

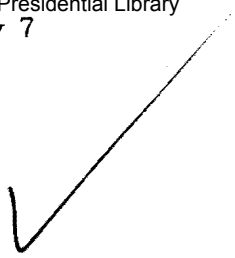
**The original documents are located in Box 70, folder “Mecklenberg Declaration of Independence” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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May 7

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Russ --

Re: Mechlenberg Declaration

It was signed May 20, 1775. There is NO original document, only a copy of what is thought to be the original document. There is only one historian in North Carolina who recognizes the Declaration and he is not the leading historian in North Carolina.

The President is presently scheduled to be in Charlotte, N. Carolina on May 20th. This decision was obviously just made in the last few days for the President to do the event.

Thankx.

donna

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



R - See

Centerfold  
Calendar

Mecklen  
burg?  
?

APR 28 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 28, 1975

M

MEMORANDUM TO: PAUL THEIS

FROM: TERESA RHODES

RE: MECKLENBERG, N.C. EVENT

In doing some research on the Mecklenberg Declaration this morning, I have discovered that there is only one professional historian in North Carolina who will stand behind the existence of the Declaration. All the big names in history in N.C. do not believe that the Declaration ever existed. The gentleman I spoke with who was an assistant professor of North Carolina history, said he thought it would be terribly embarrassing for the President to take part in an event celebrating the Mecklenberg Declaration. I believe it would be wise to call the Director of Archives of North Carolina and discuss this matter before anything is done in which the press could really blast us and in which the President would be embarrassed. He will need Southern support in 1976.

The Director of Archives in N.C. is: Robert E. Stite  
919-829-3952

CC. Casserly  
Waldron  
Cavaney  
Rustand  
Marsh

# Bicentennial Times



American Revolution Bicentennial Administration 2401 E St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20276

Vol. 2 May 1975

## Communities Program Reaches 3500

### Purposeful Aims Seen In Activity

America's Bicentennial is alive and flourishing.

An unprecedented surge of interest and activity is being recorded at all levels — local, state, regional, national and international.

ARBA's Bicentennial Communities Program now encompasses more than 3500 recognized communities, more than 400 of them recognized during the month of April alone. ARBA's goal of 5000 is expected to be surpassed by the end of Fiscal Year 1976. The Master Calendar of Events now includes more than 10,000 projects and events.

The Bicentennial Colleges and Universities program, similar to the communities program and launched only toward the end of 1974, has drawn the participation of more than 90 colleges

Continued on Page 6

### Will The Candles Be Blown Out Too Soon?



J. Welles Henderson, prominent Philadelphia lawyer and former United States Commissioner General for the ARBA-approved International Exposition on the Environment (Expo '74) held in Spokane,

Washington, last year has responded to the invitation issued in the April issue of THE TIMES to public figures desiring to comment on the purposes and the objectives of the Bicentennial. Mr. Henderson is senior partner in the law firm of Rawle & Henderson, the oldest law firm in the United States, founded in 1783. His comments follow.

*Is the Bicentennial of America to be just a nostalgic birthday party?*

*Thoughtful Americans seem generally to agree that the commemoration should be much more than that — an*

*opportunity to evaluate the present and project and mold the future.*

*While Americans have much to be proud of in the past, they have much to question in the present.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "The true test of civilization is, not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops — no, but the kind of man the country turns out."*

*The Bicentennial is a propitious occasion to re-examine, to reassess, to renew and rededicate. Problems there are, serious and far-ranging: the bleak economic picture, the disarray in foreign affairs, the erosion of family life, the expansion of violence, and a declining respect for the institutions of government, to name only a few. They are, however, problems that can and should be resolved if we as a nation apply ourselves with the forthrightness, the fortitude, and the foresight of the founders of this nation.*

*Let us, then, collectively and as individuals, take a courageous look at ourselves and at those among us who legislate, who judge, who administer, who communicate and educate. And let us frankly examine how we all compare with the character and the expectations of our founding fathers.*

*All is not bad.*

*All is not lost.*

*Ours is a great country in many ways. Our people have boundless human spirit and a resilience that can, if properly motivated, serve to restore a basic American spirituality vital to the future stability and progress of the Nation.*

*Stop. Look.*

*Don't blow out the birthday candles too soon.*

*Use them to light the way to the future.*

### American Studies Program Expands

The State Department's Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Program has become a focal point for the implementation of Bicentennial programs abroad.

In cooperation with the United States Information Agency and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Department has launched an effort to further stimulate American studies overseas. The effort stems from increasing foreign awareness of the Bicentennial and the opportunity it offers for initiating or enlarging such studies in universities and professional research institutions.

Particular attention is being paid to the possibility of increasing the number of chairs and degree programs in American studies in foreign universities. Also under way is a drive to stimulate special research projects by government and private institutions and the formation of library collections.

In addition, the Department has organized a series of international conferences on American studies, five of them regional in scope. The first, organized for the European region, was held April 19 through April 23 in Salzburg. Others are scheduled as follows: Tokyo for East Asia and the Pacific, September 4 through 7; Tehran for North Africa, September 14 through 17; San Antonio for the Western Hemisphere, November 4 through 10, all of which will be held in 1975; and Lagos for black Africa in April of 1976.

A sixth conference of world-wide character will be held in Washington in 1976.

### Nationwide Forum Shapes Up On America's "Now" Issues

The following is the first in a series of in-depth reports on the American Issues Forum, considered one of the most significant projects of the Bicentennial. The second article in the June issue of the TIMES will deal with the implementation of the project.

\* \* \*

A nation-wide forum is shaping up, to continue through the nine central months of the Bicentennial Era — a debate in which all Americans, of every origin, will have the opportunity to discuss issues which are truly fundamental to this nation and its future.

This Bicentennial program is the American Issues Forum, originally suggested by Walter Cronkite, television commentator. It calls for the consideration of nine central issues, divided into 36 sub-topics, which will be addressed, discussed, debated, and probed in the nine months from September 1975 through May 1976. It is hoped that every sort of media, public and private format and agency, will participate: newspapers and magazines, commercial and public television, schools, labor unions, churches, service clubs, foundations, every possible avenue of communication.

The National Endowment for the Humanities surveyed representative national groups to ascertain their interest in the project. It also consulted a small group of distinguished scholars to discover their judgment of the project's feasibility. They met with enthusiastic support. All systems were "go". A National Planning Group proceeded to identify issues and topics of enduring importance.

"Through the American Issues Forum we shall be looking at America, asking what is America, how did it come to be what it is and what are the problems that disturb each one of us Americans today," says a prospectus. In essence, the nine major topics will consider what has happened down through the years with America's traditions and legacy, and what should be done with these traditions and that legacy in the future.

The topics thus would not be brand new. Rather they will be subjects which have been pondered since the days of the Thirteen Colonies, topics such as "what has kept Americans together through wars, recessions, deep differences?" What were the early "founding Americans" like? How did an "American character" somehow emerge from our tangled roots of origin?

Plans for the Forum were first announced in early May of 1974 by Ronald Berman, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by

Continued on Page 6

*To see it in our power to make a world happy — to teach mankind the art of being so — to exhibit, on the theater of the universe, a character hitherto unknown — and to have, as it were, a new creation entrusted to our hands, are honors that command reflection and can neither be too highly estimated nor too greatly received.*

— Thomas Paine

### Citizens Get School Prod On Future

North High School in Fargo, N.D. has launched a Bicentennial program to increase community awareness of the problems and potential of America's Third Century.

Courses for the entire community of Fargo are beginning in the North Dakota city this month.

The action resulted from a three-day symposium conducted at the school in March. During the period, regular classes were suspended and replaced by courses dealing in such aspects of the future as city planning, transportation, television, electronic music, architecture, space technology, man and the ocean, parapsychology, the environment, computers, education, hunger and law enforcement.

Students were required to take a minimum of 12 hours of classes and members of the community were invited to participate in both daytime and special evening classes.

Purpose of the project is to stimulate creative thought about the future by presenting information and ideas relating to the problems and potential of coming decades. The expectation is that as a result of increased awareness, Americans will be better equipped to make intelligent choices in determining the kind of future they wish to live in.

The pilot project featured the participation of nationally-known specialists in various modern fields of endeavor. Key

Continued on Page 6

## "The Little City That Could" Offers Visitor Housing Tips; Expo '74 Drew 5 Million

Communities anticipating housing and transportation problems in connection with Bicentennial tourism may wish to avail themselves of a helpful tip or two from the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Spokane in the State of Washington.

Spokane, itself a Bicentennial city and host to last year's successful International Exposition on the Environment (Expo '74), chalked up a major accomplishment in visitor housing.

The little Northwest city of less than 200,000 population was able to accommodate more than 5 million visitors in the course of the Exposition which ran from May 4 to November 3 in 1974.

Alan C. Edmonds, a retired Air Force general who headed Expo '74's Hospitality Services and who is now with the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, told the BICENTENNIAL TIMES that the Spokane Chamber would be happy to supply interested communities with copies of the Expo '74 report on visitor accommodations on request.

The Expo '74 Corporation recognized early in its planning that two key factors in the success of any major tourist attraction were adequate housing and transportation.

The organizers of the exposition jointly with the Spokane Chamber of Commerce formed Hospitality Services, a non-profit organization with the responsibility of ensuring, within the limits of available resources, the mobilization of lodging facilities into a central reservation system.

