



**ON THE COURTHOUSE LAWN**, Mayor Joe Stanley (below) showed his nephew Bryant Addleman some baseball cards he donated for the capsule 25 years ago. (above) cut the top off the PVC pipe time capsule as Greg Lohofener and Chad Addleman held it. Mr. Addleman



## Time capsule holds items from the past

Most of the members of the Oberlin Centennial time-capsule committee returned Saturday to unearth what was put in the ground 25 years ago.

There were close to 150 people at the time-capsule opening Saturday afternoon on the lawn of the Decatur County Courthouse.

The capsule, which was put in a large white plastic pipe with a bottom and a lid, was originally buried under a large stone on the west lawn by a six-person committee, including Rusty Addleman and his son Chad, Greg Lohofener and his children, Adam and Leigh Ann Johnson and former County Clerk Charlotte Meints.

With the exception of Mr. Lohofener's children, who couldn't be there, the committee members got the capsule out of the hole, opened it and laid the treasured items out on two white tables on the lawn.

Mr. Addleman said the committee buried two capsules, one for the sesquicentennial this year and one for the bicentennial in 2085, when the city will celebrate its 200th anniversary.

The committee 25 years ago asked for items to put in the capsule. One

of those, a coin proof set donated by Mr. Lohofener's father, Ray, didn't make it into the capsule before it was sealed, so it was placed in the hole, but was in good condition.

The majority of the items were taken to the Last Indian Raid Museum, except for some handwritten letters intended for members of the audience and others.

Items laid out on the table included:

- A 100th Anniversary poster.
- A cookbook.
- A copy of the Northwest Clarion.
- A book about Norcat.
- Copies of The Oberlin Herald.
- Items from St. John's Lutheran Church.
- A telephone book.
- Oberlin Centennial memorabilia.
- Baseball cards.
- A Montgomery Ward catalog.
- A letter to the principal of the high school.
- A letter from President Ronald Reagan.
- A letter from the governor.
- Items for Doug and Shayla Williby's kids from Mrs. Williby's father.

- An item to the chairperson of the celebration.

- A letter from Mabel Allen, the Centennial's First Lady.

- A letter to the principal of the grade school.

- Calendars.

- Letters for each of Rusty and Sharon Addleman's children.

Chad Addleman found a packet of letters addressed in children's handwriting in the capsule. The third-grade teacher had the students write letters to a family member or someone in their lives to go in the capsule.

He and Mrs. Meints handed those letters to Rusty Addleman, who read who they were from and to. Some were collected and others weren't.

The committee didn't bury its new time capsule that day. The members are still collecting items from people to put in it. Mr. Addleman said someone suggested putting business cards in the capsule.

No date has been set to place the capsule in the courthouse lawn. Anyone who wants to put something in it can take it to the museum, the Chamber office or give it to Mr. Addleman, he said.



**CHARLOTTE MEINTS** (left) looked at items from the time capsule. Cammi (Williby) Dickinson (above) read a letter from her grandfather that was in the capsule.

— Story and photos by Kim Davis