Garage Sale Update

Here is the news you’ve been waiting to hear!

We have new dates for the 2020 Annual Garage Sale!

The garage sale will be held on two different weekends this year so that we can ensure the safety of our volunteers and shoppers. Cook and Catalent employees and History Center Members will be invited to shop on Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3. The sale will then open to the general public on Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17.

We will provide more details on hours and how everything will work as we get closer to the sale. Be sure to check our website and social media for updates and for details on the car that will be sold.

Donations can be made at the garage sale site (4015 W. Profile Parkway, Bloomington) on Wednesday from 10 am to 2pm. Please check our Website, Facebook page, or call us at 812-332-2517 for updates.

History of the MCHC Garage Sale

In 1981, a small group of volunteers set out to raise money for the History Center by holding a weekend flea market sale. Over the course of a month they collected items donated from the community, and priced and set everything up at the old Seward Foundry building on North Rogers Street. That first sale raised just over $1000.

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With that success the sale turned into an annual event. Each year volunteers took a month in the summer to collect and set up for a weekend sale. One year, the team was invited to hold the sale in the old RCA warehouse before it was purchased by Cook. Eventually, Cook donated the year-round use of that same warehouse for the sale. Revenue jumped dramatically that year as the team was now able to collect donations and store them in one place throughout the year. Each year the team “refined” the interior of the warehouse. Old equipment was gradually removed, walls were painted, and shelving was added. Two volunteers with retail merchandising skills joined the team and changed the entire look of the sale.

This year we celebrate our 39th annual garage sale which also happens to be the History Center’s biggest fundraiser. The sale now nets over $100,000 per year which supports artifact preservation, exhibits, programs, and the research library at the History Center. This year’s sale is in the newly renovated Cook Group warehouse at 4015 Profile Parkway.

Our thanks go to Cook Group for their generosity in renovating the warehouse so it could be used for the sale and for allowing the History Center to continue to use this space year round. We just couldn’t do what we do without their generosity.

**Summer Sale**

Inside the Monroe County History Center we are featuring summer items from our garage sale. We have everything you need for a fun summer. There are wagons, kids bikes, puzzles, pie pans, rolling pins, and much, much more. Stop by the Monroe County History Center to shop the Summer Sale! Open during regular business hours.
Greetings friends and fellow history-lovers,

I hope this month’s newsletter finds you doing well, despite the continued community-wide challenges posed by COVID-19. I’ve always been one to look for the silver lining of otherwise daunting situations. Thankfully, where the History Center is concerned, I’ve not had to look very hard to find several shining examples of creativity and caring over the course of the past few months.

New policies and safety measures designed to help keep visitors and staff safe have recently been implemented throughout the History Center. One of those measures was the requirement to wear a mask in the building. To ensure that we have enough masks on hand for every visitor who needs one, one of our wonderful History Center volunteers has been donating beautiful hand-sewn masks. A big thanks goes out to Susan Jones for all her generous stitching!

I am proud of the History Center’s Board of Trustees, and all the wisdom they have imparted to help us stay on the right track during a challenging time. We’ve all become more skilled at using Zoom to meet remotely, and even though we’ve been able to resume some meetings at the History Center, we’ve also recognized that offering an online option is a way to make our meetings more accessible. Likewise, I’ve been thankful for all the volunteers who have been returning to work on projects at the History Center, but I remain thankful for those who have found ways to continue working on projects from home and trust that is something we’ll be continuing once the pandemic is over as well.

As many of you know, our largest annual fundraiser is the Garage Sale. The dedicated team of volunteers who work year-round to make that event such a great success were obviously disappointed that they were not able to have a sale in June, but they have continued to think creatively about new ways to help raise money to support the History Center. On that note, I am especially thankful for the efforts of Sue Ellen Bowman, her husband Jack (bike repairman extraordinaire!), and all the volunteers who helped with the Bike Sale on July 4th. Together, they raised nearly $2000, and many community members were thrilled to find such great bikes. The Garage Sale volunteers are now planning for sale in October and are taking great care to implement measures that will help to ensure everyone’s safety. We are especially grateful for the immense generosity inherent in Cook’s willingness to allow a sale this year, and for all the help they are providing to make it possible.

