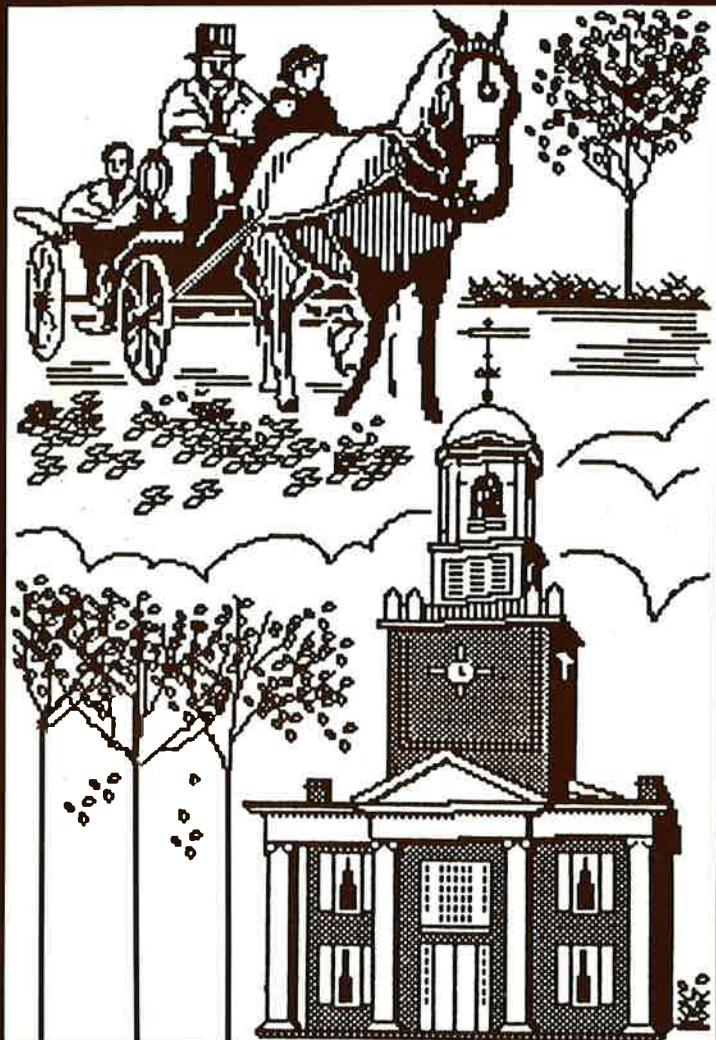


# Sussex County Return Day



Georgetown, Delaware  
November 10, 1994

## From the Candidates & Elected Officials

Have a Great Return Day! .....SEN. THURMAN ADAMS, JR.  
Thanks for your support! .....EVELYN ALEMAR  
Thanks for your support! .....OAK BANNING  
Thanks for your support! .....M. JANE BRADY  
Thanks for your support! .....GEORGE H. BUNTING  
Your support was appreciated .....CHARLES BUTLER  
Thanks to my supporters .....DEBORAH CAPANO  
Your support was appreciated .....REP. V. GEORGE CAREY  
Thanks for your support! .....TOM CARPER  
Your support was appreciated .....MICHAEL N. CASTLE  
Thanks for your support! .....HOWARD A. CLENDANIEL  
Thanks for your support! .....PHILIP D. CLOUTIER  
Have a Great Day .....GEORGE COLE  
Thanks for your support! .....GEORGE J. COLLINS  
Have a super Return Day! .....RICHARD S. CORDREY  
Thanks for your support! .....ANTHONY J. DeLUCA  
Thank you! You're great! .....CARI DeSANTIS  
Thanks for your support! .....REP. JOE DIPINTO  
Thank You! .....DALE DUKES  
Thanks for your support! .....D. RAY ELLERMAN  
Your support was appreciated .....REP. BRUCE C. ENNIS  
You are appreciated! .....J. BENJAMIN EWING  
Many Thanks to All .....TINA FALLON  
Thanks, 25th District Supporters .....TONY FELICIA  
Thanks for my term! .....DALLAS D. GREEN  
Your support was appreciated .....LORIELEE HARRISON

