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State of Iowa
1972

Biennial Report

Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

July 1, 1970 through December 30, 1972

ROBERT W. DILLON, Chairman
KENNETH R. FULK, Secretary

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Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

STATE HOUSE, DES MOINES

December 31, 1972

KENNETH R. FULK, SEC.
PHONE 515/262-3111
DES MOINES

The Honorable Robert D. Ray
Governor of Iowa
Des Moines, Iowa

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith a report of the activities of the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission from its beginning in July 1970 to date.

The IARBC has made significant progress and has established the basis for a worthwhile celebration of American freedom in 1976 and continuing years. The most difficult task has been to develop a sense of timeliness -- to get people involved early -- almost everyone recognizes the value of the Bicentennial, but they do not realize the years it takes to plan properly.

We must be prepared for many changes in concepts, many new ideas and the involvement of literally thousands of Iowans who will want to become involved when the Bicentennial year 1976 arrives.

The IARBC needs to continue to patiently organize community by community so the framework for many activities will be established when the public is ready.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Fulk
Secretary

KRF:mir

IARBC #35-73

The 200th Anniversary of the

AMERICAN REVOLUTION



A Report of the

IOWA AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The main purpose of the celebration of the American Revolution is to remind all Americans and citizens of the world of the freedom that exists in the United States, how freedom was conceived, what this freedom has meant in the past, what it means today, and how it may contribute to the future welfare of the world in man's quest for freedom.

The celebration of 200 years of freedom gives all Americans, all Iowans, an exciting opportunity for a re-evaluation and a renewal of the real meaning of freedom. An opportunity to do those things for each other that freedom gives the opportunity to do.



December 31, 1972
Statehouse
Des Moines
Iowa

The Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

DUTIES

To develop state goals, encourage community projects, and prepare programs for commemorating the American Revolution in Iowa. The Commission's responsibility is to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate activities commemorating the historic events and attitudes associated with freedom and to develop plans showing how Iowa's development may be used to assist people all over the world.

CHRONOLOGY

July - December 1970

The IARBC was established by the Sixty-third General Assembly, House File 1339. An annual appropriation of \$40,000 for the biennium was approved by the Legislature.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Appointed by the
Governor

Established by
the Law

1 ROBERT W. DILLON, CHAIRMAN
General Manager KRNT, Radio & TV
Retired
DES MOINES
2 MRS. EDWIN W. BRUERE
National Vice-Chairman DAR
CEDAR RAPIDS
3 C. ROBERT BRENTON
Brenton Banks
DES MOINES
4 DON N. KERSTEN
Attorney at Law
FORT DODGE
5 WILLIAM G. MURRAY, Professor
Iowa State University
AMES
6 DON C. MUHM, Farm Editor
Des Moines Register
DES MOINES
7 ROBERT M. STONE
Golden Rod Farms
CHARITON

4 MELVIN SYNHORST, Secretary of State
DES MOINES
2 C. JOSEPH COLEMAN, Senator
CLARE
7 PETER HARSTAD, Director
State Historical Society
IOWA CITY
JACK W. MUSGROVE, Curator
Iowa Department of History and Archives
DES MOINES
FRED PRIEWERT, Director
State Conservation Commission
DES MOINES
WILLARD BOYD, President
University of Iowa
IOWA CITY
W. ROBERT PARKS, President
Iowa State University
AMES
JOHN J. KAMERICK, President
University of Northern Iowa
CEDAR FALLS
CHAD A. WYMER, Director
Iowa Development Commission
DES MOINES
2 KENNETH R. FULK, SECRETARY IARBC
DES MOINES

Ex Officio

8 STEVE ZUMBACH, President
Iowa State University Student Body
AMES

Appointed by the
Lt. Governor

Appointed by the
Speaker of the House

9 CHARLES O. LAVERTY, Senator
INDIANOLA
10 LEE H. GAUDINEER, JR., Senator
DES MOINES

4 CHARLES E. KNOBLAUCH, Sr., Representative
CARROLL
21 DON D. ALT, Representative
WEST DES MOINES

REVIEW OF COMMISSION MEETINGS

1971

January 5 Introductions of committee members. Film prepared by the National Committee shown.

January 14 World Food Exposition Study Committee report made. Resolved to pursue World Food Expo as a major project.

January 28 Tentative recommendation presented for staff and budget requirements for the Biennium 71-73. Central Committee made final appropriations request.

