

IVOR CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

By Merle Monahan
Correspondent

IVOR --- With more than a year's planning behind them, Ivor is gearing up for a big day on October 18, the celebration of the town's 100th anniversary.

"And what a day it's going to be!" said committee chairperson, JoAnne Joyner. "We're expecting our little town of 325 residents to be filled with people, for one thing. But then we've got some events coming up that you don't see every day."

Joyner noted that two afternoon events will be a donkey ballgame and an exhibition by several sky divers.

"We think the ball game, especially, will be quite entertaining," she said with a grin.

Joyner said the day's events will begin with a parade down Main Street at 10 a.m., after which the festivities will move to the Ivor Municipal Building and grounds on Bell Avenue.

The Municipal Building is the former Ivor High School and Joyner said one former classroom will be reserved just for memorabilia.

"We're looking for items, books, documents, or anything connected with the town and would appreciate anything former townspeople are willing to share with us."

Other activities include performances by several musical groups, a clogging group, craft and food vendors and an antique tractor and auto exhibit.

A community chorus, under the direction of co-chairs, Alice Joyner and Sandra Vick, with the theme "The Spirit of America" will also perform during the day.

For the children, a petting zoo and Moon Walk will be available.

The day's events will conclude with a fireworks display.

The Town of Ivor was established about 1857, when the railroad was built through the small settlement. It's name came from Otelia Mahone, the wife of Confederate General William Mahone, who engineered the building of the railroad.

Windsor, Wakefield, Waverly and Disputanta also were named by the general's wife one day as she rode the train from Suffolk to Petersburg. It is said the names came from a novel she had recently read.

With the coming of the railroad, the town began to flourish and some of the elders began to think about establishing some type of government.

So, on October 18, 1908, 30 citizens of Ivor petitioned the circuit court of Southampton County to have the town incorporated. Ivor became a municipality on this day.

Many descendants of these first citizens still reside in Ivor and several streets bear the names of the town's founding fathers.

Joyner said, barring any complications, the celebration will be held on the exact 100th anniversary date of the town's incorporation.