



ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO GOVERNED SUSSEX COUNTY IN DELAWARE DURING AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL YEAR 1976

President of The United States	Gerald R. Ford
Vice-President of The United States	Nelson D. Rockefeller
U. S. Senator from Delaware	William V. Roth, Jr.
U. S. Senator from Delaware	Joseph R. Biden
U. S. Representative from Delaware	Pierre S. duPont, IV
Governor of The State of Delaware	Sherman W. Tribbitt
Lt. Governor of Delaware	Eugene D. Bookhammer
Attorney General of Delaware	Richard R. Weir, Jr.
State Treasurer of Delaware	Mary D. Jornlin
Auditor of Accounts of Delaware	Richard T. Collins
Insurance Commissioner of Delaware	Robert A. Short
(resigned March 31, 1976)	
Insurance Commissioner of Delaware	J. Francis Richardson
(April 1, 1976 - Dec. 31, 1976)	

SUSSEX COUNTY MEMBERS OF DELAWARE'S 127TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE SENATE

Senator From 19th District	Thurman Adams, Jr.
Senator From 20th District	Richard S. Cordrey
Senator From 21st District	David H. Elliott

SUSSEX COUNTY MEMBERS OF DELAWARE'S 127TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative From 36th District	Lewis B. Harrington
Representative From 37th District	Harry E. Derrickson
Representative From 38th District	Howard A. Clendaniel
Representative From 39th District	Thomas A. Temple, Sr.
Representative From 40th District	William J. Gordy
Representative From 41st District	Donald J. Lynch

SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICERS

Sheriff of Sussex County	Eugene D. Mills
(Served January 1, 1976 - Deceased June 29, 1976)	
Sheriff of Sussex County	Stephen E. Rogers
Clerk of the Peace of Sussex County	Ray H. Elliott
Register of Wills of Sussex County	Wilson O. McCabe, Jr.
Recorder of Deeds of Sussex County	Mary Ann McCabe
Register In Chancery of Sussex County	Harvey F. Donovan
Prothonotary of Sussex County	Elwood R. Rust

MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Ralph E. Benson	John T. Cannon, Sr.	Charles W. Cole
Oliver E. Hill	W. Howard Workman	

MAYOR OF THE COUNTY SEAT OF SUSSEX COUNTY GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE 1976

W. Layton Johnson

**SUSSEX COUNTY
RETURN DAY COMMITTEE, INC.
1976 OFFICERS**

Mrs. Jean West, President
Ronald F. Dodd, Vice-President
Mrs. Carol W. Collins, Secretary
John T. Purnell, Treasurer

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Mrs. Nellie R. Barr
Nutter D. Marvel, Sr.
Ralph E. Benson
John T. Cannon, Sr.
Charles W. Cole
Oliver E. Hill
W. Howard Workman

DIRECTORS

Eugene Bowne
Mrs. Charlotte Campbell
George F. Couch
Mrs. Claire Croll
W. Layton Johnson
Robert L. Littleton
Mrs. Cindy Pusey
Anthony Racaniello
Mrs. Rosalie B. Walls

Master of Ceremonies - Mr. Houston Wilson, Esq.

Parade Marshall - Mrs. Edna Layton

OLD TIMERS JUDGES

Mrs. Peggy W. Booth
Mrs. Lilly S. Walls
Mrs. Mabel Lambden

ANTIQUE CAR JUDGES

John S. Cordrey
Marshall Nesbitt
Andrew Rice

FIRE EQUIPMENT JUDGES

Arthur I. Guessford
Kline Kemp

Granville T. White
William J. Himes

PARADE JUDGES

Mrs. Irene T. Griffin
Charles A. Legates, Jr.
Mrs. Eileen W. Spence

Peter J. Gaffney
David Montgomery
Charles G. Lamb

Parade Announcer - Wayne Ellingsworth

Fire Equipment Announcer - John Smith

DEDICATION OF RESTORED ORIGINAL SUSSEX COUNTY COURTHOUSE OF GEORGETOWN

10:00 a.m.

National Anthem	Sussex Central High School Band Ensemble Eugene Bowne, Director
Presentation of Colors	Cub Scout Pack 95, Brownie Troop Boy Scout Troop 95, Girl Scout Troop
Invocation	Rev. H. Sterling Green
Salute to the Flag	Eagle Scout, Thomas P. Veasey II
Welcome and	
Introduction of Dignitaries	Mr. Houston Wilson, Esq.
Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt	
Lt. Governor Eugene D. Bookhammer	
Secretary of State Robert H. Reed	
Director of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Lawrence C. Henry	
Architect Robert Raley	
Senator Thurman Adams, Jr.	
Senator Richard S. Cordrey	
Senator David H. Elliott	
Representative Howard A. Clendaniel	
Representative Lewis B. Harrington	
Representative Harry E. Derrickson	
Representative Thomas A. Temple, Sr.	
Representative William J. Gordy	
Representative Donald J. Lynch	
President of Sussex County Council John T. Cannon, Sr.	
Mayor of Georgetown W. Layton Johnson	
Chairman of Return Day Committee Mrs. Jean West	
Dedicatory Address and Ribbon Cutting	Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt

SUSSEX COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY
10:30 a.m.

