

Howard County
Historical Society
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Remembering Dave:

HCHS seeking stories and memories of former director Dave Broman

By Linda Ferries
HCHS Publications Committee Chair

In his lifetime, Dave Broman touched hundreds, thousands of lives. With more than a quarter of a century in broadcasting, he may have touched millions. With his wit and wisdom, open and giving heart and generous spirit, he made friends wherever he went and left a lasting impression.

And with all those lives he touched, he left a huge hole when that open and giving heart stopped beating on June 4, 2021. He was 68 years old.

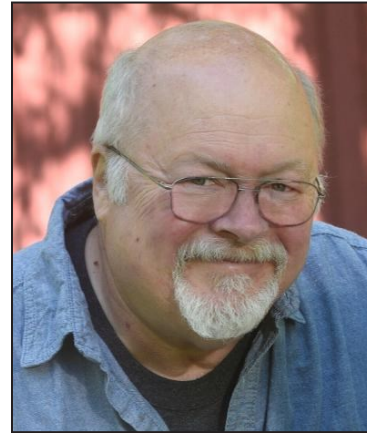
Among those left to miss his passionate interest in history, his devotion to his community and his terrible puns are the co-workers, fellow

board members and friends from the Howard County Historical Society where he spent more than 30 years as volunteer, president and executive director.

Dave retired as executive director last year, in true Dave Broman form, staying on past his planned retirement date to help smooth the transition to a new executive director as the whole world dealt with a pandemic. A review of his history and legacy at HCHS can be found in an article marking his retirement in the May 2020 edition of *Footprints* (available in the Publications Archive at www.howardcountymuseum.org)

In truth, one of Dave's greatest legacies is the Howard County Historical Society we have today. From hiring a young Kelly Karickhoff who went on to serve as our first dedicated long-term director to shepherding the half a million dollars needed to replace the roof on our beloved Seiberling Mansion, from developing and implementing ambitious long-term plans to supporting the development of a professional staff working to professional standards, he was both the idea man and guide who could inspire others to help reach our goals.

See "Dave" on page 5



From the director

Getting to know our guests will improve the visitor experience

I want to begin by recognizing former HCHS Executive Director Dave Broman's passing and the incredible man that he was. So many people knew Dave for far longer than me, but his impact on me was huge. He stood by my side this past year, discussed matters large and small, provided IT support and became a mentor. I am forever grateful I got that year, but his absence leaves an enormous void. We will all miss him.

I wear many hats as executive director of the HCHS, but of course part of my job is to focus on the visitor experience to the mansion and museum. While I spend a good deal of time thinking of how to attract people to come and visit, I also try to ensure that every visitor who does make that effort leaves feeling it was worth it. I am trying to understand what visitor expectations are and how we might stretch as well as satisfy those expectations and have an impact on the visitor. I've learned that the range of expectations from visitors can be surprisingly rich and varied.

It's important to know our visitors, and to avoid assumptions about what they might be interested in or how they want to engage. To try to avoid that, I am conducting a small visitor study this summer. I have been interviewing visitors after they've gone through the museum to find out what they expected or sought and what intrigued or surprised them, as well as what they felt was missing from their experience.

We know from educational theory that people learn in different ways. Not everyone wants to read text. Some want to look or listen; some

want to engage physically in their experience; some might want to know a lot about one small area of knowledge while others are interested in getting small bits of information about a lot of things. We get generalists, hobbyists and experts. Everyone brings a whole set of life experiences and learning with them when they visit, which colors what they see and how they see it. These differences challenge museum interpreters to tailor their approach to each visitor according to their interests and preferred way of learning.

We can be informed by several other disciplines in trying to understand our visitor and what might make the best visit for them. Communication theory has shown that while direct transmission of information from one person to another might be efficient, it is not very effective. A two-way transmission such as a conversation offers opportunity for questions, clarifications and repetition – and is much more effective. We also know from studies of memory that seven bits of information is the most humans can retain at one time. And a story is the easiest kind of memory to recall. These bits of research are important to consider as we work to engage visitors.

