



Larry Morgan and Daughter Kim Lead the Parade

# The Diamond Jubilee

Rubio, Iowa August 7-8, 1976

Supplement to

"History of Rubio" by Vera Steinbeck 1976

(Published March 1977)

## What the Newspapers Said:

### The Clarion: (Richland):

“The Rubio celebration on Saturday drew a large crowd to the small town. The town’s motto for the day was “a small town, a big heart” and it lived up to its motto.”

### Fairfield Ledger:

“Rubio — the tone for this town’s Bi-centennial and 75th Jubilee celebration Saturday was set by the words adorning one bike in the parade, “Rubio, a small town but a big heart.”

“So while some of Iowa’s small towns are the object of oversight, like being left off the 1976-77 road map, Rubio has remained undaunted. The fraternity - cooperative effort to produce a really great celebration, a weekend of merriment for all who entered the city limits, was by no means slight. It will be matched by few towns of any size.”

### Washington Evening Journal:

“It was more than the ‘Rubio Jubilee’ it was a festival of **friendship**, a reunion of several hundred persons, most of whom at one time or another called this off - the - road spot in southwest Washington County their home. It was a celebration of life for the 75 years of a small Iowa community. Once a populous town of 125, only about half that number 65, remain. However that didn’t stop an estimated 2,000 well-wishers from swelling the town to many times its normal population. Most of the celebrants were on hand for the beginning of the 100 plus entry parade Saturday morning, so large it had to begin about a mile outside of Rubio to have enough room. Will Rubio ever be the same? Well, probably not, but the Iowa Department of Transportation will soon erect a road sign on highway 78 to guide travelers over the three miles of gravel to the town, and within two years it is expected that the road will be paved with concrete, making it easier to get to, and perhaps more importantly, easier to find.

“Exhale, Rubio, You’ve done well.”

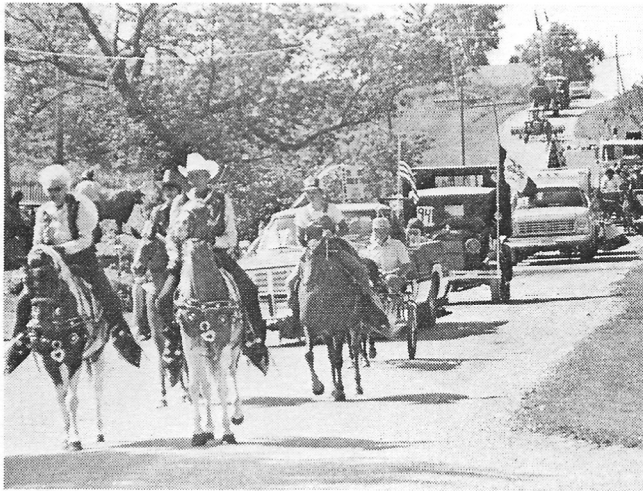


# Our Two Great Days. . .

Greetings from Rubio, the little town that just about didn't stay on the Iowa map! But we're still here, and many of you found your way here to enjoy the festivities on August 7 and 8. Preparation started several days in advance with a large group meeting on Tuesday evening July 13 to do cleaning around the park and community hall. All enjoyed cold watermelon later.

On July 14th the ladies met at the hall to prepare the cabbage slaw which was frozen to serve later with the barbeque pork sandwiches and potato salad.

The food and rest tents were put up close to the hall on Thursday, the little tent made ready across the street for frying the Indian bread, and the popcorn wagon brought in.



