

6-28-22

Dear Family,

Mark and I were so sorry we weren't able to meet with you in person this year. I'm glad Tish was home and she could take a couple of shots to commemorate your visit to the "Merritt House." I hope you find the enclosed material informative.

We were given the "2230 folder" when we bought the home from then St. Joseph Mayor, Bob Judd and his wife

Joan, 5 years ago. We have since remodeled - replaced the lake side deck and added a great deal of landscaping, including a lower patio (lakeside).

We absolutely love the Home and plan to be here forever. So, please let us know if you come our way again, so we can give you and interior tour.

Sincerely,
Janet and Mark Zielke
2230 Lakeshore Drive
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Merritt House, 1925

Dr. Charles W. Merritt and his wife, Jane, built this Colonial Revival style house in 1925. The style, inspired by 18th century American homes, originated from a renewed interest in colonial architecture generated by the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. A 1965 remodeling added the Merritt House's pillared porch, bay window and aluminum siding.

A Chicagoan, Charles Merritt moved to St. Joseph in 1905 and opened a medical practice that lasted until he retired in 1949. He and Jane took leadership roles in many local cultural organizations and lived here until 1951. Later owners have included business executives and schoolteachers, notably longtime residents Mitchell and Ethel Willis.

Merritt House Research Notes

2230 Lake Shore Dr., St. Joseph, MI

Berrien County Tax Rolls, St. Joseph City, 3rd Ward

Year	Name	Property Description	Assessed Value
1926	No listing		
1927	Merritt, C. W.	A parcel of land 60' by 132' in frac sec. 27 T 4S R 19W, Bounded N by Murphy, w by PMRR, S by land of A T Vail est., E. by Lake Shore Rd.	\$2,500
1928	Merritt, C. W.	A parcel of land 60' by 132' in frac sec. 27 T 4S R 19W, Bounded N by Murphy, w by PMRR, S by land of A T Vail E. by Lake Shore Rd.	\$2,500
1929	Merritt, C. W.	A parcel of land 60' by 132' in frac sec. 27 T 4S R 19W, Bounded N by Murphy, w by PMRR, S by land of A T Vail E. by Lake Shore Rd.	\$3,000

City Directories

Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and Niles Directory, 1918, 394:
Merritt, Chas W (Clara E) phys 311 State res 815 Lake blvd.

Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and Niles Directory, 1920, p 367:
Merritt, Chas W (Clara E) phys 311 State res 815 Lake blvd.

Polk's Benton Harbor and St. Joseph Directory (1925), p. 399:
Merritt, Chas W (Jane B) phys. 220 State h 815 Lake blvd.

Polk's Benton Harbor and St. Joseph Directory (1926), 455:
Merritt, Chas W (Jane B) phys 220 State h Lake Shore dr RR1

Polk's Benton Harbor City Directory 1930, Including St. Joseph, p. 119:
Merritt, Chas W (Jane B) phys. 220 State, h ws Lake Shore dr opp Cleveland av

Polk's Benton Harbor and St. Joseph (Michigan) City Directory, 1929, p. 467:
Merritt, Chas W (Jane B; 3) phys. 220 State, h ws Lake Shore dr 1 s PMRR

Polk's Benton Harbor City Directory 1934, Including St. Joseph, p. 105:
Merritt Chas W (Jane B) phys 220 State h ws Lake Shore blvd 1 n Cleveland av
Merritt Chas W jr student r Dr. Chas W Merritt
Merritt Eliz J student r Dr. Chas W Merritt
Merritt Robt W student r Dr. Chas W Merritt

Polk's Benton Harbor City Directory 1936, Including St. Joseph, p. 110:
Merritt Chas W (Jane B) phys 220 State h ws Lake Shore dr at Cleveland av
Merritt Chas W jr student r Dr. Chas W Merritt
Merritt Eliz student r Dr. Chas W Merritt

Polk's Benton Harbor City Directory 1938, Including St. Joseph, p. 96:
Merritt Chas W (Jane B) phys 220 State h 2230 Lake Shore dr

Polk's St. Joseph City Directory 1940, Including Benton Harbor, p. 96:
Merritt Chas W (Jane B) phys 220 State h ws Lake Shore dr 1 n Cleveland av

Polk's St. Joseph City Directory 1945, Including Benton Harbor, p. 111:
Merritt Chas W (Jane B) phys 220 State h 2230 Lake Shore dr

Polk's St. Joseph City Directory 1950, Including Benton Harbor, p. 143:
Merritt Chas W (Jane B) phys 220 State h 2230 Lake Shore dr

Polk's Benton Harbor City Directory 1952, including Euclid Center and St. Joseph, 141:
Muhr, John F. (Muriel C) analysist [sic] Whirlpool h 2230 Lake Shore dr

Polk's Benton Harbor City Directory 1954, including Euclid Center and St. Joseph, 154:
Morrell, Jas. J (Jean L) plant supt Shell Oil Co h 2230 Lake Shore dr

Polk's St. Joseph City Directory 1956, Including Benton Harbor, p. 162:

Steele LaRenia B Mrs slswm Klines Dept store (BH) 2230 Lake Shore dr
Steele Wm C (LaRenia B) tchr h 2230 Lake Shore dr

Polk's Benton Harbor - St. Joseph City Directory 1958, p. 144
Index on page 144 shows the house as "vacant."

Polk's Benton Harbor - St. Joseph City Directory 1959, p. 449
Nickel, Mrs. Norma repr V-M Corp h 2230 Lake Shore dr (SJ)

Polk's Benton Harbor - St. Joseph City Directory 1960, p. 406:
Little Jas R (Ruby A) formn Modern Plastics h 2230 Lake Shore dr
Little Leroy J student r 2230 Lake Shore dr

Polk's Benton Harbor - St. Joseph City Directory 1966, p. 437:
Willis, Mitchell H (Ethel) (Willis Agency) h 2230 Lake Shore Dr. (SJ)

1981 Benton Harbor - St. Joseph City Directory (Taylor, MI: R. L. Polk, 1981), 436:
Willis, Ethel M Mrs retd h 2230 Lake Shore Dr (SJ)

1982 Benton Harbor - St. Joseph City Directory (Taylor, MI: R. L. Polk, 1982), 418:
Willis, Ethel M Mrs retd h 2230 Lake Shore Dr (SJ)

1983 Benton Harbor - St. Joseph Michigan City Directory (Taylor, MI: R. L. Polk & Co., 1983), 136:
Gilmore, Randy & Linda; slsmn h2230 Lake Shore Dr. (SJ)

1985 Benton Harbor - St. Joseph Michigan City Directory (Taylor, MI: R. L. Polk & Co., 1985), 152:
Gilmore, Randy & Linda; slsmn h2230 Lake Shore Dr. (SJ)

1988 Benton Harbor - St. Joseph Michigan City Directory (Taylor, MI: R. L. Polk & Co., 1988), 194:
Gilmore, Randy & Linda; slsmn h2230 Lake Shore Dr. (SJ)

1989 Benton Harbor - St. Joseph Michigan City Directory (Taylor, MI: R. L. Polk & Co., 1989), 181:
Holmes [no first name given] h2230 Lake Shore Dr. (SJ)

1992 Benton Harbor - St. Joseph Michigan City Directory (Taylor, MI: R. L. Polk & Co., 1992), 93:
Holmes, Steven & Ruth fcty wkr Whirlpool Corp h2230 Lake Shore Dr. (SJ)

1996 Benton Harbor – St. Joseph Michigan City Directory (Detroit, MI: R. L. Polk & Co., 1996), 72:
Holmes, Stephen & Ruth mgr Whirlpool Corp h2230 Lake Shore Dr. (SJ)

1997 Benton Harbor – St. Joseph Michigan City Directory (Livonia, MI: R. L. Polk & Co., 1997), 82:
Judd, Robert L. & Joan V. h 2230 Lake Shore Dr (SJ) [Judds are listed as new owners]

1998 Benton Harbor – St. Joseph Michigan City Directory (Livonia, MI: R. L. Polk & Co., 1998), 163:
Judd, Robert L. & Joan V. h 2230 Lake Shore Dr (SJ)

1930 US Census, St. Joseph City, Lake Shore Drive (no house number listed):

Merritt, Charles W. owner of house, value \$15,000; age 48; 28 when married; born in Illinois; father b. Illinois,
mother b. Ohio; occupation: physician

Merritt, Jane, age 49 (number is indistinct); 29 when married; b. in Ohio; father born Ohio; mother b.
Pennsylvania; no occupation

Children: Robert W., 17 b. Michigan

William C., 13, b. Mich.