## Sussex County Return Day, Inc.

### Officers

ROSLIE B. WALLS, President  
WILLIAM C. LECATES, Vice-President  
ELEANOR RAYE WARRINGTON, Secretary  
ALLAN KUJALA, Treasurer

### Directors

SUE H. BARLOW	W. LAYTON JOHNSON
DAVID M. BLOODSWORTH	WILLIAM G. LAMBDEN
JOSEPH W. BOOTH	WILLIAM H. LAWSON
RICHARD M. CALHOUN	CHRISTINE C. LECATES
CHARLOTTE P. CAMPBELL	JOAN MESSICK
MARK CASHDAN	DANIEL L. MILBURN
ANN COUCH	ISABELLE MORRIS
GEORGE F. COUCH	MARK PETTYJOHN
CLAIRE T. CROLL	CINDY PUSEY
JAMES DUKES	LAWRENCE SAMMONS
CAROLYN GREEN	JAY M. STEVENS
DALLAS GREEN	RUSSELL WARRINGTON

### Honorary Directors

RALPH BENSON Sussex County Council	RICHARD T. HUDSON Former Return Day Director
EDWARD BOOTH Return Day Charter Officer	ANTHONY RACANIELLO Former Return Day Director
SYLVIA SHORT CALHOUN Georgetown Town Council	JOHN B. ROACH, JR. Georgetown Town Council
GEORGE COLE Sussex County Council	HARVEY B. SPICER Former Georgetown Mayor
GEORGE COLLINS Sussex County Council	WILLIAM D. STEVENSON Sussex County Council
DALE DUKES Sussex County Council President	ROBERT L. STICKELS Sussex County Administrator
MABEL F. GIVENS Georgetown Town Council	NELSON P. WARREN Georgetown Town Council

## 1994 Program of Events

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	GOOD MORNING AMERICA (Live from The Circle with Spencer Christian)
9:00 a.m. to Dusk	FOOD & CRAFT BOOTHS (The Circle & North Bedford St.)
9:00 a.m.	TOWN HALL MURAL DEDICATION (A project of the Prison Arts Program)
10:00 a.m.	HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION (St. Paul's Episcopal Church on East Pine St.)
10:00 a.m.	CARNIVAL OFF THE CIRCLE Taylor & Sons Amusements (E. Market Street)
10:15 a.m.	CANINES OFF THE CIRCLE State Police Canine Demonstration (Courthouse parking lot)
10:15 a.m.	ORATORY ON THE CIRCLE with Brittany Croll "What Return Day Means to Me"
10:30 a.m.	DANCE ON THE CIRCLE featuring Miss Delaware Tish Pusey
11:00 a.m.	LUNCHEON FOR CANDIDATES AND HONORED GUESTS Sussex Central High School
11:00 a.m.	BAND ON THE CIRCLE featuring Delaware State Marching Band
11:30 a.m.	MUSIC ON THE CIRCLE with Banjo Dusters
11:30 a.m.	REENACTMENT OFF THE CIRCLE "The Tryal of Wm. Penn & Wm. Mead" by the Friends Theatre Group Old Sussex County Courthouse
1:00 p.m.	RETURN DAY PARADE From Sussex Central High School, halfway around The Circle to King St.
3:00 p.m.	CEREMONIES ON THE CIRCLE
3:00 p.m.	REENACTMENT OFF THE CIRCLE "The Tryal of Wm. Penn & Wm. Mead"
3:30 p.m.	MUSIC OFF THE CIRCLE featuring the Christian Trouvers (East Market St.)
3:45 p.m.	STREET DANCE ON THE CIRCLE with "Bird Dog & The Road Kings"
3:45 p.m.	OX ROAST ON THE CIRCLE Free open pit barbecued beef sandwiches northeast corner of The Circle