Through the efforts of this organization and in cooperation with apartment owners, local colleges and other sectors

of the local tourist industry, lodging assets in the Spokane area were essentially doubled through the use of supplemental housing. In addition, Spokane citizens opened their homes to literally thousands of visiting friends and relatives. While the housing margin was admittedly narrow throughout the period of the Exposition, requests for housing were generally satisfactorily met.

At the height of the Exposition, Hospitality Services coordinated the efforts of approximately 800 separate facilities, representing over 8,000 lodging units located within a one-hour drive to the Exposition grounds. The complaint rate remained at about one-half of one percent of the total reservations processed, indicating that housing standards were maintained at an acceptable level.

Transportation facilities proved to be equally satisfactory. The organizers dedicated intensive efforts to enlistment of cooperation by airlines, bus lines, railroads and travel agencies, producing an important increase in transportation facilities. Improvements and expansion of the Spokane airport facilities enabled the airport to cope satisfactorily with the anticipated increase in air travel to the city.

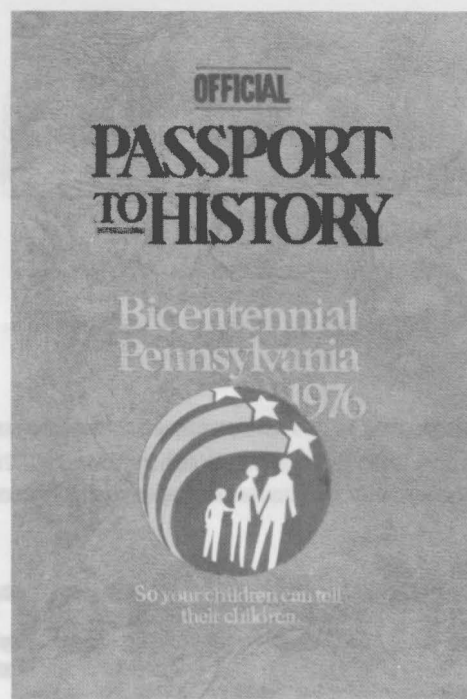
Public works officials of the State of Washington cooperated by speeding up their efforts to complete a freeway running east and west through the city in advance of the opening of the Exposition, thus facilitating easy and rapid access by motorists.

Communities interested in obtaining copies of the Expo '74 accommodations report may write to General Edmonds at the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, W. 1020 Riverside, P.O. Box 2147, Spokane, Washington, 99210. Enclose 50 cents for postage and handling.

### "Americana Collection"

The Bicentennial Association of Texas has opened its Bicentennial celebration with an advance showing of the Joseph Boggs Beale Americana Collection which will begin a nationwide tour starting in Philadelphia in September.

The original water colors by Beale, one of 19th Century America's foremost artists and illustrators, is now owned by the American National Insurance Company of Galveston. Titled "Star-Spangled History" the collection was the centerpiece of a gala organized by the Association last month in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin.



## Pennsylvania Passports To Lure Visitors

The State of Pennsylvania is preparing to issue "passports" to its Bicentennial visitors. And anyone who gets at least three visas in his passport will receive a gift commemorating his tour of the Keystone state.

This is how Pennsylvania expects to lure visitors during the next two years. The passports will be an ambitious undertaking, each numbering over forty pages which will include sections covering 13 major regions of the Commonwealth, with details of their historic, cultural and scenic attractions.

The passports are intended to serve a dual purpose: give visitors a guide to Bicentennial sites and events, and provide a lasting memento of participation in the nation's 200th birthday.

In these "Passports to History" there will be pages for visas which will be stamped as a visitor travels from one region to another. When a visitor has at least three visa stamps, one of the matching visa pages can be sent to the state capital and an "appropriate" gift will be forthcoming.

## Low-Cost Travel Cited In New Book

There's good news for budget travelers in the second edition of WHERE TO STAY USA published by the Council on International Educational Exchange.

The publication has been endorsed by ARBA as an outstanding effort which will encourage a wider range of lodging and thus wider participation of both U.S. citizens and international visitors in this country's 200th anniversary celebration.

The 304-page paperback contains state-by-state listings of 1250 places to stay for under \$9.00 (some for as little as 50 cents, some even gratis). It also contains listings of hotlines and switchboards to call in emergencies or for information and advice, information on transportation discounts and how to take advantage of them, tourist information including the availability of maps, brochures and directions; maps of each state pinpointing the accommodations listed; hitchhiking laws and attitudes around the country, and a special section for foreign visitors.

WHERE TO STAY USA was written for the Council by Marjorie A. Cohen and co-published by the Frommer/Pasman-tier Publishing Corporation. Copies are available for \$2.95 in bookstores and from the CIEE, Dept. EH, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10017, or 235 East Santa Clara St., Suite 710, San Jose, California 95113.

## Calendars To Provide Tour Aids

The American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) has announced plans to publish a series of master calendars of Bicentennial events, beginning in late June.

The calendars will provide details of the what, when and where for tourists and travelers during the Bicentennial era.

One calendar will list Bicentennial events of national and international significance. A second one will include a more comprehensive listing of events of regional and state interest. The calendars will be updated periodically.

The publications will be made available to the travel and tour industry and the nation's print and broadcast media in the hope that the information will then become available to the general public.

To compile necessary data, the ARBA has renewed its efforts to obtain and update specific details on Bicentennial events which will be taking place around the nation during the next 21 months.

The Amusement Business Division of Billboard Publications, Inc., under contract with the ARBA, is making direct contact by mail and telephone with all known sponsors of events such as Bicentennial communities, convention bureaus, tour and travel organizations, fairs, expositions, and chambers of commerce.

The Discover America Travel Organization (DATO), which represents most of the travel associations throughout the nation, is supporting the effort.

Through the cooperation of State Bicentennial Commissions, the ARBA has already developed a preliminary Official Master Register of Bicentennial Activities which contains over 6,000 programs, plans and scheduled events.

The ARBA is now asking those who have previously submitted information, much of which was in the planning stage at the time, to resubmit specifics on the event and reconfirm dates, places and other pertinent details. The ARBA is also issuing a public call to those who are planning Bicentennial events, but have not provided information for the master calendars, to do so.

Sponsors wishing to enter event information in the Bicentennial Event Master Calendars can obtain forms from the ARBA, its regional offices, or State Bicentennial Commissions. There is no charge for listing in the Calendars.

Additionally, information can be entered directly by calling Amusement Business in Nashville, Tennessee at (615) 329-3925.

Information the ARBA seeks includes the dates and times of the events, prices, whether reservations are necessary, status of accommodations, contacts for information, and the like.

All information received on Bicentennial plans, programs and events is entered into ARBA's automated Bicentennial Information Network (BINET). For on-line, up-to-the minute service, BINET subscribers may use computer terminals. The ARBA also offers special information services, at cost, to anyone who needs it. Information on the use of BINET can be obtained by contacting Master Calendar Services, ARBA, 2401 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20276; (202) 634-1723.

*I never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence . . . I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together . . . it was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance.*

—Abraham Lincoln

Speech In Independence Hall  
Philadelphia, 22 February, 1861

### Notice

In response to inquiries, the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration advises that its full-color Community Exhibit, 16 feet by 8 feet, is available only to those who will pay the costs of transport to its destination and return. Costs for its dispatch to Houston, Texas, and back to Washington, are estimated at \$800.

ARBA has only one copy of this standing display, which is on loan in the New Orleans region May 16-17. The Community Exhibit is shipped in two parcels, one a crate measuring 8½ by 3½ by 3½ feet, the other a 3 feet tube. The exhibit, because of the hazard of rain damage, is not suitable for outdoor display.



Dr. Paul Whear, composer-in-residence at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, has written a Bicentennial musical epic entitled "The Chief Justice" in honor of Chief Justice John Marshall, the Revolutionary War soldier, congressman and statesman for whom Marshall University was named. The opus requires two narrators, two soloists, a symphonic orchestra and a large chorus. It was premiered at the university in April and is expected to go on road tours later this year and in 1976.



Charlestown, South Carolina, is placing special Bicentennial emphasis on the heritage and culture of its various ethnic and racial groups. Its annual eight-month Founders' Festival is expected to attract as many as 500,000 visitors this year. The overall objective is to promote greater

understanding among the English, Scottish, Irish, black, German, French and other ethnic elements of the population. The Jewish element was celebrated in April and the Greeks are receiving their share of the limelight during the month of May.

## Bicentennial Seen Uniting Nation's Ethnic Minorities

Mrs. Claire Chennault, in a special interview with the Bicentennial Times, said the Bicentennial is a means by which all ethnic minorities in the United States can improve their image and their role in America.

Mrs. Chennault, the Peiping-born widow of Lt. Gen. Claire Chennault, is a vice president of Flying Tiger Line. As she sees it, the Bicentennial can be truly representative of all minorities working together.

The modern Chinese-American is somewhat "tired of making egg rolls and doing other people's laundry" and is turning to academic pursuits and the scientific community as the new means of expressing himself, Mrs. Chennault believes. This activist viewpoint, she says, means no disrespect to Chinese who operate restaurants and laundries. What is not widely recognized is that the Chinese Americans represent an ethnic minority which is helping to bring about an effective but peaceful improvement in the American way of life.

"We have not marched, we have not indulged in violent protest, but we Chinese are doing what we can to set a good example.

"The Chinese in America are proving themselves to be genuine Americans. They cherish their heritage, and they feel it is important to preserve that heritage. But they stress education. They see a need, even, to rewrite some textbooks—to correct the impression, for instance, that the only Chinese contribution to America was help in building the transcontinental railroad."