I have also been amazed by the innovative and creative ways that the History Center’s staff have found to share information and educational programming with our community this year. With the help of IU’s Visualization lab, our Education Manager, Andrea Hadsell, has been working to create an astounding 3D tour of the History Center that can be enjoyed from the comfort and safety of your own home. When launched, this tour will include access to the Hoosier History exhibit that was replaced by the T.C. Steele exhibit in July. Even though this project started as a way to provide access to the History Center during our closure earlier this year, the digitization effort now shows promise as a way to preserve exhibit experiences and make them available to future generations. The 3D tour, in addition to the online collections database on the History Center’s website, ensure that you have access and opportunities to learn about Monroe County’s history at anytime and from anywhere.

Undaunted by the temporary closure of the History Center this spring, our staff members have also persisted in efforts to provide programming for members of our community. Despite the pandemic, we have continued to offer online care partner training sessions as part of the ongoing “Living with History” program that seeks to serve members of the community living with dementia, and the people who care for them. Our virtual memory walks have also been a bright spot in the day for those experiencing memory loss. Workshops demonstrating how to sew a sash for the upcoming women’s suffrage centennial march on August 29th are also being offered online. If you missed the first workshop, there’s still time to pick up a free sash kit at the History Center and join the next online sash-making workshop on August 15th. Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn’t note my appreciation for the continued camaraderie of the History Book Club. In the past few months, we have been thrilled to find that our monthly discussions are just as lively online.

When 2020 gave us an abundance of proverbial lemons, I’m proud to say that everyone involved at the History Center decided to make lemonade. The things we have had to learn this year, and the changes we have had to make in response to a challenging situation, will have lasting positive effects on our staff, our volunteers, and our entire community.

With sincere thanks for all these silver linings, and with best wishes for your continued health,

Jennifer Borland
President
Dr. David H. Maxwell moved his family to Bloomington about 1819 and established his home at the northwest corner of the intersection of what is now known as Kirkwood Avenue and Washington Street on the lot that later became home to Worley’s Tavern.¹

Worley’s Tavern is believed to be Bloomington’s first hotel and would later number among the best hotels of the state. It was built by Zimri Worley immediately west of where the CVS Pharmacy is currently located. Worley conducted the place for 17 years. Sometime before his death in 1885, Worley traded the property on which the hotel stood for another piece of property on West Sixth Street where he lived for the remainder of his life.²

There is no certainty as to when Worley’s Tavern became known as the National House. It is, however, known that General Tom Browne, a Republican running for Congress, made a speech at a mass meeting from the steps of the National House in 1872.³ It was estimated that 4,000 people attended that event.

In 1881, the Bloomington Hawkeye ran an ad for the National House, in which it was described as “one square east of the public square, with big fat beds and a table furnished with the best the land produces.”⁴

The National House was destroyed by fire on an unspecified date. E. T. Taylor reportedly then sold the ground on which it stood to P. C. Withersby and Drury Hodges for $1,600 in April 1873.⁵ (See also Monroe County Deed Book 4, p. 272.) Paris Dunning, a former resident of Bloomington and Indiana’s ninth governor, was a guest at the National House when he died there in 1884.⁶

In 1884, the National House was remodeled. In 1894 it was described in a newspaper advertisement as “one of the most home-like hotels in the country and scores of traveling men make it a point to reach Bloomington each week in order that they may spend Sunday at the ‘National.’”⁷

John T. Bundy of French Lick moved to Bloomington in 1898 to engage in the hotel business. He rented the National House from H. B. Gentry and bought all the furniture.⁸ At the time of his purchase, the hotel consisted of 28 rooms. He changed the name of the hotel from the National House to the Bundy Hotel. About 1913, Bundy suffered a stroke of paralysis and died the following year.⁹

After Bundy’s death in 1914, the hotel was renamed the Kirkwood Hotel and was under the management of M. D. Wells for a number of years.¹⁰ The Kirkwood had a dining room that seated 100 guests. A special Easter dinner was offered by the hotel in 1915 for just thirty-five cents.¹¹ In 1917, the dining room at the Kirkwood Hotel was closed and the hotel was converted from the American Plan, which included meals, to the European Plan, lodging only.¹² Kirkwood Hotel remained the name at least until 1930 when it was noted at 117 ½ E. Kirkwood in the Bloomington City Directory.

