



Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

Bicentennial Time Capsule

May 20, 2016

Origin:

The Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce board of directors approved the project for a Time Capsule during their August, 2015 meeting. Tim McCormick was appointed the chairperson for the Time Capsule committee, having spearheaded the International Antique Phonograph Society's Time Capsule buried in the front lawn of Thomas Edison's Birthplace in Milan, Ohio in 2009.

Need:

Today's citizens of Montgomery County do not have a coherent picture of life during our State's Centennial. We have to reach back or forward 5 or 10 years from 1916 to piece together enough photographs to partially illustrate how Montgomery County might have appeared. We have to retrieve volumes of newspapers during that year to reconstruct the events that shaped 1916. Only spotty or minimal information exists of our forbearer's business ventures, social events, churches, schools, local government activities and the like. We have this unique opportunity to leave our Montgomery County descendants a comprehensive overview of the year 2016.

Our Mission:

First off, Helen Hudson and David Peach are busily preparing a written narrative of the events of 2016 as it affects our community. Who would have guessed we would have entered our State's bicentennial year with an extremely volatile stock market with pronouncements of a coming recession only to see a few months later record high Dow Jones values. No one could have predicted the political landscape taking place for President of the United States that dominates our daily conversations here in our County. The changes effecting Montgomery County are profound this year from the renovation of the old hospital to breaking ground on the new wing of our current hospital. Our community is witnessing a rebirth before our eyes with our Stellar grant building projects, the Ben Hur Building restoration, and all the activity taking place throughout the county.

On June 1st, we will meet with a dozen or more volunteer amateur and professional photographers to assign the remaining duties of capturing the images of Montgomery County as it appears in 2016. Our photo survey started on January 1st with the swearing in ceremonies of City, Town and County officials including Crawfordsville's Mayor Todd Barton. With the advent of good outdoor weather, photographic documentation kicks into high gear. Our goal is to capture 400 images representative of our community through street views, architecturally significant buildings, documenting small towns and Crawfordsville, rural images, and Sugar Creek to the social events

that shape our community including the Strawberry Festival, The Taste of Montgomery County, sporting and leisure activities. We are looking for additional volunteer photographers to activity participate in our photographic survey. Please contact Tim McCormick at (765) 362-7001 for more information. Citizens may also participate by submitting 2016 photos already taken in Montgomery County with a written description to: anne.shaw@crawfordsvillechamber.com

One of the most beneficial reasons for a Time Capsule is to document our citizens in 2016. Beginning Wednesday, May 25th the Chamber of Commerce will begin mailing letters to all of their Montgomery County members, Non-profit groups, churches, social organizations and governmental entities. We are asking these groups to submit a two page document with photographs of who they are and what they do including a brief history of their business or organization. These portraits of our County will fill the majority of the space of the time capsule for there is no better way to explain to our future generation who we are as a community than by illuminating our citizen's pursuits and activities. Over 700 requests for Time Capsule submissions will be mailed in all.

The citizens of Montgomery County will be asked to participate in the time capsule project by signing a document at the Bicentennial Relay celebration to take place at the County Court House in October. This document will be added to the collection and interned for 100 years to be viewed by our descendants in the year 2116.

We will continue to collect information, photographs and organization submissions until Midnight December 31st, 2016. Compiling all of this information in electronic format, printing everything onto archival quality paper, and preparing the Time Capsule will take place in the early months of 2017. The burial at a public location yet to be announced will take place mid spring in 2017 in conjunction with a public celebration.

What we will have achieved:

Not only are we leaving something of ourselves to our future citizens, but we are creating a timely comprehensive document of who we are for our use today. Imagine someone from out-of-state coming to Montgomery County and asking our Chamber of Commerce for information on local business. We will have that information ready to print at a moment's notice. The same goes for churches, non-profits and social organizations. Everything that will be included in the time capsule will be available on-line for all to see and use. No other community in the State of Indiana will have this kind of readily available information in one location.

Volunteers needed:

There are multiple opportunities to assist in this most ambitious project. We need photographers, Microsoft Word typists to assist those organizations requiring help in preparing their documents, volunteers to reach out to groups who have not yet participated, people to help compile and organize the mass of information that will come in, and volunteers to help spread the word. Please E-Mail Anne Shaw at our local Chamber of Commerce: anne.shaw@crawfordsvillechamber.com on how you would like to be involved.