"We Chinese are a small minority—less than one per cent of the American population. But we wish to be recognized as first-class citizens," she says.

As a member of the Bicentennial Ethnic Racial Council (BERC) which represents the ethnic minorities in Bicentennial activities, Mrs. Chennault finds that all the minorities—black, Italian, Polish, Baltic and others—represent a very great deal of talent.

"If we put this to effective use, BERC will be a very successful part of the Bicentennial," she says.

Mrs. Chennault is also a member of the 25-person Bicentennial Advisory Council, which exists to advise the Bicentennial as to program and policy.



MRS CHENNAULT

"Every American wants to be involved in the Bicentennial," she comments. "We are busy people, but it's everybody's birthday, and we're all glad to give of our time. Americans, I find, want to get things done. Any time you've got a project, you'll find people who want to get involved. That's what this country is all about; I don't believe you'll find quite this situation anywhere else in the world. We're proud of our past, and we want to work hard to make our future successful."

Mrs. Chennault will be a participant in the Conference on the "Life, Influence and Role of the Chinese in the United States, 1776-1960" at San Francisco on July 10-12 of this year.

## Anacostia Museum Traces Black History

The Anacostia Neighborhood Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington has opened a Bicentennial exhibition devoted to telling how blacks have contributed to American history. Entitled "Blacks in the Westward Movement", the show continues through June 1, 1975.

Using photographs, silk screens, text and artifacts, the exhibition relates the story of the blacks who helped explore, conquer and settle the western portion of the United States.

In the 16th century there were blacks with the Spanish explorers of the Southwest and there were blacks among the first settlers in California. They founded towns in several states—Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Washington. An estimated 8000 of the 35,000 who rode

## Indian Center Sets "Festival of Life"

Approximately 3,000 American Indians representing 42 tribes live in the Wichita, Kansas, area. At the spit of land where the Big and Little Arkansas Rivers meet in downtown Wichita stands the new mid-American All-Indian Center.

The Center is an officially recognized ARBA program and represents a national resource for Indian culture, research and information. Included in the building are performance areas, a National Museum and a National Library of the North American Indian, educational facilities for the instruction of Indian crafts, dance and song, and an outdoor exhibition area with Indian lodgings and living areas representing tribal cultures nationwide.

During 1976, the Center will stage a national "Festival of Life" focusing upon the Native American. Included will be multi-media presentations, workshops on Indian religious rituals, a tribal historians and spiritual leadership council, games, crafts, concerts, and a market of Native American foods.

The Wichita Bicentennial Commission, the Kansas Council on the Arts, the Kansas Bicentennial Commission, and private sponsors undertook development of the Center. It is expected to attract two million visitors.

## Norwegians To Mark 150 Years In U.S.

The Norwegians who have settled in the United States are having an anniversary of their own—but a Sesquicentennial rather than a Bicentennial.

Organized Norwegian immigration to the United States began 150 years ago when the sloop "Restauration" left Stavanger on July 4, 1825, with 53 immigrants on board.

These immigrants became known as "The Sloopers." Today, their descendants are organized in a "Sloop Society" and will play a role in official Sesquicentennial celebrations in Illinois.

During the 100 years following the arrival of the good ship "Restauration," some 800,000 Norwegians sailed directly to the United States; an unknown number arrived through Canada. Some had religious reasons for leaving Norway, but most left for economic or social-economic reasons.

A large number became farmers in the Midwestern states. Others settled in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle and other cities. Still others became fishermen in the Northwest or sailors in the merchant marine.

Norway has today a population of slightly under four million. The Norwegian element in the United States consists of more than three million people.

Sesquicentennial committees have been established in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and Seattle. In Norway, a national committee is planning three days of festivities starting in Stavanger on July 4.

The program for the United States calls for a tribute to Norway in New York's Carnegie Hall October 7. King Olav V of Norway has accepted an invitation to attend. The King will go on tour, visiting Minneapolis, Chicago and Seattle. Celebrations will also include a visit by Norwegian Bishop Kare Stoylen, a lecture by author-explorer Thor Heyerdahl, a Royal visit to Northfield, Minnesota, where St. Olaf College was founded by Norwegian immigrants, and a similar Royal visit to Decorah, Iowa, where Luther College had a similar origin.

In late August and early September the famous Norwegian windjammer "Christian Radich" will visit Washington, D.C., New York and other East Coast ports.

For information on the Norwegian Festival, write to The Norway Center, 300 3rd Avenue, West, Seattle, Washington, 98119, or telephone Svein Gilje, Norwegian American Anniversary Commission (206) 525 7191, Seattle.

The Norwegians, like the Swedes, have played a prominent role in settling several areas of the U.S. King Olaf's visit will help to stress that role.

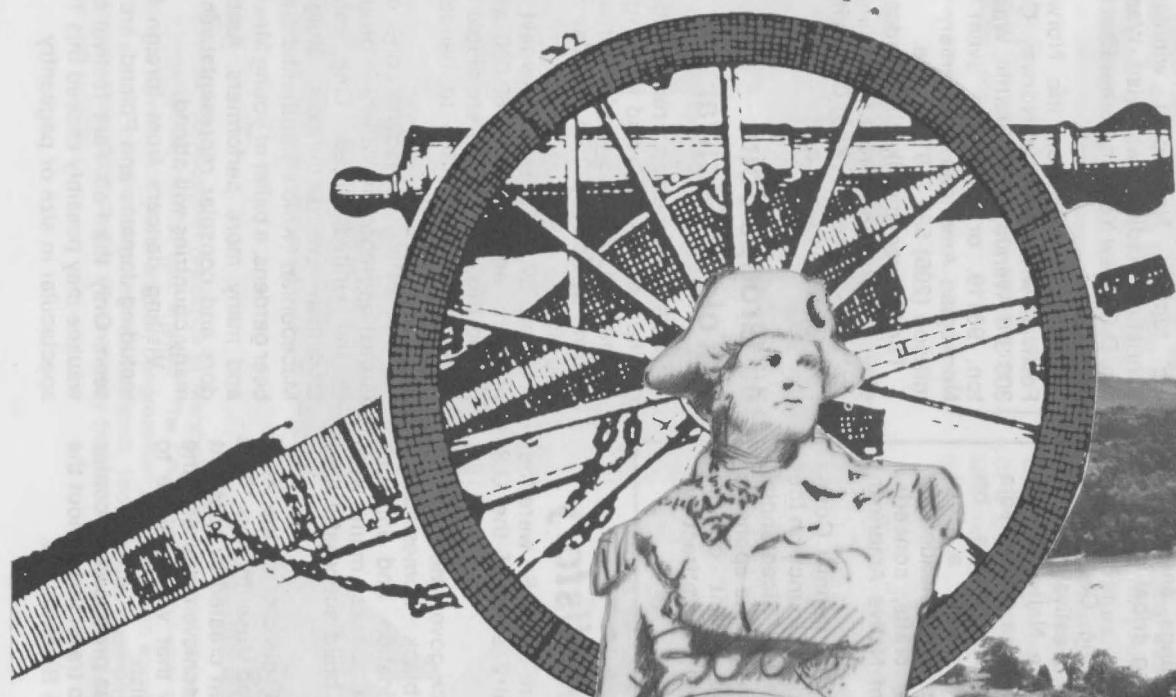
## 45 Groups Join In Toledo Festival

Some 6000 persons representing 45 different nationalities and ethnic groups will participate in this year's International Festival at Toledo, Ohio, on May 16, 17 and 18.