Welcome Mrs. Joyce Dyer, Co-Chairman
Sussex County Bicentennial Committee
Introduction of Sussex County Bicentennial Committee ... Kenneth Douty,
Co-Chairman Sussex County Bicentennial Committee
Purpose and General Contents of The Time Capsule
Miss M. Catherine Downing
Sealing and Burial of Time Capsule
Our Delaware Sussex Central High School
Band Ensemble
Benediction Rev. H. Sterling Green

November 4, 1976

We who have placed this Time Capsule here today charge the people attending the Return Day Celebration in Georgetown in the year 2076 with the responsibility of opening the capsule and placing all items contained therein on display in a public place, for the citizens of Sussex County to observe and appreciate.

We do this as our Horizons Project for the celebration of the Nation's Bicentennial.

Joyce Dyer
Kenneth Douty

RETURN DAY PROGRAM

- 10:00 a.m. DEDICATION OF RESTORED ORIGINAL SUSSEX COUNTY COURT HOUSE OF GEORGETOWN
- 10:30 a.m. TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY
S. Bedford Street
- 10:30 a.m. CONCERT AT CIRCLE
Don Murray's "Old Time Religion" Gospel Singers
- 11:00 a.m. LUNCHEON FOR CANDIDATES AND HONORED GUESTS
Sussex Central High School
(Prepared By Students of Sussex Vocational Technical School under Direction of Joseph Heacock and William Gemberling)
- 11:30 a.m. BAND CONCERT
First United States Army Band
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland
Conductor, Warrant Officer James C. Choates
Assistant, Sergeant Richard L. Jansen
- 12:00 noon FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY JUMP TEAM
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland
(Performing at The Sussex County Airport)
- 1:00 p.m. PARADE
(Starts Promptly at 1:00 p.m.) From Sussex Central High School - Will travel East on Market Street
- 3:00 p.m. PROGRAM AT CIRCLE
Official Returns
Announcement by Ronald F. Dodd
PUBLIC SPEAKING
(At The Circle)
AWARDS
- 4:30 p.m. OLD FASHION OX ROAST
(Just off Circle on North Bedford Street)
- 6:00 p.m. DELAWARE STATE LOTTERY DRAWING

PROGRAM AT THE CIRCLE

National Anthem	Sussex Central High School Band Eugene Bowne, Director
Soloist	Rosemary Martin
Invocation	Dr. Brooks E. Reynolds
Greetings	Mr. Houston Wilson, Esq.
Greetings	Mrs. Jean West, President Sussex County Return Day Committee
Welcome	W. Layton Johnson Mayor of Georgetown, Delaware
Announcement of National, State, and County Returns	Mr. Ronald F. Dodd
Address	Mr. Harvey B. Spicer

BRIEF REMARKS:

Gov. Sherman W. Tribbitt
Lt. Gov. Eugene D. Bookhammer
U.S. Senator William V. Roth, Jr.
U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden
U.S. Representative Pierre S. duPont, IV
Former Gov. Elbert N. Carvel
Former Gov. Russell W. Peterson
Former Gov. David P. Buckson
Former Sen. J. Caleb Boggs
Former Sen. J. Allen Frear
Former Sen. John J. Williams

Introduction of County Candidates	Mr. Houston Wilson, Esq.
Presentation of Awards	Mrs. Charlotte Campbell Parade Co-Chairman
Benediction	The Reverend William Hitchens

1791-1976 A TIME TO REMEMBER

BY: William P. Frank

History books and historical records do not tell us when Return Day was started in Sussex County.

Back in 1791, the General Assembly granted a petition of Sussex Countians that the "seat of justice" be moved from Lewes to a more central and convenient part of the county. The General Assembly authorized a board of 10 commissioners to buy not more than 100 acres "near the center of the county at the place called 'James Pettijohn's Old Field' or within two miles of the house where Ebenezer Pettijohn now resides."

The same board of commissioners had orders from the General Assembly to build a court house, a jail, a pillory and a whipping post.

Later in 1791, the General Assembly decreed that James Pettijohn's Old Field shall be known as George-town, in honor of George Mitchell who was the chairman of the acquisition commission.

For years, Sussex Countians seemed to have the idea that Return Day was peculiar to and characteristic only of their county and its county seat. The historical fact is much more interesting and certainly more to the credit of Sussex County. The truth is that Sussex County and Georgetown have been more faithful to Delaware customs than two upper counties of New Castle and Kent. For in the early days, according to the law, all election inspectors were required to deliver their tally sheets to the court house of their respective counties on the Thursday after Election Day.

