

Bicentennial Bell Acceptance Remarks

Summit County Executive James B. McCarthy

June 1, 2003

(Recognize Mayors/Council in attendance)

Mayor Amy Addis, City of Norton;

Mayor Barbara Kornuc, City of Macedonia;

Mayor Brad Sisak, City of Munroe Falls;

Summit County Councilman Michael King;

Summit County Councilman Dan Congrove;

And of course, Mayor Don Plusquellic, City of Akron.

It is thrilling to be a part of Ohio's 200th birthday celebration and to be the recipients of such a lasting and beautiful tribute to our state's heritage.

I am honored to accept the Summit County Bicentennial Bell on behalf of the citizens of Summit County.

And, because the bell belongs to all the citizens of our county - we will not be hiding it away – Summit County's bell will be on the move.

For the remainder of 2003, our bell will travel around the county - visiting communities, festivals, parades, civic and school groups – so as many people can enjoy it as possible during Ohio's Bicentennial year.

The bell is already scheduled to visit festivals in:

Macedonia;

Northfield;

Sagamore Hills;

Mogadore;

Copley;

Bath;

And Norton.

It will also be on display at Cascades Locks Parks Mustill House & Store and during the Wonderful World of Ohio Mart at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens.

You can find a complete Bicentennial Bell Tour schedule on our website:

www.co.summit.oh.us.

We've even scheduled dates into 2004 and 2005.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in making our bell casting and today's Heritage Festival a success:

The Ohio Bicentennial Commission;

Verdin Company;

Mayor Plusquellic and the City of Akron;

Dan Dahl and the staff of the Akron Civic Theatre and EJ Thomas;

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association;

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park Service;

Akron Community Foundation who provided a grant that allowed us to purchase this beautiful bell stand;

Akron's Deputy Mayor of Intergovernmental Relations,

Dorothy Jackson;

Joey Arrietta of the Akron Racers and Grassroots to the Pros;

and my Department of Communications staff.

Thank you all for your part in this wonderful event. Without further ado, let's ring our bell!