



Logo design by Sally Polesel

Rockdale Review

July, 2002

Village of Rockdale

Henry Berry - Mayor

Village Trustees

Pete Polesel Sam Wyke
Fred Murphy Steve Chamblee
Paul Shimek

Happy 100th Birthday Rockdale, 1902 ~ 2002

Parade Info

Don't miss the Centennial Parade being held on Sunday, August 4th at 11:00 a.m.

The event will be headlined by the award winning, Joliet American Legion Band. The Grand Marshall will be Donald Gould, Sr., former mayor of Rockdale, who holds the record as the longest serving mayor with 20 years of service.



The Parade Route will begin on Meadow Ave. at Ferris and continue west to Midland, south on Midland to the reviewing stand at the Village Hall, where the ceremonies will be recorded by local Cable TV (channel 6). The parade will continue on to Moen Ave., then west to Stryker, north to Meadow, then East on Meadow where it will complete by returning to Ferris Avenue.

Fireworks

WOW—Fireworks in the Village of Rockdale! For the first time ever, there will be a spectacular fireworks display on Saturday, August 3rd @ 9:30pm. From the festival or from your home, this will prove to be an extravaganza you're sure to remember for years to come.



Thank You

The Centennial Celebration Committee, chaired by Nancy Polesel Martin, began meeting on a regular basis nearly one year ago with their first meeting held on September 25th, 2001. Countless hours of effort have gone into planning this event and the Village Board would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to everyone whose considerable time and talent went into making this celebration... *a moment in Rockdale history that we will never forget!*

Did you know?

- > 2000 years ago, prehistoric Indian families lived in settlements along the DesPlaines & Illinois Rivers, from what is now Rockdale to where the Illinois River joins the Mississippi River.
 - > 3 settlers who came prior to 1895 farmed land to the west of Rockdale, because the town itself sat on a rock ledge unsuitable for homesteading...hence the name "Rockdale?"
 - > First Rockdale Homecoming... Labor Day Weekend, 1966
 - > Last Rockdale Homecoming... Labor Day Weekend, 1986
 - > First official Village Board meeting was Jan. 17, 1903
 - > In 1915, women began voting in Village elections
- Find out more history on Pg. 3...*

We Want You...

to sign up to be a part of the Rockdale Centennial Celebration Team. You can sign up for as little as 2 hours, or as much as you'd like!

Positions still available as parade helpers, history booth assistants, ticket sellers and more.

Please call Nancy Polesel Martin at 725-4847 and *join in the FUN!* Let's all pull together to make this 100 year Anniversary Celebration... *the Best that it can be!*



History Booth

Join us at the Rockdale History Booth to see some of the best of Rockdale's Past on display. Photos, News Articles, and interesting tidbits from the past 100 years will thrill the historian and entertain the curious.

Learn of upcoming events, like the publishing of a book written by one of Rockdale's former residents, and the initiation of the Rockdale Historical Archives.

If you have photos, news clippings or other items you'd like included in our history-keeping endeavors, please contact Nancy Polesel Martin at 725-4847.

Fly your Flag

...during the event

This year marks a milestone in Rockdale History. To show your patriotism and community spirit, please display your *American flag* during the 4 days of the

Rockdale Centennial Celebration,



August 1st - 4th. It will add meaning and a *special touch* to the festivities.

Thank you, Neighbors.

Record Holders?

- > Are YOU the **oldest** Rockdale **resident**?
- > Do you have the **oldest** **house** in Rockdale?
- > How about the **oldest** **business**?
- > Did you come the **furthest** **distance** to get to the fest?

Stop by and register at the Rockdale History Booth to find out. The winners will receive Free Centennial merchandise.

Who am I?

Think ya know? Find out if you are correct at the Rockdale History Booth.



← Hint

New Municipal Building Village Board purchases Meade Electric Building

The Village Board has negotiated the purchase of the Meade Electric property at the corner of Brandon and Moen Avenues. The sale is expected to close on August 1st. Interior renovation will begin in the Fall. Additionally, the current Village Hall was sold to the Rockdale Fire Protection

District to alleviate their space limitations.

Meade Electric has decided to move its Rockdale operations to another location and will be missed. They have been a terrific partner with Rockdale since they moved here nearly 30 years ago.

Road Improvements Morris, Margaret, Emery Streets



As a continuing effort to complete the "Hill Area" road improvements, the Village Board accepted bids on the project which will bring a beautiful new road, parkway and sidewalks for all of Morris St from Meadow Ave. to the north, and for Margaret and Emery Streets between

Lakeview and Belleview Avenues. The project will be completed in the next 4 months.

Planning for the selection of streets to include in the next phase of improvements will begin in the latter half of this year.

