Which part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration was the best? Depends on who you ask.

The 125 young fishermen at Waldrop Park might claim it was the fishing contest and free fishing poles they received. The funnel cake vendor said it was the best weekend of business in her history, including her stint at the Illinois State Fair. Five-year old Avery Allan thought the Jumbo Tron movie was the “coolest thing” she’d ever seen. Older residents loved the nostalgic atmosphere at the Flagg Homestead Bed & Breakfast.

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The winners of a tug-of-war contest go flying as the other side lets go during the Kid’s Games at the Sherman Sesquicentennial.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS DANNER, PHOTO BY D2

ORIGINAL SHERMAN BLOCK PARTY A HIGHLIGHT OF SESQUICENTENNIAL

The organizers of what started as a preview to the main celebration had no idea their little block party would end up hosting nearly 400 people, many of whom flew in from all over the country.

The “Original Sherman Block Party and Family Reunion” was the brainchild of Helen Poe, Donna Catlin and the Sesquicentennial

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Well, we pulled it off. A Sesquicentennial celebration to remember. I’ve heard from so many people about how much they enjoyed reuniting with neighbors they hadn’t seen in years and I’m not just talking about the former residents who came into town. Let’s sustain this good feeling and make an effort to stay connected with each other throughout the year.

Thanks again to the dozens of dedicated Sesquicentennial volunteers, especially the members of the hard-working committees. Kudos to the Board of Trustees – especially chief organizers Jeff Mitchell, Nancy Zibutis and Brian Long. Our deep appreciation to all of the sponsors, and also to the Sherman Police, Sherman Fire Department, and the employees of the Public Works department and the Sherman Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). Your work on this event was outstanding.

Congratulations to Mckenzi Davidson, one of our great area young adults who is studying at Illinois College. Mckenzi was recently named the 2008-2009 Illinois College Student Laureate. The award is from the Lincoln Academy and recognizes one outstanding college senior at each of the four-year institutions in Illinois. The award celebrates excellence in academic and extracurricular activities. Mckenzi is certainly deserving. Among many other things, she has spent her last three winter breaks working on Habitat for Humanity homes in rural Arkansas. Mckenzi, the daughter of Matt and Melanie Davidson of Sherman, is majoring in management and economics and minoring in Accounting.

The hiring of a third full-time member of the Public Works Department is expected to save us so much money the position will pay for itself. Bruce Beal is an ASC certified mechanic and comes to us from a 28-year career at Crossroads Ford. He literally can fix anything, including engines. With the aging equipment we have, that’s critical.

“In FY 2007 alone, we spent $20,000 in repairs on tractors, lawn mowers and other equipment, and $10,000 in routine maintenance on the police cars,” said Sean Newton, Public Works Director. “Every time we called for repairs to the backhoe hydraulics system, we spent $800-$1,200. Bruce knows how to do all those things and will also lead our efforts in storm sewer and grinder pump maintenance which cost us about $60,000 in repairs last year.”

This is the first public works department growth in a long time. Bruce will also be helping man the snow plows and anything else needed during the year. We’ll be tracking how much he is saving us and will report back to you. We think you’ll be pleased.

Sincerely,

Trevor J. Clatfelter
Mayor
The consensus, though, was that the months of planning paid off on September 19 – 21 when several thousand people gathered to celebrate the history of their hometown.

“I think we accomplished what we set out to do,” said Trevor Clatfelter, mayor. “We wanted an event that properly marked our 150th birthday, was fun and educational, and was cost neutral to the Village. We achieved all of those things and I’m proud of the citizen committees that worked so hard and grateful to the generous sponsors who made it possible.”

Rose Bryant, a former Sherman resident, traveled from her new home in Kentucky for the event and was delighted to reunite with old friends in a festive atmosphere.

“Everything was great and I’d like to say thanks to the ones who had a part in putting it on,” said Rose. “I would like to give special thanks to my good old friends Donna Catlin and Helen Poe... girls, you did it, it’s one we’ll never forget.”

Donna and Helen were part of a large contingent of volunteers who donned vintage garb and wandered the Flagg Homestead B&B portraying the earliest citizens of Sherman.