That made it an occasion for the people from far and wide to gather in their county seats to hear and learn the results. Only Sussex Countians seemed to have taken such a personal interest in their elections; and so down through the years, in good season and bad, they flocked by the thousands to the hub

of Sussex and settled in and near the court house. Of course, it wasn't always that the people were able to learn the results of the elections, particularly in the tight ones, but they all had a good time.

Return Day was usually an occasion for rivalry among the election officers - to see who could make it by horseback first to the court house. In the meantime, the air of festivity and the spirit of rustic carnivals prevailed in the vicinity of the court house square. All kinds of food - and bad liquors - were sold from booths and stalls - Delaware biscuits and hot corn pone, rabbit roasted on spits and of course fried chicken, oysters and clams, white and sweet potatoes baked in hot ashes.

The people made for Georgetown by horse and buggy, farm wagons, on horse or mule back - and later of course, by excursion trains.

The town's two hotels did a lively bar business and it must have been through the influence of their managers that eventually, a crackdown was made on the itinerant vendors of moonshine.

On most Return Days, large strips of muslin were extended from one side of the court house to the other in the years of presidential elections. The names of the states that had gone one way or another were painted on the muslin with the approximate majorities.

The festivities of Return Day, of course, varied according to the excitement of the elections. For example in 1882 when Charles Stockley was elected governor, people cheered and guns boomed out as a victory procession moved through Georgetown. The "center piece" of the parade was a boat, named "The Constitution," decorated with a large blue hen and a coonskin cap suspended from the mast.

And there standing on the quarterdeck of the boat on wheels was the victorious governor-elect. When the ship arrived in front of the court house, the new governor was lifted on the shoulders of brawny men who carried him triumphantly into the court house and up to the balcony to speak to the cheering throng.

It can not be said that all Return Days were orderly. The newspapers of the past century always commented on whether there was any trouble. For example, the Morning News in 1884 noted: "Everything considered, the crowd was remarkably orderly and seemed jubilant over the county victory and the prospect for the inauguration of a Democratic president on the 4th of March next."

As it happened, the Return Day crowd in Georgetown that year didn't learn that Grover Cleveland was really elected president until several days later.

If the weather was pleasant, Return Day festivities would extend over Friday and Saturday, marked by plenty of entertaining, old fashion eating and drinking, and even cock fights behind the barns on the outskirts of the town.

In the early days, a Sussex farmer would never think of missing Return Day in Georgetown, although as the years passed and so-called sophistication seeped into Sussex County, Return Day dwindled to a somewhat perfunctory occasion. In 1942, because of the war, it was canceled but was later revived as people began to realize that Return Day was one of the few genuine folk customs in this part of the country, different in many ways from the more synthetic fiestas.



Notes & Autographs



The Mayor and Council of Georgetown

COUNCILMEN

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

MAYOR

Harvey B. Spicer

VICE-MAYOR

Edwin O. Pepper

SECRETARY

Edwin Roach

POLICE COMMISSIONER

Warren W. Edinger

EDWIN O. PEPPER, *First Ward*

EDWIN ROACH, *Second Ward*

LESTER H. PITTARD, *Third Ward*

WARREN W. EDINGER, *Fourth Ward*

October 20, 1958

Dear Sir or Madam:

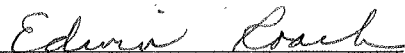
The Town Council of Georgetown cooperating with the Chairmen of the Democrat and Republican parties are making plans for the traditional "Return Day" celebration on Thursday, November 6, 1958.

We request your presence to this traditional celebration. The parade will be at 2:00 o'clock P. M. and a national speaker will be present.

It is customary for the elected officials and present office holders to ride in the parade.