By 1938–39, according to the Bloomington City Directory, the property at 117 ½ E. Kirkwood was identified as the Indiana Hotel. All rooms had a bath with hot and cold running water by 1950. In 1964, the Bloomington City Directory noted that the property at that address was vacant. Thus ended an era of a hotel at that address for well over a century.
The Cutting Down of the Trees on Kirkwood Avenue in 1961

By Bre Anne Briskey

On Monday, 13 March 1961, several trees were cut down on Kirkwood Avenue between Washington Street and Indiana Avenue. As of Wednesday, March 15th, fifteen trees were cut down from the south side of the street and thirty trees were cut down from the north side of the street, with the Bloomington Street Department working to remove the trees. This went against what Mayor Thomas L. Lemon previously told people; supposedly in a 1960 meeting, Mayor Lemon stated that no widening would be undertaken from Dunn Street to Indiana. As a result of this tree cutting, the vast majority of residents were unhappy. Furthermore, the city installed fourteen new light posts. In the Daily Herald Telephone, it was noted that the order to remove the trees to widen Kirkwood came as an executive order from the office of Mayor Lemon. The trees that were cut down were taken to the city dump. The city street commissioner, Ray Richardson, said, “We can’t go into the firewood business [and while people can pick up the wood, the city] couldn’t go around town delivering wood, so we took it all to the dump.”

In “Roundin’ The Square,” Chris Clements commented on the tree cutting on Kirkwood Avenue. He thought that the name should be changed to Kirk Ave. as the wood was gone. Furthermore, Clements noted that “the tree-cutting incident was the topic all around the square. One fellow told him that Kirk Ave. would be recognized as the ‘Great Blight Way.’ Still another said you used to walk down it, now you’ll have to stump it. Other jollies were making the rounds. Ted Bushman, who goes for the highbrow jab, said he thought it was nice. ‘Since Washington got to be president by capitalizing on chopping down only one tree, this might prove interesting.’”

In the “Reader’s Opinion,” E. L. Craig wrote a letter to the editor on the cutting down of the trees. He wrote that:

“The accomplishments of the city administration are being sensationallly nullified by the planned destruction on East Kirkwood. I must protest the cutting of the trees on this once delightful street. Whatever the problems involved may be, the present project is a dismal failure. This street, linking town and university, ought to be something more than a dreary string development. In time some modernization with its glass and glitter (and neon signs) will no doubt give the street an air of tawdry elegance. The fact remains the street is a festering gash on the face of the city without its trees. I can only think that this can come about by being ruthlessly imposed on the town’s luckless inhabitants. Business and property owners need be discriminating in their interest. They may well ponder what they have traded for a few feet of asphalt of dubious necessity. People frequent certain areas because among other reasons, it is agreeable. They like to be there. They do not willingly traffic in a disagreeable environment. Will the crowds be in the dejected, despoiled center, or will they go ‘out’ whenever possible? The city administration has been stupid. No doubt it thinks everyone else is too. It has not had the imagination to come up with a plan for East Kirkwood that would respect the intelligence and good sense of this community. To all appearances it has assumed that the only values to which the people of this town can give allegiance are the rather special and inferior ones of the ubiquitous traffic engineer.”

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On 17 March 1961, the *Indiana Daily Student* reported on the tree cutting. Including a picture of the tree stumps on Kirkwood, the author wrote that Mayor Thomas L. Lemon issued an executive order to widen Kirkwood Avenue, from Washington to Indiana, by cutting down the trees. The author noted that the “bare, shorn stumps in front of the shops [were] not pleasant. Was there ever, except for rush hours or a busy weekend, enough traffic on Kirkwood avenue to warrant removing things that added so to the beauty of the street?”

