



1854 - 1954

Logo used for centennial.



Children participated in many areas of the centennial celebration. Here Elaine Norcross, daughter of John and Doris Norcross, poses with her prize-winning decorated bicycle after receiving first place in the parade.



A Look Back . . .

Bushnell, IL 1854-2004

compiled by Rollene Storms, lay-out by Kathy Roach and Vicky Conway

Bushnell's sesquicentennial year has begun! And it's going to be a fun-filled twelve months as we celebrate 150 years of Bushnell history. If you chat around town, you'll hear many residents sharing memories of the town's centennial celebration, and some have started digging out photographs and memorabilia.

Here is a small peak at some of the highlights of Bushnell's 1954 celebration. Our thanks to Dottie Howe for sharing these keepsakes from her mother's scrapbook.

You're Wondering About My Beard!!!

No! It doesn't itch . . .

No! My wife doesn't like my beard in any way, shape or form . . .

No! I cannot shave until August 28

As I Am A Member Of The

"BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH"

Helping to promote the Centennial Celebration in Bushnell, Illinois.

Why Don't You Plan To Attend?

August 26 to August 29

Men participating in the beard-growing contest were made members of the "Whisker Club." If anyone asked about their beards, the men could offer this card of explanation!

Lighthearted newspaper coverage reported: "After the contests were over, many beards were scheduled to go down the drain due to the heat of the day and the warmth of the whiskers. . . Some worry was expressed by the city officials that if all the whisker clubbers were to shave at once, the drainage systems would be clogged up for quite a while."

Many of the Whisker Club members let their hair, as well as their whiskers, grow. "One of the laughs of the afternoon came in the longest hair division of the Whisker Club judging. Brian Husted, Bushnell, was the last contestant to be judged. As judges Elber Brasell and David W. Gordon pulled off the old fashioned derby, they were confronted with a completely bald head."



Men joined the "Whisker Club" but ladies joined the "Whish Club." Whish members Avid Dillenbeck (right) won first place and Mayre Dodson won second in the individual costume contest.

Bushnell CENTENNIAL

AUGUST 26 - 27 - 28 - 29

Four Big Days and Nights of Entertainment

FEATURING

Big Parade Thursday 1:30 P.M., Centennial Ball 8:00 P.M.

Friday Afternoon | **Friday Evening**

Wilson's Day, with District F.F.A. Show. | Big Display of FIREWORKS Friday Night.

Saturday Is Rural Day -- Big Afternoon Show

EVERYTHING
FREE!



EVERYTHING
FREE!

Thanks to the Women of the 1954

To give us an idea of some of the special events, here's a reprint of the top half of the centennial celebration poster.



Dottie Howe, one of the coordinators of this year's sesquicentennial events, is pictured in her prize-winning 1954 centennial outfit.