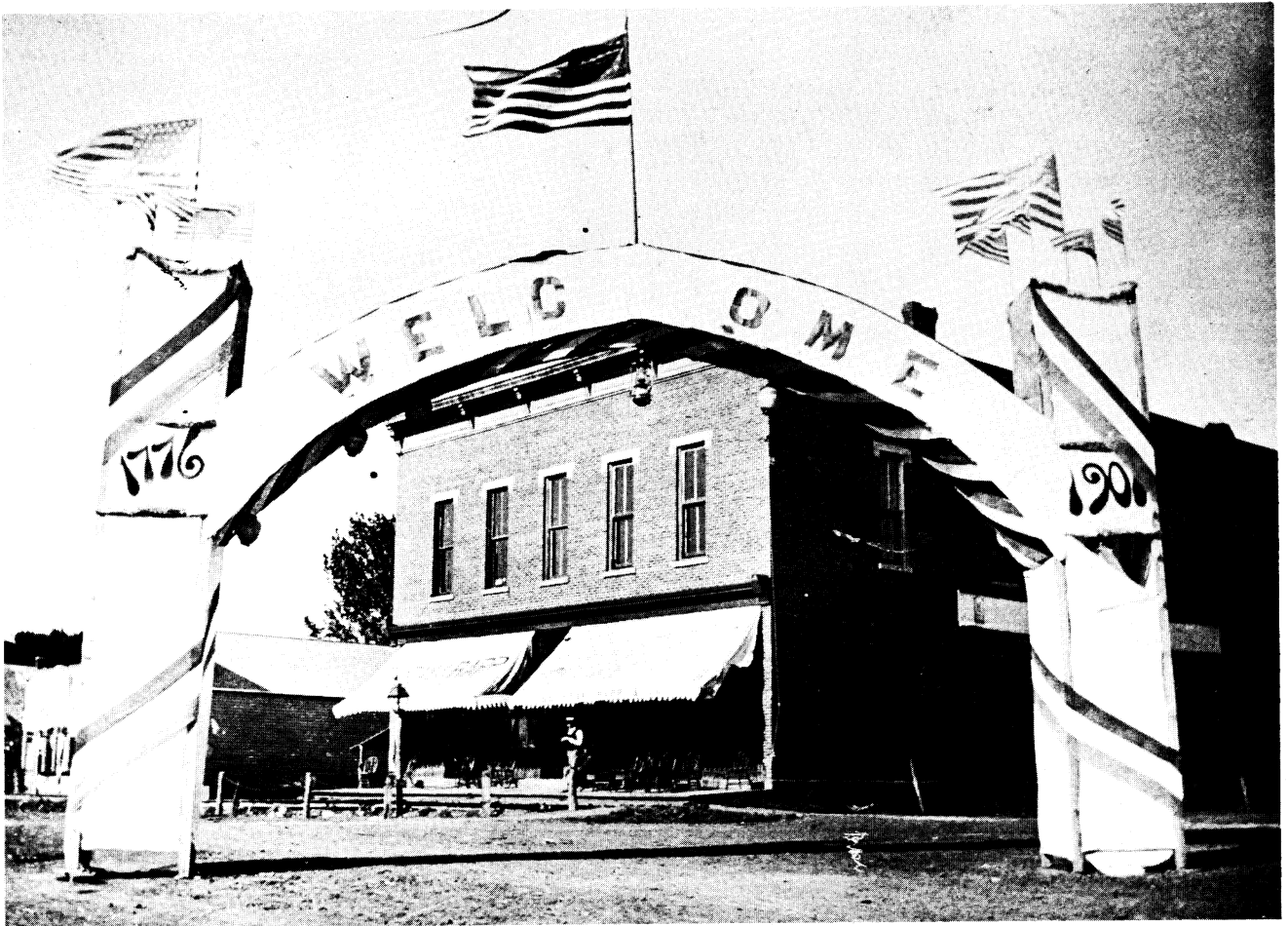


Celebrations



Celebration in Rhodes in 1901.

