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**The Nation's Bicentennial**

I was a member of the Crawford County Bicentennial Committee to help each town prepare for the observance of the day. We each wrote a short history of our Community and placed in one book with some pictures from the past. I wrote a history which contained 158 pages of events, people, etc, of our home town, "**Looking Back At Dyer**" and this sold which added $900 to funds to purchase Old Post Office to be used for the Dora Moss Library.

A year before 1976 we raised the Bicentennial flag which had been presented at the County flag raising to our Mayor Ernest Cottrell.

**Our Flag Ceremony Consisted Of This:**

 Patriotic Number Local School Band

 Introduction Mayor Ernest Cottrell

 Invocation Rev. Irl Scott Lancaster

 Group singing of **Arkansas** Led by Verna Cottrell

 Raising of the Flag Whitlock and Stephens

 ***(While the Band played Star Spangled Banner)***

 Song, "I Pledge Allegiance" Cindy Kelly

 Skit The Four-H

 Patriotic Song Band

***[Editor's note: Following are words to the Arkansas State Song as found at this web site:***

**http://www.50states.com/songs/arkansas.htm#.VUu\_gmdFDTE**

*Arkansas
(You Run Deep in Me)*
**Written by Wayland Holyfield**

October morning in the Ozark Mountains,
Hills ablazing like that sun in the sky.
I fell in love there and the fire's still burning
A flame that never will die.

Chorus

Oh, I may wander, but when I do
I will never be far from you.
You're in my blood and I know you'll always be.
Arkansas, you run deep in me.

Moonlight dancing on a delta levee,
To a band of frogs and whippoorwill
I lost my heart there one July evening
And it's still there, I can tell.

Repeat Chorus

Magnolia blooming, Mama smiling,
Mallards sailing on a December wind.
God bless the memories I keep recalling
Like an old familiar friend.

Repeat Chorus

And there's a river rambling through the fields and valleys,
Smooth and steady as she makes her way south,
A lot like the people whose name she carries.
She goes strong and she goes proud.

Repeat Chorus

Adopted by the 1987 General Assembly as an Official State Song.

***[End.]***

**Dyer Observance Of Bicentennial**

The day started off with an old fashioned parade down the main part of town. There was a band, horses, horse drawn wagons filled with women dressed in clothes depicting the period, holding umbrellas, and men also dressed in period clothing. There were clowns dancing along as the parade passed. The streets were looking dressed up too as Virginia Rhodes as Chairman had decorated them with hanging baskets of flowers. The street was lined with women and girls dressed with high collared dresses, long sleeves, bustles, bonnets, and some carrying parasols.

The parade was typical of the early 1900s with surreys, a model "T," and children riding tricycles and bicycles and pushing doll buggies.

After the parade Charlie Moss ***[aka Charles George Moss, the brother of Alma Lorena Moss Lancaster]***, a home town boy, now retired, unveiled the plaque telling that Dyer was occupied in 1838.

Visiting, renewing old acquaintances, and hearing, "I can hardly believe it is you," so many memories were recalled during the day.

Sandwiches and drinks were served under a brush arbor on the old school grounds at the lunch hour. Displays were set up to show off heirlooms and keepsakes. Thomas Irl Lancaster, a photographer from San Diego, California, made many pictures which have been placed in albums and stored in the Dora Moss Library.

Each Church was responsible for it observance of the day on Sunday following. A history of each Church was written into a small book form and handed out to the congregation.

Another highlight of the day was the burying of a "TIME CAPSULE" which contained several various things which will be opened at the Sesquicentennial of Arkansas, 1986, and another one buried. Virginia Rhodes said, "We won't be here if it is buried 100 years, and we can't see what the Capsule contains" so the 10 year opening. A great day and looking forward to when Dyer celebrates its 100th birthday.

The Dyer Bicentennial Committee "Owes so much to so many" for making our observance such a success. It is impossible to say "**Thank You**" to each of you personally so we want to say thank you collectively. So to each of you who worked on the Parade, the Exhibits, Program, placing the Corner Stone on the Library Building, the Gym decorations, burying of the Time Capsule, the Shettleworth's string band that entertained us with music, making of photographs of people and events that will recall this day in memory, preparing of sandwiches and drinks that kept us going until we could reach home, "WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS."

 The Committee: Mayor Ernest Cottrell

 Lorena Moss Lancaster

 Irene Morse Hurd

 Mary Lou Thomas Kelly

 Virginia Kamm Rhodes

 Wanda Hurd Aldridge

 Lois Chitwood Williams

 Martha Bowlin Chitwood

**There were two results of the Bicentennial Celebration in Dyer:**

1. We purchased the old Post Office building to become the home of the Dora Moss Library, and the building was all paid before the year was out.

2. We began an organization which has become County wide. The Genealogical Society which met with ten charter members at the Dora Moss Library until April 1979 when we voted to become a County organization.

A former resident, Dyer Bennett and his wife of Brea, California, were named as the Bicentennial man and woman of the year. Dyer Bennett is the son of Marcet and Susie Dyer Bennett, the grandson of Mack Joel Dyer and the great-grandson of Joel Dyer who came to Dyer in about 1847 and ran the old stage coach station here.

**Happenings Since We Celebrated The Bicentennial**

Bought the Post Office building for the Library. Irl Scott Lancaster built shelves around the walls for books. Later we needed more shelves and Jewell Chitwood built two double rows of shelves in the center of the Library. The Town Council when Earnest Cottrell was Mayor put up a new ceiling in Library and repaired the roof.

Carpet was laid on floor of Library by Virgil Kamm, Frankie Rhodes, and John Moore.

In 1983 Yvonne Nelson Darling began repair on the front porch of the Barber shop which had been Monroe Nelson's, her father, so I quickly asked that the library part of the porch be included in this project. Leslie Morse did the paint job on front of buildings. John Carol Lancaster ***[Alma Lorena Moss Lancaster's youngest son]*** painted the inside of windows and door.

City Hall had a face lift by painting the inside of rooms. A fence enclosure built at back of City Hall for the equipment with a shed and store room for small tools.

In 1983 a new Mayor was elected: Fayette Peevy. George Weese has been the town treasurer for many years.