## 1994 Return Day Parade

THE 1994 SUSSEX COUNTY RETURN DAY PARADE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF TWO FORMER SUSSEX COUNTY RETURN DAY COMMITTEE DIRECTORS, JOHN T. PURNELL AND ELMER WALLS. BOTH MEN WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED THE BIENNIAL EVENT AND DEVOTED COUNTLESS HOURS TO MAKING RETURN DAY WHAT IT IS TODAY.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY RETURN DAY COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMEMBER JOYCE MARVEL, FORMER SEN. ALLAN FREAR AND FORMER CONGRESSMAN, SENATOR AND GOVERNOR CALEB BOGGS. EACH SUPPORTED AND ENJOYED PREVIOUS RETURN DAY CELEBRATIONS AND WILL BE GREATLY MISSED THIS YEAR.

### Grand Marshall

Former Georgetown Councilmember & School Board member  
and Return Day Director  
**WILLIAM G. LAMBDEN**

### Honorary Parade Marshals

<b>EDWARD BOOTH</b> Return Day Charter Officer 1964	<b>HARVEY B. SPICER</b> Mayor of Georgetown 1952 - 1962	<b>W. LAYTON JOHNSON</b> Mayor of Georgetown 1962 - 1988
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### Parade Judges

<b>JUDY BENNETT</b> Owner Balloons Deco	<b>PENNY PAINE</b> Past President Greater Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
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<b>HELEN BUCHANAN</b> Retired Operator Diamond State Telephone	<b>DIANE PETTYJOHN</b> Assistant Sussex County Economic Development
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<b>MICHAEL KELLY</b> Personnel Director Perdue Farms - Georgetown	<b>AL STANGO</b> Former Mayor of Lewes 1968 - 1992
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<b>MRS. CLIFF (JANET) LEE</b> Secretary Centenary Methodist Church	<b>NORMAN TATE</b> President Emeritus Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Assoc.
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<b>CHARLES GRAY</b> Chairman Milford Halloween Parade	<b>GERTRUDE THARP</b> Former Vice-Chairwoman Delaware Democratic Party
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<b>FLOYD MEGEE, JR.</b> Antique Car Enthusiast	<b>JOE MURIBITO</b> Delaware State Fire School	<b>JACK RENAULT</b> WGMD - Radio
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<b>WAYNE HUTCHINSON</b> Delaware State Fire School	<b>MIKE VINCENT</b> Vice-President Sussex County Vol. Fireman's Assoc.	<b>CHUCK SNYDER</b> Delaware State Fire School
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# Ceremonies On The Circle

National Anthem .....	CATHY GORMAN Soloist
Invocation .....	REV. CHARLES COVINGTON Methodist Circuit Rider
Greetings .....	JOSEPH W. BOOTH, SR. Master of Ceremonies
Welcome .....	DAVID M. BLOODSWORTH Mayor of Georgetown
Soloist .....	LAUREN ARNOLD Miss Georgetown
Introduction of Distinguished Guests, State, National and Sussex County Candidates and Incumbents .....	JOSEPH W. BOOTH, SR. Master of Ceremonies
Reading of Election Returns .....	W. LAYTON JOHNSON Town Crier
Burial of the Tomahawk .....	JACK DALTON Chairman Sussex County Libertarian Party ROLAND DERRICKSON Chairman Sussex County Republican Committee RICHARD STONE Chairman Sussex County Democratic Committee
End of Campaign 1994	
Appreciation .....	ROSALIE B. WALLS President Sussex County Return Day, Inc.
Soloist .....	CATHY GORMAN "God Bless America"
Benediction .....	REV. GLENN LYBURN Grace United Methodist Church

