While a Foreword is usually associated only with literary endeavors, it does seem a quite appropriate addition to this dedication rememberance. In this instance Foreword is not only a manner of introducing this booklet, but its homophonous counterpart, Forward, has become the unofficial theme of Lycoming County.

The new $3,500,000 courthouse being dedicated today is only one example of how Lycoming County has moved Forward. Not only is efficiency evident in the physical structure, but also in the modern conveniences provided for county taxpayers.

This booklet provides but a brief pictorial tour of the new county facility. However, the ultimate efficiency embodied in the structure and the services offered are evident to all who view the new courthouse with an objective eye.
This is not the first structure to stand on this plot of ground. It is the third courthouse erected on this site. The first was built in 1804. The first courthouse was a brick structure which was built according to tradition of that time. Many county residents participated in the raising of the roof and a holiday mood was upon the community as the building neared completion.

This mood is apparent with a check of old county minute books. Among the courthouse costs is noted one item for 9 gallons of whiskey. An item of that nature would seem scandalous if it appeared on today's minutes. At that time however, such a purchase was deemed as important as a keg of nails for the construction of the building.

Lycoming County continued to grow and by 1860 the original courthouse was no longer adequate to serve the needs of the people. The county commissioners of that time decided to raze the old structure and build a new building. Historically-minded residents of that era protested. After much discussion and study it was decided to construct an addition to the original building and preserve its historical significance.

In order to accommodate an addition it was necessary to remove the roof of the courthouse. Once this was done it was found the original construction was not sound enough to permit an addition. One can not help but wonder that the 9 gallons of whiskey were a factor in the poor quality of the original structure.

In any event, it was decided to build a new structure. The original courthouse was razed and construction of a new building began in 1860. In 1900 that structure proved to be too small and an addition was constructed. That building and addition stood on this site until the spring of 1969 when it was razed to make way for a new and modern facility.
First Courthouse
1801-1860

Courthouse constructed in 1860
—Razed in 1969.
The steel skeleton for the new building took shape in October 1969. In winter it was shrouded with heavy plastic and...
By mid-February of 1971 the offices were occupied.

Only the finishing touches remained... by the Fall of 1970.
New, modern facilities increase the efficiency of county government.
Some history however, has been preserved. Symbolic court statues, placed high in the design of the former main court room have been made a center of attraction on the court floor of the new building. While being moved from the old courthouse, the statues were accidentally dropped and almost destroyed. Robert H. Schuler, a Williamsport High School art instructor, reconstructed and restored them.

While the court's function has not changed, the setting has ... Modern design ranges from dark paneled walls to a windowed courtroom in the round.
Although government is sometimes complicated, it must relate to the people. It is our hope that all of this, the new construction, the new ideas, the increased efficiency, will serve to keep Lycoming County on a Forward path.

And finally, out of view of most... the mechanics of efficiency.
Commissioners:
Paul K. Bloom
John W. Durrwachter
Henry F. Frey

Judges:
Charles F. Greevy, Pres.
Thomas Wood

District Attorney:
Allen E. Ertel

Sheriff:
L. Eugene Pauling
Irene S. Migrath

Treasurer:
Jerome R. Patterson

Controller:
Carolyn M. Wither

Prothonotary:
Mary G. Mosser

Register & Recorder:
Miles H. Lundy
J. Donald Egly

Coroner:
Earl R. Miller, M.D.

County Surveyor:
John A. Bubb

Commissioners Living (3):
W. Clyde Harer
Paul D. Bailey
Robert G. Little

Wagner & Hartman Associates
Lundy Construction Company
McDermott Brothers
Homer L. Barton
Clayton C. Smith
Filson-Gingrich & Minnich
Lycoming County Authority:

Architects
General Contractor
Electrical Contractors
Plumbing
Heating & Air-Conditioning
Engineers
George L. Stearns II
Samuel H. Hoff, Sr.
Quinton J. Beaupre
John G. Detwiler
Thomas J. Rider