

Pieces of Ross County frozen in time

By NICKI STECKHAN
Gazette Staff Writer

Fifty years from now, a new generation of Ross Countians will be looking into a metal tube to learn about current everyday life.

Local veterans, the Ross County Board of Commissioners, local historians and the Adelphi Band will be on hand at Noon Monday for the dedication and unveiling of the Ross County Bicentennial time capsule plaque.

"I was involved in the (Chillicothe) Bicentennial's time capsule two years ago," said Tom Kuhn, director of the Ross County Historical Society. "A time capsule is an appropriate thing to do because these (Bicentennial) celebrations are combining the past

with the future and the capsule represents that idea."

Thursday, local school children and county officials watched as 166 items were placed in the capsule and buried.

They were chosen according to their ability to tell generations to come what life was like in Ross County 1998.

They were buried in a water pipe donated by the Ross County Water Company.

The pipe is 1/4 of an inch thick, waterproof and air tight, said County Engineer Don Carnes, who

supervised the burial of the capsule, as well as the design of the plaque.

The plaque is made of bronze and is about 15 inches wide. It bears the words "The Ross County Bicentennial Committee," plus a message to the people of Ross County 50 years from now, instructing them when to dig up the capsule and why.

The plaque was designed by Mason Art, of Columbus, and sits on a platform made of granite and marble in front of the Ross County Archives, located in Publick Square.

The total cost of the project, according to Ross County Auditor Steve Neal, was \$4,600.

What is in the time capsule?

The Gazette Staff

Pictures of a restored downtown, a Paints baseball cap, a Ted Fickisen print, an Alan Gough painting and a copy of the blue prints of the new Ross County Service Center Building.

These are a few items some local people would choose to put in a time capsule to represent Ross County in its 200th year.

"I would put in a combination of things that would best represent who we are today," said Executive Director of the Ross County Historical Society Tom Kuhn. "An example of current technology and a copy of the Chillicothe Gazette,

but something that will withstand time in a vacuum."

Thursday, the Ross County Bicentennial Committee, with the help of County Engineer Don Carnes, buried a capsule filled with 166 items the committee chose to represent the county to those who open the capsule in 50 years.

Among the items locked in the air-tight, waterproof, 1/4-inch thick water pipe are a brief history of the Ross County Courthouse, a Tumbleweed Restaurant menu, a flier from the Bicentennial Celebration, The Bicentennial Edition of the Chillicothe Gazette, and county maps.

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