Elizabeth J., 13, b. Mich.

Theresa A., age 79, mother, widow, b. Ohio, both parents b. Ohio

1943 Telephone Directory

Merritt, C. W. 2230 Lake Shore Dr., St. Joseph

Newspaper Articles

***The News-Palladium*, 20 Nov. 1946**

Gets Word Of Death — Mrs. C. W. Merritt of 2230 Lake Shore drive, received word today of the death last night of her sister, Mrs. May Lee Reeder at her home in Orville, Ohio. Mrs. Reeder visited here for three months last spring. Mrs. Merritt and another sister, Mrs. W. G. Grahl of Chicago, Ill., had just returned Sunday from a visit in Orville where they were called last week because of their sister's illness.

***The News-Palladium*, 27 Dec. 1948**

"Here For Holidays – Miss Ruth Belle Merritt of Whitesboro, N. Y., is a house guest during the holiday season at the home of her cousin, Dr. C. W. Merritt, and Mrs. Merritt, 2230 Lake Shore drive. Miss Merritt is a former St. Joseph resident and well known here, having taught Latin in the high school for a number of years."

***The News-Palladium*, 4 Feb. 1950**

Ex-St. Joe Boy Honored In Book

Dr. Robert W. Merritt, former St. Joseph boy who now lives and works in Plainfield, N. J., is one of the select group mentioned in the new edition of "American Men of Science."

He is the son of Dr and Mrs. C. W. Merritt of 2230 Lake Shore drive. The elder Dr. Merritt is a well-known physician in St. Joseph who retired a year ago after scores of years of practice here. The younger Dr. Merritt is director of adhesive production for the National Starch Products, Inc., of New York. He is a noted researcher in wood and starch chemistry and in the manufacture of adhesives.

***The Herald-Press*, 13 Nov. 1951**

Under "Real Estate Transfers":

Charles W. Merritt and wife to W. Crosby Steele and wife — Part of Secs. 26 and 27, T4S, R19W, city of St. Joseph.

***The Herald-Press*, 6 June 1952**

Miss Betty Jane Merritt, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Merritt, is convalescing from an operation.

The News-Palladium, 24 July 1953

House Guests—Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Morrell and children, Pamela and Gregory, of West Caldwell, N. Y., are spending the week in St. Joseph as the house guests of his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James J. Morrell, 2230 Lake Shore drive.

The News-Palladium, 27 Jan. 1955

Article about James J. Morrell of 2230 Lake Shore Drive, appointed co-vice chairman of annual Red Cross fund drive.

Morrell, who is superintendent of the Shell Oil company's St. Joseph marine terminal, was chairman of the St. Joseph labor division in the 1954 Red Cross drive: He is a member of the St. Joseph Kiwanis club, chairman of the petroleum section of the Twin Cities Area. Safety council, a member of the youth and athletic committee of St. Joseph's Catholic church and a member of the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce.

Morrell is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., and has been with the Shell Oil company for 22 years, with interruptions for military service in World War II and the Korean conflict. He is married and has three children, James, Juliet and John.

The News - Palladium, 7 October 1957

Jane Bingham Bartlett Merritt, 83, wife of Dr. C. W. Merritt, retired St. Joseph physician, died at :15 p.m. Sunday in Memorial hospital.

Mrs. Merritt had been a patient in the hospital since Aug. 24 and had been in poor health since November of last year.

Mrs. Merritt with her husband had lived at 1418 Forres avenue. Dr. Merritt retired in 1949 after practicing medicine in St. Joseph 44 years.

Mrs. Merritt had been a resident of St. Joseph since her marriage to Dr. Charles Walter Merritt on June 3, 1909.

In addition to her husband Mrs. Merritt is survived by three children, Robert Merritt, vice president of National Starch Products corporation of Plainfield, N. J.; Charles William Merritt, design engineer of North American Aviation corporation of Malibu, Calif., and Mrs. Betty Merritt Filstrup, wife of Edward C. Filstrup of St. Joseph, vice president of Covell Manufacturing company, Benton Harbor. Mrs. Merritt also is survived by grandchildren.

NATIVE OF OHIO

Mrs. Merrill was born on a farm near New Plymouth, Ohio. There were five girls and one boy the family. Her brother was the late Dr. H. G. Bartlett, eye, ear, nose and throat specialist of St. Joseph

Mrs. Merritt received her education in New Plymouth and then moved to McArthur, Ohio, to work as chief buyer for a department store in that city.

She and Dr. Merritt were married in Niagara Falls, N.Y., at the home of her sister, Mrs. Leonard Coulter.

Mrs. Merritt's chief interests were always in her home and family. In former days her home on Lake Shore drive, was always a favorite haven for many relatives and friends.

She was a former member of the DAR, the Michigan Children's Aid society, was interested in affairs of the YWCA and up to the time of her death was an active member of the First Congregational church of St. Joseph.

She taught Sunday school classes there for a number of years and was active in the Mary Preston division of the church.

She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and of the Opportunity club.

REMAINS CREMATED

Mrs. Merritt's body was taken this morning to Oakwood crematory in Chicago for cremation. There will be no funeral.

On Wednesday at 10 a. m. there will be a memorial service for her in the Upton chapel of the First Congregational church. Dr. Albert Vail will officiate.

The Kerlikowske funeral home has charge of arrangements.

The News-Palladium, 27 August 1957

Classified Ads: Houses

2230 LAKE SHORE DR.

Beautiful view of Lake. Four bedrooms,

1 ½ baths, near schools. YU 3-2981.

The News-Palladium, Thursday, 10 Oct. 1957

Memorial services for Jane Bingham Bartlett Merritt, 83, wife of Dr. C. W. Merritt, retired St. Joseph physician, were held at 10 a. m. Wednesday in the Upton chapel of the First Congregational church of St. Joseph.

Dr. Albert Vail, retired minister, was the officiating clergyman. Organ selections were played by Mrs. Frank Olney. C. L. Milton and Gaylon Rahn were ushers.

Mrs. Merritt died at 1:15 p. m. Sunday in Memorial hospital where she had been a patient since Aug 24. She had been in poor health since November of last year.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Merritt is survived by three children, Robert Merritt of Plainfield, N. J., Charles William Merritt of Malibu, Calif., and Mrs. Edward C. Filstrup of St. Joseph. She also leaves seven grandchildren.

Here to attend services from out of town were Mrs. Merritt's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Merritt of Plainfield, N. J.; her brother-in-law, William Grahl, and a niece, Mrs. William Wallrich, both of Downers Grove, Ill.

Members of the 19th Century club, of which Mrs. Merritt was a member, attended services in a group.

The News-Palladium, 14 May 1959

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Walker Molter, who were married on May 2 in St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed church in Watervliet, are making their home at 2230 Lake Shore Drive, St. Joseph.

The bride is the former Norma May Nickel, daughter of Mrs. Florence Byers of Oden street, Benton Harbor. Her husband is the son of Earl Molter of Benton Harbor.