Rockdale Remembers



As "One Nation under God" and to show our solidarity with our brothers and sisters who fell victim to the "unthinkable" on 9-11, cousins Nancy Polesel Martin and Sue Polesel decorated Rockdale with 150 hand-made ribbons of red, white, and blue, in their honor and memory. May God grant them eternal peace.

"Thank You" Nancy and Sue, for your hard work and community spirit during these trying times. You are an inspiration to all.

God Bless Rockdale.

God Bless America.



New Resident Information

Hello, may we extend to you a sincere and enthusiastic welcome to our Community. Hopefully, this brief review of Village Policies will make your introduction to the Village an easy and pleasant experience.

EMERGENCY Information

The Village is part of the 9-1-1 Emergency system. Dial 911 for all Emergency Police, Fire or Ambulance calls. NOTE: It is necessary that your street address is clearly visible from the street.

Non-Emergency Information

Village Municipal Building – 815-725-8937 – Village Clerk, Tom Fitzgerald

- HOURS: 8am-12:30pm ; 1:30pm-5pm, Monday – Friday

Village Police Department – 815-725-0360 – Police Chief, Richard (Dick) Baum

Village Fire Protection District – 815-725-6928 – Fire Chief, William Waznis

Kurtz Ambulance Service – 815-725-8948

Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle Stickers must be purchased within 30 days of moving into the Village. Stickers can be purchased from the Village Clerk at the Village Municipal Building.

Refuse Pick-up

Free Pick-up every Wednesday. (Thursday of Holiday weeks)

Yard Waste Pick-up

Pick-up is every Monday morning. (Typically, from April 1st to November 30th)

Yard Waste Bags MUST be purchased from the Village. No other bags will be accepted for pick-up. Bags can be purchased for \$1 each at the Village Municipal Building. Brush or branches will only be picked up if they are tied up in small bundles no larger than 3' in length.

Recycling

Recycling receptacles are located at the Village treatment plant located on Brandon Rd at the South end of Midland Ave. Separate bins are available for Green, Brown, and Clear Glass, Aluminum, Plastic and Paper. HOURS: 8a-3p, Mon.-Sat.

Leaf Burning

Leaves and small twigs can be burned from October 1st – November 30th as long as the burn location is continually supervised and there is a water hose available for ensuring a small and controlled burn.

Pets

Pets must be fenced, tied or on a leash. No pets are allowed to run loose in the Village.

Curfews

All children under 17 are subject to our curfew laws.

Times are Sun–Thu: 9pm and Fri–Sat: 10pm.

a brief History of Rockdale...

Rockdale has had a long, colorful journey, since the days of the Pottawattamies, Louis Joliet, and open country showcasing the exquisite Joliet Mound (first shown on a 1674 map, it was destroyed by industrial "progress" by the late 1800's.) Legend has it, that Indian chief, Pontiac, was assassinated on top of the Mound, which brought about the almost complete elimination of the Illinois Indians at Starved Rock by his avengers! In the 1880's, hard times shattered dreams, when the Enterprise Co. (formerly the Fish Mill) went bankrupt, leaving the town nearly deserted, with a mere population of 25. But then, in 1897, hope was restored and the town flourished, when the American Steel & Wire Co. moved in from Lockport and rescued it. On December 6, 1902, an election was held to decide

whether or not to incorporate Rockdale as a village. Dec. 9th the vote was canvassed; results... 37 Aye, 35 Nay. The Village of Rockdale's incorporation certificate was filed December 9, 1902. By the early 1900's, Rockdale had a general store, drug store, furniture mart, movie house, skating rink, ice cream parlor, rooming house, markets, dance halls, restaurants, barber shops, department stores, 2 bowling alleys, 2 bakeries, 3 grocery stores, and taverns. Enter the Great Depression in the 1930's, when once again, jobs were scarce and hope even scarcer. WWII, in the 1940's, brought the Navy Yards, hence a time when *Rockdale never closed*. Military personnel worked around the clock and taverns followed suit. At one count there were some 40 taverns in this small town and

Rockdale was hoppin'. (Ironically, in 1903, one year before Rockdale's first tavern opened, drinking was *prohibited* and there were only soft drink saloons!) In 1965, Rockdale began to shed its "rough & rowdy bad-boy image," when Mayor John Darguzis imposed strict curfews and would not issue any new liquor licenses, in an effort to do just that. Yes, it *has* been a long and colorful journey, with many bumps and bruises along the way, but Rockdale has survived its growing pains and matured into a 100-year old community of family, friends, progress and prosperity, which now boasts over 150 businesses and industries. Additionally, there's the highly regarded Rockdale Grade School that started out in 1890 as a one-room building on Mound Road with one teacher, 22 students, and a writing slate. The grade school has been at its present location since 1910.

