

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY SEPTEMBER



Advertising for the Freedom Train, from *The American Heritage Program for Your Community*, June 1948, Ms79-87

On September 28, 1948, the Freedom Train stopped in Bluefield.

CSO: SS.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Ms79-87)

1. What was the purpose of the American Heritage Program?
2. The Freedom Train traveled through “all of the 48 states” exhibiting what kind of collection? Why does the document reference 48 states and not 50?
3. In what ways was the Freedom Train advertised? How would people know it was coming to their community?

Think Critically: List three ways you as a citizen can demonstrate your patriotism or participate and influence government at the local, state, or national level.

FREEDOM IS EVERYBODY'S JOB

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE PROGRAM

This is a plan to help raise the level of active citizenship in our country.

To accomplish this purpose, it seeks:

1. To develop a greater *awareness* of the advantages we enjoy as Americans, emphasizing the relationship of our hard-won personal freedoms to our development as the strongest nation of free people in history.
2. To persuade all Americans that only by *active personal participation* in the affairs of the community, state and nation can we safeguard and preserve our liberties and continue to demonstrate to ourselves and to the world that the way of free men is best.

This program is a citizens' movement. It is non-partisan and non-controversial. It is an affirmative effort, opposed only to ideas that are antagonistic to the dignity and freedom of man.

To help accomplish our objective, there has been made available to us, through government and private sources, a remarkable collection of American historical documents.

Through the cooperation of the railroads and other American industries, it has been made possible to exhibit these great documents on a special seven-car train to more than 300 communities in all of the 48 states. The 13-month train tour began September 17, 1947.

With the help of civic, fraternal, religious and other patriotic organizations, it is planned that a Week of Rededication to the principles of Americanism will be held in each of these communities immediately preceding the arrival of the Freedom Train.

This Community Program Book offers many suggestions to assist each local committee in planning a Week of Rededication, and in gaining the support of the community for the American Heritage Program.

During the whole thirteen months of the Freedom Train tour, the Advertising Council in cooperation with the American Heritage Foundation will conduct a campaign of public service advertising in newspapers, magazines, radio, outdoor advertising, transportation advertising and other forms of communication in a continuous program of education.