On 18 March 1961, the *Daily Herald-Telephone* published several commentaries, titled “Woodman, Spare That Tree!” regarding the cutting down of the trees on Kirkwood Avenue. One person called this act the horrors:

“To me these trees represented beauty and dignity. Nowhere else in the city did trees offer so much aesthetic value. However, they now will be no longer seen as they have been torn down for the betterment of the city and progress. Why should the city take trees which have stood as mighty fortresses on Kirkwood for such a long time. Is it just because we have a need for street expansion for our overcrowded downtown traffic flow? Is it just because it will speed up the traffic flow and meet the demands for more traffic space due to the increasing amount of cars using the downtown streets[?]”

When Patricia M. Elsen wrote to the editor, she noted that other cities in the United States and the world planted trees to beautify the downtown cities and she believed that:

“The Kirkwood merchants and the mayor, with mistaken and limited commercial viewpoints, have bared to the hot summer sun and the public gaze a street of unusually ugly, junky, cheap little shops. It is up to those who care that public property was destroyed without warning to react in a way these men understand: boycott. … until those trees are replaced and the merchants police [sic] up their shoddy buildings and garish neon signs.”

Similarly, Ruth Newton wrote that: “With the destruction of the lovely trees on Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington joins the thousands of small cities in the United States which share their drabness, their dreariness, their unconcern with beauty.” In response to the city cutting down the trees on Kirkwood, Black Bart the PO-3 wrote a poem expressing his dismay. Calling it an “Ode to Dreary Old Fifth Street (Formerly known as tree-lined Kirkwood Avenue),” the author reflected on why the trees were beautiful and lamented that Mayor Lemon allowed the trees to be cut down.

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*Bloomington Daily Herald-Telephone, March 18, 1961, Section 1, p. 6.*

**TO THE EDITOR:**

**Ode to Dreary Old Fifth Street**

(formerly known as tree-lined Kirkwood Avenue)

I think that I shall never see
A lamp post shady as a tree,
A tree that foiled the heat that prest
My shirt upon my sweaty chest,
A tree that sheltered all the day
Pedestrians upon their way,
A tree that screened the wear and tear
Of sunshine on my thinning hair,
Upon its beauty eye has lain
That now must squint to stand the strain
Tom was elected by chumps like me
But only God can make a tree.

(With apologies to everyone, and especially to Joyce Kilmer.) —Black Bart the PO-3

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**Notes**

6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
CURRENT EXHIBITS

Online Exhibit Spotlight: *Monroe County’s Firsts: Breaking the Color Barrier* celebrates the triumphs of Monroe County’s African American citizens and the vast accomplishments achieved throughout the county’s two hundred years. You can visit the digital version of this exhibition through the “online exhibits” tab on our website: monroehistory.org. This exhibit was made possible with funding from the Operation Round Up program of SCI REMC and the Wylie Foundation. We are always updating this digital exhibit as we gather more information and photographs. If you have details to add or someone you would like to recommend for the exhibit, please let us know.

BROWN GALLERY: Transportation in Monroe County

For the past 200 years, the import and export of raw materials, finished goods, and even people has been a challenge for those living in Monroe County. Exhibits in the Brown Gallery tell the story of how Monroe County continued to grow despite obstacles presented by hilly terrain and a region without a major water source. The ongoing theme of the exhibits in the Brown Gallery will be transportation in Monroe County with changing artifacts throughout the year.

