

A Gift Rooted in Memories

One of the most rewarding parts of planning Mazon's Sesquicentennial Celebration has been hearing the stories of the people who have called this community home.

Recently, a gentleman stopped by Village Hall to make a donation in support of the celebration. Although he now lives in Morris, his heart remains in Mazon. As he shared memories of growing up here, it became clear that his gift was about much more than making a donation—it was his way of giving back to the community that helped shape his life.

He and his family moved to Mazon in 1948 when he was just six months old. He is the son of Max and Nell Olson. In 1950, his family opened Olson's Automotive Supply/Repair and also operated Olson Bus Service. His father, Max Olson, proudly served the community in many ways, working with the Mazon Police Department and the Grundy County Sheriff's Office during the 1950s, while also volunteering with the Mazon Fire Department.

As he reminisced, he spoke fondly of his mother, Nell, whose dedication to the family businesses left a lasting impression on him. He remembered watching her stay late every evening after closing, carefully balancing the books "to the last penny." One of his favorite memories was pulling the family car up to the door so she wouldn't have to walk as far after a long day's work.

He also smiled as he recalled racing quarter midgets and stock cars at the Mazon racetrack years ago. Those experiences, along with countless other memories of growing up here, are memories he still treasures today.

As he shared these stories, he became emotional more than once, reflecting on just how much this community has meant to him throughout his life. His gratitude was evident, and his desire to support the Sesquicentennial Celebration is simply his way of saying "thank you" to the town that gave him so much.

As someone who has only lived in Mazon for a few months, I found his stories especially meaningful. In a short time, I've already experienced the strong sense of community that makes Mazon such a special place. Listening to someone whose roots here span nearly eight decades reminded me that while buildings and businesses may change, the spirit of a community is carried forward by the people and the memories they create together.

We are incredibly grateful for his generosity and for allowing us to share a small part of his family's story. It's stories like these that remind us what our Sesquicentennial Celebration is truly about—honoring our past, celebrating our present, and preserving the memories that connect generations.