Sincerely yours,

Town Council of Georgetown

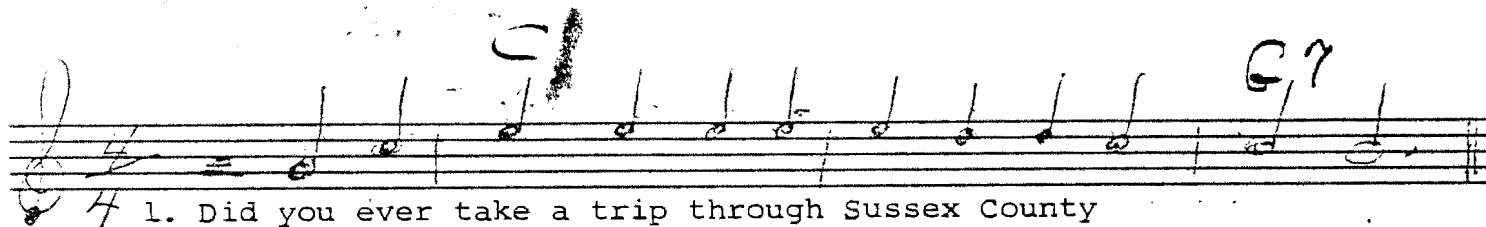


Secretary

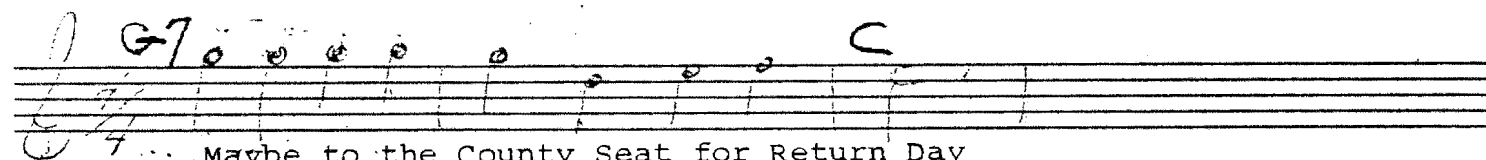


SUSSEX COUNTY RETURN DAY
WRITTEN BY VICTOR R ADAMS
DEDICATED TO NUTTER D MARVEL SR

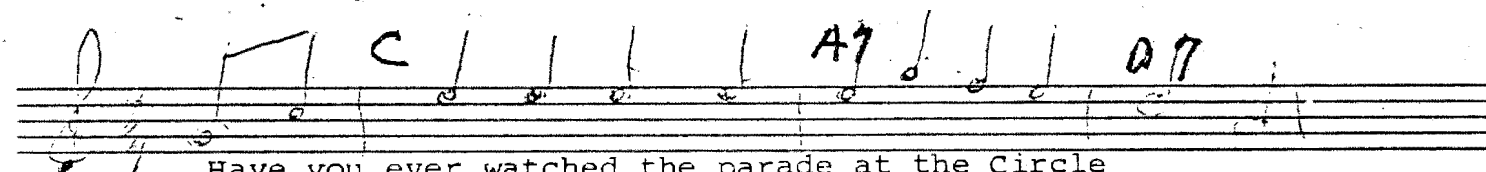
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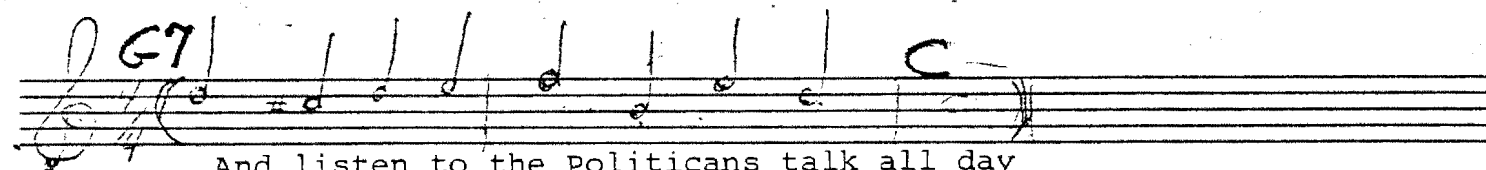
1. Did you ever take a trip through Sussex County
2. Oh the breezes blowing through the Streets of Georgetown
3. But the strangers come and try to teach us their way.
4. Now if there's going to be a life hereafter



Maybe to the County Seat for Return Day
Are perfumed by the cooking of the ox
They scorn us just for going back a hundred years or more
And somehow I'm sure there's going to be



Have you ever watched the parade at the Circle
And folks at Nutter Marvel's Carriage House talking crazy
But they might as well go chasing light beams
I will ask my GOD to let me make my Heaven



And listen to the Politicians talk all day
Speak a language that the strangers do not know
Or light a candle with a falling star
In that Dear Land called Sussex County

Victor Adams

1978-79

I'm Gettin' Old

Written by Victor R Adams

Dedicated to all the Delawareans in Florida for Delaware Day.

I ain't as spry as once I was

I guess I'm getting old.

I'm pushed aside for younger men

I'm no more good I'm told.

But I'll know when I'm getting old

And want to go away.

That's when I'll come down to Fort Lauderdale

And be here for Delaware Day.

Gift of John Purnell
November 1972

#571

RETURN DAY
The Circle, Georgetown, Delaware
Approximately 3:00 p. m.
November 9, 1972

ADDRESS
GIVEN BY
GEORGE M. WORRILLOW

ACKNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

AGAIN AFTER MORE THAN 175 YEARS,
SUSSEX COUNTIANS AND DELAWAREANS GET IT
ALL TOGETHER TO OBSERVE THE TRADITIONAL
RETURN DAY HERE ON THIS BEAUTIFUL CIRCLE
IN GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE. (THE ONLY TOWN
IN DELAWARE WITH A CIRCLE?)

I AM SO PLEASED AND HONORED THAT YOUR
COMMITTEE HAS CHOSEN ME AS ITS AFTERNOON
SPEAKER.