The Rev. Clarence Beehler performed the double ring ceremony at the church at 2 p. m. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Molter of Coloma, uncle and aunt of the bridegroom, attended the couple.

For her wedding the bride wore a powder blue silk organza sheath with a full overskirt and a matching headpiece. Her flowers were a corsage of white feathered carnations and pom poms.

Mrs. Molter was gowned in dusty rose lace with matching accessories.

A reception for an estimated 400 guests was held in the Bainbridge Grange hall in the evening, with Lawrence Krieger's band furnishing the music.

Mr. Molter, a graduate of Valparaiso Tech is employed as an electronics engineer at Bendix Aviation Corporation, Mishawaka, Ind. He previously spent four years in the United States Navy.

The News-Palladium, 9 Jan. 1960

Mr. and Mrs. Burson Sink, 939 Jennings street, announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara, to James LeRoy Little, son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Little, 2230 Lake Shore drive, St. Joseph.

Miss Sink and Mr. Little are both graduates of Benton Harbor high school. He is currently attending Benton Harbor Community college. Miss Sink is employed at the Petite Shoppe, Benton Harbor, and her fiance is employed at the Superior Dental Laboratory.

No wedding date has been set.

The News-Palladium, Tuesday, 3 May 1960

St. Joseph Doctor Taken By Attack

Dr. Charles W. Merritt, 79, retired St. Joseph physician, school board president and civic leader, died Monday evening. Dr. Merritt, 720 State street, apparently suffered a heart attack while driving along Port street shortly before 6 p.m. and was pronounced dead on arrival at Memorial hospital.

After serving the community 44 years as a physician and delivering an average of 120 babies a year, Dr. Merritt retired in 1949. Born Aug. 16, 1880 in Chicago, he was the son of the Rev. Charles Merritt, a Congregationalist minister. He worked his way through Wheaton (Ill.) College and the University of Illinois Medical school.

After his graduation in 1905, Dr. Merritt settled in St. Joseph and went into practice with Dr. H. [Henry] G. Bartlett. He was married to Dr. Bartlett's sister, Jane Bingham Bartlett, June 3, 1909 in Niagara Falls, N. Y. Mrs. Merritt died in 1951.

President for two terms of the St. Joseph board of education, Dr. Merritt was instrumental in having the Jefferson school built. He also served as president of the Berrien County Medical society and for 35 years was a medical examiner for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

During World War I, Dr. Merritt served as a captain in the U.S. Army medical corps in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. He was a charter member of American Legion Post No. 163.

Other affiliations included the Lake View Aerie No. 425, Fraternal Order of Eagles, of which he was a member for 54 years; Kiwanis; Blue lodge, F & AM; and the First Congregational church, St. Joseph, where he was for many years a choir member.

Survivors include his wife, the former Mrs. Victoria Preston, whom he married July 4, 1959, in St. Joseph; a daughter, Mrs. Edward C. (Elizabeth) Filstrup, St. Joseph; two sons, Charles W. Merritt, Malibu, Calif., an aeronautical engineer and Dr. Robert W. Merritt, Plainfield, N.J., vice-president of National Starch & Chemical company; seven grandchildren; a brother, Howard Merritt, Madison, Wis.; and a sister, Mrs. Ella Bartlett Dixon, Milwaukee, Wis.

The body is at the Dey Brothers funeral home. There will be no calling hours. Friends who wish may contribute to the remembrance fund of the First Congregational church.

A Christian Memorial service will be held Sunday at 11 a.m. at the regular divine worship service of the First Congregational church in St. Joseph. The family has announced there will be no funeral service other than this memorial service.

Cremation will be at the Oak Wood Crematory in Chicago.

The News-Palladium, 15 June 1962

'My Dad Is Tops,' Says Essay Winner

Beaming proudly and most likely the happiest boy in the twin cities, Jerry Helmker, was presented the new bike and \$100 bill yesterday as the winner of Benton Harbor Downtown Merchants association's Fathers Day contest.

Nine-year-old Jerry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Helmker, 2230 Lakeshore drive, St. Joseph, submitted the winning essay on the subject. "My Dad is Tops."

Jerry's father, out of town on business, was unable to receive his share of the prize but Mrs. Helmker took the money and said she would see that he got it by Father's day.

According Mike Doring of Pollyea Men's Wear, chairman of the event, the Downtowners were swamped with entries and only after much deliberation were able to come up with the winning essay.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

A committee comprised of Doring, Ralph Newland of Avery and Longacre Men's Clothing and The News-Palladium's Jim Case scanned the entries that were deposited at the 27 stores during the contest.

The following is Jerry's essay:

"I think my Dad is tops because he earns my respect by what he does and not by force. Because he is an active member in our church and on active Christian, my Dad cares that I grow spiritually as well as physically and he always has time for me. He teaches me some of his qualities, like generosity, kindness, understanding, firmness, patience. Because of his Christian life and his example set for me, I find that, "All eyes are on Dad!"

The News-Palladium, 25 August 1962

A former St. Joseph man has been promoted by the National Starch and Chemical Corp.

Mrs. Victoria Merritt, 120 State street, St. Joseph, received a newspaper clipping from The Plainfield (N. J.) Courier- News, saying her step-son, Dr. Robert W. Merritt, of that city, had been elected as executive vice president of marketing for the firm.

Dr. Merritt, well-known physician.

The former St. Joseph man was one of four men promoted by the company.

Dr. Merritt is the son of the late Dr. Charles Merritt, well known physician.

1937 at its Toronto subsidiary.

He is holder of a doctorate of chemical engineering from the University of Michigan and formerly served as superintendent of the company's Plainfield plant.

In 1955 he was promoted to Vice president. Mr. Merritt graduated from St. Joseph high school.

[The missing lines in the above article are from the original]

The News-Palladium, 30 June 1965

REMODELS HOME: The ideal home for Mrs. Mitchell (Ethel) Willis, has to have a pillared porch and a view of Lake Michigan. Last summer, Mr. and Mrs. Willis purchased a home at 2230 Lake Shore drive, St. Joseph. It had a beautiful vista of the lake, but was built "backwards" with a service porch obliterating the view. Mrs. Willis got busy, drew up remodelling plans which included removing a dormer and overhanging porch. The end result, seen from the street side, is this handsome home, now re-sided in gleaming white aluminum. Black shutters, wrought iron stair rails and a wrought iron eagle above the door give the house an authentic look of an era long past. This is the third house Mrs. Willis has done over.

The News-Palladium, 24 Jan. 1967

"In other reports, Mitchell H. Willis of 2230 Lake Shore drive, told police he discovered yesterday that the top had been cut out of one of the evergreens at his home. He presumed the damage was done around Christmas time."

News-Palladium, 27 April 1967, page 4, has photo of bedroom in house.

The News-Palladium, 5 June 1967

Promotion of Claude Helmker to the newly created position of international division service manager was announced today by Whirlpool Corporation. The announcement was made by Gerald F. Southerland, director of International sales.

In his new position Helmker will be responsible for establishing service training programs and supervising overseas military free service programs. He will also be responsible for conducting international service conferences.

Helmker, who resides at 712 Susan drive, St. Joseph, joined Whirlpool in 1954 as field service representative. He was later promoted to customer assurance engineer for automatic washers and later was service training administrator.

The News-Palladium, 22 March 1968

Rotarian Founder To Be Honored

50th Anniversary Celebration

Mitchell H. Willis, founder of the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary club and secretary for 50 years, will be saluted at the club's golden anniversary celebration April 6.

A dinner-dance and floor show will mark the occasion at Statler Hilton Inn. Service awards also will be presented to past presidents and past district governors.