# Return Day Committees

ANNOUNCERS & JUDGES	Steve Pepper Connie Pepper Rosalie B. Walls	Terry Lind	Johnny Moore
ANTIQUES	Billy Bradley Rick Bennett Bob Fletcher	OX ROAST	POLICE COORDINATION
ANTIQUE AUTOS	Harold & Dora Short Mit & Eric Cathell Floyd Megee, Jr.	Daniel Milburn Mark Cashdan Mark Pettyjohn	Wes Jones Harvey Gregg Various Departments
AUDIO	David Moore Johnny Moore Joseph Pepper Lynn DeLeon	Danny Milburn, Jr. Margaret Bradley Ken Cronic Tyler Folke	PROGRAM/PRESS
AWARDS	Eleanor Raye Warrington Sue Barlow	Brent Layfield Mike Kemp Andy Partyka James Sockriter	RELEASES
BANDS	James Dukes	Harley Wilson	PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION
BLEACHERS	James Dukes Diane Pettyjohn	PARADE	Biffy Walls Brittany Croll Aimee Parker Michelle Walls
CANCELLATION STAMP	Skip Putz Margaret Bradley Joey Walls Cheer Clowns	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	RADIO & TV
CARNIVAL	Robert Dunbar Rosalie Walls	IRVING WORKMAN	James Dukes Josh Clandaniel
CARRIAGES	Bruce Lepo Sue Messick Nancy Lemley Susan Shaw Kraemer Trina Davis-Wheedleton Joan Messick	INFORMATION	REVIEWING STAND
CONVERTIBLES	Richard & Sylvia Calhoun Lope Headley Joe Messick Jim Parkinson Peggy Townsend Jim McFaul	Susan Crockett Lynn DeLeon Margaret Bradley	Kevin Short Irvin Betts
DECORATED WINDOW JUDGES	Delmarva Driving Club	LUNCHEON	SALES
DECORATIONS	Cindy Pusey Bill & Kirk Lawson	Susan Crockett Lynn DeLeon Margaret Bradley	Joan Messick Lawrence Sammons
DEcorations	Diane Pettyjohn Susan Smart James Dukes	CONVERTIBLES	Tammy Dorey Joan Hitchens
DEcorations	Betty Swain Cal Whidden Edwin Wilson	DEcorations	Sue Messick Penny Paine Susan Shaw Kraemer Michelle Walls
DEcorations	Allen Kujala	INFORMATION	SIGNS
DEcorations		Susan Crockett Lynn DeLeon Margaret Bradley	Terry Croll Milton Middle School Students
DEcorations		LUNCHEON	TRANSPORTATION
DEcorations		Susan Crockett Lynn DeLeon Margaret Bradley	Diane Pettyjohn Delaware Tourism
DEcorations		CONVERTIBLES	VENDOR BOOTHS
DEcorations		DEcorations	Sue H. Barlow Rosalie B. Walls
DEcorations		INFORMATION	VIDEOS
DEcorations		Susan Crockett Lynn DeLeon Margaret Bradley	Ron Hudson
DEcorations		LUNCHEON	VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON
DEcorations		Susan Crockett Lynn DeLeon Margaret Bradley	Trina Davis-Wheedleton Food Lion employees Midland Grange members James Dukes
DEcorations		CONVERTIBLES	WEDNESDAY NIGHT
DEcorations		DEcorations	EVENTS
DEcorations		INFORMATION	Mark Pettyjohn Bob Lindsay Ralph Mitchell Gary Killmon Workman Boys

# Special Thanks

Sussex County Council	Sussex Central High School	Coca-Cola
Town of Georgetown	Midland Grange #27	Pepsi Cola
Greater Georgetown Chamber of Commerce	Grace United Methodist Church	Martin's Rolls
Georgetown Historical Society	Delaware Technical & Community College	Tri-Gas & Oil
Georgetown Fire Company	Men's Softball League	C.B. Club
American Legion Post & Ambulance	Georgetown Little League	Continental Bakery
American Broadcasting Co.	Georgetown House	Delmarva Driving Club
Good Morning America	Bramble Construction	Sussex County Paramedics
Delaware Development Office	Delaware Department of Transportation	Isaac Family Farm
Sussex County Tourism Commission	Delaware National Guard	Rent-A-Center
Delaware Heritage Commission	Comcast Communications	Eagle 97.7 & The Fox
Food Lion	Schmidt's Bakery	Rev. Charles Covington
Delaware State Fair	Stroehmann's Bakery	Cathy Gorman
	Showell Farms	Rev. Glenn Lyburn
		Robert L. Sticks
		Rogers Graphics, Inc.

