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Dear Fellow Community Member,

As you may already be aware, the Borough of Meyersdale will mark its 150th anniversary, or Sesquicentennial, in 2024. Late in January our Meyersdale Public Library hosted two "brainstorming sessions," during which a number of interested individuals gathered to begin tossing around ideas of how we might make next year one to remember in and around the community we all call "home."

At this point there is talk of a possible "birthday party" dinner. If the logistics can be worked out, Sesquicentennial t-shirts and mugs might be offered, or a special parade may be organized. The ideas of a Meyersdale theme song, town-wide scavenger hunt, and time capsule burial have been mentioned.

Here at the library, we hope to sponsor a Centennial Essay Contest for youth; offer slide shows and a few new online PA POWER Library collections featuring some of the countless old photographs we've acquired from *The New Republic* newspaper; and maybe even publish a memory book featuring some of these images that are so reflective of our community's past.

Yet as the Meyersdale Centennial Committee noted in preparing for our borough's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 1974, "*The success of any project depends almost entirely on the cooperation of the Citizens of The Community if it is a community project.*" A half century later, this still holds true.

Thus at this point many discussions revolve around integrating the upcoming 150th celebration into the things folks in Meyersdale normally do in the course of a year: the Maple Festival, Alumni Weekend, our Independence Day celebration, the County Fair, etc. Almost any organization or business can put a little #Meyersdale150th pomp into its typical activities during 2024! Businesses might participate in Sesquicentennial window-decorating events or sell #Meyersdale150th souvenirs? Groups such as the Elks, American Legion, Moose and Fire Department can consider ways they, too, can get involved. And of course there's our Meyersdale Area Historical Society, Merchants' and Ministerial Associations, and School District.

Those of us who met during the recent Sesquicentennial brainstorming gatherings have set another meeting for Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6 p.m. at the library. All are invited and welcome to attend! Organizations and businesses are especially encouraged to have a representative present to see how we can all come together to celebrate this community milestone. As that 1974 Centennial Committee pointed out, a handful of people can't do it alone. The more individuals, businesses and organizations who contribute, the bigger and better our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will become!

We look forward to seeing all of you on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

"The Initial Brainstormers"

(Katie Billy, Denise Gehringer, Madolin Edwards, Deb Kolb, Linda McDonough, Chelsea Tressler, Terri Foster & Jennifer Hurl)