First Fourth of July Celebration 1856 or 1858

The first Fourth of July was celebrated in 1856 or 1858. It was a great event in the early history of the township. The village was full of excitement. The Fourth dawned with cloudless skies. Mrs. Clarinda Allen, Mrs. John Jaroleman and Mrs. Henry Parker are a few who in 1902 remembered how the contents of tubs, baskets and boxes were transferred from lumber wagons to the table improvised for the occasion. There were roast fowls, cakes, pies and pickles until they almost forgot they were frontier people and must economize. One "symmetrical little porker," furnished by Mrs. Allen adorned the table.

There were two lumber wagon loads of "College Farm" people who came to help celebrate. They also furnished some very good singers to assist our young people and for the first time these hills and valleys echoed songs such as, "Hail Columbia", "Star Spangled Banner", "My Own Native Land" and etc. The Rev. Thomas Merrill of Jasper County (from the College Farm), as quoted, "Not only made the hills echo, but awoke echoes in many hearts, while he talked of the freedom of a nation in which there were a million people in shackles". Mr. Merrill was a man of ability and his earnest words came from a warm heart full of sympathy for the oppressed. Zenas Bartlett was Grand Marshall and the other settlers marched around the mill and back to the grove in the hot sunshine -

rather more fatigued than patriotic. There was a flag carried in the procession, and the beautiful Emma Tuffree, who died in 1862, sang as she marched along with a few school girls.

Two hundred sat down to the long-loaded table on temporary seats and did full justice to the excellent dinner, but it was a mystery where all the people came from.

Eden Township's first celebration was a success.

Chautauqua at Rhodes June 12, 1913

The Jones Chautauqua opens here Friday in the Amos Harmon grove (present Bob Brittain home). Chautauqua programs begin promptly, the childrens hour at 10 a.m., afternoon music at 2:30 p.m., evening music at 7:30 p.m. The afternoon lecture at 3 p.m. and the evening lecture at 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, June 12

Afternoon and evening musicals by Hinkle Orchestra, readings by Irene Thomas.

Friday, June 13

Afternoon and evening musical programs by the Misses Miller and Crow, lectures by James T. Nichols.

Saturday, June 14

Afternoon and evening concerts and readings, Ricketts Entertainment Company.

Sunday, June 15

Afternoon and evening concerts and readings, Ricketts Entertainment Company.

Monday, June 16

Afternoon and evening music, Ralph L. Petty, Lectures by H.C. Kleckner.

Tuesday, June 17

Afternoon and evening music by the Burgess Concert Company, monologs and readings by Lucy E. Burgess.



Armistice Day Parade, November 11, 1918, in foreground, only two Civil War soldiers left in Rhodes.



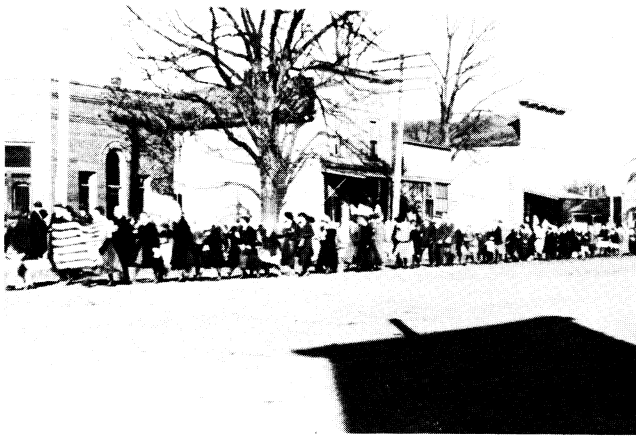
Armistice Day Parade, November 11, 1918, leaving the school grounds.



Armistice Day Parade - November 11, 1918.



Armistice Day Parade, November 11, 1918, on Main Street.



Armistice Day Parade, November 11, 1918, heading into the business block.

Fourth of July in Edenville

This is my recollection of the first "Fourth" that registered itself permanently in my mind.

At 4 a.m. I was suddenly awakened by the vibrating thunder of the shooting off of his anvil by Dave Thorn. Immediately the church and school bells rang out again the message of the Liberty Bell.