## History of Return Day

Despite its mispronunciations by most non-residents, "Return Day" has less to do with hearing the election returns than with Sussex Countians and others coming together to celebrate the end of the vigorous campaign and to begin the political healing process.

Although the date of the first "Return Day" in Georgetown is uncertain, it could have been as early as 1792. The State Law in 1791 removing the County seat from Lewes to a new place later named Georgetown required all votes to be cast in the County seat on election day.

The same voters would "return" two days later to hear the results. In 1811 voting districts in the individual hundreds were established, but the Board of Canvassers presided over by the Sheriff would meet two days later in Georgetown to announce the final tally.

Naturally, the gathering of two or three thousand politicians, supporters and curious on-lookers made for a very festive atmosphere. J. Thomas Scharf in 1888 described "Return Day" in the *History of Delaware* as "one of the customs peculiar to the people of Sussex, from time immemorial, is to hold high carnival on the day when the results of a general election are announced.

"By early in the morning people from all parts of the county, and even from Maryland; may be seen coming to the county-seat, some walking, others on horseback, and still others in wagons and carts, drawn by one or more oxen, by an ox and a horse, an ox and a mule, or several oxen and a horse, the vehicle being gayly decorated with bright colors or flags.

"Often this crowd presents a motley appearance, some being dressed in costumes which were used in primitive times, and others purposely arraying themselves in an outlandish manner to give more zest to the spirit of the occasion. The successful candidates also come to Town and are met by a great crowd of admiring friends, who extend their congratulations in an unmistakable manner. Some of these candidates are taken up bodily, and are carried around on men's shoulders when the results are announced from the window of the courthouse to the congregated mass below.

"Booths, stalls and stands are erected near the courthouse, where all kinds of edibles, such as opossum and rabbit meat, fish and oysters, can be procured. The women, who constitute a considerable portion of the crowd, are generously treated to cakes, candies and the best the booths afford.

"The citizens of the Town hold a general reception and all are expected to help entertain the people, especially if they are friends of the successful party. Everyone endeavors to make "Return Day" a hilarious one, and all seem willing to perpetuate a custom which is now peculiar to Sussex County alone, and which sometimes brings three thousand people to Town."

Return Day continued through the 1800s and on into the present century. But with the advent of automobiles, which made the visit to Georgetown from any part of Sussex only a matter of minutes, and with the arrival of radio which let the people know the results of elections even before the newspapers arrived, interest in the old custom began to dwindle.

There was a big celebration in 1936 when Franklin D. Roosevelt won in a landslide and the Democrats carried the State for the first time in many years. Return Day was cancelled altogether in 1942 because of World War II, but it was too good an event to let die in Sussex County where traditions are important. It was not long before a group of interested citizens of both the Republican and Democrat parties joined together to revive it in 1952.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s enthusiasm grew beyond all expectations as was evident with a bill being passed in the State Legislature in 1965 making "Return Day" a legal half holiday for Sussex County. From that time to the present this celebration has attracted more and more Delawareans and residents from nearby states to join in all of the activities of the day.

In modern times, when election results are often known before the polls close, Return Day serves as a reminder to all Sussex Countians of their past. An ox roast with free sandwiches to the public has replaced the possum and rabbit but craftsmen and vendors still hawk their wares. A large parade still highlights the celebration, but now the victorious candidates and their former opponents ride together in open horse drawn carriages and convertibles in the spirit of cooperation for the good of the citizens.

