

Bill McKee

By: Ward Randol

Bill McKee, longtime active Trustee and volunteer of our Troy Historical Society, passed away on July 26, 2006 after a short illness. He was 94.

Until a month before his death Bill was a regular participant in the weekly meetings of our THS Heritage Campaign Committee (over four years' steady work in his nineties!). Bill was the best meeting listener I have ever known. He would be attentive but let the rest of us do most of the talking. Then when our discussion on a point started to run out of steam, Bill would verbally reformulate it in a way that invariably raised an important aspect the committee had not considered. And we almost always adopted his suggestions for action on those aspects.

Bill volunteered his time and energy at our all-day THS Hand & Eye Shows, our campaign's Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Fairs, and other THS and Troy Museum events. He attended almost every one of our THS lectures, and he participated in our museum's field trips. He served as vice-president of the THS Board of Trustees for several years. Bill and his wife Dolores, who predeceased him by almost two years, had lived and volunteered in Troy for 20 years.

Bill – William Wakefield McKee – was born in India to American parents (his father came originally from western Pennsylvania). When Bill was 12 they returned to the U.S. and lived in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In due course Bill entered the University of North Carolina, earned his B.A. there, and then migrated north to Connecticut where he earned his first graduate degree, from Yale's Divinity School in 1936. He met Dolores in 1939 in Europe where both were working in social service programs. Back in the U.S. in 1940, they married and started a family (three daughters – Jean McDonald, Patricia McKee and Susan McKee). Bill earned a master's degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and later his second Yale graduate degree, a Ph.D., in 1948. The family then moved west, first to Chicago and in 1953 to Detroit where Bill began his 30-year career at the Merrill-Palmer Institute, now a part of Wayne State University. Bill retired from Merrill-Palmer in 1983 as its long-serving chief operating officer.

Bill was an ardent classical music buff (he and Dolores were season ticket holders of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra), a serious stamp collector, an astute social activist, a northern Michigan summer cottage habitué, a knowledgeable Detroit Tigers fan, a devoted churchman, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and a man of great but unflaunted learning. He was the consummate student of human nature – a wise man. We will very much miss Bill with his quiet humor and sense of fun, his intelligence, his wisdom, and his camaraderie. Fortunately for us, his many, many tangible contributions to our Troy Historical Society and our Detroit community will endure.



For Halloween we thought it would be fun to share some of our memories.

Happy Halloween from the Troy Historical Society

"My best Halloween memory coming from a large family is the handing down of costumes from one sibling to another. I am number 2 of seven, my parents had 3 girls then 4 boys. One Halloween when my baby brother was maybe 3 or 4 we all went trick or treating but him. He stayed home to help my mom hand out the candy. When we came home and were checking out our candy, who came out in a costume but my brother dressed as a little Dutch girl. To this day we will occasionally tease him and my boys will call him Uncle Ricky the little Dutch girl. (He did look really cute but boy he doesn't like to be reminded of that fateful Halloween)" -Cheryl B.

"Barbara Chambers, THDC, was frugal and hand made a blue clown costume and purchased two for her three children in the 1960's to 1975. Therefore, one poor child "had to wear the clown get-up" each year. In 1979 the clown suit was torn up for rags and everyone cheered."

"Every year when our daughters Emily and Marie were small, we would go to my parents house the week before Halloween to make Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert. These were life size scarecrows that stood in my parents front yard. The girls would paint faces on two pumpkin heads and place them on top of wooden frames my dad had made. Mr. Gilbert wore one of my dad's old straw hats, a flannel shirt and overalls. Mrs. Gilbert wore Great Grandma Schmidt's wig, one of her old dresses, a shawl and an old gardener's hat. We all had lots of fun stuffing the Gilbert's bodies with cornstalks. Then dad would rig a spotlight on them so they could welcome trick or treaters on Halloween." -Lorraine C.

2006 Hand & Eye Show

By: Cheryl Barnard

The air has taken on that slight chill that says fall is on the way and believe it or not it's time to mark your calendars for the Hand & Eye Craft Show sponsored by the Troy Historical Society.