HILL GALLERY: Stitched with Love: Family Quilts

Quilts have the ability to symbolize a family’s love for each other through their patterns, materials, and purpose. The variety of colors from a beloved husband and father’s ties, the flower designs stitched together with pieces of cotton fabrics or the family photos included in the designs, each quilt on display tells an intimate part of its family’s history. *Open through September 30th, 2020.*

RECHTER GALLERY: Hoosier-in-Residence: T. C. Steele’s Franklin Hall Studio

Born and raised a Hoosier, T. C. Steele brought the beauty of the Indiana landscape to a developing modern world. For the last four years of his life T. C. and Selma Steele made Bloomington their home from fall to spring, spending the other half at the House of Singing Winds in nearby Brown County. While serving as IU’s first artist-in-residence, he was given a studio at the top of Franklin Hall. This summer the History Center will rebuild that studio to show the impact T. C. and Selma had on Indiana University and Bloomington. *Open through November 13th, 2020.*

DECKARD EDUCATION ROOM:

VOTES FOR WOMEN: The Women’s Suffrage Movement in Monroe County

Highlighting the remarkable women of Monroe County who fought for more than 50 years for the right to vote, this exhibit introduces visitors to the political activities of the Equal Suffrage Club and the Bloomington Franchise League in the context of the State and National suffrage movement. The exhibit is free and open to the public in the Deckard Education Room and will be *on display until December 30th, 2020.*

COMMUNITY VOICES CASE:

The T.C. Steele State Historic Site

For July and August, to celebrate our new exhibit in the Rechter Gallery, the Community Voices Case will be focusing on our neighbor the T.C. Steele State Historic Site. The site is offering reserved guided tours of the house and grounds and has self-guided tours available for the Formal Gardens and hiking trails. Keep up to date on the status of programs and events through their website: indianamuseum.org/t-c-steele-state-historic-site.
BLACK WOMEN and the STRUGGLE for SUFFRAGE

By Audrey Thomas McCluskey

Black Women’s clubs that took root in small towns like Richmond, Indiana, growing cities like Indianapolis, and large metropolises like Chicago and New York, came together to form the first national organization of Black women, the National Association of Colored Women in 1896. With an agenda that focused on education, anti-lynching, women’s suffrage, and mutual self-help, the NACW was attuned to the aspirations and challenges facing Black citizens emanating from centuries of enslavement and virulent, ongoing racial discrimination. Unlike White women suffragists, Black clubwomen did not view suffrage as a panacea for the multiple and interlocking issues that confronted them. Also unlike White suffragists, Black clubwomen cheered the 15th Amendment to the Constitution that granted the vote to Black males. It simply was not enough. Like Madame CJ Walker, the Indianapolis based millionaire who gave Black clubwomen financial support, they wanted to “stand on their own ground.” Their quest for the vote did not end or begin there.

Sojourner Truth, born Isabel Bumfree, escaped her enslavement in upstate New York in 1826, one year before the Empire state abolished slavery. As her new name foretold, Truth traveled widely preaching abolition and women’s suffrage. She attended the second women’s rights convention in Akron, Ohio in 1851 where members of both sexes hotly debated the issue of women’s suffrage. After sitting quietly listening to men argue that women were fragile creatures who should mind the domestic sphere and not burden themselves with the weighty issue of voting, Truth rose and walked slowly to the front to speak amidst hecklers yelling at her to “Sit down!” Undeterred, she began her extemporaneous speech with the refrain, “Ain’t I A Woman.” It became a clarion call for Black suffragists and an enduring counterpoint to the notion of a protected womanhood. Truth invoked her life as an enslaved woman who “worked as hard” as any man, and “bore the [enslaver’s] lash as well” and had her children sold away “with no sympathy except from Jesus.”

Years later, Harriet Tubman not only freed herself and many other enslaved people, she spent much of her remaining years advocating for women’s suffrage. Black clubwomen embraced this legacy as they continued their multifaceted struggle. Even when not welcomed by White suffragists, they persisted. Ida B. Wells, the pioneering journalist, anti-lynching crusader, and president of the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago, refused the request by White suffragists to have her Alpha Club march in the rear of the historic parade for the vote at the White House in 1913. Such experiences with White suffragists created lasting distrust. Mary Church Terrell, first president of NACW would later say that if White suffragists could have gotten the 19th Amendment passed without including black women, “they would have done so.” In 1920 after ratification, Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida, led a group of black women and men to vote in spite of the Ku Klux Klan nighttime ride through the campus that was a futile effort to scare her away from the polls.