THE RETURN DAY ASSIGNMENT DID RETURN
ME TO SUSSEX COUNTY WHICH I ALWAYS CONSIDER
TO BE A FORTUNATE HAPPENING.

TO BE CERTAIN, I ACCEPTED THE INVITATION
AT ONCE, BUT WITH SOME TREPIDATION,
WONDERING IF I COULD MEASURE UP. THE FACTS
ARE THAT I ACCEPTED, SO I AM NOW AT A POINT
IN TIME WHEN I WILL HAVE TO DO THE BEST I CAN,
AND DO IT NOW.

A GREAT SUSSEX COUNTY TRADITIONAL EVENT
LIKE THIS PUT ME BACK IN THE LIBRARY TO THE
HISTORY BOOKS. AND I FOUND SOME HELP, AND
OF COURSE, ONE OF OUR DELAWARE HISTORY BUFFS --
MR. EMERSON WILSON -- HAS WRITTEN THE FOREWORD
TO TODAY'S PROGRAM. HE QUOTES SCARF AS WRITING
IN HIS HISTORY OF DELAWARE THAT:

"RETURN DAY HAS BEEN A CUSTOM PECULIAR
TO SUSSEX COUNTY SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL."
(A FAIRLY SAFE ASSUMPTION IF YOU DO NOT
GIVE ANY DATES).

I ALSO INQUIRED OF A LIVING DELAWARE STATESMAN AND A NATIVE SUSSEX COUNTIAN -- OUR BELOVED SENATOR JOHN WILLIAMS -- WHO WAS YOUR SPEAKER TWO YEARS AGO -- AS TO THE REAL MEANING OF MODERN RETURN DAY AND ASKED HIM TO RECALL THE THOUGHTS HE HAD GIVEN YOU IN 1970 WHEN HE WAS THE SPEAKER. HE COULD NOT RECOLLECT WHAT HE SAID AND I AM NOT GOING TO BURDEN ANY OF YOU BY ASKING YOU TO REMEMBER. BUT, SENATOR JOHN -- WITH HIS USUAL DRY HUMOR -- DID SAY THAT RETURN DAY WAS USUALLY COLD AND WINDY AND THAT THE WIND VELOCITY DEPENDED A GOOD BIT ON THE SPEAKER AND IF HE WERE TO MAKE A PROPHECY, THE WEATHER TODAY MIGHT NOT BE COLD BUT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD BE QUITE WINDY, IF I WERE TO BE THE SPEAKER. SO, THOUGHTS LIKE THESE COMING FROM SENATOR WILLIAMS PROVIDE

ONE WITH THE GREAT COURAGE NEEDED TO
PROCEED AND THIS I AM GOING TO DO WITH
SOME MISGIVINGS.

A BIT MORE OF HISTORY (CONRAD 1908) --
WHAT HAPPENS ON RETURN DAY? QUOTE:

"THIS OCCASION BRINGS THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE TO THE TOWN AND EVERY EFFORT
IS MADE TO MAKE THE DAY A MOST
ENJOYABLE ONE. SO LONG HAS THIS
CUSTOM BEEN OBSERVED, THAT THE DAY
IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS A HOLIDAY
WHEN MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN
CONGREGATE FROM EARLY MORN UNTIL
LATE AT NIGHT AT THE COUNTY SEAT,
GIVING VENT TO THEIR HILARIOUS FEELINGS
BY THE MOST AMUSING ACTIONS CONCEIVABLE. "

THE RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE TOWN ARE WELL MAINTAINED, AND GIVE EVIDENCE OF INCREASING PROSPERITY. STILL TRUE. GEORGETOWN HAS BEEN THE HOME OF MANY PROMINENT MEN AND WOMEN IN SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE. THE IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS OF THE HUNDRED AND THE THRIFTY SPIRIT OF ITS RESIDENTS ATTEST ITS CONTINUED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND I REMIND YOU THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE'S AGRICULTURAL SUBSTATION ON THE LAUREL ROAD HAS BEEN A SUPPORTING ECONOMIC FACTOR TO THE COUNTY'S AGRICULTURE SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO.

AGRICULTURE STILL RANKS AS ITS NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT 180,000 ACRES

OF FARM LAND HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO OTHER
USES SINCE 1940. LAND IS LIMITED AND THE
SCIENTISTS HAVE NOT YET COME UP WITH A
FORMULA FOR SYNTHESIZING LAND. DELAWARE
FARM INCOME TOPS ALL THE STATES IN THE
NORTHEAST IN BOTH GROSS (\$40,000) AND NET
(\$12,000) FARM INCOME AND RANKS FIFTH AMONG
ALL STATES, AHEAD OF THE GENERALLY WELL-
KNOWN FARM STATE OF IOWA, INDIANA~~A~~ AND
ILLINOIS.

