



CELEBRATING THE BEST OF SMALL TOWN LIVING

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Some of the best things around can come from small towns and big dreams! As I reflect on over 35 years of working in the publishing business; living 22 of those years in Dixon, living in Hawaii, Texas, attending very small schools, large schools, I am reminded that life is all about perspective. We get to choose every day what our attitude will be! What a freedom, what a blessing, what an adventure, what a stressor! It really is up to me how I choose to view life's ups and downs. Do I view it as a learning experience? God gives each of us the freedom to choose and with that freedom comes great responsibility.

What will you make of living in the small City of Dixon? We are now 150 years old! Its past residents have experienced the late 1800's when ages in the early forties were the average life expectancy for both men and women. When many diseases were not treatable and the main mode of transportation was horse and buggy. Not to mention the absence of any modern conveniences that we have now. Despite all of the obstacles that faced our early ancestors, Dixon continues to be a bustling small town today.

I believe that small communities like ours are vital to rural living at its best. Beautiful, country scenery surrounds us. Clear skies, which cannot often be seen in larger cities, display an array of beauty in the light of day and the dark of night. Abundant wildlife is apparent and enjoyed by hunters and fishermen who bring game from the wild onto the table to feed the family. Dixon is surrounded by lakes, streams, rivers, ponds and luscious

vegetation. Our City is filled with wonderful people who make up the populace of this small, rather quiet community. Our educators strive to provide the best education to our children. Our schools have produced Doctors, Researchers, Laborers, Engineers, Teachers, Business owners, Blue Collar workers, Professional Athletes, and more. Neighbors help each other, raise funds for those in need, gather in churches, and celebrate life with family. Spectacular views from numerous areas around our city dot the countryside.

Has Dixon seen its share of struggles? Of course! What city, large or small, hasn't? Again, it is all about perspective. We get to choose to view the world, our city, through the lens of respect, hope, anticipation, and thankfulness or criticism, cynicism, and pessimism. We get to celebrate 150 years of being a community of people who want to make our small piece of the world a better place. We work hard, play hard and pray hard.

As you walk through the pages of this Sesquicentennial 1869-2019 magazine devoted to Celebrating 150 years of Heritage, History, and Home, I hope you remember...I hope you give thanks...I hope you cherish family...I hope you support your local businesses...I hope you appreciate the farmers and educators...I hope you dream of a future here...I hope you never give up on your town...I hope you roll up your sleeves and help when there is a need...I hope you continue to love this town and its people...I hope you choose to make Dixon an even better place just by living and working here...I hope you will get a glimpse of why simple pleasures become lifetime treasures.

There are no words to express what joy it gives me to present this small compilation of highlights of the journey from 1869 to now. It has been months in preparing and very difficult to decide what could fit into a meager publication when 150 years of history is at stake. It has not been possible to include everything that I would have liked. We, at the Dixon Pilot, thank you for all of your years of devotion. Thank you for sharing your hearts and lives with us. Thank you for submitting your special historical mementos with us to be considered for inclusion in this publication. Thank you to the businesses and churches who advertised here for it is their support that made this publication financially possible. There are some amazing individuals living in this special place. This place we call home...Dixon Missouri.

*"Be Proud of your Hometown.
It's a Big Part of what makes you the
Person you ARE."*

- *Cute n' Country*