My goal is to collect 20 to 25 of these visitor interviews, collate and analyze the data and share the results with our host volunteers as we adjust our training and interactions with our guests. I have done a few so far and it's been great to talk with people about their visit.

Enjoy your summer time.

Catherine Hughes
HCHS Executive Director

Donations and Memorials

Porte Cochere Capital Campaign

Leadership \$2,000+

James Long
Robert and Marti Pries

Platinum \$1,000-\$1,999

Judge William and Martha Menges

Gold \$500-\$999

Sondra Neal

Silver \$200-\$499

Darrell and Jule Rider

Bronze \$100-\$199

James Allman
Judy Brown, in memory
of Dave Broman
Teresa Fields
Doris Lingelbaugh

David Olmsted
Dana Scruggs
Matthew and Ellen Tate

Friends \$1-\$99

Don and Gail Beaton
Glen Boise
Bill and Sharon Carter
John and Marie Roberts
Goldie Snavelly
David Summers

Memorials

In memory of Dave Broman:
LaCinda and Ben Chapman

In memory of Betty Alexander:
Richard Alexander

Membership

Our new and renewed memberships

Cynthia and Steven Bizjak
Kent and Marcia Blacklidge
Glen R. Boise
Dr. Robert and Sally Bratton
Sam and Mary Pat Burrous
Dave and Shirley Dubois
Rick and Beth Emry
Diana Goodnight
Mary Ellen Harnish
Thomas and Jeanne Harrell
Cary Hiers
Robert and Joan Hoch
James Horoho

Glenda Kamosa
Kappa Kappa Kappa Inc.
Jay and Marjorie Katzenmeyer
Stephen A. Kiley
Jane Kincaid
Dr. and Mrs. Joe Klein
Genie Mason Lalonde
Shirley Lee
Mark and Jennifer Lyons
Reggie and Lois Martin
Dick and Marsha Miller
Ann Millikan
Sondra Neal

David Olmsted
Ruth Reichard
Darrell and Jule Rider
Larry and Irene Rolland
Dr. Allen Safianow
Jerry and Marsha Santen
Ronald and Jean Simpson
Pastor William J. Smith
Patricia Sottong
J. Alan Teller
Dianne Waggaman
Rick and Sandy Warner
Jon and Patty Zeck

Committee corner

HCHS Board Development Committee

By Randy Rusch
Chair, HCHS Board Development Committee

Article VII of the Howard County Historical Society Bylaws sets forth the establishment of committees as the HCHS Board of Trustees deems appropriate “to assist it in the successful implementation of long-term plans of the society.” One of those committees is the Board Development Committee, whose members work with the president and executive committee to find qualified candidates to serve as members of the HCHS Board of Trustees.

Several qualifications and qualities are considered as candidates are reviewed, including the requirement per the bylaws that a trustee must be an HCHS member in good standing.

In seeking board members, our committee’s foremost thought is to bring in people who will successfully be a part of the HCHS Mission Statement:

The mission of the Howard County Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the diverse history of all the peoples of Howard County.

The society and its members believe in the daily relevance of history. As the custodian of Howard County’s unique heritage, we strive to preserve our collective experiences and, through sharing, to foster a sense of community, connecting us to our neighbors, the past to the future and our home to the world.

Beyond this, we seek a wide and diverse group of individuals with a broad variety of backgrounds and experience who can be brought together and achieve the goals of our society.

Our board includes past and present business owners and manag-

ers; an attorney; people with archaeology, architecture, banking, art and construction experience; educators; engineers; communications professionals; and students. We strive to maintain a group that represents all parts of our community from university students to university professors, working people and retired people. We strive to have the picture of our board represent a picture of our community.

The Board Development Committee members, all members of the board of trustees, are Dave Dubois, Alyssa Pier, Cathy Stover, Chair Randy Rusch and HCHS President Sharon Reed, along with HCHS Director Catherine Hughes.

We have found it convenient to use Zoom meeting as our format, with occasional email discussions.

