



MSM Bellringer

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NEWSLETTER OF THE MCCORMICK SCHOOL MUSEUM

NOV 2023

Progress You Can See!

If you have not driven by the McCormick School Museum lately, take some time to do so to see the restoration work in progress. Immediately noticeable is the striking, bright limestone color of the 1890/1910 building which was washed early in October during those unseasonably hot days of this past fall.

To compare the limestone blocks from “what was” to now, look at the small, darkly stained limestone pedestal on the east side of the building near the street, and then look over the pedestal at the “new” limestone exterior of the school. The improvement is immediately and pleasingly noticeable! While standing at the pedestal, look up to the roof over the front doors and you will notice that the capstone is missing. This unusually-shaped stone was carefully measured and then removed late in October and will be replaced with a newly carved identical limestone capstone later this fall or early winter.

Next, notice also the new number “855” in the archway over the school’s front door. This number structure holds one of several security lights around the exterior of the building. These lights are motion-sensitive and will shine brightly when activated to provide much needed security around the outside of the building.

On the inside, the visitor will notice a polished shine to the auditorium floor provided by the “new to MSM” buffer and floor machines. Plans are to polish and shine additional interior floors as project improvements are installed and completed. One such project is the addition of a Canon copier/printer which is network capable and can provide copy size up to 11x17 inches (which is a good size for a museum with a collection of large archival prints). Another project, less visible, but important none-the-less, is the installation of new electrical wiring and outlets/lighting fixtures for interior security systems and artifact display.

If you have not driven by yet, we invite you to do so soon because projects that you can observe coming up in the near future include new mortar installed in the exterior limestone block gaps, newly painted (white) window and door frames and covers, new limestone blocks to replace broken and severely cracked blocks, and, of course, a newly carved capstone on the roof above the arched front doors.

Once you do come by, we invite you to stop in and say HI! With the holidays fast approaching, we are in the festive mood and want to share festivities with you in an “old-fashioned” way. In this MSM Bellringer issue, you will find an Events article with our upcoming Christmas holiday happenings. Make plans to join us for at least one of these events and include us in your festive activities, please. We would love to have you. Come by and join us soon and see our progress!

ABOVE RIGHT Using a Genie lift, workers removed the carved capstone on October 31.



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

In Remembrance

Joe Ray Baughman 1950 – 2023

Joe Ray Baughman was born in Wichita on June 27, 1950; he grew up and attended school in Wichita. He served during the Vietnam War and was a proud Army veteran. He worked in the Sedgwick County Data Processing Department and retired in 2007. Joe was married to Linda for almost twenty-five years, and together they enjoyed traveling to the mountains of Colorado and the white sandy beaches of Grand Cayman. He was a proud father to his two sons, Douglas and Glenn. He was a man of many interests which included helping others with computers, genealogy, history, photography, and traveling, to name a few. As an alumnus of McCormick Elementary School, Joe spent many hours faithfully assisting the McCormick School Museum staff with various technology and computer projects. Joe passed away on July 3, 2023 and was laid to rest at the Old Pioneer Cemetery in Cheney. Joe's willingness to lend his technological expertise is missed by the staff and friends of McCormick School Museum.

Edited from obituary posted at Legacy.com

Lela Heacock 1944 – 2023

Lela (Cox) Heacock was born on January 20, 1944 and was raised on the Kansas plains. Lela attended school in Burns and graduated from Florence High School. She attended Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia where she earned an Elementary Education teaching degree. She taught second grade at Chisholm Trail Elementary School and then at L'Ouverture Computer Technology Magnet Elementary School from 1966 to 1994; a memorial brick on the walkway of the McCormick School Museum commemorates her teaching career. Lela and her husband, Chuck, were happily married, raised two children, and spent much time together while traveling and pursuing Lela's many social activities and projects. Lela was actively involved in many organizations such as the Lions Club, Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority, and the Wichita Area Retired School Personnel, recently serving as President of the Board of Directors of the McCormick School Museum, Inc. Lela passed on October 15, 2023. Lela's energetic enthusiasm and magnetic charm are missed by the staff and friends of McCormick School Museum.

Edited from obituary posted at Legacy.com and First United Methodist Church Wichita YouTube video.

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 in the north parking lot; enter through the north door from the parking lot. Ring the doorbell if needed. You may call 316-708-0676 to confirm museum hours before your visit and to schedule tours.

The Museum complex is located at 855 S. Martinson in Wichita. The museum complex is not handicap accessible at this time. Free admission; donations are always appreciated.

Plan now to take part in the Winter Holiday Festivities at the McCormick School Museum. Tour the building to see the school decorated for an 1890's festive season. This year's holiday ornament is a charming, colorful Christmas tree with a golden banner that reads "McCormick Museum 2023" across the bottom. Ornaments are available NOW. There is a limited quantity, so attend one of these holiday events, or better yet come by the museum to purchase your collectible keepsake before they are all gone.

DECEMBER 1

Annual Holiday Open House, 9 am to 5 pm. Include McCormick School Museum's annual Holiday Open House in your seasonal traditions and festivities. Musical performances by students from 9 am to 3pm. The 2023 McCormick School Museum holiday ornament will be for sale while supplies last. All ages welcome.

DECEMBER 2 AND 3

Holiday Open House Weekend, Sat. and Sun. 12 to 5 pm. Take a tour or browse through the museum on your own. See what it was like to experience an old-fashioned festive season in school. Ring the school bell and celebrate the holiday season! The 2023 McCormick School Museum holiday ornament will be for sale while supplies last. All ages welcome.

DECEMBER 14

Sing Around the Tree, 6:30 to 8 pm. Sing and be merry at this seasonal McCormick School Museum holiday evening event. Doors open at 6, singing begins at 6:30. Enjoy some hot apple cider and ring the school bell. The 2023 McCormick School Museum holiday ornament will be for sale while supplies last. All ages welcome.

JANUARY 27, 2024

Kansas Day Chili Feed, 5 to 7 pm. Celebrate Kansas Day in an 1890s kind of way with homemade chili (and toppings), cornbread, and cobbler! Vote for your favorite chili. Winners from last year's chili feed are featured in this year's assortment. Suggested donation: \$10/kids under 12 are \$5. Readings and music included! All ages welcome to this fundraiser.