AGRICULTURE HAS NOT AS YET BEEN
REAPPORTIONED, BUT ITS POPULATION HAS.

ENOUGH OF HISTORY.

AS I CONSIDERED WHAT TO SAY AND
WHAT NOT TO SAY, I DECIDED AT ONCE THAT

THOSE ASSEMBLED HERE WILL NOT HAVE TO LISTEN TO ANY PARTISAN POLITICAL POSITION PAPER. WE HAVE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH LATELY. I WOULD BE SAFE WERE I TO REPEAT HISTORY FOR YOU AS I HAVE SAID, BUT IT HAS ALL BEEN WELL WRITTEN. ALL YOU NEED TO DO TO LEARN IS TO READ.

SO, INSTEAD, LET US THINK TOGETHER A BIT ABOUT WHAT RETURN DAY MEANS TO THOSE ASSEMBLED HERE TODAY AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DELAWARE'S MODERN DEMOCRACY.

THE FOLLOWING ARE MY THOUGHTS ONLY.

MOST CERTAINLY, THIS YEAR'S ELECTION AT ALL LEVELS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DOWN HAS NOT BEEN A USUAL ONE.

IN DELAWARE MOST CANDIDATES GENERALLY
HAVE CONDUCTED THEMSELVES AS LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN -- WITH PERHAPS A GREATER
TENDENCY BY SOME CANDIDATES JUST BEFORE
ELECTION DAY TO PANIC UNDER PRESSURE,
AND TO RESORT TO PICAYUNISH CHARGES AND
COUNTER CHARGES, SMACKING THE USUAL
POLITICAL HACKERY WHICH SURFACES WHEN
THE GOING SEEMS TO BE GETTING TOUGH.

ON THE POINT OF THE INFLUENCE OF
NEWS MEDIA TODAY -- THE NEWSPAPER AND
TELEVISION -- ALMOST DARE ONE TO BE BRASH
AND TO OUTDO OR OUT-PROMISE YOUR ADVERSARY
CANDIDATES. THE WOULD-BE SPECTACULAR AND
THE IRRESPONSIBLE CANDIDATES ARE PROVIDED
A GREAT STIMULUS TO SO ACT. AND, TOO, MOST
EVERY VOTER IN HIS MIND AT LEAST HAS LOOKED

AT HIS FAVORITE CANDIDATE AND ASKED THE QUESTION -- WHAT HAS HE DONE FOR ME LATELY? THE NEWSPAPER STAFFS HAVE BEEN TALKING TO THEMSELVES, RAISING SUCH QUESTIONS AS "SHOULD EDITORIAL PAGES CARRY ENDORSEMENTS OR NOT? IF YOU WILL RECALL THE ENDORSEMENTS AND LOOK AT THE RESULTS, YOU CAN EASILY COME UP WITH YOUR OWN ANSWER -- WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

THE VOTER MOVED AWAY FROM AND AROUND PARTISAN LINES AND VOTED FOR HIS CANDIDATE. THE INDEPENDENTS SWUNG THE ELECTION, WITH A BIT OF A TENDENCY TO VOTE OUT, RATHER THAN VOTE IN.

BUT LET'S FORGET IT. ELECTION WAS TUESDAY. SOME WON, AND OF COURSE, SOME

RETURN DAY -- 10

LOST IN SPITE OF -- OR BECAUSE OF --
POLITICAL ISSUES, POSITION PAPERS, INTEGRITY,
LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, ABILITY, FATE OR SOME
UNKNOWN REASON.

TODAY IS THURSDAY, THE SECOND DAY AFTER
THE GAME HAS BEEN SCORED. BESIDES, ON
RETURN DAY IT IS TRADITIONAL TO PUT ASIDE
PARTISAN POLITICS. IT IS A DAY MEN AND WOMEN
OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS HAVE COME TOGETHER
HERE IN THE COUNTY SEAT WITH THE RESOLVE TO
WORK AS CITIZEN PARTNERS FOR A FAIR AND
HONEST SOLUTION TO OUR GRAVE NATIONAL AND
STATE PROBLEMS. JUST REMEMBER THAT NO
POLITICAL PARTY OR CANDIDATE -- WHETHER HE
WINS, LOSES, OR COMES OUT A DRAW -- HAS A
CORNER ON IGNORANCE, TALENT OR LEADERSHIP.
SO THERE IS A NEED, A PLACE, AND A JOB FOR ALL
OF US.

