

Untitled

Bob Leik

I doubt that your request for papers included those of us who made mostly off-the-cuff comments about the department's history. I don't have a written version of what I presented, which was only a few brief humorous incidents from the past, plus a short poem. If the latter would be useful in any way, here it is:

We're here to celebrate a super century
of Minnesota sterling Sociology.
Illustrious names we see, great feats of scholarly
insight - proud trailblazing social inquiry.

But let's get one thing straight. What made their story great
was more than those few names we like to celebrate.
No matter what your slate, you simply can't create
amid conditions that oppose or isolate.

It takes an atmosphere - a sense that only here
do all the people share and shape a vision clear.
If all of you revere this larger, shared career,
then many years from now it will be you they cheer.

If you really think the other anecdotes warrant writing out, let me know. I had a great time seeing so many people from the 26 years I was at Minnesota. My congratulations to all who made the event such a success.

Bob