.
5. Farm groups can take on the job of collecting old farm machinery and articles used in pioneer farm homes. Such collections can be part of a county fair exhibit, and can be a gift to the local Historical Society, if one is functioning.

Examples: Restoration of threshing rigs, hand-threshing tools, pioneer kitchen utensils, buggies, butter churns.

6. Participation in county fairs through special centennial exhibits.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Lodges, service clubs, fraternal organizations, orders, Study groups, special interest organizations.

1. Sponsor essay or oratorical contests for school children on Minnesota and local history.
- ** 2. Encourage and promote publication of history of town, county, or group. (Through local Historical Society).
- ** Note: Several counties and communities have successfully completed publication of their history. For further information on how to go about this, please write the Centennial Commission.
3. In cooperation with the local Historical Society, or perhaps a school or organization, a youth organization, or another group, encourage and participate in the restoration of a historic site, a pioneer cemetery, or a historic building such as a "little red schoolhouse."
4. Sponsor a "special award" banquet to honor leading citizens of the community and early settlers. These banquets can take the place of, or be in addition to, such annual affairs as "woman of the year," "young man of the year." This program could be broadcast or telecast. One successful method for selecting a group to be honored is to give an award to all citizens who have paid taxes continuously for 50 years or more.
5. Launch a program for city beautification or other civic improvement projects.
- * 6. Incorporate into the year's program the promotion of Minnesota through direct mail literature, special invitations to friends outside of Minnesota to come to Minnesota in 1958.

Promote Minnesota's advantages, attributes, and specialties in any way possible. For information on this, write the Centennial Commission.

7. Join with other groups in issuing a proclamation declaring "Centennial Days" in Minnesota. This proclamation can be issued from the mayor's office, or from a county office.

Civic Organizations

8. Devote at least one regular program date to the study of Minnesota history and development.
9. Incorporate into programs the review of books by Minnesota authors.
10. Honor past club officers during the centennial year.
11. Organize tours to important historic sites in Minnesota during the centennial year.
12. Strive for national coverage on your group's 1958 events in the club magazine or newspaper.
13. Sponsor the printing of special brochures for distribution to tourists visiting local attractions. Cooperate with other organizations and agencies such as the Chamber of Commerce on such a project.
14. Lend financial support to county and community centennial events wherever possible, and contribute to memorial or scholarship projects.
15. Feature centennial speakers from either your local centennial speakers' bureau, or a statewide speakers' bureau.
16. Feature centennial motion picture films, or slides, on the program.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

See above suggestions, and also the following additional suggestions may be helpful.

1. Style shows with a centennial theme.
2. Publish a centennial cookbook featuring community prized recipes.
- * 3. Hobby clubs, such as garden groups, might use the centennial theme in annual (or any) flower shows. 1957 planning essential.
4. Banquets honoring outstanding women in organization, or outstanding Minnesota women outside of the organization.
5. Encourage husbands and children to participate in over-all centennial activities.
6. Sponsor within own group, or on a community basis, exhibits of pioneer or antique articles -- for example, an "antique tea" is an effective event. This could be held in a home of historic importance to the community.
7. Support all community centennial programs, the county fair, community celebrations and events.

ORGANIZED NATIONALITY GROUPS

1. Incorporate the Centennial theme into nationality Festivals.

Organized Nationality Groups

2. Write histories of the contributions made by the nationality group to the development and welfare of Minnesota; also, the history of the original migration to Minnesota.
3. Sponsor food bazaars in connection with county fair, and other community events.
4. Organize an entertainment unit - such as a folk dancing group -- which could travel to various Minnesota communities during the centennial year. (If a group already exists, make it available for centennial events).
5. If a folk festival is not an annual affair in your community, hold one in 1958 and start an annual tradition.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

1. Through publications, radio, and TV programs, tell the story of how Minnesota's resources are being conserved. Cover history of past century.
2. Conservation demonstrations, such as Plowville.
3. Make films on conservation available to other groups.
4. State Fair exhibit with centennial theme.
5. Tree planting ceremonies. Promotion of tree planting ceremonies by other groups.
6. Anti-litterbug campaigns.
7. Educational promotion on need for conservation.

MILITARY

1. Establish military museums through collection of equipment and souvenirs from Civil War through Korean conflict, and military photographs.
2. Participation in parades and civic events by military units.
3. Honor war survivors of important wars and battles, through banquets, or special certificates.
4. Write and publish the story of the part played in defense of Minnesota and the nation by specific military groups.
5. Establish memorials in local armories.

SPORTS

1. Incorporate centennial theme in annual tournaments, contests, exhibitions, model airplane meets.

Sports

2. Honor local sports "greats".
3. Invite special sports events to city.
4. Water ballets with centennial theme, probably in connection with an annual festival.
5. Boat races.
6. Lake pageants.
7. Horse show.
8. City Recreation Week, with special activities planned for supervised playgrounds.
9. Plan sports events which will attract state and national attention.
10. Centennial programs at half-time at football games or other sports events.
11. Publication of history of local sports groups -- basketball teams, football teams.
12. Establish a local or state "Hall of Fame" on the order of the national baseball Hall of Fame, to honor Minnesota's sports "greats".

BUSINESS INDUSTRY LABOR

1. Set the centennial year aside as the year to concentrate on contributions to the improvement of the community such as, welcome signs, city beautification, facilities for city parks, drinking fountains, recreational facilities.
2. Take responsibility for supplying the Minnesota state flag, the seal, and other official insignia or supplies needed for centennial events.
3. Use the centennial as a vehicle for establishing memorials, scholarship and building funds, special funds for special projects which will benefit the community.
- ** 4. Cooperate with other groups to see to it that photographs and motion picture films are made of important centennial events during 1958, so that a permanent record will be secured of these events, and a film will be available for future showing.
- ** 5. Make motion pictures of special industries in town to show progress and development, and institutional films to record city and county developments.