THEN, TOO, THE POLITICAL YOUNGSTERS
HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME EXERCISED THEIR
FRANCHISE, AND INDEED THE LEVERS (STRINGS)
THEY PULLED BEHIND THE POLLING PLACE CURTAINS
HAVE INFLUENCED NOT ONLY THIS ELECTION, BUT
THE "WAY OF POLITICS" IN CHOOSING AND
ELECTING CANDIDATES IN THIS COUNTRY FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THESE "YOUNG POLITICAL SOOTHSAYERS"
AND THOSE OF US OF GREATER MATURITY, AND
IT LIES MAINLY IN THE FACT THAT FOR THE
MOST PART WE QUESTIONED NOTHING. OUR SONS
AND DAUGHTERS QUESTION EVERYTHING. WE
WERE BELIEVERS. THEY ARE SKEPTICS. JUST REFLECT
A MOMENT. WE ARE MORE COMFORTABLE. IT IS
ALWAYS EASIER TO ACCEPT. IT IS MUCH MORE
DIFFICULT TO QUESTION. THEY ARE NOT BOUND
TO THE PAST, AS WE SEEM TO BE. THEY ARE MORE
FREE. BUT I HONESTLY DO NOT KNOW WHICH IS

THE WISER. I DO KNOW WHICH IS EASIER, AND WHEN YOU ARE CONFRONTED WITH MAKING A DECISION, YOU JUST AUTOMATICALLY WEIGH THE ODDS TODAY AGAINST USEFUL CHANGE AND YOUR CHANCE OF INFLUENCING IT. IN SHORT, THE SENIOR INFLUENCERS CRY FOR "YOUNG BLOOD" BUT MOST OF US WOULD FEEL MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE IF IT WERE CIRCULATING THROUGH MORE MATURE -- ? -- BODIES. DON'T WORRY, YOUNGSTERS, IT ISN'T.

THE 18-YEAR-OLDS FOR THE FIRST TIME EXERCISING THEIR FRANCHISE ON TUESDAY DID GIVE US SOME INDICATION OF HOW THIS NEW AMERICAN MINORITY CAN AND PERHAPS WILL INFLUENCE POLITICS IN THE FUTURE. AND LET ME SUGGEST IN ALL KINDNESS TO THOSE NEW VOTERS THAT THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER TIME IN LIFE WHEN YOU KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS AND WILL BE AS CONFIDENT THAT YOUR VOTE WAS RIGHT.

BUT, NO MATTER. WE MUST LEAD OUT
IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE.

AND WHAT ARE THE BASIC VALUES, TRAITS,
VIRTUES OR INGREDIENTS OF A LEADER? ONCE
WHEN ASKED WHAT HE REGARDED AS THE MOST
IMPORTANT VIRTUE, WINSTON CHURCHILL REPLIED:

"COURAGE -- BECAUSE IT IS THE GUARANTOR
OF ALL OTHER VIRTUES."

BUT HOW ABOUT INTEGRITY? WITHOUT IT
WE WOULD BE BUILDING ON QUICKSAND; ANOTHER
MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IS THE TALENT FOR
THOSE STRATEGIES AND PROCESSES WHICH ADD TO
THE CORE OF CITIZENS WHO BELIEVE THEY ARE
RIGHT.

ADMITTEDLY, THESE ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LEADERSHIP. THEY HAVE BEEN AND STILL ARE AS SUSCEPTIBLE OF ABUSE AS THEY ARE ESSENTIAL. (A LEADER IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT.) THE COUNTRY AND ITS CITIZENS CAN SUFFER FROM AN OVERDOSE OF ANY ONE.

FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN RESPONSIVENESS AND ENTHUSIASM BECOME DEMOGAGY AND PLANS BECOME CONSPIRACY.

NEVERTHELESS, YOU HAVE AN OBLIGATION AS A LEADER AND AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE AFFAIRS OF OUR STATE TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FORWARD WITHIN THIS BROAD DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP AND WORK TOWARDS BUILDING A BETTER STATE, A BETTER NATION AND A BETTER WORLD.

SO, LET NO MAN HERE COME UP SHORT
ON THIS SCORE BY FAILING TO STAND UP, BE
COUNTED AND LEAD OUT.

I REPEAT. THE CHALLENGE WE REALLY
FACE TODAY IN DELAWARE -- TWO DAYS AFTER
ELECTION -- IS NOT THE QUESTION OF WHO CAN
WIN. YOU HAVE DECIDED THAT. BUT THE
IMPORTANT THING IS HOW WE GOVERN. WILL WE --
ALL OF US -- WORK TOWARDS BRINGING THE
EXECUTIVE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE
PEOPLE TOGETHER TO DEVELOP AN ESPRIT DE CORPS
WORTHY OF THE IDEALS AND DREAMS OF A STATE
THAT STARTED A NATION AS WE MOVE TOWARDS
CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 4, 1776?
REMEMBER -- DELAWARE IS THE FIRST STATE.

