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Worthington post office marks 200 years

By RICK REIKEN
Staff Writer

WORTHINGTON — Residents will celebrate the Worthington Post Office's 200th anniversary Saturday with the town's first Apple Pie Day.

Sponsored by the Worthington Historical Society, the day's events will begin at 12:30 p.m. on the Worthington Museum's grounds at the Four Corners section.

According to Muriel Claydon, Historical Society member, the

main reason for the event is to thank local residents for all their generosity in building the new museum.

"It's unbelievable how generous everyone's been," Claydon said.

A flag-raising ceremony will kick off the day's events and commemorate the new flagpole just installed at Packard Park.

According to Edward Claydon, Historical Society president, the afternoon will be highlighted by children's rides, a popcorn wagon, bobbing-for-apples and an

apple pie-making contest.

The day's festivities will also feature music by the Horse Mountain Jazz Band.

But the spirit of the event is tied to the two centuries of postal service in the town.

"I just think it's amazing that we've been doing this for 200 years," said Postmaster Joy Solarz. "It's just amazing when you think about all the things this town has seen in this time."

According to information produced by a former postmaster, Cullen S. "Pete" Packard, the town was only one of seven

statewide to have its own post office in 1799. That was because Worthington was once an important crossroads on the Boston to Albany Turnpike, according to Packard.

Packard himself accounts for a substantial portion of the town's postal history. He served as postmaster from 1966-1991, following the retirement of his father, who served as postmaster for 40 years, according to Solarz.

Solarz also noted that the town's first postmaster was a man named Asa Bigelow, who served 9 years. Bigelow was

followed by William Ward, who held the job for the next 40 years.

At one point in 1873 the town had four Post Offices. Those were located in South Worthington, West Worthington, the section of town known as Ringville and its current location.

"I guess there must have been a need," Solarz offered as explanation.

Admission to the event is free and festivities will run until 3 p.m. All are welcome.

For information call 238-5815.