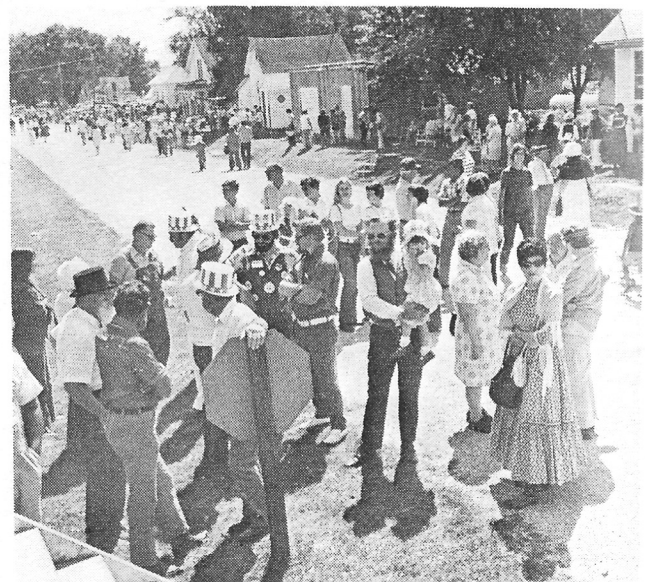
Coming down the hill into town



Grand Marshal Raymond Steinbeck



Three generations: Great grandpa, Frank Van Order; Grandma, Alma Woolums, and 14-months old Vincent Lee Woolums



Looking east on First Street

The men from Brighton doing the barbeque were on the job at 4:30 a.m. The day was beautiful! The parade entries started gathering by 8 o'clock in Ralph Nordyke's pasture south of their house at the top of the hill, with approximately 100 entires. The parade started at 10:30 a.m. and lasted about an hour.

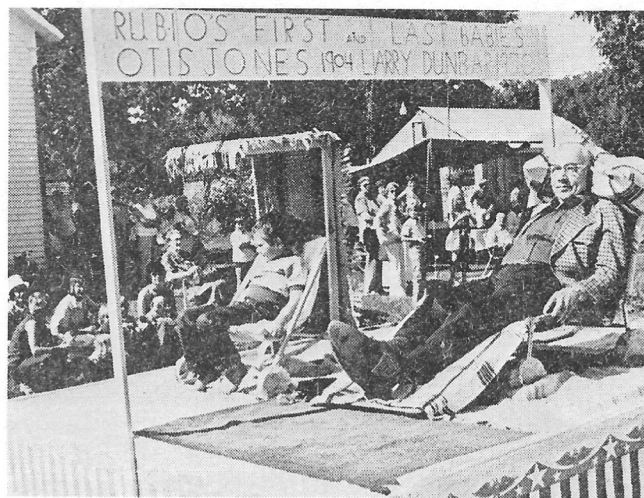
The parade was led by Larry Morgan, bearing the colors, with his daughter Kim riding beside him, followed by the grand marshal, Raymond Steinbeck, riding in a 1931 Model A Ford convertible owned and driven by Paul McClintic. Incidentally this is the same car Paul used when he was courting his wife Christine 41 years ago.

On Friday morning the ladies made "gallons" of potato salad and refrigerated it. In the evening they wrapped the meat to make ready for barbeque. Bermel Dairy from Keota was kind enough to let us use their refrigerated truck, which was also used next day for ice cream bars, etc. Street signs were put up and historical markers placed.

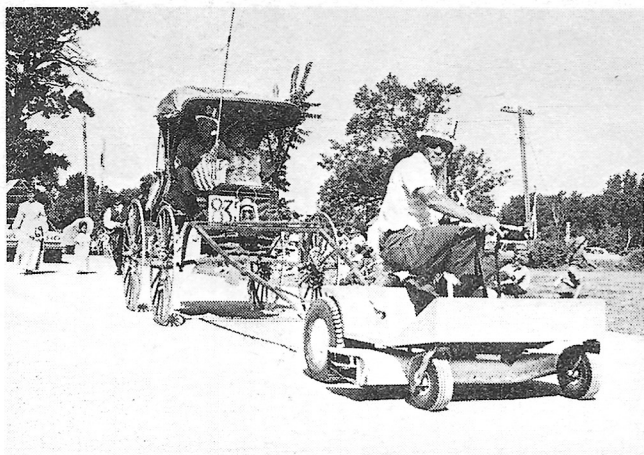
Morning came early on August 7. The entire community (to quote from August Readers Digest, "Bountiful Iowa") was full of plain old seam-busting vitality. Many had house-guests, besides the mobile homes parked here and there.



Our float of "Rubio's 1st Settlers" which took 1st in four earlier area parades



Rubio's first and last baby boys



Bun Watson's "Bubble Gum Buggy"



Grand Marshal in the 1931 Model A Ford convertible



One of the most interesting entries was the float which carried Rubio's first and last baby boys; Otis Jones of Keota, born Feb. 7th, 1904, and Larry Dunbar born in 1970.