Return Day is still considered the official end of the campaign in Delaware illustrated by the ceremonial burial of the hatchet by political party leaders ... until the next Sussex County Return Day in Georgetown, two days after the election.



## Letter of Appreciation

Welcome to the quaint old Town of Georgetown on a day that can be best described as its biggest claim to fame. The word "tradition" best describes what happens here today.

We in Sussex County revere our traditions and although its no longer needed, we still return to the County Seat two days after each biennial election to hear the returns on what has come to be known as "Sussex County Return Day."

Our reverence to these traditions and in the spirit of unity after the heated political battle decided on Election Day, the winning and losing candidates gather in Georgetown to ride together in open horse drawn carriages or convertibles in a parade of political healing.

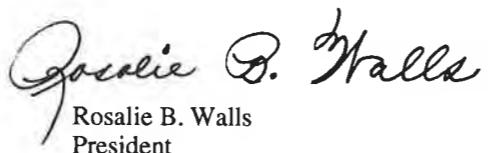
The final act of the political season follows the reading of the Sussex County election results with the formal burial of the tomahawk by the political party chairmen. This simple ceremonious act, binds our citizens together and insures them the continuity of their government by the people and for the people.

As always, we try to make every Return Day bigger and better. This year is no different. We have added some things to keep our youth interested. They may not understand everything, but if we get them here, maybe a sense of public responsibility will sink in.

This historic celebration could not be possible without the help of countless people, too many to mention. But I must thank the Sussex County Council and the Town of Georgetown, without their help the event would not be possible. I must also thank each Return Day director and volunteer.

An event like this requires lots of cooperation, volunteers, and money. But it would all be for naught if you, the public, did not turn out every two years, two days after the election.

Best wishes,  
SUSSEX COUNTY RETURN DAY, INC.

  
Rosalie B. Walls  
President

"The Tryal of Wm. Penn & Wm. Meade" performed by The Friends' Theatre Group was made possible in part by The Delaware Division of the Arts DE Tours program and the National Endowment for the Arts. Local sponsorship included the Georgetown Historical Society with assistance from The Delaware Heritage Commission.

## From the Candidates & Elected Officials

Thanks for your support! ..... EDIE HEMPHILL  
Your support was appreciated ..... JIM HIGDON  
Thanks for your support! ..... ALLEN S. JESTER, JR.  
Your support was appreciated ..... ROY V. JONES  
Thanks for your support! ..... CLIFFORD "BIFF" LEE  
Thanks for your support! ..... R. JAMES MARINER  
Thanks for your support! ..... REP. JANE MARONEY  
Thanks for your support! ..... BERNADETTE MOSSMAN  
Thanks for your support! ..... W. CHARLES PARADEE, JR.  
Thanks for your support! ..... TERRY L. PEPPER  
Thanks for your support! ..... GEORGE ROBERT "BOBBY" QUILLEN  
Thanks for your support! ..... FRANK RASKAUSKAS  
Many Happy Returns! ..... DONNA REED  
Thanks for your support! ..... CHARLES J. ROGERS  
Thanks for your support! ..... JOHN E. ROGERS  
Thanks for your support! ..... WILLIAM V. ROTH, JR.  
Your support was appreciated ..... JANET RZEWNICKI  
Your support was appreciated ..... TERRY R. SPENCE  
Thanks for your support! ..... CHARLES P. SPICER, JR.  
Your support was appreciated ..... JOHN C. STILL  
Thanks for your support! ..... REP. JOHN VAN SANT  
Thanks for your support! ..... SEN. ROBERT L. VENABLES, SR.  
Thank you Friends! ..... BOB VOSHELL  
Thanks for your support! ..... THOMAS WAGNER  
Thank you 41st District ..... REP. CHARLES P. WEST  
Proudly Serving Delaware ..... DONNA LEE WILLIAMS  
Thanks for your support! ..... LORETTA WOOTTON

# Return Day Carriages

