

# *Township Celebrations Past and Present*

## **1955 CELEBRATION**

Historically it was a year to be remembered. This was the year when the people of the community were enjoying the privilege of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the hamlet of Morrison and the township.

The proposed anniversary celebration started out as a modest beginning, but then developed into the largest celebration the community had ever held to that date. The Wayside-Morrison Lion's Club was a big part of the sponsorship. Queens were selected, both old-time and modern, along with attendants in waiting. A coronation ball was held on September 11th, with crowning ceremonies included. Old-fashioned attire had fast become the uniform of the day. Beards of all descriptions adorned the faces of those able to grow them.

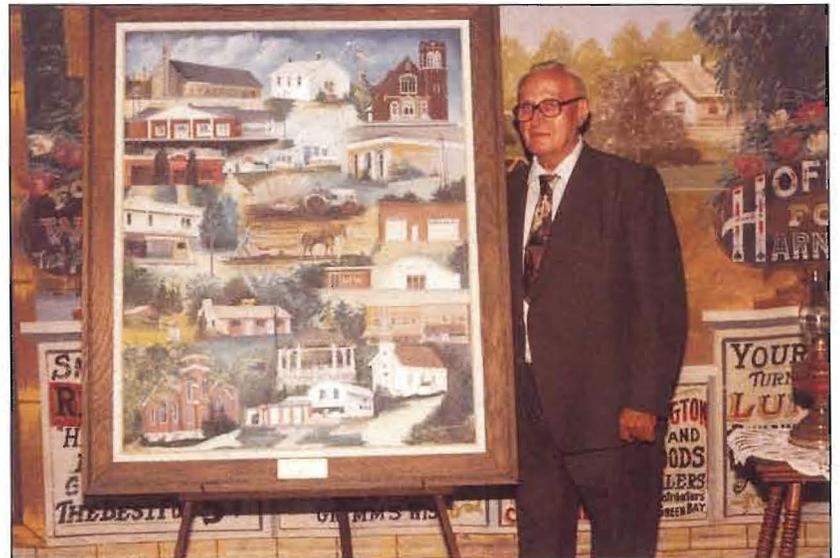
September 18th, the day of the celebration was sunny and warm. Preparations for this "Our Centennial" came together, and over 17,000 people lined the parade route for the 12:30 parade. Eighty-eight units passed through the parade depicting horse and buggy days of the past. Quartets and concert bands entertained the crowds throughout the day. A beard-judging contest was swamped with competitors. Dancing to both old-time and modern music capped the festivities. The thought of the day was "May it always remain in your memory".

## **1980 CELEBRATION**

After months of planning, the town of Morrison celebrated its 125th year celebration in grand style. The celebration started with a 125th anniversary coronation banquet and style show, which was held at Van Abel's on September 3rd. Ron Kiekhaefer was the Master of Ceremonies. The banquet, attended by over 450 people, started with the selecting of Lori Daley as the queen. Princesses, Debbie Bruegge and Elaine Loppnow were also selected, along with a 125th Anniversary couple, Mr. & Mrs. Karl Falck. A fashion show, entitled "Down Memory Lane", featured fashions dating back to as early as 1850.

On Sunday, September 14th, a parade started off the festivities at noon. Various antique vehicles, floats, and marching bands treated the crowd that attended. Along with a parade, a Beard Contest was held, in which 52 people participated. In the afternoon, the Wayside-Morrison concert band played. Later in the evening the Don Schlies Orchestra provided music for dancing. Throughout the day people could walk through an exhibit in the firemen's hall that showed displays of soap making, spinning, quilting, and candle making. Some of the clothing from the fashion show was also there.

To commemorate the celebration a book "the Township of Morrison 1855-1980" was on sale. The book cover was a mural painting of the area, done by J.J. Stradel. It was also announced in the paper that plenty of TV's would be on hand to be able to watch the Packers play that day.



*J.J. Stradel with Composite Picture he painted for celebration.*