**Business
Industry
Labor**

6. Publish and distribute a brochure or booklet highlighting the tourist attractions, industrial accomplishments, historic sites, or a brief history of the community or county for general distribution.
7. Hold open house for organized tourist tours, school tours, community tours - business firms, industry.
8. Individual companies could sponsor exhibits showing technological advances in their business or industry during the past 100 years, and the contributions of both management and labor.

Examples - compare a modern supermarket with a pioneer grocery store; a modern bank with a Territorial bank; a factory of 1860 with one of today; a modern drug store with an early model.

9. Business, industry, and labor can sponsor the writing of their own history for 1958. This need not be an elaborate history, but a readable one showing progress over the years. When published -- mimeographed, printed, filmed -- it could be printed and distributed not only to employees, but others outside the company. (Publication should be in a house organ or plant newspaper if possible).
- * The Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission can furnish specific advice on how to prepare a history. Write for additional information, and an outline form for gathering facts.
- * 10. Notify local company house organs and plant newspapers that news releases will be disseminated from the Centennial Commission office in St. Paul to cover major centennial events throughout 1958, and encourage the editors to make use of this news service. Contact the Commission's Publicity and Promotion director.
11. Encourage all organizations to use the new Minnesota flag in meeting rooms, auditoriums, and public places.
12. Incorporate Minnesota's Centennial into local, regional, and national advertising.
13. Develop special products for centennial whenever appropriate.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

"Opportunities for Minnesota youth" is one of the Minnesota Centennial's major themes. It is therefore suggested that school projects be based on this theme, especially in such events as contests, assembly programs, homecoming, and extra-curricular projects.

The following are only a few of the possible project ideas for schools during the Centennial school year.

School Participation

1. Production of plays based on Minnesota history, the future of Minnesota, opportunities for youth in Minnesota, and other topics.
2. Special assembly programs featuring such things as:
 - * Movies on Minnesota.
 - Dramatizations highlighting local or state history.
 - Special guest speakers such as famous Minnesota writers, artists, politicians, business leaders, or pioneers from the community who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare of their city and state.
 - Song fests in assembly featuring Minnesota music.
 - Special "Statehood Day" program in May 1958.
3. Commencement exercises can use the centennial theme in music, speeches, decorations.
4. "Centennial Education Day" could be a special 1958 event, and on this day, the school children could put on a parade, hold special exercises in the school to highlight the progress of education in Minnesota during the past 100 years.
5. Build a "pioneer room" exhibition in the school building (or community building). Set aside space where model displays can be built, and have the whole school participate in furnishing the rooms in authentic appointments.
6. School sports festivals in which students participate in types of sports which are distinctive to a community or nationality.
7. Tree planting ceremonies, based on the centennial theme of "building Minnesota," "Keep Minnesota Green," or "Conserving Minnesota's wealth." Remind students that similar tree planting ceremonies in the past are responsible for some of Minnesota's beauty today.
8. Tableaux highlighting development of a city, county, or the state of Minnesota.
9. Poster contests and exhibits featuring "Minnesota Firsts" (first in iron ore production); "Minnesota Attributes" (recreational facilities); "Minnesota Tomorrow" (growth of the taconite industry); or some singular phase of history such as the flight of Charles Lindbergh, the Schoolcraft expedition up the Mississippi River, the signing of Indian treaties, etc.
10. Treasure hunts to discover pioneer relics and mementoes. Display the results of the hunt at a "Centennial Open House" at the school. Photos, pioneer furniture and tools, and pioneer clothing can be part of the display.
11. Learn and sing (in school programs) the French-Canadian folk songs of the early voyageurs; songs of the three great American wars; Irish, Scotch, Welsh, German and other nationality songs brought to Minnesota by immigrants who settled here.

School Participation

12. Art and handicraft exhibits with a centennial theme. (Painting, weaving, sculpture, Indian-style beadwork).
13. "Centennial Week" could be designated in the schools during the week of Statehood Day, May 11, 1958.
14. Educational exhibit prepared by school children depicting progress of education - methods of teaching, school facilities, changes in educational methods. The exhibit could also be built on the theme, "Minnesota Schools of Tomorrow."
15. Schools, through the Home Economics department, or with the help of parents, could hold a food bazaar which would feature culinary dishes unique to Minnesota or the Upper Midwest.
16. Schools, during the centennial year, can sponsor special parade units which incorporate the "Minnesota" or centennial theme in some way.
17. Treasure hunt for old coins. See who can find the oldest penny, nickel, etc. Set up a prize system.
18. Establish a "Hall of Fame" in the school where photographs of outstanding graduates could be attractively displayed along with editorial copy containing the story of the person so honored. This Hall of Fame could include sports "greats," famous authors, political leaders, etc.
19. The Centennial can be used as a natural vehicle for building the prestige of local leaders and pioneers of the community among the school children. Many community leaders have made outstanding contributions to the community and state, but far too often, school children are not aware of these contributions. During the centennial, these leaders can be asked to speak to the school children about their specialty, their experiences, and their plans.

For example, the community may have an outstanding doctor, aviator. law enforcement officer, engineer, or leader in another field who would be well qualified to talk to the schools and tell them about their experiences.

Children like to have an "idol," and will be interested in hearing these experiences if the program is properly planned. Perhaps the speaker could talk about the history of the community and simultaneously give the children an opportunity to meet him and ask questions about his specialty.

Through careful planning, many community leaders could be honored, and the children, at the same time, could be better informed young citizens.

20. Incorporate the centennial theme in yearbooks and special editions of other school publications. This can be done by telling the history of the school, community, or state; through special art work, and through cover design.