Willis, 86, has served the club during all of its existence. He retired from the advertising business several years ago because of partial blindness. Willis still attends Rotary meetings when health and weather permit through goodness of fellow members who pick him up at his home, 2230 Lake Shore drive, St. Joseph.

He was executive secretary of the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan for many years.

The News-Palladium, Monday, 27 May 1968

Grand Old Man Of Rotary Dies

Mitch Willis Busy Till End

M. H. (Mitch) Willis, grand old man of Twin Cities Rotary, civic leader and former advertising executive, died at 6:25 p.m. Sunday at his home, 2230 Lakeshore drive, St. Joseph. He was 80.

Mr. Willis helped organize the Twin Cities Rotary club which was chartered Feb. 20, 1918 and became its secretary in 1919 and served in that post ever since. He was the last surviving charter member of the club.

He was also the first secretary of the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan and continued as secretary from its founding in 1943 to 1966.

FIRST AD AGENCY

Mr. Willis was named in "Who's Who in the Midwest" in 1964.

He formed Berrien county's first advertising agency, The Willis agency, in 1923 and operated it until 1968 when faltering eyesight forced him to retire.

Mr. Willis also was the first manager of the annual Blossom Parade here. He started in 1924 and served in that capacity until the Chamber of Commerce took over a few years later.

He was also active in organizing a music group that later became the Twin Cities Symphony Society. And for a few months, in the 1920's, he served as acting secretary of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce.

His greatest devotion, however, was to the Twin Cities Rotary club. In January, 1964, 19 of the 22 active past presidents of the big service club, were on hand to salute his contribution to the organization.

He was called: "Mr. Rotary" "the guiding hand," and the "right arm" of Rotary presidents for his work in organizing the club and his work as its secretary.

FINE SINGER

Mr. Willis served as choir director at the First Congregational church for over 30 years. He was often called on to lead the singing at Rotary functions, both locally and at district conferences.

Mr. Willis originally worked at A. B. Morse, St. Joseph printing firm, and helped publish such periodicals as "The Thresherman's Review," "Power Farming" and "Power Farming Dealer." He set up his own advertising agency in 1932.

He served on the Mercy hospital board from 1934 to 1947. Mr. Willis was born Oct. 8, 1881, in Watervliet. He came to the Twin Cities in 1905.

He married Ethel Frays on Dec. 28, 1927.

Survivors include his widow, two daughters, Mrs. Lanning (Virginia) Honiss of Elgin, Ill.; and Mrs. Edwin (Mary Ellen) Kerlikowske, of Berrien Springs, and a son, William Mitchell Willis of St. Joseph; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the First Congregational church, St. Joseph, with Dr. George Fisk, officiating. Burial will be in Riverview cemetery.

The family said memorials may be made to the Rotary Scholarship fund.

The News-Palladium, 19 June 1971

[Has photograph]

ROSES GALORE: The 100 rose plants in a 6 by 20 foot section behind Mrs. Ethel Willis' home at 2230 Lake Shore drive, St. Joseph, is typical of many which have ushered in summer with multi-colored blooms. In the garden she has planted a wide variety of plants for continuous flowers. Mrs. Willis is a retired home economics teacher and substitute teacher at Fairplain junior high school and teaches sewing in adult education at St. Joseph high school. She is the widow of the late Mitch Willis, longtime Rotary secretary.

Berrien County Genealogical Society, *Cemeteries of Berrien County, Michigan: Riverview* (Benton Harbor, MI:

Berrien County Genealogical Society, 2006). 229:

Mitchel Henry Willis, b. 8 Oct. 1881, d. 26 May 1968

Ethel M. Willis, b. 10 Dec. 1898, d. 8 March 1982

Berrien County Register of Deeds, Grantor/Grantee Books, Liber 251, p. 40:

On 31 July 1925, Judson C. Osborne and wife Anna C. sell to Charles W. Merritt and wife Jane B. for one dollar "Part of sections 26 and 27, town 4 south, range 19 west, described as: Commencing at a point six rods north of the southwest corner of University Lot 72 in said section 26, which point is 126 rods north of the southeast corner of said Section 27; thence north on said section line 130 feet more or less to the northerly line of the parcel hereby conveyed; thence northerly 28° 10' east along the northerly line of said Lake Shore Road 70.2 feet to a post on the westerly side of said Road that is 292 feet northerly on a line running north 6° 30' east from the southwest quarter of said section 26; thence north 61° 50' west, at right angles to said Road 440 feet more or less to the shore of Lake Michigan; thence southerly 22° 2' west along the shore of Lake Michigan 429.9 feet to a point due west of said point. . . ."

Liber 508, p. 375: Charles W. Merritt and wife sell 2230 Lake Shore Dr. to W. Crosby and wife on Sept. 8, 1951.

Liber 623, p. 550: W. Crosby and wife sell to Claude W. Helmker and wife Mary Jo on Sept. 8, 1960.

Liber 670, p. 489: Claude W. and wife Mary Jo sell to Ethel Willis, 22 July 1964.

Liber 662, p. 476: LaRenia W. Crosby sells to Victor A. Resig and wife on Nov. 14, 1963. (possibly a parcel of the lot)

Judson Osborne bought the property in July 21, 1924, from Robert J. Evans & wife. J. Mills Dillaway

Neither Evans or Osborne are listed in the 1920 or 1922 city directories.

Robert Cramer's genealogical index shows Wm. C. Steele d. 5/19/2000

A History of the 1925 Dr. Charles W. & Jane B. Merritt House

by Robert & Candace Myers



Photo by Robert C. Myers

The Dr. Charles W. and Jane B. Merritt House stands at 2230 Lake Shore Drive in St. Joseph, Michigan. At the time of the house's construction in 1925, the street address corresponded to a parcel of land 60 feet by 132 feet in fractional section 27, Township 4 South, Range 19 West, bounded on the north by property owned by "Murphy," on the west by the Pere Marquette Railroad, on the south by the land of the A. T. Vail estate, and on the east by Lake Shore Road.

Previous owners have made substantial alterations to the original two-story wood frame house, especially in a 1965 remodeling. The house remains recognizable, however, as an example of the Colonial Revival architectural style. The Colonial Revival style had originated with the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876, a huge exposition that celebrated the 100th

anniversary of American independence. The Philadelphia Centennial reawakened interest in the nation's colonial history – an interest that soon found expression in architectural design. Influential architects Charles F. McKim, William R. Mead, Stanford White and William B. Bigelow embarked on a well-publicized tour of New England to study original Georgian and Adam-style buildings. By the mid-1880s, they had designed two houses in the colonial style: the Appleton House in Lennox, Massachusetts, and the Taylor House in Newport, Rhode Island. Their work caught the imagination of Americans around the country who soon wanted houses of their own built in the Colonial style.

Early examples of the Colonial Revival style drew inspiration from the original colonial houses rather than attempting to make historically correct copies. Later

Colonial Revival houses, like the Merritt House, employed more authentic proportions and details. Whatever the historical authenticity, the style retained its popularity in America until the mid-1950s. The Great Depression of the 1930s, the austerity of the World War II years, and the change in postwar fashions led to the simplification of the style in its late phases.¹

A considerable body of historical documentation supports 1925 as the construction date of the Merritt House. Property records in the Berrien County Register of Deeds Office record that Charles and Jane Merritt bought the property from a Judson C. and Anna C. Osborne on July 31, 1925.² R. L. Polk city directories for St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, Michigan, contain no listing for the Osbornes, indicating that the Merritts did not buy an already existing house. The directories list the Merritts as living at 815 Lake Boulevard in St. Joseph for several years up to and including 1925, but the 1926 directory gives their address as "h Lake Shore dr RR1."³ [House on Lake Shore Driver, Rural Route 1] The 1927 directory elaborates on the address, giving it as "h ws Lake Shore dr opp Cleveland av."⁴ [House on the west side of Lake Shore Driver opposite Cleveland Avenue] Property tax rolls also show that the Merritt property had an assessed value of \$2,500 in 1927, but was not listed as a separate property prior to that time.⁵ The dollar value indicates that a building of modest value, probably a house, stood there at that time. Definitive evidence confirming the construction date has not surfaced. Extensive research in the *St. Joseph Herald-Press* newspaper for 1925-1927 failed to reveal any mention of the Merritts building a house during those years, and the house stood too far outside the developed area of town to be included in Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. The possibility remains that construction on the house began in 1925 and ended in early 1926.

