

Celebrations

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interviewed Michael Hoblican Warren, portrayed by Thomas MacMullen, who shared how his family came to Arthur and some of the family history which included the fact that he truly was a founding father as he and his wife had 13 children, all of whom survived to adulthood which was quite unusual at that time. This interview was followed by Jennifer Ran-

dall McCormick singing a song penned by past resident Minnie A. Thompson, "My Boy Who Stayed in France," a mother's lament about her son who did not return from World War I. Jennifer was accompanied by Ramona Carlyle.

The Arthur District #305 Education Foundation had sponsored a sesquicentennial essay contest. The overall winning entry was read by Adyson Hopkins, 8th grade. Adyson also happens to be the current



Michael Warren portrayer Thomas MacMullen and Village President Rod Randall.

Biography on Thomas MacMullen

Thomas MacMullen, who portrayed Michael Warren at the Arthur Sesquicentennial Founders' Day dinner, is originally from Chicago, IL and the suburb of Oak Forest.

MacMullen came to Central Illinois in 1993 to pursue his Bachelor of Science in Business degree at Eastern Illinois University. After obtaining his degree, he returned to Chicago to work as a computer programmer for a number of large insurance companies. Missing the slower pace of life and the small town experience, he returned to Charleston, IL in 2001 and has been there ever since.

On a whim in 2011, he tried out for the part of Orsino in a production of Twelfth Night at the Charleston Alley Theater. This ignited his love for acting and he has since been featured in a number of shows at The Charleston Alley Theater, Charleston Community Theater and Central Illinois Stage



Company. He currently sits on the board of Charleston Community Theater and will be directing "And Then There Were None" in April.

He currently works as an Instructor and as Assistant Chair in the School of Technology at his beloved Eastern Illinois University. He has two daughters, Stacy Doty and Alexis MacMullen.



CURD SPITTING CHAMPS. The Bob Doan Memorial International Cheese Curd Spitting Championship contest was held on Monday, September 4 during the 50th Annual Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival. This event continues to draw a great crowd year-after-year both participation and audience wise. Front row Little Miss ALAH Harper Hale, Jr. Miss ALAH Emeline Greathouse, Kole Herschberger from Arthur, Boys 14 & under division winner (7 feet 4 inches), Addison Cazel of Arthur, Girls 14 & under division winner (6 feet and 11 inches), Joy Cordes of Tuscola, Women 15 & up division winner, (18 feet and 7 inches), Peyton Trier, Mens 15 & up division winner (20 feet and 7 inches), and Miss ALAH Regann Bowles. (Back row) Danny Powell and Bruce Weiman, Cheese Curd Spitting Commissioner's.

Junior Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair. Other winners were Hadden Fabert, 8th grade and Laila Sanchez, 6th grade.

Video clips from the 1973 Centennial Parade as well as the 125th anniversary play presented in 1998 were also shared. A display was available for those in attendance which covered many aspects of our town's history including businesses, churches, a display of the history pieces that have appeared in the Graphic-Clarion for the past year or more, Michael Warren memorabilia provided by Rob Fustin, Centennial pictures and souvenirs from 1973 provided by Tim Singer, a 1973 Arthur High School yearbook and a large photo of the 250 cast members who participated in the "Arthorama" play during Arthur's centennial celebration in 1973. Various parts of these historical items will be on display at the Arthur Public Library over the coming months along with items from the sesquicentennial celebration.

Village President Rod Randall gave the closing remarks and shared with those in attendance a letter written that will be placed in the time capsule to be opened in 2073. This was followed by the opening of the time capsule. Envelopes placed in that time capsule, which has resided in the floor of the Arthur Welcome Center for the past 50 years, were then distributed to many present. This made for some poignant moments as many who had left envelopes are no longer with us as well as for some funny moments as some of the notes on envelopes were read. Some envelopes had been left as well for churches and other organizations in town. Those envelopes not claimed are available at the Arthur village office for pick up.

A big thank you goes out to those involved with putting this sesquicentennial event together. As with most things in Arthur this wonderful celebration could not have happened

without many who care about our wonderful town.

Continuing with sesquicentennial events, a community church service was held on Sunday morning, September 3, at Penn Station and was hosted by the Arthur Ministerial Association. Members of churches from all over Arthur filled the venue. The morning began with Cowboy Church Praise Band playing and singing various hymns as the congregation gathered for the service. The invocation and welcome were given by Pastor Bob Silvanik of the Vine Street Christian Church followed by congregational hymn singing. Pastor John Stewart of the First Baptist Church read scripture and Jeff Bowyer sang, "How Great Thou Art," accompanied by Karen Good.

Village President Rod Randall then gave a brief history of the churches of Arthur followed by Pastor Jill Bunker and Marilyn Allison of the United Methodist Church explaining that the morning's offering would be going to the Arthur Grade School Backpack Program which ensures that students who are food insecure have food to sustain them throughout the school year.

The service continued with special music by Erica Schrock and a congregational prayer given by Pastor Glen Rhodes, Arthur Mennonite Church.

The congregation was very pleased to welcome retired pastor, the Rev. Michael Johnson, formerly of the Vine Street Christian Church, who shared the morning's message. The service ended with a congregational hymn and closing prayer by Rev. Leroy Allison, retired pastor, Arthur United Methodist Church.

This church service concluded the formal sesquicentennial events for the weekend although the celebration of Arthur's 150th years of existence continues throughout the months ahead.

A reminder that there are a few sesquicentennial calendars still available at Randall Electric or the Arthur Welcome Center. These calendars contain a great deal of information and many pictures of Arthur history and will be a valuable keepsake in years to come.



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ziplining and many food and festival vendors lining Vine Street. For the most part the weather was cooperative even though it was a little warm but

that did not seem to keep the crowds from enjoying the 50th annual Cheese Festival and Arthur's 150th anniversary celebration.



Be sure to check out the church history display at the Arthur Public Library. Over the next few months the sesquicentennial committee plans to share items from the past as well as some of the contents of the envelopes found in the time capsule opened at the Founders Day dinner on September 2. This first display contains pictures and other information from some of the churches in Arthur and can be seen during the hours the library is open - Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Arthur Cheese Festival / Arthur Sesquicentennial Celebration SUBSCRIPTION SPECIAL

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