

In the spring of last year a small group of citizens came to the county commissioners to ask what our plans were for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Platte County's formation. Of course, at that time, we had no specific plans but we thought it would be a good idea to engage in a yearlong celebration. As a result a committee was formed with Julie Mills and I as co-chairs.

We began meeting in earnest in late summer. The number of individuals who met and the specific ones who met together has varied. From the beginning we did not conceive of the centennial celebration as being "our thing," but rather that the committee was a focal point and a coordinator for the many things we hoped would begin to happen throughout the community.

Fortunately, it was very easy to get others to take up the cause and come up with their own ideas, too. There are regular annual events happening in all five of our Platte County communities. Those communities have agreed to use a centennial theme for those events this year.

The committee has also decided to create a lasting legacy. A big rock will be placed in each community, with a permanent plaque on it commemorate Platte County's centennial. The plaque will be engraved with the theme and logo chosen by the commissioners from entries in the theme and logo contests sponsored by the centennial committee. The rock will be chosen by each community to reflect its local character.

The kickoff date for the year-long celebration was February 9, 2011, one hundred years to the day from when Governor Carey signed the bill into law that created Platte County. On that date the Record-Times published a story about the celebration and the proclamation made by the county commissioners recognizing 2011 as our centennial year. Students in schools all around the county celebrated in various ways. Some visited local museums, some had birthday cakes or cookies, some heard speeches, and some had writing contests, writing about our county.

Also on that date the local radio station began playing spots about some historical fact or event in the county in the last one hundred years. The spots will continue throughout the year, giving us interesting little tidbits that most of us probably wouldn't know about Platte County.

This has all been just a start. The centennial committee and many others will continue working to keep the reminder in front of all the citizens of Platte County of our past. We all hope that everyone will enjoy the process and engage in the celebration with us.