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Fall 2003 ISSUE



NEW ROSS COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER OPENS

"The realization of a fifty year dream..." is the way Bob Nelson, Chairman of the Society's 2003 Legacy Building Project, described the completion of the new Ross County Heritage Center that now connects the Ross County Historical Society's Museum to its McKell Library.

On Thursday, September 25, the dream was realized during grand opening festivities. Over 150 Society members and community leaders gathered in front of the new building for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. They heard testimonials from Society President Erc Picciano, Executive Director Tom Kuhn, Chillicothe Mayor Margaret Planton, and Chillicothe & Ross County 2003 Commission Director Scott Graham.

President Picciano expressed the excitement and pride felt by everyone involved in the project, stating that the organization is ecstatic to finally have a facility that truly meets its needs. Graham, who has overseen much of the planning for the local Ohio Bicentennial celebration, put the ceremony in perspective by telling the crowd that inasmuch as everyone has enjoyed the year's extraordinary bicentennial festivities, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy is probably one of the most important outcomes of the 2003 celebration.

Tom Kuhn noted that construction of the new building began exactly a year and a day before the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He thanked architect Dan Marsh, general contractor Allen Ballew and construction superintendent John Cooper for their excellent work and for making the job



go smoothly. "We now have the facility we have dreamed about that will allow us to serve our members and the entire community for many years to come," Kuhn concluded.

Now that construction work is complete, efforts are underway to plan and install new exhibits in the large exhibition hall inside the new heritage center. In the meantime visitors have complete access to the entire complex beginning at the new main entrance (pictured above). All Society members are encouraged to stop in and look around.



Over 150 members and supporters gathered in front of the new Ross County Heritage Center on Thursday, September 25th to celebrate the grand opening of the new facility.



Historical Society Director Tom Kuhn and President Erc Picciano cut the first of two ribbons officially welcoming the community to the new heritage center.