My father and I went to the store, where we purchased a sack full, such as would hold twenty-five pounds of sugar, of candy and another one of nuts, and a goodly supply of firecrackers.

The village was aflutter with flags and bunting, our horse, Nell, pranced to the martial music of a band. Already the crowds of visitors overflowed the hotels and liveries, so that all the grass grown side streets, that did not extend into the country but dead ended against farm land, were crowded with unhitched horses, eating from their wagon boxes as mangers.

The morning was devoted to the serious and ritualistic part of the celebration. It was started by a procession at the head of which rode a man on horseback with a red, white and blue sash from right shoulder to left side and then around his waist. Letters on this sash where it crossed his chest proclaimed him to be the Marshall of the day.

Next was the band wagon, with a special seating rack for the musicians, and which was covered with red, white and blue buntings, so that the wheels even were hidden. The team of horses drawing the wagon, as indeed all teams in the procession were profusely decorated with flags and patriotic colors.

After the band came another wagon with a special frame, also completely covered and hidden in tri-colored draperies. This frame supported a large American flag on a staunch pole, with the lower edge of the flag ten feet above the supporting frame. With their tops a few inches below the bottom of the flag of the Union were four flags of the State of Iowa of substantial size. Below these the entire space to the

supporting frame was filled with massed or banked inter-mixed flags of State and Union of varying sizes and length of standards.

Next came the car of Independence, the most profusely smothered and concealed in bunting, with a special frame pyramidal in shape and base extending outwards over the wheels.

Arrayed in purest white colonial style, with wreaths of flowers on their heads and with red, white and blue sashes, sat thirteen maidens, each one representing one of the thirteen colonies and surmounting the tip of the pyramid was a young man in colonial dress representing George Washington.

In front of the pyramid on a throne, a blue eyed and golden tressed young woman representing the goddess of Liberty. The driver was also in colonial dress.

Next to the Independence car came a double carriage in which rode the President of the day, the minister, the reader of the declaration and the orator. Following these came another carriage with a quartet of singers.

This carriage was followed by the Indians of the Boston Tea Party on foot and next to them a company of revolutionary soldiers in uniforms of the revolutionary army.

Back of these came a burlesque on the Indians of the tea party, the ragamuffins headed by the tin pot band. Citizens in carriages constituted the rear guard.

The ragamuffins consisted of men and boys, who had studied, since the last Fourth to design the habits and characters of this procession. Small boys lived in the expectancy of the day, when they would be old enough that their mothers would allow them to be ragamuffins.

This procession led to the roofless grandstand in a natural grove. Around the grandstand were backless plank seats.

The Indians, soldiers and ragamuffins mysteriously disappeared, while Washington, the Colonies, and the band formed the background on the stage.

The band played as the congregation quickly gathered. The President of the day opened the patriotic services with a short proclamation, and announced the start of the program with the band playing and congregational singing of the national anthem "Hail Columbia", in which joined Washington, the colonies, the male quartet and the Goddess.

This was followed by prayer. After the prayer the Goddess of Liberty, a soprano sang the "Star Spangled Banner," with a male quartet. After this the Declaration of Independence was read by a young man.

Then the orator of the day, in the art and style of Daniel Webster, proclaimed in faith and confidence, the gospel of American democracy, eulogized the revolutionary fathers as worthy of honor and reverence, such as the Greeks gave to their hero dead and demi Gods; retold the story of our winning freedom from British tyranny and our setting up as a

separate and different people and a new nation; and exhorted each and all to guard well their citadel of liberty, that we fall not like Rome.

The people listened with the attention and fervor of those who actually believed in their God and their Country and its Republican institutions; who looked upon Washington as truly the father of their country and who gave heed to his council. When the orator had finished, the band played while the crowd dispersed into family or friendship groups for their picnic dinners.