February 18 The letter to Iowa organizations informing them of the impending American Revolution Bicentennial Commemoration in 1976 was approved. Discussions centered on appointment of a "Community Action" committee, newsletter appropriation request, and plans and dates for future meetings.

March 4 The following proposals were presented and discussed:
1. Construction of a large monument ear of corn to commemorate the American Revolution in Iowa. 2. Plans for a 40 section "Prairie Park". 3. A presentation by Spencer, Iowa group inviting the Bicentennial to hold an International Food Exposition in the Spencer area. 4. A presentation on proposed movie and slide presentation on Iowa's first 200 years and a book on famous Iowans of the first 200 years. 5. "Terrace Hill" restoration, "1776" Vieshea Show, student road show to go to Iowa communities. 6. Restoration of the "Old Capitol" at Iowa City.

April 15 Reports were received from several Iowa organizations showing an interest in participating in the Bicentennial celebration. A presentation from Iowa State University regarding the possibility of a "World Food Research Institute" was presented and discussed.

May 13 The "Prairie Park" proposal and how it could be coordinated into other activities was discussed; also, the proposed "Adventure Land," progress on newsletter, and letterheads. The Commission approved the central theme of the Iowa Bicentennial in 1976 to be "Food for Freedom" with a World Food Exposition as the main theme and also to include "Prairie Park", "Living History Farms," and "World Food Research Center".

June 3 A three minute presentation on the World Food Expo was made to the President of the United States.

1971 (Continued)

June 9 Discussed legislative progress. The Bicentennial Commission proposed a request to the Iowa State Fair Board for office space. A proposed joint meeting with World Food Exposition Study Committee was deemed advisable.

June 30 Joint meeting with the World Food Exposition Study Committee held: 1. The "Young Ideas" plan to inform Iowans of the WFE proposal. 2. Multi-screen presentation including slides and movies, and handout brochures. 3. Location of regional airport and a possible WFE site were all discussed. Approval given to contract for screen presentation.

August Premiere showing of "Shot Heard 'Round the World" was viewed by over 20,000 people during the 1971 Iowa State Fair. Dr. Norman Borlaug was guest at first showing.

September 20 Special meeting to interview applicants for Assistant Secretary of the IARBC.

October 7-8 Presentation of WFE plan to ARBC in Chicago by the Governor, Commission members and others.

October 11 The Chicago meeting and Iowa's presentation before the ARBC was discussed. The Commission accepted the offer of the Iowa State Fair Board for office space.

November 1 Striking of commemorative medals and coins was discussed. Plans to present the Iowa Bicentennial to the public were presented, with approval given to the slide series "WFE '76", "Shot Heard 'Round the World", and brochure on World Food Expo '76 .

December 21 The ARBC resolution of encouragement for the World Food Exposition was reviewed; also, nomination of representatives from American Legion and Legion Auxiliary were presented. Report of approval of budget.

1972

January 13 Hearing on the World Food Exposition by the joint session of the Iowa House and Senate was reported. ARBC "letter of encouragement" was read. Reports were heard from two planning and management consultants.

February 21-22 Chairman and Secretary attended ARBC Bicentennial workshop. A short presentation made to the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

February 25 Bicentennial medals contest discussed, judges selected, committee appointed. Federal grant of \$45,000 to be applied for; National Bicentennial Parks Program aired. Proposed World Food Expo legislation reviewed.

March 27 Reviewed actions of recent state legislation. Special "Call to Arms" statewide meeting held as a kick-off on plans to present the Bicentennial and World Food Expo to every county in the state of Iowa. Three teams to present programs (one hour long) in each Iowa county, covering entire state in two week period.

April 26 The "Iowa Tea Party" with representatives from seventy-seven counties and one-hundred sixty-five delegates was the "kick-off" for the Iowa Bicentennial and World Food Expo programs. Ninety-five county meetings were held to inform local people of Bicentennial plans. World Food Exposition will continue as major goal for IARBC.

May 25 The Federal government grant for \$45,000 was discussed and the proposed request reviewed. Report on personnel interviews. Approval given to employing additional staff member. Many reports of news clippings from counties received in the IARBC office.

June Made plans for Bicentennial booth at Iowa State Fair. Task Force unanimously resolved that the World Food Expo '76 continue to be top project.