The historic element of the celebration – which revolved around tours and demonstrations at Flagg Homestead B&B - was popular with all ages, keeping the trolley that shuttled visitors from the parking lot full all weekend.

Clatfelter said the celebration itself and all the publicity leading up to the Sesquicentennial gave the Village some great visibility in the region. He said many residents have asked that an annual celebration be considered to bring in visitors and revenue, but also to give neighbors a reason to get together every year.

“Our family had a great time. I can’t get over how many Sherman folk we were able to meet in a weekend,” said Melissa Allan. “We thought the whole weekend was well organized and orchestrated.”

History Committee. It was held in the original city blocks of Sherman, known as “Original Sherman” and drew relatives of some of the original families that settled the Village.

An evening of fellowship and shared stories about living in Sherman helped kick off the three day Sesquicentennial Event.
Thank You...

- To Keith Crane and Brian Long for organizing the Youth Fishing Tournament.
- To Ogden Insurance and WalMart for providing 125 free fishing sets to hand out to the fishing contest participants.
- To the Sesquicentennial Committees for making the event possible!

ABOVE & BEYOND
KRISTA SHERROCK
Saluting our neighbors who go the extra mile

Sincere thanks to Krista Sherrock who volunteered to chair the Sesquicentennial Parade Committee. She worked with countless people on the logistics of road closings and safety issues and dealt with the numerous details of organizing 55 separate entries. We salute you, Krista!
Congratulations to Richard and Ramona Flagg, the winners of the Sesquicentennial drawing for a free TV, courtesy of Gopal and Tulasi Reddy.

The Village is assembling items for a Sesquicentennial time capsule to be buried in Sherman and unearthed and opened at the Village’s 200th anniversary. We would love to see your photos. Please drop copies off at Village Hall or submit online at the website www.shermanil.org You may be part of history!

Mayor Trevor Clatfelter proclaims Donna Catlin the Honorary Historian of Sherman. “WHEREAS, Mrs. Donna Catlin, a lifelong resident of the Village of Sherman, has and continues to voluntarily compile an in-depth historical record of the Village of Sherman.”

DONNA CATLIN IS SHERMAN’S HONORARY HISTORIAN

Tulasi Reddy and grandson at the start of the Kids Fun Race for the youngest competitors.

AARON’S SALES & LEASE
TV WINNER

SEND US YOUR SESQUICENTENNIAL PHOTOS!

Maggie Sorenson, Christina Meawitz, Haley Mierzejewski, Kylee Coker

Judy Donley Henderson and Violet Hinds
PORTRAYING THE PAST
SHERMAN RESIDENTS BRING VILLAGE’S EARLY SETTLERS TO LIFE FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Virginia Rush and Hulda Flagg. Hulda, the wife of a Flagg descendant, still lives on Flagg Homestead property.

David Edwards portrayed Abraham Lincoln.

Harry Wm. Seipel and Edna Mae Flagg-Seipel portrayed Cornelius and Sarah Flagg, Edna’s great grandparents.

Clara Wright as Emma Ledlie and Lloyd and Pat Starwalt as David and Elizabeth Sherman. Lloyd Starwalt was Sherman's mayor from 1961-63.

Sherman Postmaster Chuck Rutschke portrays Sherman’s original Postmaster John Wolf.

Matt and Linda Menard listen as Helen Poe and John Wolf describe life on the Flagg family homestead a century ago.

Barbara Raycraft plays the dulcimer for guests.

The parlor at Flagg Homestead B&B.
It’s finally all coming together for the residents of several Sherman neighborhoods that have been plagued with drainage issues for more than a decade, not to mention flooding caused by the wettest year in our history – more than 51 inches of rain since January of this year, the most since 1927.

Sherman public works crews as well as private firm Ace Contracting are working on several fronts to fix problems, trying to get as much work as possible done before the winter.

Projects include:
• A water management easement re-grading along First Street to create a swale that will drain water out of the Quail Ridge, Brookside Glen and Prairie at Brookside Glen subdivisions through the Meredith Drive railroad underpass.
• Re-grading an area that runs parallel to Zimmerman Drive, starting near Sherman Elementary School and ending near Meredith Drive to promote drainage.
• Creating a drainage area behind residences on Mallard Way, Wood Duck Court and Ramblewood Lane, and the area behind Pheasant Run and Ramblewood, utilizing 4-inch lines to which homeowners will be able to connect their sump pumps. The existing drainage swales will be re-graded as well.
• Fixing a rusted out culvert along Sebring Road that caused a sinkhole during a downpour last July.