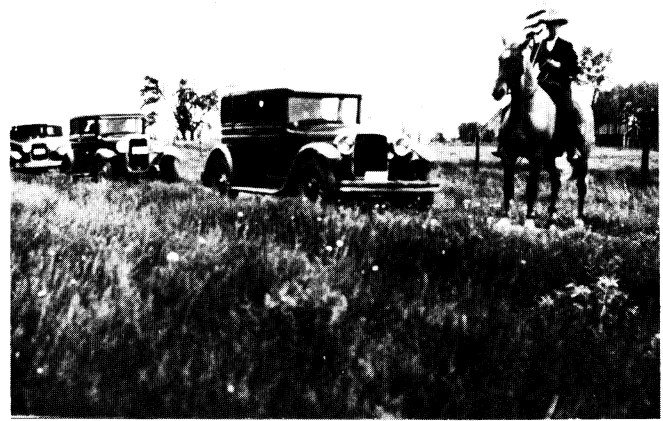
After dinner came conversations with friends and old acquaintances, ball games, races between the ponies of the Tama Indians and those of white boys, also foot races, wheelbarrow and sack races, climbing a greased pole by boys for a sack of silver on top, and catching a greased pig, with the pig as a prize to the catcher.

Accompanying all this were the stands, the barkers, and always, everywhere boys exploding firecrackers.

At sundown many left, some of whom had driven half the night before to come and who would not get home till early morning.

After dark there was increased gayety, dancing and fireworks. Each rocket as it ascended into the blue proclaimed the glory of America and its destiny and defiance to foreign force and guile. "Our Liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain." And thus the day passed.

by Plato (Bert) Kreamer

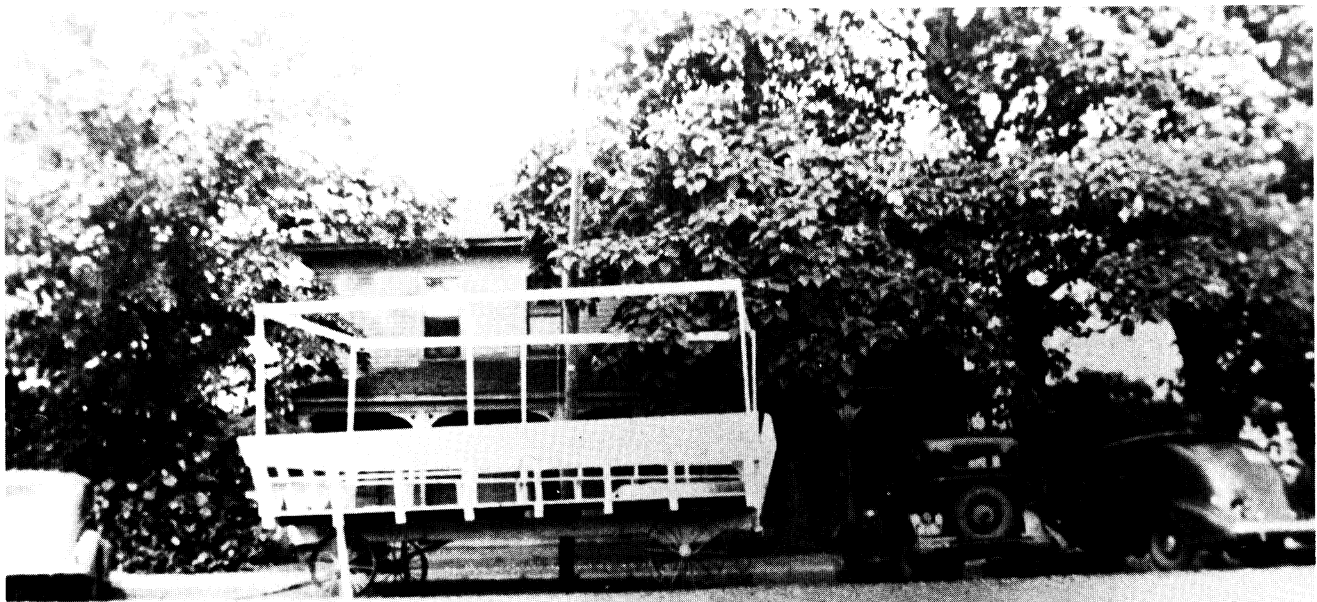


Memorial Day, May 30, 1931.