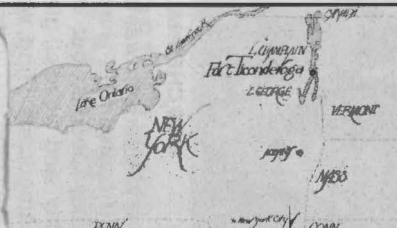
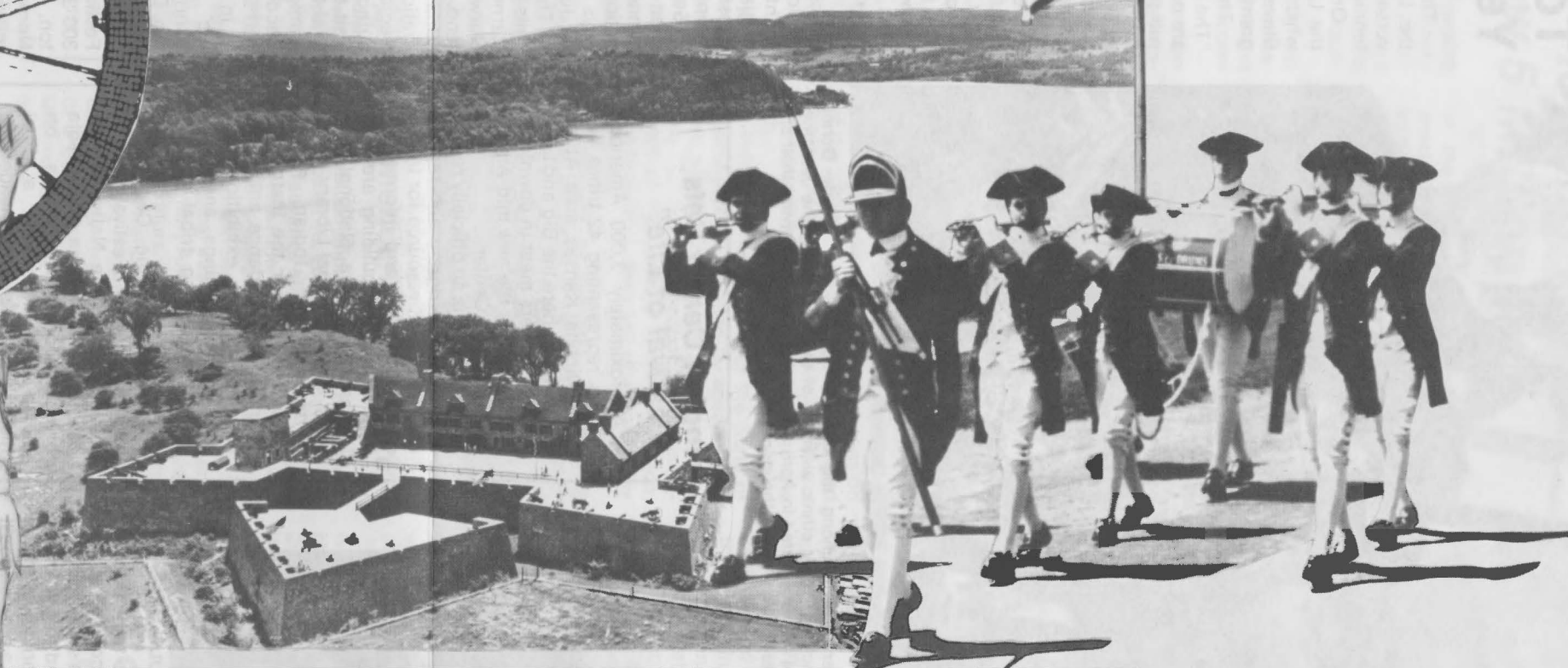
About 60,000 persons saw last year's program, and a similar 60,000 are expected this year. There are ample hotel-motel accommodations to handle this audience.

This festival represents one of the largest aggregations of ethnic groupings in the United States. One can see Ukrainian sword dancers, Bulgarian-Macedonian "Kolo's", authentic German beer gardens, a ballet of young Mexicans, and many more performers. Ambassadors and consular representatives from many countries will attend.

Visiting dancers from foreign lands, including Jamaica and Poland, are to be seen. Only the Folk-Fare festival at Milwaukee may possibly exceed this Toledo spectacular in size or pageantry.



Before dawn on May 10th, 1775, Ethan Allen and 83 of his Vermont Green Mountain Boys crossed Lake Champlain to capture Fort Ticonderoga. This action pitted Americans against the British army garrisoned in a defensible fortress for the first time. See the calendar for reenactment times.



*I subscribe my life & honor ever  
Faithfull most Obedient & Humble servant.  
Ethan Allen,  
at present Commander in Chief Ticonderoga*

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

May

Photos left to right:

First Baptist Church in America, Providence, RI.

VA Declaration of Rights

G. Walton by C. W. Peale

R. H. Lee by C. W. Peale

St. John's Church, Richmond, VA. Site of P. Henry's speech.

1

**National Portrait Gallery**  
Washington, D.C.  
"The Die is Now Cast"  
Exhibit, more than 250  
items chronicling the years  
1774-1776; Free.

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**  
Watertown High School  
Watertown, N.Y. 8 p.m.  
Free

2

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**  
Onondaga County  
War Memorial Auditorium  
Syracuse, N.Y.  
8:30 p.m. Free

3

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**  
Niagara Falls International  
Convention Center  
Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
8:00 p.m. Free

**Freedom Train**  
Worcester, Massachusetts  
Open daily 8:00 a.m.-10:00  
p.m.  
\$2.00/adult, \$1.00/under 18

4

**Fife and Drum Corps**  
Three-hour performance

5

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**

6

**Carnegie Library exhibit**  
"Survey of Visual Arts"

7

**Freedom Train**  
Rochester, N.Y.

8

**Library of Congress  
Symposium**

9

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**

10

**Capture of Fort  
Ticonderoga.**

4

**Fife and Drum Corps**  
Three-hour performance  
includes crafts, films,  
re-enactment. Free

Norwich Bicentennial  
Committee  
Norwich, CT 06360  
(213) 886-0630

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**  
Kleinhans Music Hall  
Buffalo, N.Y.  
8:30 p.m. Free

5

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**  
Marwick Boyd Auditorium  
Clarion, Pa.  
8:00 p.m. Free

6

**Carnegie Library exhibit**  
"Survey of Visual Arts  
in South Dakota",  
Canton, S.D.  
Through May 26

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**  
Plum Senior High School  
Plum Borough, Pa.  
1:00 p.m. Free  
Penn Trafford School  
Harrison City, Pa.  
1:19 p.m. Free  
Carnegie Music Hall  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
8:00 p.m. Free

7

**Freedom Train**  
Rochester, N.Y.  
Open daily 8:00 a.m.-10:00  
p.m.  
\$2.00/adult, \$1.00/under 18

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**  
University Auditorium  
University Park, Pa.  
8:00 p.m. Free

8

**Library of Congress  
Symposium**  
"The Impact of the  
American Revolution  
Abroad"  
Two-day discussions with  
distinguished scholars.  
Pre-registration required.  
Free

Dr. James Hutson  
Library of Congress  
10 First St., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20540  
(202) 426-5000

9

**U.S. Armed Forces  
Bicentennial Band**  
Bliss Hall  
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.  
1:00 p.m. Free

The Forum  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
8:00 p.m. Free

10

**Capture of Fort  
Ticonderoga,**  
Ticonderoga, N.Y.  
Re-enactments, 3:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Fife and Drum Corps  
musters. Ox roast.  
Free

**Independence National  
Historical Park,**  
Philadelphia  
Commemoration of  
Convening of Second  
Continental Congress  
National Park Service

11

**Colonial National  
Historical Park**  
Yorktown, Virginia  
Celebration of  
Jamestown Day  
National Park Service

14

**Freedom Train,**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Open daily 8:00 a.m.-10:00  
p.m.  
\$2.00/adult, \$1.00/under 18

15

**USA '76 Exhibit**  
opens in Seattle,  
Washington  
Pacific Science Center.  
Science Center charges  
admission: \$1.50/adult,  
\$.75/student, \$3.00/family.

17

**"The World of Franklin  
and Jefferson"**  
ARBA Exhibit opens in  
Warsaw Poland after  
successful showing in Paris

20

**Boston Forum**  
Boston, Massachusetts,  
Program on 200 years of  
self-government.  
New England Life Hall  
Boston, MA  
4:30 p.m.  
Free  
Broadcast on National  
Public Radio, 8:30 EST,  
May 25, with Sander  
Vanocur.

22

**Freedom Train**  
Columbus, Ohio  
Open daily 8:00 a.m.-10:00  
p.m.  
\$2.00/adult, \$1.00/under 18

**Castle Clinton  
National Monument**  
Formal Opening of the  
Bicentennial Celebration  
of New York City  
National Park Service

