FOREWORD

Seventy-one counties make up a state called Wisconsin and, in 1948, share in the glory of a state centennial. Each unit has a story to tell—a significant account that fits into the framework of a larger state history. Parts give essence and light to a whole. Outagamie County, a rib taken from Brown County in 1851, has been a positive, dynamic force in the establishing and maintaining of the enterprise of the commonwealth of Wisconsin. The county's role in one hundred years of statehood is portrayed on the pages of this volume.

Outagamie County is geography, just a patch of space. It is soil, 350,000 acres of fertile agricultural lands. It is townships like Freedom, Cicero, Maple Creek and Oneida, villages and cities represented by Seymour, Black Creek, Combined Locks, Shiocton, Little Chute, Hortonville, Kaukauna and Appleton with their systems of transportation and communication, industry, education and government. Moreover, Outagamie County is people, men, women and youth who in the past have fashioned a society out of a wilderness and who, in the present, build higher towers of achievement stretching upward, onward into a purposeful future.

A society flourishes not alone because of material advantages but fundamentally because of the character of its people. A review of county history, Outagamie's, is augmented in value by a review of concepts which yielded spiritual strength and moral integrity, threads for a tapestry of wholesome, stable community relationships.

The people of our county built upon a bed-rock foundation of religion. From the explorer-missionary to the present day citizen, Christian precepts and ideals have tempered advancement and provided a faith bolstered by a spirit of prayerful humility. Courageous solutions to problems were the result of tireless effort plus an intense spiritual fervency to carry out the will of Divine Providence.

Merged with Christianity is democracy which is a mechanism of government and a way of life. The core of democracy is respect for the dignity of the human individual. It implies equality before the law and equality of opportunity to develop talents, abilities and ambitions which weave into the fabric of the community. Cooperatively men work and save. They create new products and new methods. They endeavor to preserve American institutions and ideals which insure for themselves individual freedom in a county, a state, nation, a world.

Inhabitants of Outagamie County possess a sort of belief in the powers of effort and self-reliance. Appreciating satisfactions which come from personal development they risk, make their choices and depend upon selves. With feeling of devotion to a cause and a creative zeal for examining the unknown they can be proud of the finished product. They have been, in all of this time, servants of God working with and not under man-made governments.

Finally, Outagamie County is the product of people with an ingrained sense of loyalty of duty and responsibility to the county community. An ideal of common happiness for a neighborhood has supplied goals, worthwhile in nature, toward which the citizens have striven. Opportunities here have constantly warranted an exploring and developing to fit changing conditions in an expanding society.

This Outagamie County Year Book is dedicated to those hardy pioneers who first, with the foregoing philosophy in their hearts, erected the foundations of county existence. They planted a seedbed for society, established traditions and made footsteps in which generations have progressively walked. They started a heritage which serves as a beacon light for those who follow after.

Gordon A. Bubolz, Chairman
Outagamie County State Centennial Committee
COUNTY CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE


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