Olden Days 4th of July

June 25, 1869

Many of our citizens, Collins, will go to Rhodes for the Fourth. Rhodes is going to have a blowout. There will be foot races, bicycle races, athletic sports, tug of war, sack races, old men's races, horse races, good music and immense fireworks. Rev. W.F. Spry will be the orator of the day.



Band Wagon which was pulled onto Main Street for Band Concerts and was used for many other purposes.

City of Rhodes

Rhodes, Iowa 50234

RHODES BICENTENNIAL MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

1976

MAY 31 1976

PARADE	9:30 A.M.	Main Street	American Legion Band (Jack Gray) Boy Scouts 4 H Fire Trucks
CATHOLIC CEMETARY SERVICES	10:15 A.M. till 10:45 A.M.	Catholic Cemetary	Band number Recitation (Roger Goodman) Roll of Dead Prayer (Father Purtell) Song (Rev. Nichols) Legion Services
EDEN CEMETARY SERVICES	11:15 A.M. till 11:45 A.M.	Eden Cemetary	Band number Recitation (Larry Buck) Roll of Dead Prayer (Rev. Nichols) Song (REv. Náchols) Legion Services
POTLUCK PICNIC	12:30 P.M.	Park	Bring covered dish and service- beverages by Little Leaque
FLAG PRESENTATION (Bicentennial)	2:00 P.M.	Park	State of Iowa Rev. Nancy Nichols American Legion
BALL GAMES	2:30 P.M.	Park	Little Leaque
CHOIR Bicentennial Cantata	7:30 P.M.	Methodist Church	Newton Sacred Heart Catholic Choir Rhodes Methodist Choir Rhodes Community Chorus

IN CASE OF RAIN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM WILL BE SUBSTITUTED

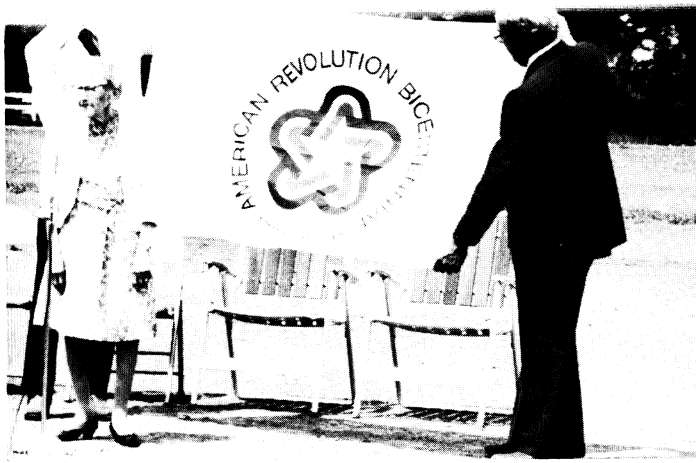
Services	11:00 A.M.	Methodist Church	for Both cemetaryies
Dinner	12:30 A.M.	Church Basement	Same as above
Flag Presentation	2:00 P.M.	Methodist Chruch	Same as above
Choir	7:30 P.M.	Methodist Church	Same as above

Persons participating in organizing celebration: Revenend Nancy Nichols, Mr. Carroll White, Mr. Marvin Gibbs, Mrs. Francis Klaas, Mrs. Norma Klaas, Mrs. Ruth Buck, Mrs. Marienne Eddy, Mr. Don Seams, Mrs. Karen Clement, Mr. Jack Gray and all of the above organizations.

PLEASE COMEE, ATTEND, PARTICIPATE, AND ENJOY YOURSELVES, NO OBLIGATIONS, NO COSTS.

