



Volunteer Spotlight: Dennis Duty

The Volunteer Spotlight this month is on Dennis Duty, current MSM Board member and Manager of the MSM Print Shop. Dennis has volunteered at the museum since May of 2007 when he helped with a museum fundraiser for the Young Teacher Scholarship Program. As a member of the Wichita Association of Retired School Personnel (WARSP), he was approached by Donovan Moore about restoring to operational condition the printing equipment in the basement of the 1890s building. Dennis agreed, setting up a representation of an 1890s newspaper print shop using old typesetting equipment salvaged from the now obsolete Wichita Public Schools printing education program.

His next project was to develop and install the Vocational/Industrial Arts exhibit just outside the print shop. He also developed a temporary exhibit of McCormick Elementary School students who participated in scouting programs while attending McCormick.

Dennis was born and raised in Wichita and attended Wichita Public Schools from kindergarten through high school. His son, Joel, also attended public schools in Wichita, including several years at McCormick Elementary School. Dennis worked in the printing trade for forty-five years in several commercial print shops in Wichita, eventually retiring from a position with the USD259 Production Print Center.

Dennis brings his printing skills into the twenty-first century by acting as the Webmaster for the museum's webpage (mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com). From time to time, he also scans photos from USD259 school yearbooks creating a digital record of these past images.

Dennis enjoys meeting museum visitors. He likes to explain the importance of the printing trade and wonders where we would be without printers who spread the printed words to others. His wish for MSM is to provide access for senior citizens and people with disabilities to every display area in the museum.

The next time you are at the museum, stop in the print shop and say Hi to Dennis; he would love to see you! The museum is located at 855 S. Martinson in Wichita. Museum hours of operation and contact information can be found in this Bellringer Newsletter.



Dennis Duty demonstrates the operation of the restored 1876 Washington Flatbed Newspaper Press. Photographer: Cynthia Rhodes

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

Boiler-Cooked Potato Bake is set for March 15

Long before McCormick Elementary School closed in the spring of 1992, Ken Shaff, the custodian from 1987 to 1997, discovered that he could bake a potato for his lunch in the old Kewanee boiler. This became an expanded tradition when the McCormick School Museum and Science Center was established in the fall of 1992. Museum Programs developed a role-playing unit to meet third and fourth grade history curriculum objectives. Students from all over the district could experience a half-day of lessons taught in the restored 1890s Classroom and try their hand at various craft activities such as paper cutting, wheat weaving, spool tractors, and corn husk dolls.

One hands-on period craft was butter making. Upon arrival, students were informed that they would be eating specially prepared baked potatoes for lunch. An old wire brochure rack was placed inside the Kewanee Boiler and loaded with foil-wrapped potatoes. As lunchtime approached, each student was provided with a baby food jar filled with fresh cream to vigorously shake until the contents transformed into butter that—with an added pinch of salt—could be spread on their boiler-baked potato.

Museum volunteers from the Wichita Association of Retired School Personnel (WARSP) revived this practice by holding a St. Patrick's Day-themed luncheon meeting at McCormick in 2007.

March 15 marks the 3rd annual McCormick School Museum Boiler-Cooked Potato Bake. For a donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under, a patron can enjoy a delicious baked potato, green salad, beverages of tea and water, and dessert. Fixings provided to top the potatoes include grated cheese, diced green



Paul Oberg loads potatoes for baking into the Kewanee boiler.
Photographer: Cynthia Davie

onions, sour cream, soft butter, bacon bits, chili, and more! A family-friendly event, the tables are decorated in green for St. Patrick's Day. Museum curator, Paul Oberg, will provide musical entertainment while diners eat.

Funds raised by the potato bake will be used for museum operating expenses. Tell your friends and stop by the museum anytime between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm on March 15th to experience a "bit o' the Irish." Enjoy a delicious boiler-baked potato and support McCormick School Museum.

EVENTS & MUSEUM HOURS

The McCormick School Museum is open Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Sunday 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 outside regular hours.

The Museum complex is located at 855 S. Martinson in Wichita. Currently, the stairway to the multipurpose room is handicap-accessible for events. Admission is by donation; your support is always appreciated.

SAVE THE DATES

MARCH 15

Boiler-Cooked Potato Bake. 4:30 to 6:30 pm
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and enjoy a large, delicious baked potato (freshly baked in the museum boiler) with all the toppings, a green salad, and dessert. Live music and entertainment are

provided. Suggested donation: \$10; kids under 12 are \$5. Wear green!

MAY (TBA)

16mm Film Fest. 5 to 7 pm

Enjoy freshly popped popcorn and ice-cold lemonade from the concession stand as you watch entertaining and educational 16mm films from the McCormick School Museum film archives. Fun for all ages; families are invited. Watch social media sites for more information as the date approaches.

To reserve a room for your event, contact the museum office for reservation information and availability of dates.

For more information and to contact the museum:

Website: www.mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com
Donations: www.savemccormick.com
Facebook: McCormick School Museum
Gmail: mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com
Telephone: 316-708-0676 (call or text)
MSM Office: 316-558-5804 (leave a message)