The total cost is approximately $41,000, to be paid for with general funds, TIF funds and a developer’s contribution.

“These projects will make a big difference to homeowners but unless we put an ordinance in place that gives the Village the authority to inspect final grades on new construction and withhold approval if necessary, we could be doing expensive repairs every year,” said Trevor Clatfelter, mayor. “It’s time to get tough on those who cause these problems – developers and homeowners alike.”

The new ordinance to address these issues is undergoing some re-working but Clatfelter expects it to be finalized and brought before the Board before the next construction season.

**SHERMAN HIRES ENGINEERING FIRM FOR HYDRAULICS STUDY**

On November 10, the Village approved the hiring of the engineering firm of Greene and Bradford, Inc. to perform a village-wide drainage study.

The study will identify where the problems are, develop proposals for solutions, and estimate costs so the village can put together a comprehensive plan for addressing the issues.

Mayor Trevor Clatfelter said the firm will submit a preliminary report in February, early enough for the Board to consider as it finalizes a new ordinance addressing construction inspections.

Area labor unions, volunteers and contractors came to Sherman’s rescue on July 12 when heavy rains pounding the Village, causing extensive flooding. The groups were part of the volunteer Emergency Response Coalition, coordinated and activated by the Sangamon County Emergency Management Agency. Special thanks to Ace Contracting, Teamsters Local 916, Laborers Local 477, Operating Engineers Local 965, and other union locals, who helped restore washed out culverts in Sherman. The downpour caused damage equivalent to that of a 500-year flood, according to Village officials.
VILLAGE APPOINTS PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GROUP WILL SEEK GRANT FUNDING; PLAN GATEWAY PARK

With plans to significantly expand park space in Sherman in mind, the Village has appointed a group of citizens to serve as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee will advise the Village Board on all issues park-related, including expansion, funding, location and usage, as well as provide suggestions regarding outside issues such as the current push by some residents to separate from the Springfield Park District.

The Village has long desired additional park space and improved facilities at existing parks. The actions of the new Committee will be reported upon on the Village website and in this newsletter.

GET YOUR CLUTTER ON!

2ND ANNUAL SHERMAN CLEAN-UP DAY

Ok, it’s actually not until Spring 2009 but as you straighten out that garage to make room to park your car inside this winter, spare a corner for items you plan to discard. Hold them until Spring and we’ll take them off your hands. We’ll also make every effort to recycle what we can.

Watch this newsletter for the date TBA.

SHERMAN FIRE EXPLORER POST 1070

invites you to meetings held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to explore fire and emergency medical careers in a fun environment!

WELCOME, JOHN SWINFORD!

This fall, the Village Board was delighted to hire John Swinford as the new Village Administrator to better serve the needs of our community. This position will provide the Village with a full time administrator who can handle the day-to-day activities during actual daylight hours.

As we grow, this becomes more important as we need to be available for residents with concerns or requests. We need to have regular hours so builders can turn in building permits, vendors can conduct business with the Village, we can investigate ordinance violations, and so on.

"The Sherman Village Hall is now open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., closing for an hour for lunch each day. John will be the primary contact for the Village during these hours, although the Village board trustees and myself will remain accessible to you when we’re not working at our full-time day jobs.” said Trevor Clatfelter, mayor. "Watch for a profile on John in the next issue of the newsletter.”
OPEN BURNING LANDSCAPE WASTE ORDINANCE

A reminder that there is a total ban of burning of all materials, garbage, grass, litter, recyclable materials and other substances within the Village limits except for Landscape Waste as provided for in this Ordinance.

Definition of Landscape Waste: Any vegetable or plant refuse, except garbage and agricultural waste. The term includes trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, shrubbery and yard trimmings. The term specifically excludes grass.