As we celebrate and commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment, we should be encouraged by this hard-fought victory, while not forgetting or whitewashing the fraught and troubled history that was made more difficult by racism and division. Hopefully, we can learn from it and do all in our power to make all voting voices heard, especially voices that have historically been treated as though they do not matter.

Audrey Thomas McCluskey is an Emerita Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University, and the author of “A Forgotten Sisterhood: Black Women Educators in the Jim Crow South.” For more information, visit her website at: www.audreymccluskeyphd.com.
News from the Museum Store

A Forgotten Sisterhood

By Audrey Thomas McCluskey

Emerging from the darkness of the slave era and Reconstruction, black activist women Lucy Craft Laney, Mary McLeod Bethune, Charlotte Hawkins Brown, and Nannie Helen Burroughs founded schools aimed at liberating African-American youth from disadvantaged futures in the segregated and decidedly unequal South. From the late nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries, these individuals fought discrimination as members of a larger movement of black women who uplifted future generations through a focus on education, social service, and cultural transformation. Born free, but with the shadow of the slave past still implanted in their consciousness, Laney, Bethune, Brown, and Burroughs built off each other’s successes and learned from each other’s struggles as administrators, lecturers, and suffragists. Drawing from the women’s own letters and writings about educational methods and from remembrances of surviving students, Audrey Thomas McCluskey reveals the pivotal significance of this sisterhood’s legacy for later generations and for the institution of education itself.

Available at the Museum Store for $20.00

Mary McLeod Bethune
Building a Better World
Essays and Selected Documents

By Audrey Thomas McCluskey & Elaine M. Smith

This volume explores the multi-faceted career of Mary McLeod Bethune (1875–1955) in her roles as stateswoman, politician, educational leader, and social visionary. It offers a unique combination of original documentary sources and analysis of Bethune’s life and work. The more than 70 documents, spanning 53 years of Bethune’s public life, include letters, memoranda, position papers, newspaper columns, interviews, and speeches. Essays by the editors relate these documents to the phases of Bethune’s career.

Available at the Museum Store for $15.00

Imaging Blackness

Edited and Curated by Audrey Thomas McCluskey

These striking, colorful posters, selected from the more than one thousand housed at Indiana University’s Black Film Center/Archive, graphically illustrate the artistic and thematic range of racial representation in the American film industry from its early days through the present. Chosen for their value as cultural artifacts, they combine art and commerce and are richly imbued with historical and social meanings that continue to engage and inform. The earliest posters, such as the one from pioneering black filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, represent truly independent productions. That crop of “race movies,” dating from the late 1920s through the early 1940s, targeted a black audience hungry for respectful images of themselves. In Hollywood films, however, black life was often presented in contorted and narrowly defined ways, reflective of America’s racial morass. Yet as a whole, the posters managed to capture the artistry, if not the full range, of black performance.

Available at the Museum Store for $20.00
Monroe County Historian - August/September 2020

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Sandy Baker and the members of the Indiana Historical Costume Society have been sharing their knowledge with the History Center for the last year. For the Indiana Women’s Suffrage Centennial, Sandy and her cohort are leading workshops for the public to make their own “Votes for Women” sashes and are costuming the actors for our walking tours in the fall. You can even see some of Sandy’s work on display in our exhibit, VOTES FOR WOMEN: The Women’s Suffrage Movement in Monroe County. These talented volunteers have been working tirelessly to share their love of historical costuming and we are so happy to share their work with our community!

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Reminiscing

Rosanna Lieurance Blakely, 98, a longtime resident of Bloomington, IN, died at Landmark of Baton Rouge on June 10, 2020. Born August 12, 1921 in Wilmington, Ohio, she was the daughter of Louis Vandervort and Lucille (Walker) Lieurance. She graduated with honors with an BA degree in English from Miami University of Ohio and later earned an MA from Indiana University in Library Science. She worked as a librarian at the Indiana University Library for 26 years before retiring in 1986.

