

NEWS RELEASE



VF--OAKLAND (MI)--HISTORY

TO: All Media

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FROM: Oakland County Sesqui-Centennial headquarters
Arthur A. Hagman, editor, Oakland County
"Book of History" 334-2491

SUBJECT: Oakland County "Book of History" presentation

The "Number One" issue of a limited edition of numbered copies of the Oakland County "Book of History" was presented to Robert F. Patnales, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, in ceremonies held yesterday at the Sheraton Motor Inn. Daniel T. Murphy, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Auditors, and head of the Sesqui-Centennial Executive Committee, made the presentation in behalf of the Committee and Arthur A. Hagman, editor, and his staff of some 100 writers.

Hagman was commissioned to produce the "Book of History" under authority of the Sesqui-Centennial Executive Committee, headed by Murphy, Kenneth L. VanNatta and Richard R. Wilcox, as a self-sustained, non-profit venture.

Approximately 150 guests were in attendance, including state, county, city and other local community officials, as well as members of various news media, historians and members of the special writing team.

The "Book of History" in both hard cover and paper backs, contains 624 pages, with 178 illustrations, documents and maps, interspersed with full color art work done by Robert Thom, together with scenic views of Oakland County parks, Oakland University and a colorful rendering of the proposed renewal plan for downtown Pontiac.

The 17 major chapters of the "Book of History" open with an illustrated feature on Michigan indians, early explorers, transportation drawbacks and original villages.

All chapters lead off with a distinctive map of Oakland County, each describing some interesting aspect of topography, land use, lakes, streams or other informative feature of county attributes.

The second chapter covers early history, suburban pioneers, old mills, roads and rails and seven other features of historic significance, followed by later history of automobile developments, the great depression, war and progress and other events occurring after the turn of the century.

Chapter four includes pictures and biographies of all 42 governors of Michigan, beginning with Stevens T. Mason through to the present Governor William G. Milliken, followed by briefs on state legislators currently representing Oakland County together with pictures of county commissioners. Original photographs of the area's most beautiful buildings are contained in chapter six, followed by three chapters containing 250 pages of illustrated histories of Oakland County cities, townships, and villages, each community feature done by a local historian-writer.

Chapter 10 pertains to schools of higher learning, churches, institutions and personalities. This is followed by 24 pages describing the development of the automotive industry in Oakland County, including Pontiac Motors, Fisher Body, GMC Truck & Coach and the new Ford complex in Wixom.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Kensington Metropolitan Park and the water resources of the county are depicted in chapter 12 with color scenes and maps. Rail lines, Pontiac airport and various industrial features are contained in chapter 13.

Micro-film reproductions of front page news events of the past 90 years taken from the Pontiac Press and Royal Oak Tribune are contained in the 48 pages of chapter 14, followed by 30 pages describing OCEO, history of black people in Oakland County, the evolution of Harambee, women's suffrage, girl scouts, farm bureau and other civic organizations in chapter 15.

Chapter 16 covers background and development of utility services, radio, followed by features pertaining to computers, insurance, finance; and a forecast of Oakland County's future in chapter 17. The Book concludes with a chronology of Oakland County's Sesqui-Centennial activities written by coordinator, Gerard C. Lacey.

According to Hagman, limited editions of the numbered copies with jacketed hard-covers, will be available for purchase at book stores, newspaper offices, banks and other sales outlets, including the publishing office at 2800 Watkins Lake Road. Paper back books will be available within the next few weeks, and may be purchased at drug stores, news stands and other points of sale.