Charles Walter Merritt, a prominent St. Joseph physician and civic leader, was born in Chicago on August 16, 1880. He was the son of a Congregationalist minister, Rev. Charles Merritt, and Theresa A. Merritt. Merritt worked his way through Wheaton College and the University of Illinois Medical School, from which he graduated in 1905. He moved to St. Joseph immediately following graduation and went into medical practice with Dr. Henry G. Bartlett. On June 3, 1909, he married his partner's sister, Miss Jane Bingham Bartlett, in Niagara Falls, New York. The couple had three children: Charles W., Jr., Elizabeth Jane and Robert W.⁶

Jane Bartlett Merritt was born on a farm near New Plymouth, Ohio. As a young woman she moved to McArthur, Ohio, where she worked as the chief buyer for a department store. She came to St. Joseph in 1909 after her marriage to Dr. Merritt. As an educated woman and wife of a prominent physician, Jane Merritt took an

active role in civic affairs. She was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Michigan Children's Aid Society, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the American Legion Auxiliary and the Opportunity Club. She and her husband attended the First Congregational Church, where Jane taught Sunday School classes and Charles sang in the choir.⁷

Jane appears to have made the family's years at the Merritt House happy ones. Years later, the local newspaper reported that the home "was always a favorite haven for many relatives and friends."⁸ The house's beautiful location on the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan undoubtedly helped attract many relatives for visits.

Doctor Merritt contributed as much to St. Joseph's cultural and social community as did his wife. He joined the Lake View Aerie No. 425, Fraternal Order of Eagles immediately upon his arrival in St. Joseph. During World War I, he served at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, as captain in the U. S. Army Medical Corps, and after the war was a charter member of St. Joseph's American Legion Post No. 163. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club and the local lodge of the Free & Accepted Masons. He served two terms on the St. Joseph School Board and played a key role in the construction of the Jefferson Elementary School on Lake View Avenue. Professionally, he delivered average of 120 babies a year, served as president of the Berrien County Medical Society and was a medical examiner for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for thirty-five years.⁹ His office was located in downtown St. Joseph at 220 State Street.

The Merritt family enjoyed their Lake Shore Drive home for twenty-five years. On September 8, 1951, they sold the house to William Crosby Steele and his wife, LaRenia B. Steele.¹⁰ The Merritts probably sold the house in part because Dr. Merritt had retired from practice in 1949. They moved to a house at 1418 Forbes Avenue. Jane Merritt fell ill in the fall of 1956 and died on October 6, 1957, after a lengthy hospital stay.¹¹ Dr. Merritt married Mrs. Victoria Preston, on July 4, 1959, in St. Joseph. Less than a year later, on May 2, 1960, Dr. Merritt suffered a fatal heart attack while driving his car on Port Street in St. Joseph.¹²

Although W. Crosby and LaRenia Steele had purchased the Merritt House in 1951 they apparently did not occupy it for several years. The Polk city directory for 1952 lists the home's occupants as John F. Muhr, an analyst for Whirlpool Corporation, and his wife Muriel C. In 1953-1954, the occupants were James J. Morrell, plant superintendent for Shell Oil Company, and his wife Jean L.¹³ The Steeles moved into their house in about 1956; the Polk's directory for that year lists W. Crosby as a teacher and LaRenia as a saleswoman at Klines

Department Store in Benton Harbor.¹⁴

The Steeles did not occupy their home for long. Newspaper advertisements listed the house for sale in the summer of 1957 and the Polk city directory listed it as vacant in 1958.¹⁵ In May 1959, newlyweds Clarence W. Molter and his bride, Norma May (Nickel) Molter, moved into the house. The couple had married on May 4 in Watervliet. Clarence was a U. S. Navy veteran and an electronics engineer for Bendix Aviation Corporation of Mishawaka, Indiana; Norma was a representative for Voice of Music (VM) Corporation.¹⁶ In 1960, the city directory listed the house's occupants as James R. Little, a foreman for the Modern Plastics Company, his wife Ruby A., and their son James Leroy, a student at Benton Harbor Community College.¹⁷

On September 8, 1960, the Steeles sold the Merritt House to Claude W. and Mary Jo Helmker.¹⁸ Claude Helmker had joined Whirlpool Corporation in Benton Harbor as a field service representative in 1954. He was later promoted to customer assurance engineer for the company's automatic washers and still later to the position of service training administrator.¹⁹ Claude's son Jerry apparently held him in high regard as well. In 1962, he won a new bicycle and \$100 in the Benton Harbor Downtown Merchants Association's Fathers' Day essay contest with his entry entitled "My Dad is Tops."²⁰

On November 14, 1963, the Helmkers apparently sold a piece of the property to Mr. and Mrs. Victor A. Resig.²¹ They sold the Merritt House to Mitchell H. and Ethel M. Willis on July 22, 1964, and moved to 712 Susan Drive in St. Joseph.²² The new owner, Mitchell H. Willis, founded Berrien County's first advertising firm, The Willis Agency, in 1923. Willis' influence in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor extended far beyond his business office. He was especially devoted to the Rotary International organization. He helped organize the Twin Cities Rotary Club when it was chartered on February 20, 1918, became its secretary the following year and served in that post for the next half-century. He also served as the first and only secretary of the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan from its founding in 1943 until 1966 and managed the annual Blossomtime Festival Parade during the mid-1920s. He also served on the board of Benton Harbor's Mercy Hospital from 1934 to 1947.

Willis loved music. He possessed a fine singing voice and was the choir director at the First Congregational Church in St. Joseph for over thirty years. He helped organize a musical group that evolved into the Twin Cities Symphony Society and eventually became the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

Born in Watervliet, Michigan, on October 8, 1881, Willis moved to St. Joseph in 1905 and took a job at the A. B. Morse printing company until founding his

own advertising agency. He married Ethel Frays on December 28, 1927. The couple had three children: Virginia, Mary Ellen and William Mitchell, Jr.²³

Ethel Willis was nearly as active in the community as her husband. She taught home economics at Fairplain Junior High School and had a love of antiques. This love of antiques led her to remodel her own homes to reflect her ideas of colonial architecture. She had already remodeled two previous homes when she and Mitchell moved into the Merritt House in 1964, and in 1965 she drew up plans for major alterations to their new residence. She decided that the house should face Lake Michigan instead of the street, so she had a service porch on the back of the house removed and added a single-story pillared porch that extended across the house's streetside façade. She also removed a roof dormer, covered the house in white aluminum siding, installed black window shutters, wrought iron stair rails and an iron bald eagle ornament over the door.²⁴ Although such remodelings were common in the 1960s (*Old House Journal* editor Clem Labine dubbed them "remuddelings"), the changes greatly altered the house's appearance.

