

TO: Senator Dole
FR: Kerry

RE: Lewiston Bicentennial Celebration

*Attached are a few thoughts. It's quite a lengthy program with a number of speakers, and they're just looking for 3-5 minutes of remarks.



Lewiston

Bicentennial Committee

1795-1995

Lewiston Bicentennial Mission Statement

Outline of the history of Lewiston, Maine

Three hundred years ago the land which was to become Lewiston, Maine was a popular fishing ground for native American Indians in the region. They gathered on the banks of the Androscoggin River each fall to fish for the abundant salmon traveling upstream to spawn.

About two hundred years ago, in 1795, the Pejepscott Company gave this same parcel of land to two surveyors, named Jonathan Bagley and Moses Little. This land parcel became known as Lewiston and Auburn.

One hundred years later, in 1895, residents of Lewiston chose July 4th for an all day celebration of the city's centennial. A state survey of the Androscoggin River in 1909 called it "the greatest developed water power per square mile anywhere in the country."

Today, as we approach 1995 and the passing of another hundred years, Lewiston has grown to become the second largest community in the state of Maine with a diverse economy and culture. It is a city proud of its history and eagerly looking ahead to the future.

Planning for a bicentennial celebration in 1995

The committee set three goals for itself:

1. To develop, programs and activities in order to increase awareness of Lewiston's history and heritage.
2. To plan, develop, encourage and coordinate a series of celebrations scheduled over several months in the bicentennial year of 1995
3. To identify and establish a permanent civic project commemorating the bicentennial into the future (current possibilities under discussion include establishment of a city museum or the development of a new city park).

The bicentennial committee has set its sights high and is determined to lead a celebration that the community will long be proud of. But the committee will not be able to do it all alone. Substantial assistance from many citizens and businesses will be essential to success.

City Building, 1995 • Lewiston, Maine 04240

BANQUET "200"

- 6:00 to 6:30 Social gathering
- 6:30 to 7:00 Introduction of Honored Guests
Presentation of Colors
"National Anthem" performed by
Lewiston/Auburn Childrens Choir
led by Brian Franck
- 7:00 to 8:00 Dinner
- 8:00 Evening program begins

Speakers and Entertainment for the Evening

Lewiston Mayor John Jenkins

Auburn Mayor Robert Thorpe

Congressman 2nd District Maine John E. Baldacci

U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe

U.S. Senator William Cohen

~~President of the Senate~~ ^{majority leader} U.S. Senator Robert Dole

"America the Beautiful" sung by Amy L. Morin

Lewiston's Incorporation Reenactment

"Lewiston Song" sung by Nick Knowlton

Governor Angus King

Closing remarks by Mayor John Jenkins

SENATOR BOB DOLE LEWISTON BICENTENNIAL

**WHEN SENATOR COHEN AND
SENATOR SNOWE INVITED ME TO
STOP BY THIS EVENING, I JUMPED
AT THE CHANCE. IT'S NOT OFTEN I
GET THE CHANCE TO CELEBRATE A
BIRTHDAY OF SOMETHING THAT'S
BEEN AROUND ALMOST AS LONG
AS OUR COLLEAGUE, SENATOR
STROM THURMOND.**

**SENATOR THURMOND DID ASK
ME TO EXTEND HIS GREETINGS THIS
EVENING. AND HE SAID THAT
WHILE HE COULDN'T BE HERE THIS
EVENING, HE DOES PLAN ON
ATTENDING YOUR TRI-CENTENNIAL.**

**SERIOUSLY, ALL OF YOU CAN BE
VERY PROUD OF YOUR
COMMUNITY, THIS CELEBRATION,
AND ALL THE HARD WORK OF THE**

MEMBERS OF THE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

**MY WIFE TOLD ME A STORY THE
OTHER DAY ABOUT A LADY WHO
WAS ELECTED CHAIRWOMAN OF
HIS LOCAL RED CROSS. AFTER
LOOKING AT THE RECORDS, SHE
DISCOVERED THAT ONE OF THE
RICHEST MEN IN TOWN HAD NEVER
GIVEN A DIME TO THE RED CROSS.**

**SO SHE CALLED ON THE MAN
AND TOLD HIM WHAT THE
RECORDS SHOWED.**

**AND THE MAN SAID, "DO YOUR
RECORDS ALSO SHOW THAT MY
BROTHER WAS INJURED IN AN
AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT, AND WILL
NEVER BE ABLE TO SUPPORT
HIMSELF? DO THEY SHOW THAT
MY SISTER'S HUSBAND DIED,
LEAVING HER WITH FIVE CHILDREN**

**AND NO INSURANCE OR MEANS OF
SUPPORT?**

**THE RED CROSS VOLUNTEER
WAS TAKEN ABACK, AND SHE
STARED AT HER SHOES, AND SAID
SOFTLY, "NO, THE RECORDS DON'T
SHOW THAT."**

**"WELL," THE MAN SAID. "IF I
DON'T GIVE ANYTHING TO THEM,
WHY SHOULD I GIVE ANYTHING TO
YOU?"**

**THE MORAL OF THE STORY IS
THE FACT THAT THAT ATTITUDE IS
FOREIGN TO LEWISTON AND
FOREIGN TO AMERICA.**

**IN FACT, NOT LONG AFTER
LEWISTON WAS FOUNDED, A
YOUNG FRENCHMAN NAMED
ALEXIS DE TOQUEVILLE TOURED
AMERICA, AND HE LATER WROTE A
BOOK, DESCRIBING WHAT HE HAD
SEEN HERE.**

**AND HE WROTE, WITH
AMAZEMENT, THAT IN AMERICA,
WHEN A CITIZEN SAW A PROBLEM
THAT NEEDED SOLVING, HE WOULD
CROSS THE STREET AND TALK TO A
NEIGHBOR ABOUT IT. AND THE
FIRST THING YOU KNOW, A
COMMITTEE WOULD BE FORMED,
AND BEFORE LONG, THE PROBLEM
WOULD BE SOLVED.**

**TWO CENTURIES LATER, THOSE
WORDS STILL RING TRUE. IN
LEWISTON, MAINE...RUSSELL,
KANSAS...AND COUNTLESS
COMMUNITIES IN BETWEEN...MEN,
WOMEN, AND CHILDREN ARE
CROSSING THE STREET, FORMING
COMMITTEES, AND MAKING A
DIFFERENCE.**

**THAT GREAT SPIRIT OF
VOLUNTEERISM IS WHAT HAS**

**MADE LEWISTON GREAT, AND IT'S
WHAT HAS MADE AMERICA GREAT.**

**SO, LET ME AGAIN
CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR
COMMUNITY SPIRIT. I KNOW YOU
HAVE A VERY BUSY YEAR OF
PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AHEAD
OF YOU, AND I WISH YOU THE VERY
BEST.**