24

**Castle Clinton  
National Monument**  
American Landmark  
Festival Concert  
National Park Service

30

**National Seashore**  
Cape Hatteras, N.C. coast  
Historical vignettes of life  
on North Carolina Outer  
Banks

National Park Service

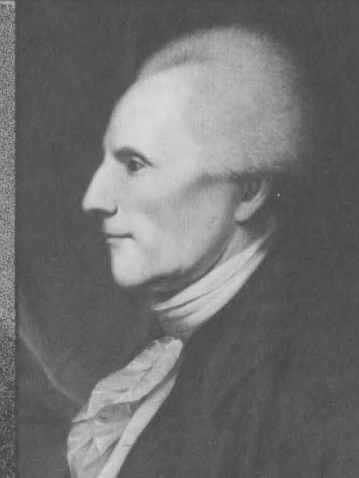
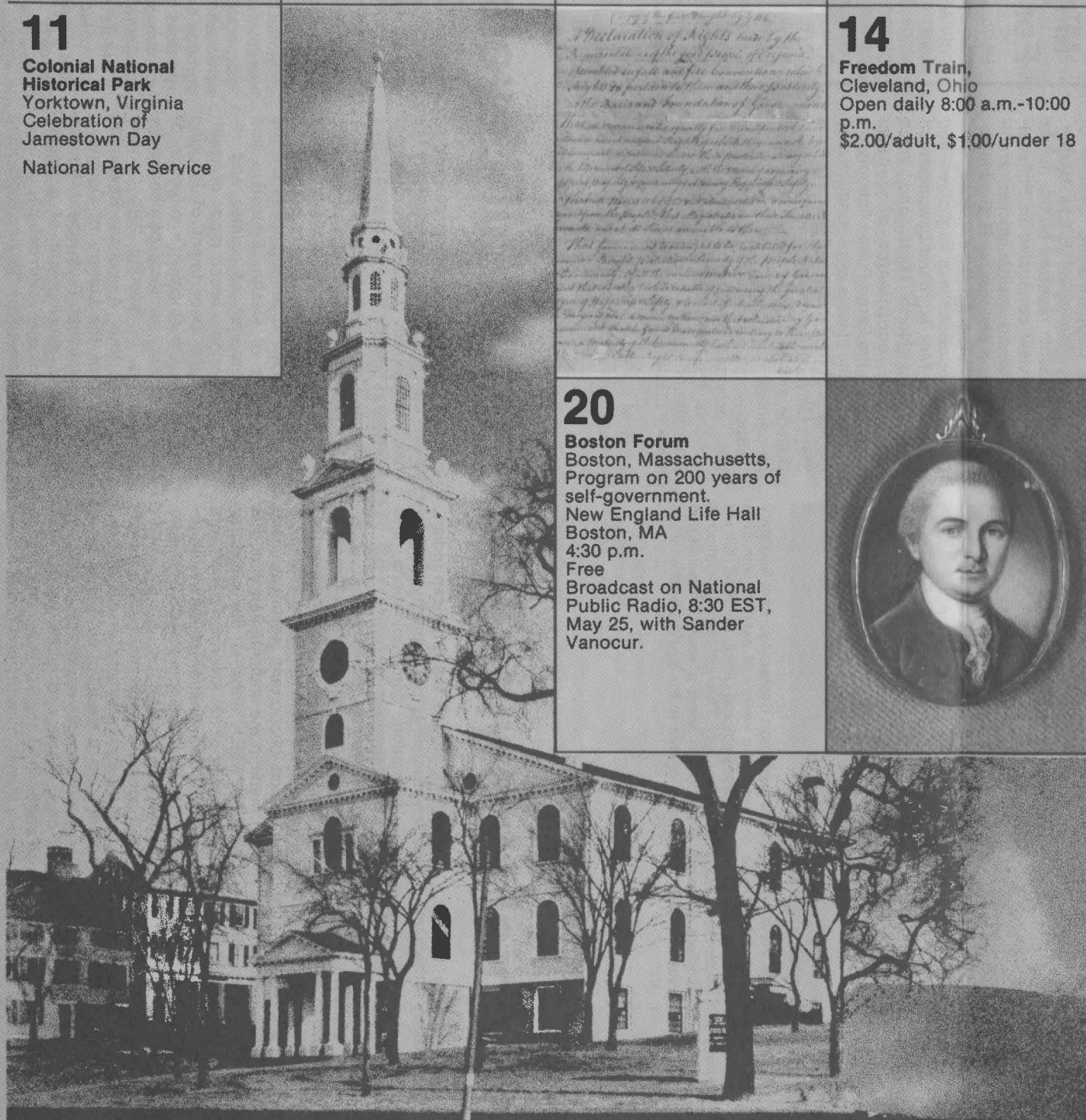
**National Military Park**  
Fort Donelson, Tenn.  
Living history program  
depicting Confederate  
garrison life.

National Park Service

31

**Opening of Chickshaw  
Indian Cemetery**  
Ada, Oklahoma  
Two-day ceremonies  
Free

Ada Bicentennial  
Committee



# Forum Seeks Out Issues Disturbing America Today

Continued from Page One

John Warner, Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, with the endorsement of John D. Rockefeller, III, a leader of Bicentennial planning in the private sector.

A calendar of discussion topics will include the following:

Discussed first of all would be the meaning of "we the people". Walt Whitman called the United States "a teeming nation of nations". Where did these people come from? What induced them to leave sheltered lives and strike out into the unknown? What keeps them together today? What is the basis of brotherhood?

The "founding fathers" and their beliefs would be delved into. And the explorers, colonizers, adventurers, slaves, runaways, religious dissenters — how did they forge a new nation? Two centuries of immigrants — what was their

composition, what were their occupations? How do we treat immigrants today?

Theodore Roosevelt once wrote that "there is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism". But many people today want to be known as Italian-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Afro-Americans. Is it better to remember or to forget native origins?

Americans have built up many allegiances, many loyalties. What happens when loyalties collide? What makes a good citizen?

Other broad topics will be discussed. Have we used this bountiful land wastefully? To what extent are we keeping growth in harmony with nature? Are we exercising our freedoms wisely? Are we diluting our ideals in practice? How well has the doctrine of the separation of powers worked? How about the doctrine of judicial review of the Constitution?

Are Americans, as some think, the hardest working people on earth, or at least the most productive? What about the aim of American labor, to gain more advantages and more productivity for less and less toil? Are Americans too preoccupied with business, with commercialism? What is our correct posture in foreign policy — how wisely have we mixed the four "basic elements" of foreign policy: the military, humanitarian, economic and diplomatic?

What part have our families, our schools, our churches, our communities played in developing the "American character"?

A compelling set of topics! In the ninth, final month "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" will be discussed. Archibald MacLeish says that "America is promises. The promise of self-fulfillment, of being free and independent . . . the promise of a life satisfying beyond

mere drudgery. The promise of being new, young, in the forefront of an adventure, on top of things." How important will these driving ideas be in America's life over the next century?

No one can be sure what conclusions will develop. But Americans of all origins and capacities may know a little more about who they are, and what they may become, if these topics in the American Issues Forum are handled with skill and wisdom.

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For brochures, reading lists, discussion materials and other information relative to the American Issues Forum write or call The National Endowment for the Humanities, 806 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20506, Telephone (202) 382-7465.



Standing by a model of BI-CENT-EX, HEW's Bicentennial Exhibition Center, Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management John Ottina discusses the variety of exhibits with Miss Elizabeth Clinton, Regional Bicentennial Coordinator, Denver Regional Office. BI-CENT-EX will premier in the Washington, D.C. South Portal Building in early July. Through the cooperation of HEW's Regional Director Rulon Garfield (Denver), Miss Clinton spent a week in Washington searching the ARBA computer system, BINET, for projects related to the aging and the handicapped.

## Fargo Community Drawn Into Bicentennial Courses

Continued from Page One

speaker was Alvin Toffler, author of the book FUTURE SHOCK. Others were Italian-born architect Paolo Soleri, science-fiction writer Ray Bradbury, computer musicologist Dr. Sterling Bechwith of Toronto, Canada, aerospace technologist Leo F. Childs of NASA, and Dr. William Copperthwaite, director of the Yurt Foundation of Bucks Harbor, Maine. Students reported on the results of an interview conducted in Philadelphia with famed mathematician, architect, poet, and philosopher R. Buckminster Fuller.

The symposium was organized and directed by Mrs. Margaret Law, assistant principal at North High, and Vince Lindstrom, coordinator of cultural services for the Fargo Public Schools.

Most of the classes were conducted by members of the faculties of North Dakota State University at Fargo, and Concordia College and Moorhead State College of Moorhead, Minnesota.

Sponsorship and funding of the project was provided by the Fargo Public Schools, the North Dakota Bicentennial Commission, the Fargo-Moorhead Centennial Committee, and the North Dakota

Committee for the Humanities and Public Issues.

Further information may be obtained from Mrs. Margaret Law, North High School, Fargo, N.D., 58102, or from Mr. Vince Lindstrom, Fargo Department of Public Schools, Fargo, N.D., 58102.

### 'Minutes' Fees Go For Research

Performers and other public figures who are narrating the CBS "Bicentennial Minutes" are donating their fees to establish graduate fellowships in the study of American history of the Revolutionary period. The Minutes are broadcast daily in prime time on the CBS Television Network through July 4, 1976. Robert D. Wood, President of the Network, has disclosed that the Board of Directors of the CBS Foundation, Inc., voted to participate in the project by adding three times the narrators' contributions to the grants.

## Bicentennial Upswing Reported at all Levels

Continued from Page One

and universities with many others expected to join.

There is pageantry galore as befits any historic celebrative occasion. But there is more than that. Many Americans are delving into the past to search for answers to some of the problems that beset them today; they are preparing to engage in debate. Others are preserving or restoring symbols of the values, principles, and virtues of the American Revolution. Many more are bending their efforts toward improving the quality of life in their communities.

Reports from the field indicate a remarkable adherence to ARBA's three Bicentennial themes of "Heritage '76", "Festival USA", and "Horizons '76." These themes underwent an intensive process of refinement last year, resulting in the formulation of new guidelines aimed at encouraging substantive and meaningful programming around the country.

Major national programs have emerged covering youth, women, racial

and ethnic groups, the American Indian, the environment, participatory democracy, education, communications, and many other areas of concern.

The "American Issues Forum", conceived by TV Newsman Walter Cronkite, is among those major Bicentennial activities with a potential for lasting impact on the nation. Important advances have been made in the implementation of this program which aims at the collective engagement of the American people in a thoughtful examination of issues fundamental to the development and the future of American society.

Of special significance is the formation of the Bicentennial Ethnic and Racial Council. As a result of an ARBA initiative, representatives of more than 90 national, ethnic and racial groups from all parts of the country have organized to insure ethnic, minority and native American participation in Bicentennial planning.

ARBA's "Call to Achievement Program", initiated to encourage renewal of citizen involvement in the

decision-making processes of government, has found added support in the newly-organized Citizen Involvement Network which integrated ARBA's original "Community Goals" project.

Virtually every Federal agency is involved in Bicentennial planning. Many of their projects are of major proportions and significance. Among these are the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's program of studies and research covering a broad range of health problems; the Department of Housing and Urban Development's selection of 200 exemplary projects of community achievement in meeting 20th Century challenges; the American Revolution Symposia of the Library of Congress; and the National Endowment for the Humanities' development of a nationwide Bicentennial youth debate.

The National Park Service is planning a varied program of special events and activities for the estimated 270 million visitors to its historical, natural, and recreational areas. New and expanded visitor centers are under way at 10

colonial locations; replicas of Revolutionary War cannons, uniforms and clothing are being made; dramas and historical vignettes are being prepared; and new films, exhibits, publications, and living history programs are in production.