2006 is the 42nd year for the Hand & Eye Craft Show, which is the one of the many fundraisers for the Troy Historical Society. This year's show will be held on Saturday, November 18th at Troy High School located on Long Lake Road and Northfield Parkway. The show runs from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. The show will feature approximately 125 craft persons with a variety of items from painted items, clothing and jewelry to cookie baskets, seasoning mixes and many more beautiful crafted items. Admission to the show is \$3.00 (no strollers allowed), Troy Historical Society Members will get \$1 off of their admission when they show their member ship card at the door. We are also having a raffle of items donated by different craft persons involved in the show. The Troy High Boosters will have the cafeteria open again this year selling breakfast and lunch items through out the day for hungry shoppers to sit and revitalize.

The Hand & Eye Show is a juried craft show, which means a panel of judges, this year we had 9, judge each craft and only the best are asked to be in the show. All the people that work at the doors and throughout the year to put on this show are volunteers from the Historical Society and as always we are looking for more volunteers to help. All of the proceeds from the show help to sponsor many of the programs at the Museum as well as going toward purchasing additional property for the move of the Niles/Barnard house to the village green.

If any one is interested in volunteering to work at the show or to be juried for the 2006 show please call (248) 879-6309 and leave a message. So remember to mark November 18th on your calendar, the Hand and Eye show is a wonderful way to start or finish your Christmas shopping as well as support the Troy Historical Society and the Troy Museum.

Motoring Memories a Great Success

By: Loraine Campbell

The Historic Village was filled with shiny chrome, lively music, and wonderful automotive nostalgia as the Troy Museum and Troy Historical Society hosted the first Motoring Memories Car Show on July 15, 2006. Exhibitors, sponsors, volunteers, special guests, and the general public all agreed that the event was a great success. The 65 vehicles exhibited included a terrific range of makes, models and years. Added attractions, including antique motorcycles, a vintage fashion show, and an exhibit of chrome mascots by Don Sommer, offered something for everyone. The event raised \$3,500 for the Troy Heritage Campaign, drew 575 people, and increased the community's awareness and interest in the museum. The Car Show Committee is already gearing up for next year's show, scheduled Saturday, July 14, 2007. Are you a car buff? Would you like to be part of an exciting event? Join the Motoring Memories Planning Committee and have some fun! For more information and a meeting schedule, please call Loraine at 248.524.3301.

Trick or Treating on the Green- IT'S MAGIC!

By: Loraine Campbell

This year museum staff and volunteers will grab their magic wands and fairy dust for a special Trick or Treating on the Green Saturday, October 28 between 1 and 3 P.M. We'll welcome small wizards, ghosts, and goblins, and lots of other boys and girls at the Museum receive candy treats at each the Historic we can conjure good weather, more than the who attended last year's event! So lend a helping hand! Call Anne Nagrant at 524.524.2571 if you would like to help pass out goodies and be part of this terrific event.



Letter from the President:

I'd like to welcome everyone to the start of the 41st year of the Troy Historical Society. We have many interesting programs as well as fundraisers planned for the 2006 – 2007 year . One of our main goals this year for the Society is a membership drive. We currently have 200 members and we have a goal of doubling that membership to 400. I would like to encourage you to ask all your friends, neighbors and family to become members of the Troy Historical Society to help us reach this goal. We plan on having a board to track the results of the drive so stop by the museum and see how we all are doing. Remember that a membership to the Troy Historical Society would make a wonderful Christmas gift for that hard to shop for person and that all the memberships are tax deductible. I hope to see all of you at our fundraisers and programs throughout the year as we make our Society grow and continue to do the wonderful things we have done for the past 40 years.

Cheryl Barnard

President

Heritage Campaign Update

By: Ward Randol

The summer of 2006 was a busy time for our events to raise both money and awareness for the Troy Historical Society's Heritage Campaign to expand and improve the Troy Museum & Historic Village. Our first annual classic car show fundraiser on July 15 at the Museum was both an artistic and a financial success, thanks to the extra efforts of our many dedicated volunteers and Museum staff. The six July-August concerts at the Museum – "Music in the Air 2006" – raised additional funds for the Campaign through business sponsorships, admission fees and THS sales of refreshments. The THS Campaign booth's volunteers at Troy Daze September 15-17, 2006 engaged many hundreds of fairgoers in conversations about history, the Museum and our Campaign.

Now we will embark on our fall 2006 program of fundraising. In your next Troy water bill mailing you will find a Heritage Campaign pamphlet. We will approach selected Troy businesses about our new "Tell Us Your Story" project for their business histories, to lay a foundation for their participation in the Heritage Campaign. And we will be seeking grants from foundations.