Mitchell Willis ran his advertising agency until failing eyesight forced his retirement in the early 1960s. He died at his home on May 26, 1968.²⁵ Ethel Willis continued to live in the Merritt House, tending an elaborate rose garden and often working as a substitute teacher.²⁶ She died on March 8, 1982, and is interred with Mitchell in the Riverview Cemetery south of St. Joseph.²⁷

Randy and Linda Gilmore became the Merritt House's next residents after Ethel Willis passed away. The Gilmores bought the house on a land contract from the Willis estate on August 9, 1982, and purchased it outright on October 21, 1985.²⁸ Randy (a salesman by profession) and Linda lived in the Merritt House from 1982 until they sold it to Whirlpool Corporation manager Steven Holmes and his wife Ruth on June 27, 1988.²⁹ The Holmes family lived there until they sold it to the current (2008) owners, Robert L. and Joan V. Judd, on July 8, 1996.³⁰

The Charles and Jane Merritt House remains an important contributing structure to St. Joseph's inventory of historic buildings despite its 1960s alterations. The home's first owners numbered among the city's most prominent residents in professional, social and cultural circles, and subsequent owners in more recent years have only added to that distinction. The Merritt House's location on a main thoroughfare into the city makes it a highly visible example of St. Joseph's domestic architecture to residents and visitors alike.

Endnotes

- ¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004), 321-341.
- ² Berrien County Register of Deeds Office, Grantor/Grantee Books, Berrien County Administration Building, St. Joseph, MI, Liber 251, 40. Hereafter cited as "Grantor/Grantee Books."
- ³ R. L. Polk Co., *Polk's Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and Niles Directory, 1918* (Detroit, MI: R. L. Polk Co., 1918), 394. Hereafter cited as "*Polk's Directory*." Ibid., 1920, 367; Ibid., 1925, 399; Ibid., 1926, 455.
- ⁴ Ibid., 1930, 119.
- ⁵ Berrien County Property Tax Rolls, City of St. Joseph, 3rd Ward, 1926-1928, Berrien County Historical Association, Berrien Springs, MI.
- ⁶ *The News-Palladium* (Benton Harbor, MI) May 3, 1960.
- ⁷ Ibid., October 7, 1957 and May 3, 1960.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Ibid., May 3, 1960.
- ¹⁰ Grantor/Grantee Books, Liber 508, 375.
- ¹¹ *The News-Palladium*, October 7, 1957.
- ¹² Ibid., May 3, 1960.
- ¹³ *Polk's Directory, 1952*, 141, and *Polk's Directory, 1954*, 154.
- ¹⁴ Ibid., 1956, 162.
- ¹⁵ *The News-Palladium*, August 27, 1957; *Polk's Directory, 1958*, index, p. 144. The newspaper advertisement promoted the house as "Beautiful view of Lake. Four bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, near schools."
- ¹⁶ *The News-Palladium*, 14 May 14, 1959; *Polk's Directory 1959*, p. 449.
- ¹⁷ *Polk's Directory, 1960*, 406; *The News-Palladium*, January 9, 1960.
- ¹⁸ Grantor/Grantee Books, Liber 623, 550.
- ¹⁹ *The News-Palladium*, June 5, 1967.
- ²⁰ Ibid., June 15, 1962.
- ²¹ Grantor/Grantee Books, Liber 662, 476.
- ²² Ibid., Liber 670, 489; *The News-Palladium*, June 5, 1967.
- ²³ *The News-Palladium*, May 27, 1968
- ²⁴ Ibid., June 30, 1965.
- ²⁵ Ibid., May 27, 1968.
- ²⁶ Ibid., June 19, 1971.
- ²⁷ Berrien County Genealogical Society, *Cemeteries of Berrien County, Michigan: Riverview* (Benton Harbor, MI: Berrien County Genealogical Society, 2006), 229.
- ²⁸ Grantor/Grantee Books, Liber 1168, 12; and Liber 1244, 157.
- ²⁹ Ibid., 1346, 1122
- ³⁰ Grantor/Grantee Books, Liber 1759, 1535; *Polk's Directory, 1983*, 136; *Polk's Directory, 1989*, 181; *Polk's Directory, 1997*, 82.

It's Supercalifragilist

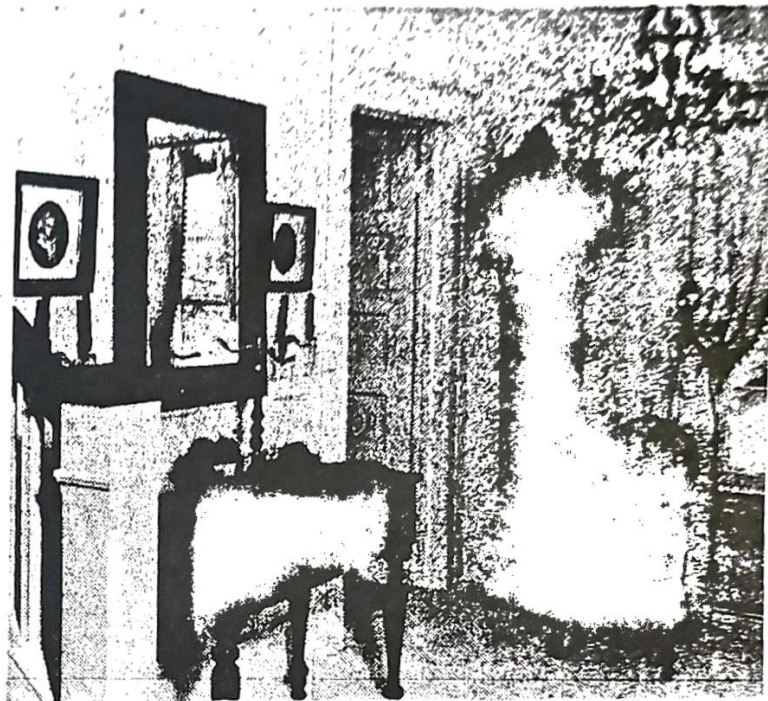


REMODELS HOME: The ideal home for Mrs. Mitchell (Ethel) Willis, has to have a pillared porch and a view of Lake Michigan. Last summer, Mr. and Mrs. Willis purchased a home at 2230 Lake Shore drive, St. Joseph. It had a beautiful vista of the lake, but was built "backwards" with a service porch obliterating the view. Mrs. Willis got busy, drew up remodeling plans which included removing a dormer and overhanging porch. The end result, seen from the street side, is this handsome home, now re-sided in gleaming white aluminum. Black shutters, wrought iron stair rails and a wrought iron eagle above the door give the house an authentic look of an era long past. This is the third house Mrs. Willis has done over.