The burning of landscape waste shall be allowed within the Village of Sherman from 9:00 a.m. until sunset on each Wednesday and on the first and third Saturdays and Sundays of each month during the time period March 1st thru April 30th (inclusive) and during the time period September 15th thru November 30th (inclusive) of each calendar year subject to the following restrictions and mandatory conditions precedent to any fire or burning of landscape waste:

(a) Burning of landscape waste is only permitted when wind air speed is 14 miles per hour or less. Said wind air speed shall be as reported by the National Weather Service at the time of the burning.
(b) Prior to the starting of the fire the landscape waste to be burned shall be dry to touch.
(c) The fire must be supervised at all times by a legally competent adult until completely extinguished.
(d) A water hose must be connected to a water source and shall be accessible to the fire supervisor within 15 feet of the fire.
(e) All coals and ashes must be completely extinguished before the adult supervising the fire may leave the area.
(f) No burning of landscape waste is permitted within 20 feet of any adjoining property owner’s or renter’s motor vehicle or residence.
(g) The landscape waste shall be burnt on the premises on which such landscape waste is generated.
(h) All burning shall be conducted when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants.
(i) No burning may create a visibility hazard on paved streets or railroad tracks.
(j) No burning of landscape waste is permitted on paved streets, public alleyways, public easement or drainage ditches.
(k) No fire may be permitted to smolder after the end time for burning in the Village.
(l) No burning shall be conducted on Veterans Day or Halloween Day.
(m) No burning shall be conducted in burn barrels.
(n) The Village President is authorized to modify the dates set forth above in the event that the President determines that it is necessary in order to allow sufficient time for residents to comply with these restrictions.

For exceptions to these rules and a list of fines and penalties, visit the Village website at www.shermanil.org

Capturing the moments of today...making memories for tomorrow.

Ed Clark Photography

WWW.EDCLARKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM
960 First Street, Sherman, Illinois 62684
217.496.3686 • 217.652.3686 • EDCLARK@GCCTV.COM
Once again, proactive work on the part of the Village and the Police Department has enabled Sherman to receive technology that will improve police patrols.

The Mini Thermal Monocular is a thermal imaging device that assists in the detection, recognition, and identification of suspects or victims during reconnaissance, surveillance, and search & rescue operations.

“The CEDAP (Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program) Award provides the department with a valuable crime-fighting tool and will also provide the training needed for our officers to use it,” said Eric Smith, Sherman police chief.

CEDAP grants are awarded by the U.S. Army on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA.

**IDOT SAFETY AWARD**

Congratulations to Sherman Police Officer Adam Westlake for his recent award recognizing 25 DUI stops. Westlake received the award from the Illinois Department of Transportation for making the roads safer. (from left) Police Chief Eric Smith; Officer Westlake; IDOT Traffic Safety Director Mike Stout; and Mayor Trevor Claffelter.

The Village of Sherman has received the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) Loss Prevention Safety Award.

The award recognizes the member municipalities who have demonstrated good safety practices that have prevented accidents on the job.

IMLRMA is the leading provider of property/casualty coverage for municipalities in the state of Illinois. Sherman is one of 786 member municipalities.
SNOW REMOVAL RULES REMINDER

Winter is just around the corner and with it comes snow – and the irritation of having snow banks left in front of your driveway after the snow plows go by. The Village snow crews take as much care as possible to reduce the amount of snow left in front of your driveways. You can help out by not placing the snow you remove onto the streets, as it will only end up back at the end of your driveway. An easy way to do this is when you blow snow or shovel your driveway and/or sidewalks, always direct or place the snow in your yard and not in the street. In addition, plowing cul-de-sacs, as well as many streets, is greatly hindered when vehicles are parked along the streets. Please help out and keep your vehicles off the streets when snow is predicted.
WHAT'S UP IN OUR TOWN?

This newsletter is about Sherman and its residents. That's YOU! Let us know if you have some good news to share about our hometown. Include good photos wherever possible.

Send your information to jmitchell@shermanil.org or drop it off at the Village Hall.

Postal Patron
Sherman, IL 62684

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2008

December 10 noon
Sherman Athletic Club
Ages 1 - 12
Snacks…gifts…Santa!

X-MAS TREE PICK UP SCHEDULE

Pickup will begin on Monday, January 5, 2009 and continue through January 30, 2009. Trees should be placed near the curb but should be off the street.

LET ME SHOW YOU THE WAY HOME!

HEATHER KELLY
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