An impressive and encouraging rally is noted in the private sector. ARBA has established contact with more than 3,000 corporations, trade associations; service, civic and fraternal organizations, labor groups and religious institutions with the purpose of assisting in meaningful Bicentennial programs or to help generate new activities.

More than 40 foreign countries have indicated their desire to participate in the American Bicentennial and 25 have already established Bicentennial commissions of their own.

Many of these activities are reflected in this issue of the TIMES.

The panorama of Bicentennial action around the country surely speaks for itself.

## International

FOREIGN INTEREST in America's Bicentennial celebration is growing. Thus far, more than 40 countries have indicated their desire to participate during 1975 and 1976. Bicentennial Committees have been established in France, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Spain, Finland, Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Thailand, Denmark, Sweden, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Yugoslavia, Iceland, Iran, Ireland and the Philippines. Many countries have already begun participating in such programs as the Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival.

Foreign participation offers an opportunity for the reaffirmation of historical and cultural ties with those countries which have directly contributed to the development of the United States.

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FRANCE has expanded its plans for Bicentennial participation. In addition to sponsoring the Sound and Light spectacle at Mount Vernon, the French are planning for the participation of the Paris Opera in the Kennedy Center Bicentennial Festival. They will also send two major exhibits and at least seven smaller performing arts groups to the United States in 1976.

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THE UNITED KINGDOM is planning a series of activities in the fields of cultural and educational exchange and the performing arts. It is also organizing the presentation of a Bicentennial bell to the City of Philadelphia, and has approved plans for a military tattoo tour of American cities featuring British units which fought in the Revolutionary War.

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ITALY has announced a one-million dollar subsidy for the La Scala Opera of Milan to appear in the Kennedy Center's Bicentennial Festival in 1976. The BERLIN OPERA has scheduled performances at the Center for the fall of 1975.

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OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES now include two major Bicentennial programs in Australia, eight in the Netherlands, and a comparable number in Austria for 1976. To date, four overseas organizations have been endorsed by ARBA in recognition of projects being undertaken in behalf of the Bicentennial. They are the Australian-American Association of Sydney, the Visit America Foundation of The Hague, the Dusseldorf Art Academy, and the Japanese Association for American Studies.

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OPERATION SAIL '76 now includes the participation of 47 ships from 12 countries. The event is scheduled for New York City in July of 1976. An international naval review is also a possibility.

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FOREIGN VISITORS continue to call on ARBA Administrator Warner to discuss Bicentennial plans. Latest visitors were Dr. Heinz Krekeler, German Bicentennial Coordinator for States, Communities, and the Private Sector, and M. Michel Guy, Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs of France. Administrator Warner is scheduled to receive in the near future representatives of the Finnish Bicentennial Committee, the Director General of the British Council, and the new President of the Italian Bicentennial Committee.

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IN RESPONSE to changing foreign attitudes concerning the future course of American foreign policy, the United States Information Agency is developing a multimedia project to communicate the vitality of contemporary America to audiences abroad.



President Ford receives a set of historical volumes at a White House ceremony marking the participation of the 500th American city in the Sister Cities Program with the affiliation of the City of Savannah, Georgia, and the City of Patras, Greece. The presentation was made by

Louis Wozar, President of Sister Cities International (right). In the background, left to right, are Vice Mayor David K. Lisk, Roanoke, VA; Mayor James McGee, Dayton OH; T. W. Gittins, Executive Vice President, Sister Cities International; and Ambassador Joseph Palmer 2nd.

## Savannah Joins Greek City In 500th Sister City Link

Savannah, Georgia, has become the 500th U.S. City to join the U.S. Sister City Program, an international program receiving special emphasis in Bicentennial planning.

Savannah elected to affiliate with the City of Patras, Greece. Both are port cities and both have populations of approximately 120,000.

The Bicentennial goal for the Sister Cities program, according to the sponsoring organization—Sister Cities International of Washington, D.C.—is 1776 sister cities by 1976. The combined total now stands at 1226 U.S. and foreign cities affiliated.

The occasion of the 500th American affiliation was marked by a special ceremony in the White House on March 25 with the participation of President Ford who is honorary chairman of Sister Cities International.

Louis Wozar, a Dayton, Ohio, industrialist who is president of the organization, presented President Ford with three volumes of American history to mark the

new milestone in the development of the program.

The books—"The Colonial Spirit of '76", "The Pictorial History of the American Revolution", and "The American Legacy"—were chosen as representative of the U.S. Sister City Program which brings together people of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds in voluntary exchanges at all levels of the community.

There are now 535 U.S. cities, with a combined population of 30 million Americans, affiliated with 691 cities, towns and villages in 73 other nations.

The program represents millions of Americans and their counterparts abroad working together in voluntary projects of exchange. It was launched in 1956 by President Eisenhower. The 200th Anniversary of the nation coincides with the 20th anniversary of the program.

Sister Cities International is a private, non-profit organization through which cities and their residents carry out a wide variety of cultural, educational, youth, professional, technical, and municipal exchanges.

## French To Mark Historic U.S. Road Between Yorktown and Mount Vernon

The French Bicentennial Committee has announced approval of a project to mark the Washington-Rochambeau Highway between Yorktown and Mount Vernon in Virginia.

The announcement came through the French Consul General in Houston, M. Reginald de Warren on whose initiative the project came into being. M. de Warren has been working on the plan in his capacity as representative of the French Chapter of the Society of the Cincinnati in cooperation with Parke Rouse of the Virginia Bicentennial Committee and the State of Virginia Highway Department.

Another major figure in the project is Elie Weeks, chairman of a sub-committee of the Virginia Bicentennial Commission which is tracing the routes followed by the French Army and distinguished French personalities such as Rocham-

beau and Lafayette during the campaign leading up to Yorktown. Mr. Weeks is preparing a map of these routes for publication in 1976.

The work is being financed partly by the French Chapter of the Society of the Cincinnati and partly by the French Government.

The project consists of placing kiosk markers at five or six tourist rest areas in Virginia containing maps showing routes to interesting areas accessible from the highway. A number of aluminum highway signs shaped like shields and carrying an escutcheon composed of the eagle of the French Cincinnati and three French Fleur de Lis will be erected at locations where the highway bifurcates. The Virginia Highway Department has designated the route and will erect appropriate markers.

## U.S. Paintings To Open U.K. Celebration

An exhibition of 48 paintings from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts—a selection of its best—will go on a tour of Britain in July to open the American Bicentennial celebration in the United Kingdom.

The exhibit will open at the United States Embassy in London on July 4. Later it will be shown in Glasgow and Bristol. It will return to the United States for a special exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Arts in New York in December.

Among the more famous paintings on the tour will be "Penn's Treaty with the Indians" by Benjamin West and "The Lansdown Portrait of George Washington" by Gilbert Stuart.

Selections were made with an Anglo-American audience in mind. Historic works selected were those likely to interest Britons, and moderns like Andrew Wyeth were chosen as likely to have special value in British eyes.

Academy Director Richard Boyle said the collection will be returned to the Pennsylvania Academy in time for its scheduled reopening on April 22, 1976. A \$16,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and a \$20,000 grant from the National Council on the Arts, will help finance the tour.

*It seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by this conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force.*

—Alexander Hamilton  
The Federalist No. 1

## The States

With this issue of the TIMES, the new column THE STATES will replace ARBA's weekly BICENTENNIAL BULLETIN. Items in this column will be selected for their utility as relevant ideas for Bicentennial activity in other communities.

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THE NEW ORLEANS Bicentennial Commission has launched a major drive for funds to underwrite nearly 100 locally-endorsed projects and activities. Among the many methods developed for project financing is the formation of a "Bootstraps Committee", whose members have initiated a "Dollar-a-Year" program. The program aims at encouraging citizen contributions of \$1.00 for each year of the Nation's existence.

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NEBRASKA 4-H CLUB members have launched their second Bicentennial project involving a speaking contest on the topic "Our American Heritage". Over 1,500 4-H'ers are expected to participate. The first was a music contest dedicated to the "Spirit of '76." The clubs are also participating in "Bicentennial Community Pride" projects aimed at improving neighborhood quality of life.

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DELAWARE COUNTY, Pennsylvania, families will host German, English, and French families during 1975 and 1976 as part of the "Meet the Americans" program launched in cooperation with the Delaware County Bicentennial Commission. The foreign families will visit with county families for periods ranging from five to eleven days in a novel international experience.

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MICHIGAN will host a statewide traveling exhibit showing the development of national symbols such as the eagle, the flag, Columbia, etc., and their use in everyday household items. The exhibit opened at the Detroit Historical Museum and will run there until July 4, 1975.

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PEOPLE in central Florida are searching closets, attics, family albums and chests of drawers to find their contributions to a Bicentennial book of memorabilia. Entitled, "More than a Memory", the book is being sponsored by the Orange County Historical Commission, 423 S. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32402. Telephone, (305) 425-1776.

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RADIO STATIONS WACT and WACT-FM, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama are taking part in the Bicentennial by featuring the program "On This Day", a series of 90-second vignettes, which offers a look into the lives of colonists who participated in the planning and execution of the American Revolution. The programs are featured three times daily, and are presented by Gulf States Paper Corporation. Contact: WACT, Program Director, P.O. Drawer 126, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.

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IN NEW LONDON, Connecticut, the Bicentennial Commission is putting their Bicentennial event calendar on placemats to be distributed to hotels and restaurants in the area.