Jean Diann Balaguras, Diann, as she was known to all, was born on June 20, 1934, in Bluffton, Indiana to Dr. Harry Dwight Brickley and Ina Agar Brickley. Diann was a native of Bluffton, IN. She graduated from Indiana University, where she was Vice President of the I.U. Foundation Steering Committee and President of Kappa AlphaTheta sorority. She was admitted to law school but chose to complete her graduate work at Harvard Business School. Diann spent the majority of her career as a well-known fixture in the Indiana University community as the co-owner of Aristotle’s Bookstore, as well as The Hook & Ladder and Swim & Sport (1968-1998). She was a longtime member and supporter of the I.U. Foundation and the Varsity Club.

Robert (Daley) Mueller, 98, of South Kingstown, passed away on Saturday, May 23rd. She was the wife of the late Conrad George Mueller, who was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She worked for the Monroe County Library system for over 20 years and taught in the School of Library Sciences at I.U. After she retired, she performed volunteer work for the Monroe County Library, the Ellettsville Library, and the Red Cross, where she managed charitable book sales. She was described as being the “driving force” behind these charitable book sales.

Sherry Lee Sonneborn, 68, Sherry was born on April 26, 1952 in Merced, California, the first born to Earl and Kathryn (Daub) Wonsidler, as Earl served in the Air Force. Sherry was always active and on the go. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where she was a leader in Caring Ministries Bereavement Meals. She was a member of Psi Iota Xi philanthropic sorority, served on the board, and found pleasure in volunteering at the thrift shop. Sherry was an avid golfer and was a competitive six time women’s club champion at the Bloomington Country Club, where she also served on the board.
NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY
Compiled by Megan MacDonald and Penelope Mathiesen

Recently Accessioned Items

* Cook, Bob. *Finally, the Bob Cook Book on Bo McMillin*. 1995. Memories and reminiscences of the fabled All-American football figure, coach, and comic, especially at Indiana University. Completed for the Indiana University “I” Men’s Association in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the school’s only undisputed football championship of the Big Ten, America’s premier athletic conference. Includes photos and roster of IU football during his tenure. Gift from the Meadowood Library.


Collections Corner

By Hilary Fleck

The Monroe County History Center works every day to do our best to represent our community including those who are disabled. We were recently given a wonderful collection of artifacts relating to the life of Byron Smith (1945-2016) who was born completely blind but he did not let that hinder him from living a full life. He participated in the University Elementary School’s summer programs, was interviewed by Tommy Bartlett’s TV show “Welcome Travelers” for NBC, and was a founding member of the Council for Community Accessibility in Bloomington. Byron helped make Bloomington and Monroe County into the welcoming and accessible place it is today and we thank him and his wife, Patsy, for donating his story to our collection.

Thank you, Byron and Patsy!

Education Updates

By Andrea Hadsell

We’ve returned to the History Center and it is so good to see familiar faces! Our programs have changed a bit as we explore bringing history to the public in the virtual world. Thanks to the Advanced Visualization Lab in UITS Research Technologies at Indiana University, we have a new and improved virtual gallery experience on our website! With our partners at the Indiana Historical Costume Society, we also hosted our first two sash-making workshops for the Indiana Women’s Suffrage Centennial supported by Indiana Humanities in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities. You can don your suffrage sashes (and a mask) for a commemorative march in August to honor the suffragists in Monroe County.

This fall will include lots of programming for the suffrage centennial, including presentations by Anita Morgan and Jane Giordano Drake. Both scholars will share the stories of women who are not often talked about in the suffrage movement but had a major impact in Indiana. And be sure to join us in September for our downtown Bloomington walking tours with costumed interpreters to learn about local Monroe County suffragists.

Check out our website at www.monroehistory.org for more information and updates!
Monroe County Historical Society’s
Monroe County Historian
August/September 2020
Vol. 2020, Issue 4
Society established 1905
Museum established 1980
For subscription information contact the
Monroe County History Center at
812-332-2517, or visit
www.monroehistory.org

Collection Spotlight

Photo of the Edmondson sisters having
a picnic, c.1920.

Happy Summer Monroe County!

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Check if you are interested in:
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Renew online or donate online at:
http://monroehistory.org/join-and-give

Send to:
Monroe County History Center
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

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