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## Guide to the Benton County Bicentennial Commission Records, 1973-1977

### Title

Benton County Bicentennial Commission Records (MSS BentonCoBicent)

### Dates

1973-1977 (inclusive)  
1974-1976 (bulk)

### Creator

Benton County Bicentennial Commission (Or.)

### Summary

The Benton County Bicentennial Commission Records document the development of programs and activities on the Oregon State University campus, in Corvallis, in Benton County, and in Oregon to commemorate the bicentennial of the American Revolution. Oregon State University Archivist, Sarah J. Wilson, was chair of the Commission.

### Quantity

1 cubic foot (2 boxes, including 1 oversize box)

### Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives  
121 The Valley Library  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR 97331-4501  
Phone: 541-737-2165  
Email: [archives@oregonstate.edu](mailto:archives@oregonstate.edu)  
Web: <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives>

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2008.

## Historical Note

The Benton County Bicentennial Commission coordinated programs and activities in Benton County to commemorate the American Revolution bicentennial. Notable activities included restoration of the Philomath College Building (now home of the Benton County Historical Society) and bicentennial themes for the annual Benton County Fair and the Marys Peak Trek. Many bicentennial events were sponsored by the OSU Campus Bicentennial Committee, including production of a film, *Heart of the Valley*; a year-long speaker series on the American Revolution; exhibits at the Horner Museum; and participation in the national Bikecentennial '76 event by arranging housing. OSU was designated as an official Bicentennial University under the National Bicentennial College and University Campus program.

Sarah J. (Sally) Wilson served as chair of the Commission and as a member of the OSU Campus Bicentennial Committee. Wilson was the University Archivist from 1969 until 1978.

## Content Description

The Benton County Bicentennial Commission Records document the development of programs and activities in Benton County as well as in Corvallis and on the Oregon State University campus to commemorate the bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976. The records consist of correspondence; grant proposals and funding requests; meeting minutes and reports; publications; and posters, certificates, and ephemera. The records document activities of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Oregon, the OSU Campus Bicentennial Committee, and the Corvallis American Revolution Bicentennial Task Force.

The records include materials pertaining to the Northwest Trailblazers, the junior historians of the Oregon Territory; Bikecentennial '76 activities; and the National Endowment for the Humanities' American Issues Forum. Of particular note is the January 1976 issue of the *Bicentennial Ethnic Racial Report*, which describes ethnic racial bicentennial activities throughout the United States.

## Preferred Citation

Benton County Bicentennial Commission Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

## Processing Note

The materials in this collection were arranged and placed in folders at the time this finding aid was prepared. There was no original order or arrangement and the materials were previously not foldered.

## Related Material

Additional materials pertaining to the bicentennial are available in the [Memorabilia Collection](#). The *Heart of the Valley* film is available in the News and Communications Films (FV P 057).

## Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

### Organizations

Bikecentennial, Inc.  
Horner Museum.  
Oregon State University--Centennial celebrations, etc.

### Topics

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976--Oregon.  
Cycling--United States.

### Geographical Names

Benton County (Or.)  
Corvallis (Or.)

Oregon--History--Periodicals.

**Forms of Materials in the Collection**

Ephemera.

**Other Creators**

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

American Revolution Bicentennial Commission (Or.)

Northwest Trailblazers.

Wilson, Sarah J. (Sarah Jackman), 1924-1978.