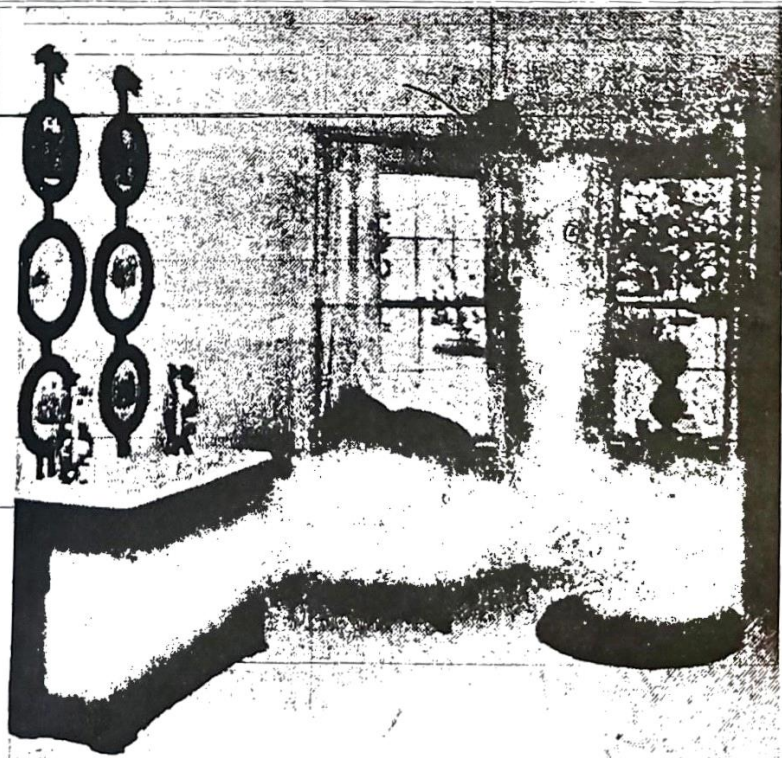
Around the clock with
WOMEN

CLUBS • CHURCH • FAMILY • FASHION • SCHOOL • HOME • SOCIETY

Set Wedding Dates



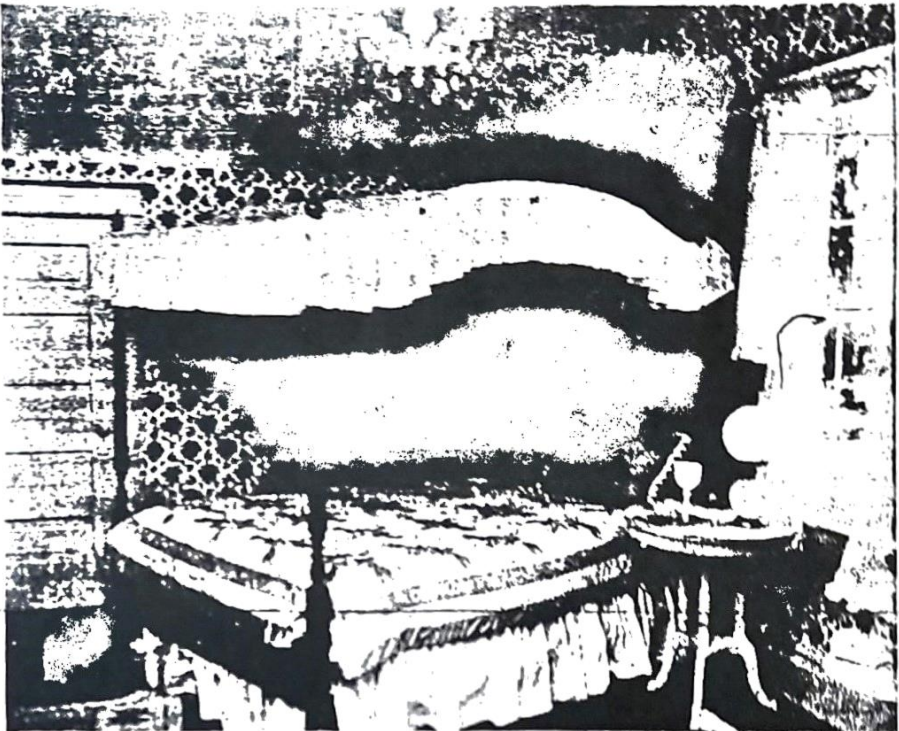
COLLECTS ANTIQUES: First glimpse of the interior of the stunning hallway. Oyster white walls are a foil for the goods collected by Mrs. Willis including a grandfather clock. Not visible is a cupboard holding a pewter collection. Sconces hold black and white dark-framed portraits flank the mirror above the desk. Carpet is off-white with a carved surface. Curtains are gray burlap with fringe, held back by brass balls. Not seen are a huge plant at the end of the hallway and the stairway accented with floral prints arranged along the wall.



...and living room. The opposite end of the living room, with



HAS LAKE VIEW: An enchanting view of Lake Michigan may be seen from the dining room, separated from the breakfast room pictured, by a low planter. White wrought iron furniture has an airy appearance and contrasts with an antique white cupboard, the shelves painted red to show off a milk glass collection. The hanging lamp, an authentic Victorian piece, is cranberry red glass with crystal pendants. Curtains the scarlet burlap fringed in black. A patio opens from the breakfast room and the modern kitchen is at right. Not pictured is the dining room where the same color scheme prevails. Here Mrs. Willis used a red and white toile wallpaper above the white painted dado.



MUST HAVE COMFORT: Mrs. Willis admires four poster beds and has used them in the three bedrooms. In this room the maple four-poster is canopied in white and the spread is an old-fashioned quilt of rose and white cotton. Tradition is important in creating a home according to Mrs. Willis, "but you have to be modern and comfortable, too." Mrs. Willis, recently retired as homemaker teacher at Fairplain junior high school, started her teaching career at St. Joseph high school. After 20 years absence from her work, she joined the faculty at Eau Claire high school. She completed her present renovating project while teaching full-time; did much of the sewing and upholstery work herself. She is now a consultant decorator. (News - Palladium photo)

carried bouquets of white carnations. Miss Shelly Kline, Niles, niece of the bridegroom, was the flower girl.

James Hanson, Buchanan, was best man. Larry Reed, Buchanan, and Michael McCuddy, South Bend, brother of the bride, were ushers and Darrell Kline, Buchanan, nephew of the bridegroom, was junior usher.

Ring bearer was Monty Kent Craven, Bristol, Ind., cousin of the bride.

Following the ceremony a reception was held in Hertrand Township hall. The young couple left on a wedding trip

through Northern Michigan and on returning will reside at 2014 1/2 Days avenue, Buchanan.

The bride was graduated from Riley High school, South Bend, and Mr. Kline attended Buchanan High school.

TUMS
FOR THE TUMMY
— FIRST —
— LAST —
RELIEF FOR YOUR DIGESTION

Sandmanns Beauty Salon
WILL BE CLOSED
JULY 3rd, 5th, 6th & 7th
Open Thurs., July 8th at 9 a.m.
1410 Washington St. St. Joseph

ing room, with white-curtained Victorian love seats with cran- th black seat covers give the lamps are suspended from the y Godey prints in oval frames. nest, completing the decor. Mrs. ouse should be surrounded by orating should be aimed to cred- less of period and style.

Says Women Will Return To College

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dr. Mary Bunting told the tenth women doers luncheon at the White House in Washington Tuesday more women would return to college for another degree to catch up with the explosion of knowledge.

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson invited 18 women to the luncheon a year from the day Dr. Bunting was sworn in as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, which she leaves today. She will return as president of Radcliffe College.

BORN TO THE PURPLE

Here's a royal treat to quench the thirst. Try canned grape juice "on the rocks" with a sprig of mint.

Cuddy Is Wed

and Mrs. Karen and Louis 11 a.m., St. An- ch. The officiated, ughter of McCuddy,

The bride wore a gown of silk organza over taffeta with a molded bodice, short shirred sleeves, a scooped neckline trimmed in Venetian lace, a controlled skirt and full chapel train. Tulle petals held her fingertip veil of imported silk illusion. She carried a cascade bouquet of white Fuji mums.

Miss Lana Gardini, South Bend, the maid of honor, wore a floor length dress of aqua pash de anie accented in Venetian lace. The princess had a ruffled neckline and a long length sleeveless top with a ruffled skirt. A bouquet of white mums was held by a sparkling floral pin. Mrs. Cuddy also carried a bouquet of white mums.

