



MSM Bellringer

VOL. 2, NO. 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE MCCORMICK SCHOOL MUSEUM

MAY/JUN 2024

Volunteer Spotlight

Lyndon and Tammy Drew

A new feature article in the MSM Bellringer will occasionally highlight our volunteers and their work at the museum. In this issue we introduce Lyndon and Tammy Drew, special research librarians and archivists. Mr. and Mrs. Drew began visiting the museum in 2017 while preparing for Lyndon's 50th high school reunion which included a tour of the museum.

Both Lyndon and Tammy attended Wichita Public Schools. Lyndon is an alumnus of West High and keeps in touch with many USD259 alumni, including former McCormick Elementary students (McCormick was a feeder school to West High). During their working years, Lyndon directed the Catholic Charities Foster Grandparents program, and Tammy was a volunteer and staff member for the Pando Initiative at Stanley Elementary, their neighborhood school.

When Lyndon retired from the Foster Grandparent program, he and Tammy began to volunteer at McCormick School Museum, while continuing their work with Pando's Reality University. Gradually, Lyndon's strength and stamina slipped away and fatigue made any prolonged activity progressively impossible. This led to a diagnosis of a brain tumor requiring immediate surgery. A lengthy recovery followed allowing him to regain the use of his left foot, leg, and hand. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Tammy and many health providers, Lyndon is now recovered and volunteers for the museum once again.

Lyndon and Tammy (with the help of Lyndon's sister and brother-in-law, Karen and Alan Hemenway, who check all the local estate sales) regularly donate school yearbooks and text books to the museum. They contribute both time and expense while encouraging others to visit the museum in search of information about former school mates and/or school activities. Lyndon also enjoys researching topics that may be on the museum staff's agenda.

Lyndon enjoys sharing the findings of his museum research with friends. For example, this past December, he and Tammy participated in the annual McCormick evening of Christmas caroling. While wandering through classroom exhibits, they discovered a photo of a centennial mural that was hung at Lincoln Elementary School. One of Lyndon's former classmates had been looking for this mural for years and was happy to see it again as he had helped to create it. Lyndon uses a Flickr album of photos and histories of the Wichita Public Schools when he conducts his research studies. He also notes that the McCormick School Museum website has elementary school photo albums with class photos.

Lyndon and Tammy would like to see McCormick School Museum institute a fun night where former PTA (PTO) members could organize activities such as bingo and a cake walk. Former McCormick PE teachers could plan a field day and invite former students and



community members to participate. Both agree that such activities would be great "Fun"draisers for the museum to "Keep the Bell Ringing!"

For more information about how you can volunteer, please contact the museum at 316-708-0676 (call and text) or at mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com. We would love to include your name on our museum's volunteer roster soon!

OUR MISSION

The mission of the McCormick School Museum is to showcase and protect its historical and architectural importance while telling the story of Wichita Public Schools through artifacts and archives.

The mission of the Advisory Council is to guide and assist in long-range planning, marketing, and development of the McCormick School Museum, seeking opportunities for growth and recognition through increased educational opportunities and significant fundraising efforts.

The Newsletter of the McCormick School Museum, Inc. is published six times per year to inform constituents of the Wichita Public Schools and other interested patrons of activities and events taking place at the museum. Contributions help us to produce this publication.

You may send your gift to
McCormick School Museum, Inc. at:

McCormick School Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 12881
Wichita, Kansas 67277
savemccormick.com

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Dr. Donovan Moore Archival Research Area

In March, an extended research space near the archival collections room was completed by Reconstruction Services, LLC owned by Dan Rutherford. In April, the McCormick School Museum Board of Directors voted to name it the Dr. Donovan Moore Archival Research Area. The late Dr. Moore was a teacher and elementary principal in the Wichita Public Schools, and a devoted volunteer and supporter of the McCormick School Museum. The newly-dedicated area will be used by staff and patrons as a convenient place to work and temporarily store archival and research materials for accessioning.

The public is invited to come and view our historical school exhibits, but more importantly, to utilize the museum's archival repositories of school records and documents when conducting family research. Housed within the museum are historical classrooms, school-related artifacts, books, and various records of student, teacher, staff, and school information found in board agendas and minutes, newspaper clippings, school directories, class/student/staff photos, class lists, scrapbooks, and the largest collection of Wichita Public Schools elementary, middle (junior high) school, and high school yearbooks in the City of Wichita. This information can assist the family historian to discover educational details of family members and ancestors.

Researchers can call the staff at MSM (316-708-0676) to set up an appointment. Be prepared with basic information about the research topic such as the full name(s), birthdate(s), school(s) and dates attended. If files are located, the researcher can utilize the Dr. Donovan Moore Archival Research Area to conduct the desired reading. A photocopier and scanner are available, and items may be temporarily stored in the research area while work is being conducted.

Admission to the museum for research is by donation and is greatly appreciated. Onsite research may be conducted during the museum hours on Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to noon, or by special arrangement for more involved projects. For more information about how you can utilize the archival collections at MSM, please contact the museum at 316-708-0676 (call and text) or at mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com. We would love to assist you with your research endeavors!



Recently, Val Cheatham initiated the platform lift, which now provides access to all floors in the 1930's building. Photographer: Jane Dooley

EVENTS & MUSEUM HOURS

The McCormick School Museum is open Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Park to the north of the building; enter through door #4 (closest entrance to the parking lot). Ring the doorbell if needed. You may call 316-708-0676 to confirm museum hours before your visit or to schedule tours.

The Museum complex is located at 855 S. Martinson in Wichita. Currently, the 1930s building, including the multipurpose room, is handicap-accessible. Admission is by donation; your support is always appreciated.

JUNE 1, 2024

16 mm Film Fest, 5 to 7 pm.

Rick Every will be our host for a showing of entertaining and educational 16mm films from both the McCormick School Museum film archives and Rick's own personal collection. Rick is the former projectionist at the Orpheum Theatre and technician at KAKE-TV and Century II; he is a

renowned local reel to reel film expert and collector of 16mm films and equipment. The feature film will be "They Said It Couldn't Be Done" produced in 1970 by Bell Telephone with narration by Lee Marvin and music by the 5th Dimension. This film features engineering feats such as the Hoover Dam, the Transcontinental Railway, the Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Rushmore, etc. During the 15-minute intermission, we will be highlighting pre-World War II science and geography high school curricula from our collection of lantern slides shown using our antique 1928 projector. Come enjoy freshly-popped popcorn and ice-cold lemonade from our concession stand. Admission at the door is by a suggested donation of \$10 with proceeds going towards supporting the museum. This event will be fun for all ages, so bring your families. Check our social media sites for more information.

For more information and to contact the museum:

Website: www.mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com
Facebook: McCormick School Museum
Gmail: mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com
Telephone: 316-708-0676 (call or text)