Float winners were: kids' class: Joel Sheets, 1st; Denise and David Long tied with Melisha and Michelle Ritchie for 2nd; Chris Hogan 3rd. Family: Jerry Hartnell and Ronnie Ward children, 1st; (a float covered with dozens of cloth bananas, even to the hat the little dog was wearing, and captioned "we've gone bananas over Rubio"); 2nd Ralph Nordyke's century farm entry; 3rd Vera Steinbeck, a senior citizen with many interests. Open Class: Packwood Hillbillies 1st; Leslie and Irene Breen on riding horses 2nd; and Jerry Hartnell, the old prospector, 3rd.

Club, Commercial and Church: Hadley Chevrolet 1st; Woolson Church 2nd; Watson Garage 3rd.

The beard contest took place immediately following the parade, with 3 different divisions being judged. Cloyd Watson, Rubio, took 1st in full beard; Benny Leeper, Brighton, 1st in trimmed beard; and Jack Moore, Bloomfield, 1st in moustache division.

Places of interest attracting many included the Post Office which gave souvenir envelopes with a sketch of the postoffice on the cover. A souvenir stamp and cancellation could be obtained for the price of the stamp. A guest book was outside the Post Office where over 800 of you registered. The Bank gave souvenir wooden nickels and Rubio Motor Co. gave key rings.



Four generations of Wolcotts remember Rubio



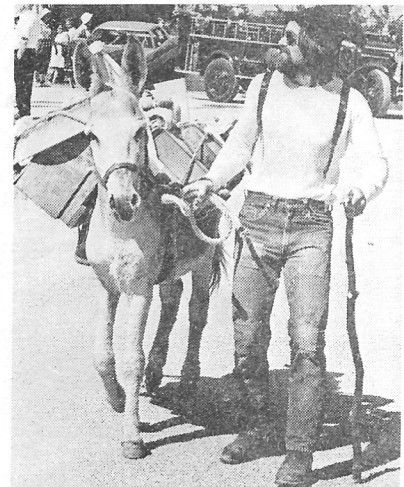
Post Office float



Lucille Luithly, Art Luithly and Willie Parcell



Rubio Motor Co. entry



Jerry Hartnell, the old prospector

Many memories were aroused by the partial restoration of the old Barber Shop. The Hardware Store, with Art Luithly sitting out in front greeting his friends, had antique hardware on display. The old General Store, had displays of various other memorabilia. Several antique cars and machinery were shown in the old garage on Main St.

Barbeque pork sandwiches, hot dogs, cole slaw, potato salad, potato chips, coffee, iced tea and pop were on sale in the tent west of the Hall. Across the street, fried Indian bread covered with your favorite "sweet" could be bought for 25 cents a piece.

The big tent east of the park was for resting and visiting. After lunch there were games for the young, and in the evening "anything goes games" for adults, followed by an old time free movie in the park.

Our thanks to several volunteers from the Washington, Iowa city police, who were on hand to help with directing traffic, parking and keeping things in order. However, we had no problems with the estimated crowd of 2,000 people who were fun-loving but quiet and orderly. We were pleased to see every one of you. It was more than a "Jubilee". It was a time of friendship and much visiting by many who at one time or another had called Rubio "home".



**Relaxing and visiting in the park**



**The kids had a good time, too**



**Greeting friends at the bank**



**They visited the Post Office, too**



On Sunday morning, August 8, special services were held at the Rubio Friends Church to celebrate the 70th birthday of the church. The church building was full with several people having to sit outside and listen to the services over the loudspeaker. Taking part in the service was Mrs. Nancy McCormick, of University Park, formerly of Rubio, who gave a vocal concert. Greetings were brought from former pastor Kenneth Johnson, now of Arizona. Another part of the program was a ventriloquist presentation with Randy (the dummy) by Chris and Reynold Long, young sons of Bill Long of Washington. Rev. Wilson Hyde and Rev. Donald Jay, former residents of Rubio, were introduced.

