

Randolph Centennial Celebration 1986



The kick off of the last 25 years of Randolph's history took place in style with the party of the century when Randolph's Centennial Celebration took place July 11-15 of 1986.

In February 1985, the Randolph Times reported that the theme of the festival had been selected from entries contributed by members of the community. Randolph Century Days of '86 was submitted by Wayne Wattier who received a \$100 savings bond for the idea. This was then used as the title for the 1986 history book. In April of '85 the Centennial committee selected Joe Brandl's logo entry which would become an easily recognizable symbol to Randolph citizens over the next 25 years. The logo, used for celebratory advertising, would appear on almost all memorabilia for the celebration, and would be featured on the cover of the book. Mr. Brandl and his wife Ann also painted a large mural on the side of the then Cedar County Veterinary Service building for the Centennial and he designed a new masthead to replace the 20 year old masthead for the Randolph Times. The mural was not the only thing of beauty contributed to the community for the celebration.

A "Spruce-Up" Randolph campaign was enacted with the official clean up week for the last week in May of '86. A total of 17 United States flags, 12 welcome flags, and 24 flag poles were purchased for the downtown area in cooperation between the Randolph Community Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 5545 and the Randolph Lions Club. Individual residents contributed their own signs and



A replica windmill was built to symbolize the 1886 windmill first built in the town square

recognitions of the celebration, such as the large wooden birthday cake that appeared in the yard of Warren and Winnie Janssen or the awning installed on the Randolph Centennial Store installed by Dennis Bazata and his Vo-Ag class.

During 1985 many fundraisers were held in support of Randolph's Birthday celebration. One such fundraiser was held in October of '85 hosted by the GFWC Randolph Woman's Club. The club sponsored a



Virginia and Marvin Weber riding a Randolph Centennial Float

Centennial Style show entitled "Through the Looking Glass". During the show over 80 articles, dating back as far as the early 1800s were either modeled or displayed in the West School Gym. Other fundraisers included the KNEN radio station's basketball team facing off against Randolph in a benefit game held at the West School Gym, a Soup and Pie Supper featuring a Silent auction at the Senior Citizen's Center. Members of the Randolph Senior Citizens Center also created a Centennial Quilt for the celebration.

To add to the fun of the Centennial it was decided a king and queen would be elected to represent the community. Rules for the queen candidates were announced in November of 1985. Rules for candidacy suggested the queen need be at least 16 years of age or older, be a resident of the Randolph School district or a graduate of either Randolph High or St. Frances High School or be a student in the Randolph school. The Randolph Volunteer Fire department was in charge of policy surrounding the Centennial King. To qualify for king those interested in entering the contest were asked to stop shaving on January 1 of 1986. Buttons went on sale at a cost of \$2 each making purchasers members of the "Brother's of the Brush". Those wishing to continue to shave were asked to purchase a different button at a cost of \$5 each.



Queen Pearl Bauer and King Paul Loberg

Pearl Bauer and Paul Loberg were crowned Randolph Centennial Royalty. Runners up for the queen candidacy were Mrs. Keith Loberg, Mrs. Jim Billerbeck, Mrs. Jim Reidel, and Mrs. Warren Janssen.

The Centennial Celebration was five days of fun for all ages. An Old Fashion Farmer's Breakfast was held at the city Auditorium on Friday July the 11th. At noon that day the official document arrived by Pony Express delivered by the Randolph Saddle Club. A wide variety of children's activities took place throughout the day until 6:30 p.m. when a community Old Fashioned Picnic was held at the City Park. Friday's festivities ended that evening with the first showing of Randolph's Historical Pageant at the football field.

Saturday's events included the Fun Run and Walk, an

Antique Tractor Pull at the city park, a Kiddie Parade, and the Alumni Banquet and dance.

Sunday activities were the Ecumenical Church service at the City Cemetery, the Centennial Grand Parade, the black powder shoot, as well as the Randolph Saddle Club



Diane Loberg, Sharon Reidel, Winnie Janssen, Cindy Billerbeck, Pearl Bauer, Paul Loberg, Don Thies, Don Andrew, Kelly Gubbels

event, and two dances. Square dancing was held at the First State Bank parking lot and a free street dance was held downtown.

On Monday the Randolph Community Club Fair kicked off along with a horseshoe tournament, and youth races and games.

The festivities came to a close on Tuesday the 15th with the Centennial Barbecue held at the City Park. Roger Welch entertained spectators followed by a fireworks display.



Joe and Ann Brandl Centennial mural they painted on the then Cedar County Veterinarian wall