



Our Opinion

Warm memory

Saturday's totally unexpected snowstorm may have thwarted some of the activities for the annual Statehood Day celebration in Chillicothe, but it appeared not to dampen the spirits of those who braved the cold and slush to honor the state on its 177th birthday.

The only real tragedy came when the Adelphi Community Band, celebrating its 100th year, was unable to make the trek to Ohio's First Capital for the Saturday evening concert.

All other activities were held as scheduled, including the muzzle-loading shoot sponsored by the Ross County Primitive Weapons Club on Moss Hollow Road.

The number of people attending the ceremonies was certainly kept to a minimum.

But it was a tribute to the Chillicothe Kiwanis Club that all went as smoothly as possible.

Elizabeth "Beth" Swartz was the recipient of the annual Statehood Day Achievement Award and the announcement of a shelterhouse in the Great Seal Park to be named in honor of native son Billy Ireland was a fitting conclusion to Saturday's activities.

Sunday's open house at the Ross County Historical Society museums drew quite a few guests even though the city administration appeared to make no attempt to make their visits easier what with snow piled high in the prime parking locations.

The exhibits of Ireland, an editorial cartoonist for the Columbus Dispatch, were particularly fascinating, especially to those who previously were not acquainted with his wit and charm.

For those of us who produce the Gazette within a building that is a replica of the first Ohio statehouse, there are frequent thoughts of Chillicothe's place as the capital of the Northwest Territory's first state.

This weekend the whole community was blessed with other such reminders, thanks to the Statehood Day celebrations sponsored by the Kiwanis Club with participation by the Ross County Ministerial Association, the Ross County Primitive Weapons Club, the Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library, the Scioto Society, the Mound City National Monument, the Cavalites, the Adelphi band, the Scioto Musicke Consort and the Ross County Museums.

It may not have been a record-breaker in terms of attendance, but this past weekend's Statehood Day celebration will rank right alongside the previous 12 celebrations in terms of spirit and enthusiasm.

From the sounds of muzzle-loading rifle shots to the sights of Billy Ireland's cartoons and historical exhibits throughout Ross County, it was a weekend to remember.

Pleasant memories of warm gatherings on a chilly weekend.