I DO HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT WE ARE
TOGETHER AFTER THIS, THE MOST MODERN OF

ELECTIONS AND PROBABLY A MOST DEMOCRATIC ONE WHICH HAS FOR THESE VERY REASONS QUITE LIKELY MOMENTARILY DRIVEN US FARTHER APART THAN AT ANY TIME IN HISTORY.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT AS DELAWAREANS WE WILL OVERCOME ALL OF THESE ALLEGED SINS OF COMMISSION AND OMISSION COMMITTED DURING THE CAMPAIGN SIMPLY BECAUSE EACH OF US HAS AN INBORN OR INGRAINED SENSE OF HONESTY AND VALUES AND ARE BASICALLY PRACTICING HUMANISTS, AS WELL AS DELAWAREANS.

THIS STATE OF OUR STATE AND ITS PEOPLE ALONE, I CONTEND, WILL RESTORE OUR MORAL PURPOSES AND AN INTEGRITY OF OUR GOALS AND THIS TRAUMA WE HAVE ENDURED SINCE LAST THANKSGIVING (AND THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED --

LIMIT TIME OF CAMPAIGN -- AND ELECT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BOTH WASHINGTON AND DOVER FOR A 4-YEAR TERM) WILL BE RIGHTLY INTERPRETED SO THAT IN THE LONG RUN WE WILL PROFIT FROM THESE SOMETIMES TRYING EXPERIENCES. WE MUST AS THESE TRYING EXPERIENCES -- OR CRISES -- OR WHATEVER -- OF TODAY ARE NORMAL AND WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US -- IN POLITICS, GOVERNMENT, ECONOMICS OR JUST AS PEOPLE REACTING TO PEOPLE. THE TIME IS NOW FOR YOU TO ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEETING HEAD-ON THE PROBLEMS OF CHANGE.

RESOLVE TODAY THAT IT WILL BE YOU WHO SEEKS AND BRINGS TO ALL OF US THE PURPOSE AND THE MEANING WE ARE ALL LOOKING FOR IN OUR LIVES. TODAY, SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN, TO RESTORE OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN THIS NOISY, POLLUTED AND CHANGING WORLD.

JUST REMEMBER THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO SAVE WHAT IS LEFT OF OUR CIVILIZATION, WE MUST NOW REDISCOVER AND RE-ESTABLISH THOSE BASIC PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THIS STATE WAS FOUNDED -- WORK, SACRIFICE, DUTY, TRUTH, JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOVE AND CHARITY -- THE THINGS THAT MADE AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE US FREE.

SURELY I DO NOT NEED TO CONVINCE YOU FURTHER THAT WE CANNOT TAKE OUR FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRANTED. WE MUST WORK AT MEETING AND KEEPING THEM, AND THE TIME IS NOW. IT HAS GOT TO BE YOU. SO LET US RETURN HOME FROM THIS RETURN TODAY WITH THE RESOLVE NOT TO BE A "COP-OUT" BUT A RESPONSIBLE, RESPONSIVE LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND STATE.

THANKS.

By: George M. Worrilow
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DELAWARE STATE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
DOVER, DELAWARE

RELEASE

"Returns Day," an event that is peculiar to Sussex County, Delaware, will again be observed on November 10, at Georgetown, advises the Delaware State Development Department. This observance, as was the highly successful 1958 "Returns Day," will be bi-partisan with both major political parties joining the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and the "City Fathers" in sponsorship.

Traditionally held at the County Seat the Thursday following Election Day, "Returns Day" restores some of the color of the past and attracts many visitors to picturesque Georgetown.

Planning is now underway for this year's observance, which will most likely include a parade, ox-roast, chicken barbecue and an address by a prominent speaker as well as the appearance of successful candidates.

"Returns Day" had its origin in the distant past when ballot boxes from the outlying sections of the county were taken to the County Seat prior to noon of the Thursday following Election Day and the results certified by an Official Board of Canvassers presided over by the Sheriff of Sussex County. In the absence of a fast, efficient means of communication, people from all over the county gathered in Georgetown on that day to learn the results and to greet the successful candidates.

J. Thomas Scharf, in his "History of Delaware," published in 1888 and still widely used as reference by historians, students and others interested in Delaware's past, has this to say about "Returns Day":

"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. On this 'Returns Day' the official

Board of Canvassers, with the sheriff presiding, meets at Georgetown at twelve o'clock noon. But 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 gaily 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 court-house to the congregated mass below. Booths, stalls and stands are erected near the court-house, 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. Every one endeavors to make "Returns 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."

With the development of better means of communication, "Returns Day" lost its significance and disappeared from the Delaware scene until

the early 1950's when it was revived in a somewhat modified form.

Through 1956, the winning political party staged the observance largely as a means to celebrate a victory at the polls and to present to the public its successful candidates.

However, in 1958, merchants joined with other leaders of civic and political organizations to present, along bi-partisan lines, a program that included a parade, an ox-roast and a chicken barbecue in addition to an address by a prominent speaker and the appearance of the successful candidates.

As a result of the favorable public response to the 1958 observance, "Returns Day" is apparently fully reinstated as a significant, biennial Delaware observance, notes the Development Department.