July 21 The following were discussed: 1. Commission's application for Federal funds -- \$45,000, approved as budgeted. 2. Plans made to invite three consulting firms to September board meeting. 3. Living History Farms proposal. 4. Sanctioned restoration of the Old Capitol at University of Iowa. 5. Discussed proxy voting and meeting attendance.

August State Fair month. Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission operated a booth and display through the Fair. Five thousand people signed cards, all Iowa counties, eighteen other states, and eight foreign countries.

*3 emps
Phaene Hebbes - fed rep
do org committees
Mary Goodman
Mary Randolph*

THE THEME OF IOWA'S PLANNING

All of the early discussions of the commission have centered around Iowa's contribution to U. S. history, and it was decided that Iowa's uniqueness related to food -- to the plenty of this land. Freedom made possible by the American Revolution resulted in our free enterprise system -- and this freedom gave Iowa people the capability and initiative to produce more food per person than any like area of the world -- therefore, the commission decided the theme for Iowa's celebrations should be FOOD FOR FREEDOM.

STATE GOALS

In accordance with directives from the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Iowa's Bicentennial plans have been formulated to review and reaffirm the basic principles on which our nation was founded. As President Nixon stated the goals, "--to forge a new Spirit of '76 which vitalizes the ideals for which the Revolution was fought; a spirit which will unite the nation in purpose and dedication as it moves into its third century." State projects to date include the following:

1. World Food Expo '76.
2. Living History Farms.
3. World Food Research Center.
4. Prairie Park.
5. Movies and slide presentations on Iowa's first 200 years for public school presentation.
6. A book on famous Iowans of the first 200 years.
7. Other projects.

COMMUNITY GOALS

To have every community in Iowa, this means every town, every township, every city, county or groups of counties to band themselves together in all kinds of projects--projects to be completed by 1976, projects to be done in 1976, or projects to be started in 1976.

These projects will include a wide variety of ideas to make it a meaningful program.

They may be in the area of restoration of important buildings or sites. They may be preservation of significant records. They may be in the field of ecology, conservation, human relations, youth programs or education. They may be new parks, or improvement of existing ones.

Each community is asked to come up with its best thinking, and "do its own thing".

1972 (Continued)

September Plans made for joint meeting with Living History Farms. Invitations sent to two consulting firms to present their qualifications for a WFE feasibility study.

October 6 Meeting at Living History Farms. Tour of same. Presentation by two consulting firms on World Food Exposition feasibility study. Site for World Food Expo '76 discussed. State Heritage Committee Chairman selected.

October 30 The following presentations: 1. Living History Farms proposal. 2. Iowa State Fair Board's presentation of plans for World Food Expo '76. 3. Prairie Park plans. 4. Selected consulting firm to make feasibility study of proposals. 5. Appointment of a state committee on youth and education.

November 22 Three presentations made to IARBC for their approval: 1. Five Flags over Dubuque; 2. Turkey River Little Lakes of the Woods State Park; 3. Missouri Riverfront Development project. Letter of encouragement from IARBC sent to first two projects. Missouri Riverfront to make supplementary presentation the first of the year.

Hon. Co.

AREAS OF PLANNING

Heritage '76

A nationwide summons to recall our heritage and to place it in its historical perspective. All groups within our society are urged to re-examine our origins, our values, and the meaning of America-- to take pride in our accomplishments and to dramatize our development.

Festival USA

A nationwide opportunity to program activities and events to stimulate travel, and to encourage our citizens to expand their knowledge of our country and extend a particular welcome to visitors.

Horizons '76

A nationwide challenge to every American, acting individually or with others, to undertake at least one principal project which manifests the pride, the priorities, and the hopes of his community. The Commission encourages every group to pool its resources and talents in a constructive effort to demonstrate concern for human welfare, happiness and freedom.

The Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission was passed into law by the Iowa legislature in 1970. The Iowa Bicentennial Commission is composed of 21 men and women who are charged with the responsibility to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate activities commemorating historic events and attitudes associated with freedom and the American Revolution in Iowa.

ORGANIZATION WORK

Early in 1972 a statewide series of "Call to Arms" meetings were held in ninety-four of Iowa's ninety-nine counties. Organizational leaders met with the task force teams to learn about the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission projects and programs. They were asked to set up county bicentennial committees to determine programs at the local level. To date thirty-nine counties have elected a permanent county bicentennial committee. These counties have regular board or executive committee meetings. Many projects have been selected, and progress is being made.