William W. Overman, Mayor

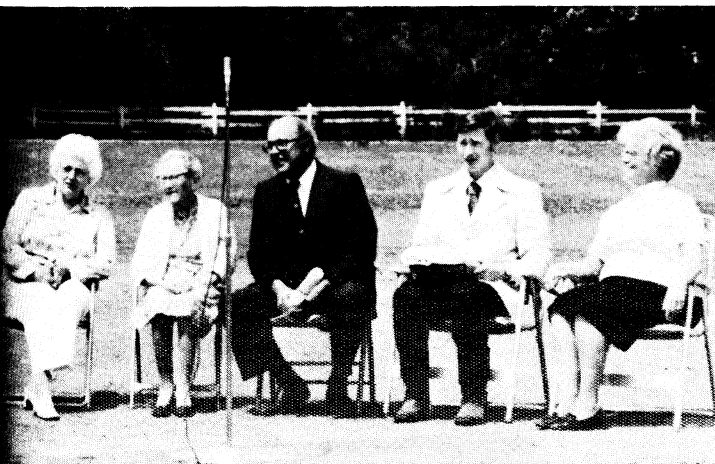
We're Small But We're Growing



From left; Agnes Buck, Bill Overman and Wendell Benson - 1976.



Rhodes American Legion raising the flags at the park. From the left; Dennis Malloy, Danny Guckert and Joe Malecheck III - 1976.



From left; Ethel Buck, Agnes Buck, Wendell Benson, Bill Overman and Russell Buck.



Color Guard from left; Allan Eddy, Marvin Gibbs, James A. Hale and George Dannen - 1976.

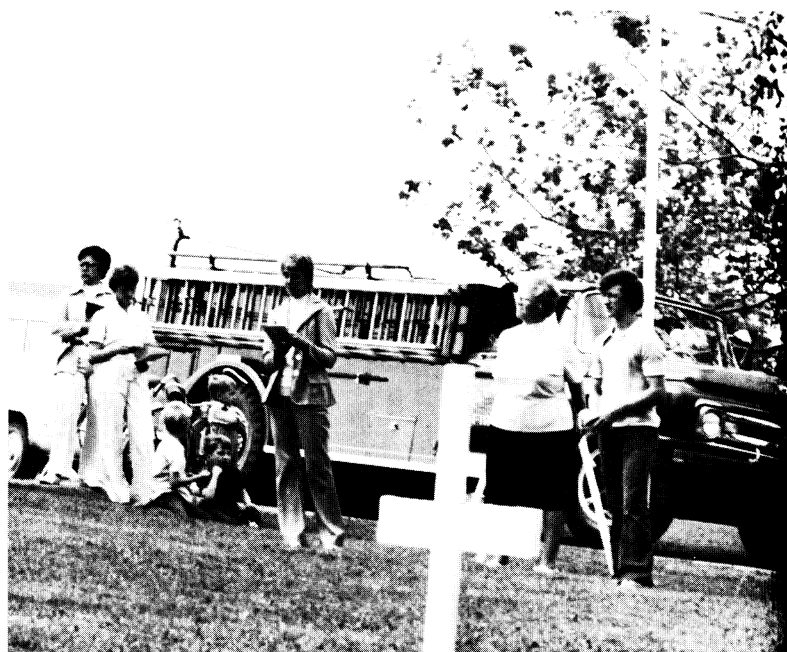


Bi-centennial Parade, May of 1976, from the left; Agnes Buck in back seat; Jody and Bob Gibbs in front.



Some of the Firing Squad from the left; Dennis Kloppenborg, Danny Guckert, Larry Guckert, Leonard Eddy, Dennis Malloy and John Mercer - 1976.

From the left; Liz Malloy, Marianne Eddy, Eric, Scott and Matt Eddy, Betty Dannen, Rev. Nancy Nichols and Larry Buck.



Band Stand in 1983

Memories I remember the ice house down by the Depot and in the winter the farmers would all go up town and put ice in from the pond that was there. Then in the summer we could get ice and make ice cream. Roscoe Francis had a cafe next to the drugstore on the corner. I remember the druggist, Smith. As to the F.N.G. club, I picked corn one year with Elizabeth Bear. After the corn was out, Elizabeth and I started the club, around 1927 or 1928. We met once a month and studied about gardens and flowers.

*Submitted by
Florance Wallace*