Rockdale also holds dear the spiritual leadership of St. Joseph Catholic Church, whose cornerstone was laid in 1914. The first Mass was celebrated Christmas Day, 1915. Its parochial school, run by Dominican nuns, was opened in 1949, but sadly had to close its doors in 1970. The village also has its own police and fire departments. James Connors was the first Chief of Police and his salary...a whopping \$15.00/month! Rockdale's first fire department was started in 1903, and consisted of fire chief James Proute and 12 to 14 year-old boys equipped with 12 fire buckets and 2 extension ladders! We've come a long way, indeed, and now, in the year 2002, with a current population of 1888, let's come together as a community to celebrate our village's *100-year Anniversary* at the Rockdale Centennial Celebration, August 1st through the 4th. *See ya there, neighbors!*

Thank You Centennial Sponsors and Donors

Platinum Sponsors

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(premier sponsor)
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(premier sponsor)
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Ozzie's Tire & Alignment
Paul's Barber Shop
Polley's Garage, Inc.
Red Roof Inns
Teamsters Local 179

Souvenir Booth

Be sure to drop by the Rockdale Souvenir Booth for your custom designed Rockdale Centennial souvenirs. Choose from a wide array of merchandise including hats, cups, mugs, T-shirts, polo shirts, Frisbees, a special rock design, gift pens, Rockdale novelty buttons, key chains, stick pens, balloons, wooden nickels... free merchandise with different levels of purchase. *Custom logos designed by Sally Polesel.*

Upcoming Article



Watch for the August 1st Herald News special pull-out section featuring the *Village of Rockdale!*

Waterball

Reminiscent of Homecomings past, the Rockdale Fire Protection District will be hosting a Waterball Competition on Saturday, August 3rd from 10am to 2pm. The event will be held on Moen Avenue (in front of the Dale AC.)

50/50 Raffle

Support your local Parish... St. Joe's will be holding a 50/50 raffle at the festival. 50% of proceeds will go to the winner.

Car Show

This year we will host our 3rd annual Rockdale Car Show and it should be bigger than ever. Come see the show (3pm - 8pm, Saturday, Aug 3rd) on Otis Ave in front of the Village Hall.

Word Scramble

Irdaekco nelcnaetn
bonleacerti
Stumped?
Visit the Rockdale History Booth for the answer!

ROCKDALE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, AUGUST 1st – 4th

DAILY EVENTS:

CARNIVAL, RACETRACK, GAMES, FACE PAINTING, RAFFLES *incl. Harley Davidson*, FOOD VENDORS, BEER GARDEN, ROCKDALE HISTORY BOOTH, CENTENNIAL MERCHANDISE SALES & GIVEAWAYS...

THURSDAY

DISC JOCKEY 6:30p-11p

FRIDAY

BINGO 6p-10p

COTTON Flanagan 6:30-7:30

WCCQ with Giveaways 6:30-8:30

JUST US Country Dancers 7:45-8:15

CROSSFYRE 8:30p-11:30p

SATURDAY ONLY

Firefighter's WATERBALL 10a-2p

Los Canarios del Norte 1:30-3:30

CAR SHOW 3p-8p, winners @ 8pm

ELVIS IMPERSONATOR 6:30p-8p

Chicago BLUES Angels 8:30-11:30

Spectacular FIREWORKS

Display 9:30p

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

PIONEER VILLAGE—all day

CRAFT Show 1p-6p

MEDICINE MAN Show

(1:30-2, 3:30-4, 5:30-6)

CHAINSAW Woodcarver 2p-6p

CLOWN & MAGIC Show

(2:15-3:15 & 4:15-5:15)

BINGO (3-10 Sat) (2-8 Sun)

Patti Ecker (Folk Singer, ...)

(4:30-5:30 Sat) (2:30-3:30 Sun)

SUNDAY ONLY

PARADE 11a-1p (see page 1)

TOO LOUD POLKA

BOOGIE BAND 5p-8p

Raffle Winners announced—8pm

FESTIVAL HOURS:

THU 6p-11p **FRI** 6p-12a

SAT 1p-12a **SUN** 1p-8p

There's something for every-one, so... pack up the FAMILY & join in the FUN!



ROCKDALE will be ROCKIN' and you will *never* want to leave!

STREET CLOSINGS

Tuesday to Sunday: Davis (Meadow to Moen) Moen Ave (Midland to Central)

Thursday to Sunday: Davis, Moen Ave (Jewett to Central) Midland (Otis to Mound Rd)

Saturday: Otis (Jewett to Midland) Jewett (Meadow to Moen) Moen (Connell to Central) Midland (Meadow to Mound Rd)

Sunday (8a-2p): All of Parade Route, Moen Ave (Morris to Brandon) plus Stryker, Connell, Jewett, Central, Stillwell, Fisher and Ferris (Bellevue/Meadow to Moen on All above)



Go to www.Rockdale-IL.com for full event details