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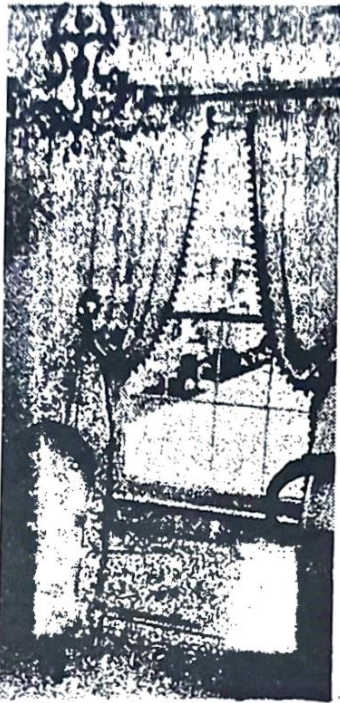
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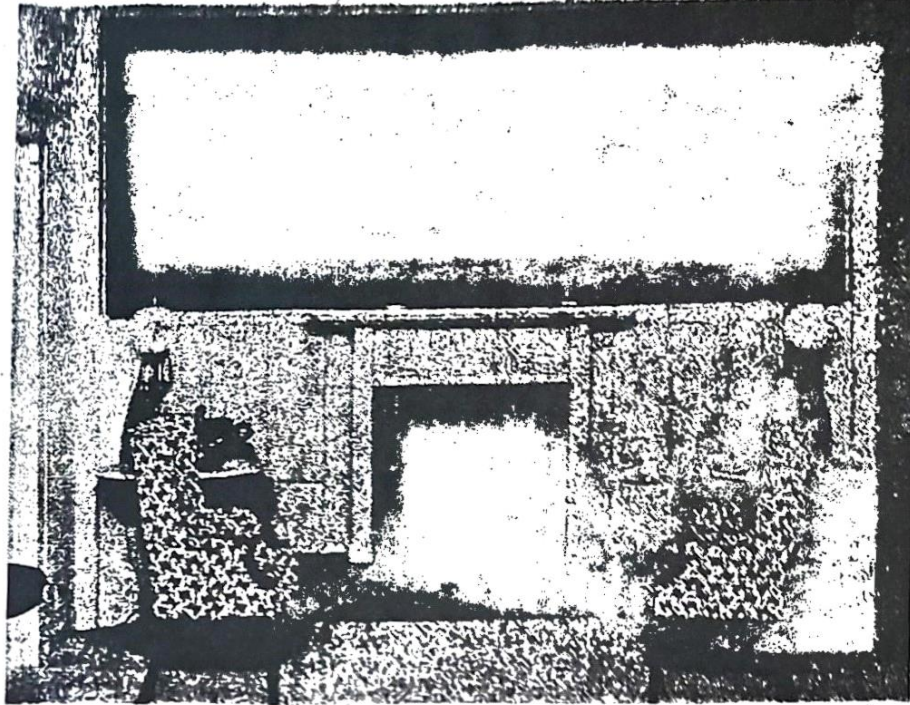
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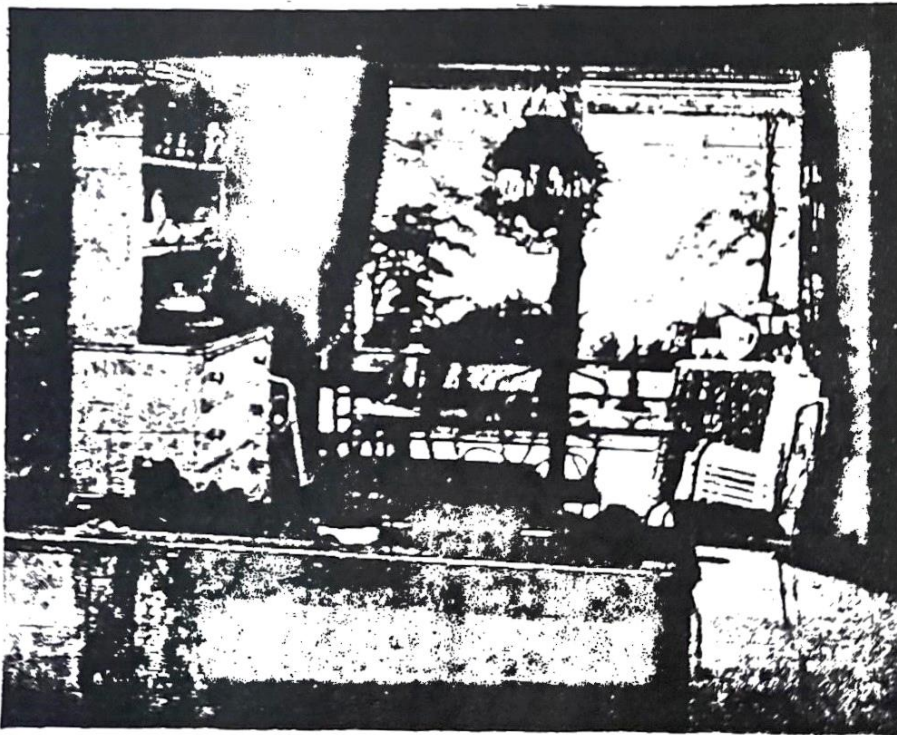
ilisticexpialidocious!



terior of the Willis home is a oil for the graceful antiques clock. Not visible is the cor- es hold black candles and with ie desk. Carpeting is a deeper gray burlap with black ball huge plant at left of the entry nged along the stair wall rail.



ACCENTS WITH RED: Red is Mrs. Willis' favorite color, used judiciously throughout the downstairs rooms. In the fireplace corner of the living room, cranberry red-flocked wallpaper in a Victorian pattern is an accent above the white dado and fireside seats. The matching chairs are upholstered in gray with tiny red and black petit point design. Victorian globe lamps on marble topped tables balance the arrangement. An oil primitive portrait is above the mantel and china dolls in red printed percale are on the seats.



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eners were advised to tune their
radios to 640 or 1240 kilocycles
for a special Civil Defense pro-
gram.

Regarding a possible nuclear
attack, Sydney C. Schachtmeister,
radiological officer for the
Berrien county office of Civil
Defense, offered advice on com-
bating radio activity.

"Radio activity is compared to
a bank account," said Schacht-
meister. "Every person is allow-
ed only 600 roentgens. We can
spend only 200 of these units.
The rest is used for an emer-
gency. We can spend these units
rapidly or slowly. A person can
absorb 200 units of radio activity
and be safe. Between 200 and 600
units will cause illness and over
600 will cause death.

"We can reduce radiation in-
tensity by one-half by being in
a house during an attack, by
one-tenth if in a basement and
by 1/5,000 if in a shelter,"
Schachtmeister added.

his Hand That ks The..Driver?

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—F. Joseph
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e policemen even
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new recruits. Crime is not on
the downtrend here. Hiring
women to hand out parking
tickets and operate parking me-
ters would relieve men for po-
lice duty. During the coming
summer months, the peak re-
quirements of the police depart-
ment will be reached."

The Benton Harbor police force
now uses three uniformed po-
licemen and a civilian in the
parking meter department.

Mayor Wilbert Smith promised
he would take up the matter
with the city manager, who was
not present last night.

Rum'ge, 679 E. Main, 4 & 5.

the economic well being of the
state," said Martin, chairman of
the newspaper committee.

Martin said the committee is
calling on publishers and editors
to devote all possible space be-
fore and during Michigan Week
to the "many fine things we have
in Michigan."

Dr. Merritt Dies At 79

St. Joseph Doctor Taken By Attack

Dr. Charles W. Merritt, 79, re-
tired St. Joseph physician, school
board president and civic leader,
died Monday evening.

Dr. Merritt, 720 State street,
apparently suffered a heart at-
tack while driving along Port
street shortly be-
fore 6 p. m. and
was pronounced
dead on arrival at
Memorial hos-
pital.



After serving
the community 44
years as a physi-
cian and deliver-
ing an average of
120 babies a year,
Dr. Merritt, re-
tired in 1949.

Dr. Merritt Born Aug. 16,
1886 in Chicago, he was the son
of the Rev. Charles Merritt, a
Congregationalist minister. He
worked his way through Wheat-
on (Ill.) College and the Uni-

(See col. 7, back page, Sec. 1)

Rum'ge clothing, 135 Apple—Adv.

Enterprise Clnrs. WA 6-6905—Adv

Musser Opticians, 171 E. Main
St. Glasses rep'd, frames repl'd.

—Adv.

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