

## Adams County Historical Society

### FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES

The Adams County Historical Society will accomplish most of its work through nine committees. Here, briefly, is what is expected of each one;

(1) RITZVILLE, RALSTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

*None operating* (2) WASHTUCNE, BENGE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

(3) LIND, HATTON, CUNNINGHAM COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

(4) OTHELLO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

These four community committees are the core of the society. Their task is to gather from early-day residents the story of our county's past which now exists almost entirely in the memory of our pioneers.

Each committee should meet at least once every three months. At a typical meeting, each committee member will be assigned to a pioneer of his choice. It will then be up to the committee member to interview the pioneer, write up his recollections at least in note form, and compile lists of the old photographs, newspaper clippings, and other historical relics in the pioneer's possession. A "guide to interviewing pioneers" is available from the society. You need NOT be an experienced writer to handle this assignment. All it takes is an ability to write down notes on what the pioneer has to tell you of value.

The pioneer interviews, after they have been checked by the community committee chairman, should be forwarded to the historical records committee for indexing and filing. The lists of pictures and relics should be forwarded to the physical relics committee for indexing and filing.

Each community committee also is responsible for arrangements for meetings of the society held in its home community.

(5) FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members of the finance committee will meet periodically to explore sources of revenue other than membership dues. Two possible sources are county appropriations and donations from early-day residents interested in the society but unable to work for it. This committee also is charged with conducting an annual audit of the treasurer's books.

(6) HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE (*one person, at present*)

This committee will index and file interviews with pioneers as they are received from the community committees.

The committee will also, over a period of time, compile a complete bibliography of all books, magazine articles, newspaper feature articles and other previously-published materials and records dealing directly with the history of Adams county or any of the municipalities therein. In so far as possible, the committee will seek to collect by donation or purchase whatever books, maps or other documents it might consider most useful to a study of Adams county history.



Functionsof committees (Page 2)

(7) PHYSICAL RELICS COMMITTEE

This committee will index and file the lists of old photographs, newspaper clippings, programs and other historical relics in the possession of pioneer families as these lists are received from the community committees.

The physical relics committee also will be responsible for creating and displaying Adams county historical exhibits at such fairs and other public occasions as the committee and board of directors may conclude present worthwhile opportunities for exhibits. Displays loaned temporarily to schools throughout the county also should be considered after consultation with the education committee.

(8) HISTORICAL SITES COMMITTEE

This committee will meet periodically to locate and discuss historical sites in Adams county worthy of marking. The committee also shall work toward the marking of these sites after due consultation with the society's board of directors and, when they are concerned, the county highway department, the state highway department, and the state historical sites commission. Property rights, signs and automobile turnoffs all will be involved in this committee's operation.

(9) EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members of this committee will meet periodically to consider means of encouraging the study of local history in the schools and to encourage school projects which would prove of benefit to the students and further the aims of the society.

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No member of any committee will be overworked. With a few exceptions no one will be expected to devote more than a few hours every three months to the work of his committee. More time will be required, for example, of members of the physical relics committee at Fair time. But generally speaking, the goal of this society is to progress slowly but continually. If each of us devotes only a little time on a regular basis, we will within a few years have accomplished a great deal toward the preservation of our home county's precious heritage.

May 25, 1956

*These committees are rather loose — operating when the necessity is clear, but not free-standing as yet. We have had displays in both Ritzville and Ofhello fairs.*