The balance of the ninety-nine counties' organizational committees or temporary county organizations are in the process of becoming permanent for the period of the Bicentennial.

The Commission's field representative is working with the remaining temporary county organizations to get them active.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Meetings with ninety-four county Bicentennial Committees have been conducted to help with organization and project planning. Commission members and the staff have appeared before one hundred fifteen organized groups throughout the state in addition to the ninety-four "Call to Arms" meetings during 1972, with the slide presentation to tell the story of the American Revolution Bicentennial plans, and the Food for Freedom plans of IARBC. Groups have included Women's organizations, Service clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Farm organizations, Schools, Youth organizations, Historical Societies, etc.

Personal calls were made on more than 250 community leaders throughout the state to stimulate their interest and enlist their support in developing significant programming for the Bicentennial year. This work has generated great interest and enthusiasm for Bicentennial planning at both the state and local level.

STATE GOALS PROGRESS

World Food Expo. X

At a sixteen state regional conference called by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission in October 1971, Governor Ray urged that a World Food Exposition be made a part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration in 1976 and said, "Iowa is the most natural and logical place," to hold it.

This program was one of the first projects to receive a "letter of encouragement" from ARBC. David J. Mahoney, Chairman of ARBC, said, "The entire commission shares with you in the enthusiasm for this project which would involve the role of agriculture in honoring the 200th anniversary of American independence."

ARBC requested a detailed criteria for a World Food Expo be submitted to the commission within eight months.

Among the many groups throughout the state that have endorsed this program are:

The Conference for Planned Economic Development of Iowa
The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Iowa Pork Association
Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution
4-H Clubs of Iowa

and many other state and county organizations and associations.

Feasibility, design and cost studies have been included in the criteria being reviewed in Washington by the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, as well as ARBC.

World Food Research Center

A program is being developed by Iowa State University. Research, lectures, seminars for agricultural leaders and scientists from all over the world will be a continuing program to alleviate the major problem of the 21st century -- too little food for too many people!

Programs would encompass processing and distribution of food as well as production. This would attract specialists in agronomy, animal science, home economics, chemistry, veterinary medicine, economics and related fields.

Living History Farms

is a non profit, educational historical Foundation. It consists of over 500 acres of land on Interstates 35 and 80 west of Des Moines. It will include a Pioneer Farm of 1840, a Horse Farm of 1900, and a farm of the future. Much of the work for the Pioneer Farm has been completed. When completed, this will be one of Iowa's major educational and tourist attractions.

Prairie Park

Plans to develop a Prairie Park with plant life the same as existed before our prairie land was plowed and grazed, is being considered. Several locations have been suggested, and studies are being made on costs involved. A few small prairie type parks are being started, such as in the Turkey River project.

Other Projects

A comprehensive Iowa History program for the 5th and 11th grades is being researched by the IARBC school committee including representatives of Iowa's three state universities. The course of study will include the following areas: Economics, Social, Political, Religious, the Arts, Education, and Prairie Environment. The program will be available before or during 1976, to become a regular part of the school curriculum.

PROJECTS ENDORSED BY IARBC

One of the functions of the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission is to review and encourage regional projects throughout the state.

To date the commission has issued "letters of encouragement" to these proposals:

1. Five Flags over Dubuque -- A project to restore a 19th Century Theater as a focal point for a plaza and convention center.
2. Little Lakes of the Woods State Park Project-- A proposed 4,000 acre recreation area in Howard County including facilities for camping, fishing, swimming, hiking and nature study. Typical farming operations will be a part of the facility, as well as an area for a prairie park with the flora and fauna the same as it was 200 years ago.
3. Old Capitol Restoration -- a project to restore the original State Capitol, now a part of the University of Iowa campus, to its original state. This is being funded by private and Foundation funds.
4. Terrace Hill -- A project to restore a handsome Victorian home that has been given to the state of Iowa, and is to be used as the Governor's Mansion. Private funds are being raised at present for the restoration.

Another project will soon be ready for submission to the commission, known as the Missouri River Development Plan. It includes three Iowa and three Nebraska counties. The proposal includes development of riverfront recreation areas, scenic roads, plus some urban renewal projects. It would incorporate the expansion of present facilities in the area, such as Desoto Bend and preservation of the Bertrand, etc.