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WAVA NEWS RADIO in Arlington, Virginia has agreed to furnish "public service" air time to the Arlington Bicentennial Commission, six days a week, through July 4, 1976, or 485 days, with multiple broadcasts each day. The programs being used also include the "On This Day" series which the Bicentennial Commission purchased and WAVA is airing free.



ARBA Administrator John Warner recently visited the Living History Farms of Iowa after presenting Bicentennial flags to Governor Robert Ray and the president of Iowa State University Robert Parks. He is shown with Darwin Thede and one of Thede's team of oxen on display at the Farms located northwest of Des Moines. The Farm's living history exhibit is part of the Bicentennial celebration in Iowa.

## Boston Two-Year Study Aims At Values, Principles

By seminars and symposiums, by television and radio, and by books eventually to be published, Boston is conducting a two-year examination of the principles and values which have played a vital role in American self-government. An audience of 2.5 million to 4 million persons will, it is expected, listen in on these discussions, called The Bicentennial Forums.

Subject-matter will include: the rights of man, which are held to be inherent in individuals and from which the state gets its operating authority; the compact between the people and their government, which the people may at any time alter; and the control of violence, which is easily as important today as it was in the days of the early colonists.

Discussions will include live speaking engagements, taped programs on New England and national radio, and a book or books to be published by Houghton Mifflin Co. First programs, by Sam Bass Warner, Boston University professor of history, and Federal Judge Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr., were aired February 13 and April 17. A third discussion, by Hannah Arendt, professor at New York's New School for Social Research, on the topic "The Crisis of the Republic: Criminality in Government" will occur May 20.

On most programs interested citizens may phone in with questions. A moderator, Sander Vanocur, will handle the discussion. Further programs are arranged for June and July, and from October 1975 through April and May of 1976. Prominent national and international leaders will participate in all the discussion seminars.

### Junior Committees

Three and a half million students have now become aware of the U.S. Postal Service's Junior Committees of Correspondence program. Teachers and principals who wish to have the Postal Service's kit which contains a Teacher's Guide, membership cards, a poster and a map of the U.S. to be used for tracking correspondence, should write: Bicentennial Junior Committees of Correspondence, Room 5821, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, D.C. 20260.

## Youths Join Bicentennial Probe of U.S.

Young people in more than 23,000 schools and colleges across the United States will be engaged in lively debate as part of their observance of the Bicentennial.

A nationwide program involving these hundreds of thousands of young Americans in debate and public speaking competition — a program called Bicentennial Youth Debates — is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is officially recognized by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

A number of prominent Americans will serve on the national advisory council of the debates. They include former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, CBS television correspondent Walter Cronkite, Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, William F. Buckley, author, editor and columnist, George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, and Joseph Block, chairman of the Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Describing the objectives of the program, national director Richard Huseman, a recognized educator in communications, said "the vital role debate has played in the American experience makes this program an especially appropriate bicentennial commemoration."

Jim Luck, associate project director and formerly director of debate at Texas Christian University, said the topic areas to be discussed will be coordinated with the American Issues Forum, which will issue a topic for national discussion in each of the nine months from September, 1975 to June, 1976.

Topics to be debated by these young people include: the work ethic, freedom and order; the impact of urbanization; free enterprise and the rights of labor; foreign policy; and the roles of home, school and church in molding society.

"It is especially important that our young people take an active part in this national self-examination," Dr. Huseman said, "because they will be the leaders and builders of our society as we enter the third century of national existence."

Participants will conduct debates before civic, fraternal and other community groups.

For further information write to Dr. Richard C. Huseman, Speech Communications Association, Bicentennial Youth Debates, 1625 Massachusetts avenue, N.W., 20036.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
JACK MARSH CNCL TO THE PRES  
WASHINGTON DC 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK MARSH

FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *PA*

SUBJECT: Bicentennial

Re your memo on the Bicentennial, attached is a copy of a memo from Jack Casserly, who wrote the President's Old North Church speech and who has become our resident Bicentennial authority. I would subscribe to most of Jack's points ... except the suggestion for the President to do two Bicentennial speeches a month. I think one a month for the remainder of this year would be sufficient, increasing to two a month after the first of next year as the July 4th celebration nears; perhaps even three or four in the immediate month preceding that event, then reverting back to one or two a month for the remainder of 1976.

Attachment

April 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS  
FROM: JACK CASSERLY  
SUBJECT: Bicentennial



I believe that the aim of the President of the Bicentennial should be the following: to restore the faith of Americans in their own values.

There obviously should be attention given to Liberty and Freedom . . . Consent of the governed . . . Democracy and Justice, etc.

However, I believe that more emphasis should be given to REASON. And HOPE. There are many reasons for taking this route and most, if not all of them, appear clear. But just once: FORD -- A MAN OF REASON. (And by implication FORD -- A MAN OF BALANCED JUDGMENT.)

Liberty, justice, etc., appear to me to be SECONDARY to the following because they are vague, faraway concepts to many Americans. WHAT IS NOT VAGUE?

1. Our values as individuals -- precisely what we value.
2. Our personal identity -- and as a people.
3. Our purpose as a single person -- and as a Nation.

When all is said and done, America is great because of persons X, Y and Z.

The essence of this approach is the rediscovery of the individual and his worth.

Some of the above is argued by Richard Whalen in his book, "Taking Sides." He offers more examples.

But more of it is found in the thinking of young people today. It is a NEW DOCTRINE in their thinking although it is obviously quite old. This thinking appeals to the young -- for its NEWNESS -- and to the old who will recognize it as old. It is a tried and true approach. Not an approach that one is guessing about and may find himself or herself discarding it after some use.


PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG, N.C.,  
BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PICNIC LUNCHEON, MAY 20, 1975

It is an honor to be in Charlotte at the traditional celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence by southern patriots 200 years ago today.

Spring is always an invigorating time of year, which I find particularly well expressed in the Song of Solomon: "For lo the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

I came to North Carolina today as a seed-sower -- to plant some thoughts and ideas here in the hope they grow and spread and enrich the spirit of this great land and its people.

Americans are now in a new spring -- indeed, we are starting a new era in our two-hundred-year history. It is time to plant the seeds and ideas of a new future. Ideas -- like seeds -- are small and fragile, but they are the precious beginning of new life and growth.



We have just finished a decade of division in our country -- one that has nurtured doubt and fostered disillusionment among our people. We underwent a period of divisive debate and deep differences.

What we went through does not reflect the real America or the true history of our people. Our real vision has not been one limited to a light at the end of a tunnel -- but rather to an illuminated dream of a better, more just society and of a finer, more peaceful world for all mankind.

In this light, I believe we should evaluate our country -- our convictions and our character, our dreams and our doubts, our achievements and blemishes. In short, in the light of the entire American Experience.

As a people, we must avoid extremes in our thinking and excess in our actions. We must not embrace either recrimination or self-righteousness. We must have the patience to weigh and suspend judgments. We must make sure we have fertile ground and favorable climate in America today for the planting of ideas -- with the knowledge they require the nourishment of patience and reflection.

At the moment, we are in the midst of relentless self-questioning.

The motives, the intentions and even the character of individuals involved in United States' policies over the past generation are being dissected to the core. No one denies that there are legitimate areas of inquiry. But we must make sure that the persistent raising of doubt does not, in fact, become our objective -- the end rather than the means, in other words, to finding answers to questions. It is time to recognize that we need answers as well as questions. We must plant more seeds of solution in America today.

Although no one in America asks that we speak with one voice, neither is it suggested that we argue endlessly about what is wrong with America. Yet, there are some in our country who appear less interested in dialogue than their expression of difference . . . less concerned about the national good than self-attention . . . more interested in personal argument than answers to our public problems . . . and more interested

in reliving the past than making reasoned judgments about the future.

We must sow more seeds of reason and enlightenment in America today.

Loyalty must leave room for dissent but dissent must also leave room for loyalty. Otherwise, needed discussion may degenerate into needless debate.

If we are to act as reasonable people, we have an obligation to speak to each other with moderation and civility. Strong words and harsh criticism lose force with their intensity because no American has a monopoly on right or reason. We must have a reverence for the accuracy of words and expressions.

Today in America, we must plant more seeds of moderation.

We believe in the ideals of America. We must remember, however, that our search for values is not a reach for absolutes. Absolutes are perfection. No reasonable person expects perfection in the world -- because this means we would stop growing, stop improving, stop seeking.

It was internal conflict that destroyed ancient Greece and Rome -- and other civilizations. It may well be internal conflict -- not danger from the outside -- that could become the greatest threat to the American future. We have now recognized that we cannot control the destiny of the world. But we can to a very large extent control our own destiny. And that is precisely what we in this country must set out to accomplish -- with reason and restraint, of course. Today in America, we must plant more of the seeds of restraint.

The strength of every nation's existence is within itself -- living and planning as a people. We need the courage to be and act what we are -- a dynamic people of vision -- and follow a constructive and steady course of action. No nation's course is charted by reaction. We must have the wisdom and self-confidence to choose what is good for our country and people -- to stand with free and friendly nations -- and reject the notion that we can be all things to all mankind.

We must assimilate the lessons of the past generation and apply them to America's future. This must be done objectively -- fairly -- in terms of our trials but also with a true perspective of the many noble sacrifices performed by the American people -- without rewards in many instances or even thanks in others.

We are a wiser, more mature Nation today. We deserve to reap from our experiences new wisdom -- not a bitter harvest of hate and hostility.

