

Foreword

Just six months ago we undertook the compiling of a history of the Moweaqua area. The cooperation of hundreds of people has been both astonishing and greatly appreciated. Enough material has been submitted to fill over a thousand pages, however, to have used it all would have been economically unfeasible. We have included as much as possible which we felt was important and interesting, yet limited the material so that one will not feel he has learned more than he wanted to know. Although great efforts have been made to present factual information, we are sure errors must have been made, and for these we apologize in advance. We have relied on information from legal documents, published sources, newspapers and people's memories. In the short time we had for such a great undertaking no doubt some information has been inaccurately copied. Material which could not be validated has been indicated as being hearsay, although we feel much of this, too, is true. The Bicentennial Committee of the Village of Moweaqua represents that this book is the product of contributions from individual authors of the articles contained herein, and further represent that they do not take responsibility nor credit for any material contained herein, considering that the material may be based on the opinion of the writer, or based on fiction and/or folklore. Using the information at hand we have tried to compile a balanced account of the way things were. It would be nice to have included only the good things of our past, but not everything or everybody turned out that way, and that, too, we included.

Looking forward, if by chance someone finds a dusty copy of this book during the Tricentennial Year, we hope he will find it of interest. And, if he decides to compile an addendum of the intervening hundred years, we offer these encouragements. Most important, find capable, hard working people to form a steering committee, people such as: Bruce Sarver, who will make every effort to find any information possible from newspapers and other sources; Pat Dobson, who will personally visit many people in the rural area and also compile the history of the churches; Erma Gloria Johnson, who will compile the town who's who; Jean Hodge and Sherry Wempen, whose knowledge of Moweaqua's past is astonishing; Betty Shaw, whose interest in the coal mine led to that chapter; Jane Stephens, who will willingly interview people; Jim and Mary Ann Hedges, who will encourage people to buy ads for financial support; Richard Corby, who will research the businesses and help with the final writing; Jim Jordan, who will compile information on centennial farms; Marilyn Kater, who will somehow figure out the poor handwriting and be responsible for the typing; Don and Pat Warnick, who will graciously loan typewriters from Sattley's Office Machines, Inc., in Decatur; Jim Warnick, whose expertise in publishing will be so necessary; and Norma Schorfheide, who as chairman of the Moweaqua Bicentennial Committee will give freely of her time and encourage you every step of the way. People like these will only be a beginning. You will hopefully find others to help as we have found Haldon Ayars, Herb and Frances Jackson, Evelyn Wooters, Elsie Snyder, John Funk, Earl House, Mary Alice Morrissey and Denise Jones. A complete list of everyone who contributed information would be nearly endless, and someone would be sure to be overlooked. Keeping names with material written will probably prove an impossibility, because as chapters are compiled, facts coming from many people are combined. Although names of contributors are mainly omitted, we will forever remember them in our hearts. We also hope there will be another person around like Duane Brooks, who doesn't even know the chairman, but calls her anyhow to tell her how much he appreciates her efforts. And, hopefully, you, too, will find willing sponsors so the publisher can be paid.

We hope you will also come up with an interesting cover. Ours shows the official seal of Moweaqua created especially for the Bicentennial. A contest was held to find a design representative of the village, and from the many entries, this one, done by Dorothy Oglesby, was selected. The cover designs were created by Ruth Ellen Perkins.

Finally, a chairman for the project will have to be found. There are several important qualifications for this job. She must first of all be naive enough to accept it. Her family must have the greatest amount of understanding and cooperativeness so they will graciously prepare their own meals, put up with her griping and accept the fact that their home will be filled with people and stacks of paper for months, to say nothing of a perpetually busy phone. And she may as well need improvement in the areas of humility and tact, as she will get lots of practice throughout the project.

To all of you mentioned above and to the hundreds of you who remain unnamed, I give my deepest and heartfelt thanks. It's been a blast!

LOIS JONES, Chairman
Moweaqua History Book
7 Allen Drive
Moweaqua, Illinois 62550

April 12, 1976

One of the many history book meetings held in the Jones home included, back row, left to right: Earl House, Bruce Sarver, Betty Shaw, Lois Jones, John Funk, Mary Ann Hedges, Pat Dobson; front row: Jean Hodge, Norma Schorfheide, Erma Gloria Johnson, Jody Coffman and Jane Stephens.

— Photo by Howard Knight