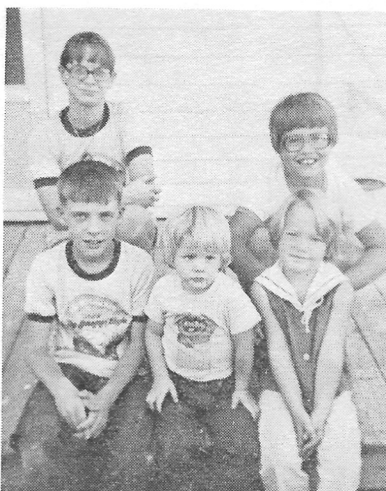
The main speaker for the worship service was Rev. Larry Bishop, pastor of the Nazarene Church in Red Bluffs, California. Larry is the youngest son of Don and Betty Bishop and grew up in Rubio.

A basket dinner at noon in the park was enjoyed by approximately 200, followed by a musical program by the Musical Messengers quartet from Richland and the Don Mullikin Family from Brighton. There was more visiting and picture taking as all prepared to leave for their homes, taking with them many memories. Visitors were here from 20 different states, from Washington to New Hampshire, Florida to California and many in between.

A display case will be prepared to preserve our Bi-centennial flag, pictures, guest book, and other souvenirs from this momentous occasion in Rubio's history. This will be kept on display at the Hall. George Cook, former resident of Rubio, now of Oskaloosa, is engraving a metal plaque which will be mounted on a large rock and placed in the park. The engraving will have a replica of the Hall and dates of the Jubilee.



**The Charles Blakely family were so busy they didn't get in the history book. Dennis, Jane, Delissa, Charles and Dwayne**



**Bun and Marjorie Watson grandchildren**



**Two of Rubio's Indians, Scott and Christy Watson**



**"Rubio" is our home**



**We're together again. Dean Watson, Susie (Sparks) Richards and Larry Bishop**



**Rubio's long time citizens Vera Steinbeck, Raymond Steinbeck**



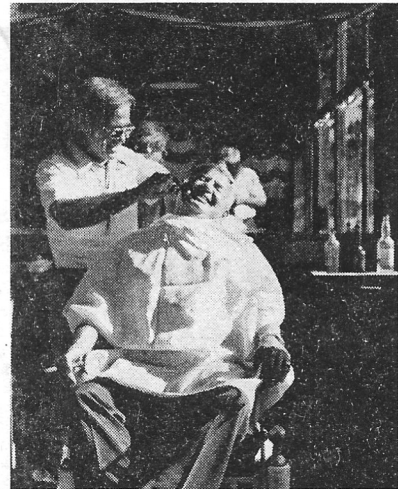
Outside the church on Sunday morning



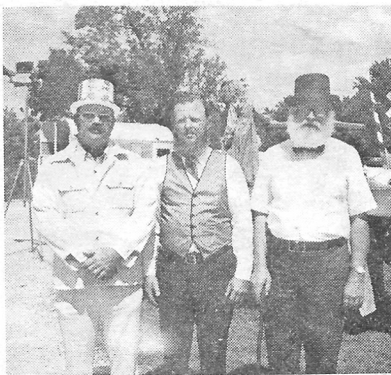
Looking things over in the hardware store



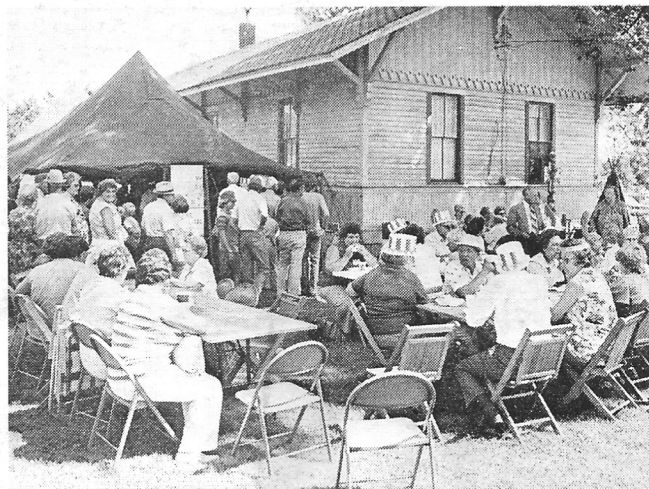
Nancy McCormick in front of the Post Office where you registered



John Morgan giving Swede Bond a 25c haircut in the old barber shop



Winners in the beard contest: Jack Moore, Benny Leeper and Cloyd Watson



Lunch time