As a people, we are acutely aware of the need for honesty and candor in our land. Excessive pledges and promises -- excessive secrecy and silence -- excessive rhetoric and excessive reaction to that rhetoric -- all of this marks a time of extreme and excess in our national conduct.

Today in America, we must plant the seeds of greater honesty and modesty.

The fate of responsible people everywhere rests in their own hands.

We need no excuses for the past -- no excuses in the present -- and need offer no excuses about our future if we sow our seeds properly.

We must replant the principles of our early pioneers -- the seeds of individual responsibility and individual liberty -- which are the real roots of America.

Democracy and the common good are not theoretical principles about a formless and faceless nation of people. A democracy -- our Republic, in short -- is characterized by person-to-person relationships -- family, church, school, workplace. Democracy was not and is not inherited by the American people. Its seeds were planted and nourished at the free choice of a free people wishing to live in a free society.

Open and intelligent discussion are indispensable to the functioning of a true democracy. A mature people considers soberly and decides impartially. It seeks solutions through reason. Democracy --like liberty and freedom -- exists on a fragile balance and requires constant attention.

As there is a balance in nature, we also have a balance in government. That is why we have a built-in system of checks and balances in our Government. This system maintains the stability of our government

and leads to reasoned, gradual change -- not to unreasonable and unrestrained change. Today in America, we must plant more of the seeds of stability.

For the wise, the world is a daily rebirth. And that is why prudent men and women will continue to sow in America the proud principles of our Declaration of Independence.

Truth has its roots in the long-ago past. It will outlast all the expedient philosophies of the present. We must continue to be a people of truth and trust.

Two centuries ago, we the people of the United States, made our essential choices. We called them inalienable rights. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness -- their essential truth and dignity -- represent the American philosophy. Americans have chosen to be governed by the consent of the people -- not/dissent.

Our solutions will not be swift and simple. But our wisdom will show us what is right and our will can make it right.

Our horizons are limitless. There are no boundaries for a people who live and act responsibly. America -- a much more mature Nation today -- has come of age in this past decade.

One hundred and ten years ago, our Nation ended a tragic civil war that embittered our people and left half of our country in ruins. President Lincoln, in his Second Inaugural address, offered his countrymen words of restraint and wisdom and stability:

"With malice toward none, with charity toward all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in . . ."

Lincoln's prophetic vision was not seen by many and, unfortunately, the effects of that divisive conflict persisted for decades. The world will not permit us the luxury of such division today. We have no other course

but to get on with the business of America so that we may -- in the enduring expression of President Lincoln -- "achieve a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1975



Jack --

Jim Connors, Milt Friedman and I totally explored entire headache area. Agreed the President's appearance still well advised ... Will include language in the speech that will divorce the President from the speech's historical dispute itself. Have suggested that Ron Nessen issue a brief preliminary statement addressing himself to the historical controversy that exists but of the President's great desire to go to North Carolina "to be among so many great people."



Russ



D - hand  
delivered to: hand delivered  
5-19-10:08  
1. Theiss  
2. Friedman  
3. Nessen  
4. Conner  
ASAP

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ADDRESS

FREEDOM CELEBRATION DAY

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1975

FREEDOM PARK

CHARLOTTE (MECKLENBURG COUNTY)  
NORTH CAROLINA

FROM: DR. THEODORE MARRS *RM*

I. PURPOSE

To commemorate the principles -- the imperishable verities -- those things of the spirit, that were the foundation stones upon which our forefathers set about to build a new kind of nation.

To celebrate Freedom Day -- on May 20th which is the 200th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: On May 1, 1775 Colonel Thomas Polk of Mecklenburg, alarmed by rumors of parliamentary legislation for the suppression of the colonies, summoned delegates from each militia district of the county to meet in Charlotte on May 19 to determine a course of action.

The meeting was called to order in the courthouse. Abraham Alexander was elected Chairman and John McKnitt Alexander, Secretary. While the convention was in session they received the news of the skirmishes at Concord and Lexington. When the delegates met that night, they drew up resolutions for independence from the crown. The resolutions for independence were adopted at 2:00 AM on May 20th. At noon on May 20th the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was read to the people of Charlotte by Thomas Polk, the commander of the military in the area and a recognized community leader.

On May 31, the convention met again and drew up the Mecklenburg Resolves to provide the new government for the County. Captain James Jack was commissioned to take both documents to the President of Congress and the North Carolina representatives to the Continental Congress. The Congress at this time was



still trying to make peace with the crown so therefore blocked Mecklenburg's Declaration, thirteen months later the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The two Mecklenburg documents were returned to North Carolina and kept at the house of John Alexander. Mr. Alexander's house burned down therefore all documentation of what happened in the log courthouse in North Carolina were destroyed. The documents have been the center of controversy for many years. No noted historian of North Carolina will stand behind the Declaration.

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Committee has commissioned 22 year old Jerry Linker to take the historic ride from Charlotte to Philadelphia to deliver the Declaration and the Resolves as Captain James Jack did. The present day Captain Jack will take the same ride (as close as possible) of 200 years ago. The route north had one incident befall it. In Salisbury, North Carolina. Captain Jack was arrested after reading the Declaration in court. It has been arranged that Captain Jack be arrested again this year after he reads the Declaration in Salisbury.

Quite a few Presidents have visited the Charlotte area over the years. In 1954, President Eisenhower was there for the Freedom Day Celebration -- Mecklenburg Declaration.

Others include:

George Washington - May 1791 - 2000 mile tour of the South

Theodore Roosevelt - October 1905 - Tour of the South

William Taft - May 1909 - Celebration of Mecklenburg Declaration

Woodrow Wilson - May 1916 - Celebration of Mecklenburg Declaration

Franklin Roosevelt - September 1936 - Green pasture rally trip

Dwight Eisenhower - Listed above

Richard Nixon - October 1971 - Billy Graham Day

On this year's program there is a gentleman by the name of Captain Dobbs. He is a descendent of the colonial Governor Dobbs of North Carolina. He and Mrs. Dobbs are guests of the

Charlotte - Mecklenburg Bicentennial Committee. They come from Northern Ireland. A good many of the early settlers were Ulstermen as well as thousands of other Scotch Irish.

Billy Graham will be awarded the "Man of the South" award earlier in the day. Other noted Southerners to receive this award have been Governor Luther Hodges of North Carolina and Bernard Baruch.

Cornwallis called Charlotte the "Hornet's Nest." The reason for this name was that supplies for the British were brought into Charleston. The direct line west was through Charlotte. The Charlotte patriots fought a guerilla type warfare and blew up wagons of ammunition etc. You will be presented the first in a series of silver commemorative coins of the Mecklenburg Declaration.

B. Participants: See attached list

C. Press Plan: Full press coverage

### III. TALKING POINTS

Speech is being provided by Editorial Division.

PARTICIPANTS

A. Grant Whitney, Chairman, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Bicentennial  
Committee

Dr. Joseph A. Gaston, Vice President, Johnson C. Smith University  
(Invocation)

The Honorable John M. Belk, Mayor, City of Charlotte

Mrs. Liz Hair, Chairman, Mecklenburg County Commission

Captain Richard Arthur Frederick Dobbs, County of Northern  
Ireland

The Honorable Jesse A. Helms, U.S. Senator, North Carolina

The Honorable James E. Holshouser, Jr.

Governor of North Carolina

The Honorable James G. Martin, Congressman, 9th District,  
North Carolina

Dr. Billy Graham (Benediction)

# THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

## THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Charlotte-town No Carolina May 20th 1775

1st Resolved that whosoever directly or indirectly abetted or in any way, form or manner counteracted the unchartered and dangerous invasion of our rights, as claimed by Great Britain, is an enemy to this county, to America, and to the inherent and inalienable rights of man.

2nd Resolved that we the citizens of Mecklenburg county, do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us to the Mother country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, and, adjure all political connection or association, with that nation, who have wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanely shed the blood of American patriots at Lexington.

3rd Resolved that we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people; are, and of right ought to be a sovereign and self governing association, under the control of no power other than that of our God and the general government of the Congress; to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual cooperation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor.

4th Resolved that as we now acknowledge the existance and control of no law or legal officer civil or military, within this county, we do hereby ordain and adopt as a rule of life, all, each and every of our former laws, wherein, nevertheless, the Crown of Great Britain never can be considered as holding rights, privileges, immunities, or authority therein.

5th Resolved that it is further decreed, that all each and every military officer in this county, is hereby reinstated in his former command and authority, he acting conformably to these regulations, and that every member present of this delegation, shall henceforth be a civil officer—a Justice of the Peace in the character of a Committee man to issue process, hear and determine all matters of controversy, according to said adopted laws, and to preserve peace, union and harmony in said county—and use every exertion to spread the love of country and, fire of freedom throughout America until a more general and organized government be established in this province.

6th Resolved that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

John McKnitt Alexander	Abraham Alexander	Ephraim Brevard
Thos. Polk	Adam Alexander	John Phifer
David Reese	Hezekiah Alexander	
	Will Kennon	
Benjamin Patton	John Ford	Robert Irwin
John Davidson	William Graham	Waightstill Avery
John Flenningen	Charles Alexander	James Harris
Henry Downs	Richard Harris	
Ezra Alexander	Neil Morrison	
	Richard Barry	

Names torn off lower R. H. corner

Hezekiah J. Balch	Zaccheus Wilson
John Queary	Matthew McClure