INTRODUCTION

May 11, 1958, marked the centennial for Minnesota's admission to statehood. Later that same year, Polk County celebrated its centennial on July 27th. While Polk County and Statehood Centennial programs were observed throughout the year yet the first state-wide celebration of the Statehood Centennial was held in St. Paul on May 10, 1958, and Minneapolis May 11. Polk County, through its County Centennial Committee took part in the May 10th centennial program by entering the county float in the mammoth parade of some two-hundred and fifty floats. Other features of the May 10th celebration were the Centennial Train, with exhibits depicting the 100 years of progress in all phases of development in the state as a whole and a speaking program.

Inasmuch as the Polk County Centennial was being observed concurrently with the Statehood Centennial, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners set aside $4,000.00 to be used, all or in part, for the proper observance of the centennial year. The Polk County Centennial Committee was selected to direct and co-ordinate the centennial observances throughout the county and bring the Polk County history up-to-date in the centennial year. T. M. McCall, former superintendent of the Northwest School and Experiment Station, now retired, was given the responsibility of selecting his own committee to work out the historical assignment. The report on the activities and accomplishments of the County Centennial Committee, which follows, was submitted by the chairman, Phillip Anderson, Judge of Probate for the county.

The committee on county history decided that the centennial history of Polk County should be a supplemental record of happenings of importance which occurred since the publication of the 1916 HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY OF POLK COUNTY. The committee deemed it advisable to give an accurate chronological review of events of importance in the early history of the county, to note the progress in agricultural production and farm practices during the past four decades, and compile a list of elected and appointed officers serving the county since the time of the formation and organization of the county.

T. M. McCall

ERRATA

Dates on Memorable Events fillers corrected to read
1823 Major Long Expedition to Pembina at end of Chap. 1
1872 Sept. Railroad reached Crookston. Chap. 4 page 3