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## OSU Planning 2076 Party

**W**HATEVER the world may be like in the 21st century, the Oklahoma State University Bicentennial committee figures the United States of America will still be alive and needing money for education.

The OSU committee is celebrating the Bicentennial by gathering a cash fund of \$100,000 for the Tricentennial. Members expect high interest rates and inflation to multiply that fund a thousand times by July 4, 2076, amounting to \$100 million.

There is food for thought in those figures for people who are paying 18 per cent interest on revolving charge accounts and wondering why their money doesn't buy more. The country's biggest borrower and spender is the government, and it wouldn't hurt for officials to consider how interest costs mount up, also.

Folks at Stillwater don't just sit around counting cows and football scores, but members of the faculty-student Bicentennial committee were astonished when Dr. Albert L. Malle, professor of pathology, told them that one dollar invested at 7 per cent interest, compounded quarterly, will amount to \$1,032.20 in 100 years.

The same dollar invested at 8 per cent, compounded annually, would accrue a fund of \$2,199.76 in a century! It's a lot better to be receiving interest than to be paying it, so the OSU Bicentennial Trust was created to do just that.

Dr. Robert C. Fite, chairman of the committee, said they are counting on 100,000 faculty members, students, former students, friends and their families to contribute \$1 each to the fund. A limit of \$1 per person has been set on donations.

The OSU Bicentennial committee also plans to establish a landmark on the campus, to be called "Independence Square", in commemoration of the Bicentennial.

A time capsule to be imbedded in Oklahoma rose granite will contain artifacts, memorabilia and a list of contributors, but the cash won't be buried there. The money will be put to work earning more money for higher education in the Tricentennial.

Charles E. Platt, executive director of the OSU Development Foundation, said he expects current rates of interest to prevail, or even to increase, making each "Minuteman Dollar" worth about \$1,000 to OSU at maturity in the year 2076.

Contributors are called Minutemen in honor of volunteers who brought their muskets to defend freedom in 1775. Money might not fully replace muskets, but it is likely to be needed.

Not the least significant aspect of the OSU plan is anticipation of celebrating the Tricentennial. It reflects faith in our future and, as Dr. Fite says: "If our future is worth waiting for, we should be trying to provide for it."

Prospects were not bright in 1776 for this country to become a world power, and the situation still was troubled a century later, after a devastating battle over state and individual rights.

Subversion of American principles and profligate spending by government caused some citizens to wonder during recent years whether we could make it to our Bicentennial. We have, and the fact that we have come this far should encourage us to determine to go farther and to do better.