Our Heritage Campaign Committee is counting on the generosity of members of both the Troy Historical Society and the wider Troy community to help make moving the Niles-Barnard house to the Museum in 2008, the historic barn acquisition and the campaign's other Museum projects a reality. Offers to help the campaign financially or in other ways will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Loraine Campbell or Tim McGee at the Museum for referral to a committee member.

We care about our members and would like to keep updated on any cares or concerns.

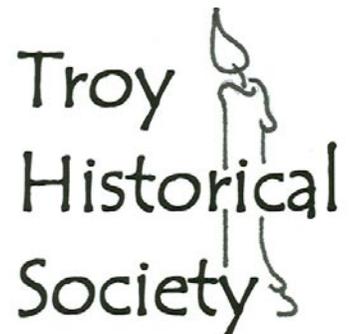
Please feel free to call Gerry Young at
586-802-1225.

Join the Historical Society Help Preserve the Light

The Troy Historical Society was organized in 1966 to promote the appreciation and awareness of the rich heritage of the citizens of Troy, to encourage preservation of records, pictures, structures, and other objects of local historical significance, and to sponsor programs to carry out these purposes.

You can become a member by mailing in the membership application on the back page of this newsletter.

Society board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except summer) at 7:30 p.m. at the Troy Historical Museum. All Society members are welcome to attend.



How do you like our new look?
Any questions or comments
please send to:

The Village Press
Attn: Alison Iceman
P.O. Box 6
Troy MI, 48099

We welcome any members' articles for the newsletter, subject to content and space limits.

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	Troy Historical Society Meeting 7:30 pm 10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	Lecture Series: The Life of a Keweenaw Copper Miner 7:30 pm 18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	Last day to register for Thanksgiving Parade Company Annual Tour 27	Trick-or-Treating on the Green 1:00-3:00 pm 28
29	30	Happy Halloween! 31				

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Hanging of the Greens & Santa 1:00-4:00 pm 1 2
3	4	5	6	Last day to drop off Toys for Tots 7	8	Holiday Gingerbread House making 10am-12 \$7.00 per person 9
10	11	Troy Historical Society Meeting 7:30 pm 12	13	14	Happy Hanukkah! 15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	Merry Christmas! 25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	Fall Clean-up at the Museum 10:00am-1:00pm Thanksgiving Parade Company Studio Tour 11:00am-3:00pm 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Troy Historical Society Meeting 7:30 pm 14	Lecture Series: Outhouse Archeology 7:30 pm 15	16	17	Hand and Eye Craft Show 9:00am - 4:00pm @ Troy Highschool 18
19	20	21	22	Happy Thanksgiving! 23	24	25
26	U.S. Marines Toys for Tots drop off begins 27	28	29	30		

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Happy New Year! 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	Troy Historical Society Meeting 7:30 pm 9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Troy Historical Society
Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name(s): _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ Birthday (D/M): _____

Enclose payment for membership in the following categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Single membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family (children under 21) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Couple | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Non-profit Institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Individual Life | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business |

Memorial contributions and bequests are welcome.

Your interests or personal collections/Your history in Troy: _____

Help preserve Troy's history. Send this form and your payment to:
Troy Historical Society, P.O. Box 6, Troy, MI 48099

Please check the expiration date of your current membership which is on your address label. Those membership dates that are highlighted are in need of being renewed before our next newsletter. For example, if your expiration date is September 2005, you can extend your membership to September 2006.

Enjoy the past by visiting and taking advantage of the outstanding lectures, festivals, and displays at the:

**Troy Museum &
Historic Village**

60 West Wattles Road
(248) 524-3570

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday
9:00 a.m - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

www.ci.troy.mi.us/parks/museum

Society Board Officers:

President: Cheryl Barnard

Vise President: Vera Milz

Treasurer: Fred Rounds

Deputy Treasurer: Ward Randol

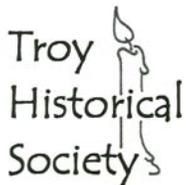
Secretary: Judy Siess

Board members:

Gloria Anderlie, Harriet Barnard,
Ron Bernard, Jeff Berryhill, Mary
Cornelius, Walter Cornelius, Kinda
Hupman, Al Holdburg, Thelma
Holdburg, Alison Iceman, Cath-
erine Ogawa, and Gerry Young.

Village Press:

Alison Iceman, Layout Editor



Troy Historical Society
P.O. Box 6
Troy, MI 48099
(248)879-6305
www.troyhistory.org