Along with searching for and maintaining board members and a pool of potential members, we oversee the compliance of board members with HCHS policies and procedures. Each board member is asked to sign and fulfill a board member agreement. This involves maintaining a membership, attending board meetings and committee meetings, supporting fund-raising activities and contributing to the society as one’s income permits, and participating in and supporting events such as the annual meeting, the Hall of Legends and Christmas at the Seiberling.

We are always looking for people who share our interest in “collecting, preserving, and sharing the diverse history of all the peoples of Howard County” and who might be interested in serving as a volunteer or board member. If you think you might be interested in participating, please contact the HCHS office at 765-452-4314 and we will be glad to provide more information.

HCHS Trustees welcomes new member



Welcome to the newest member of the HCHS Board of Trustees.

Lainey Schroer is the assistant vice president, marketing/communications manager at Community First Bank of Indiana. Born and raised in Kokomo, she graduated from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University Bloomington.

She has worked in the marketing and advertising industry for the past seven years in North Carolina, Georgia and Indiana.

Lainey now lives in Kokomo with her husband, Kenton, and their Sheepadoodle, Scotty.

THE RIPPER IS BACK!



FROM THE DARK PAGES

OCTOBER 22-23 2021 SEIBERLING MANSION

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‘Remembering Removal’ event planned for September

By Gil Porter
HCHS Publications Committee

October 2021 marks the 175th anniversary of a dark episode in Indiana state history. That month in 1846, more than 300 citizens of the Miami Indian Tribe were forcibly loaded onto canal boats at Peru, Ind., and sent to treaty-designated land west of the Mississippi River.

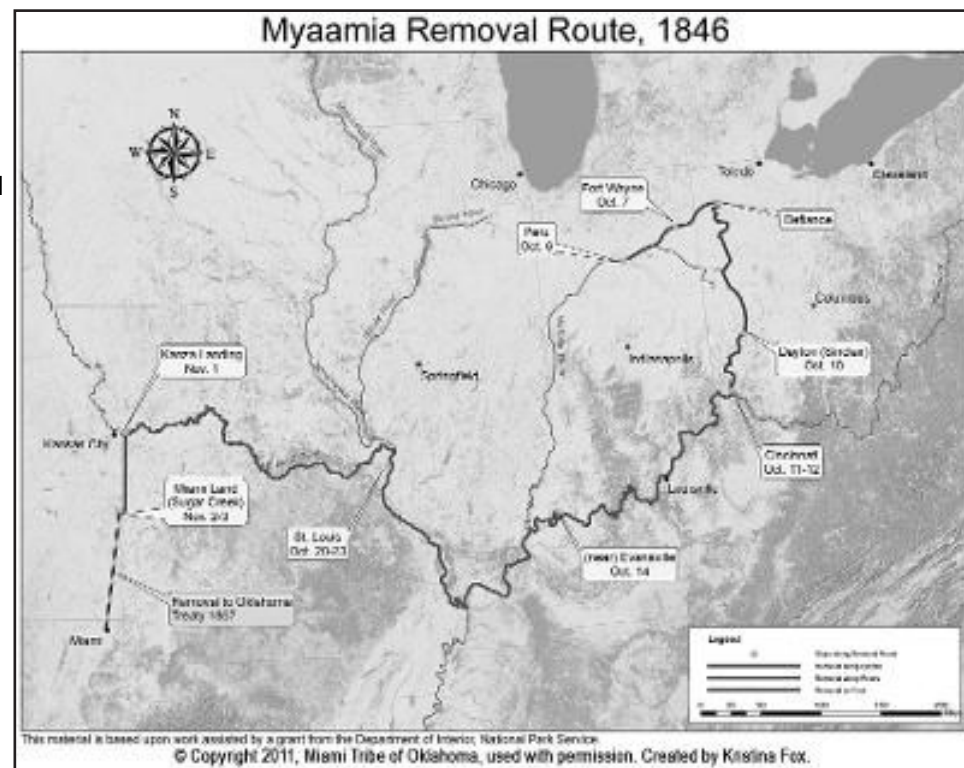
This event is impossible to ignore in terms of local history because Howard County was carved out of the residue of the Great Miami Reserve. This area could become Indiana’s

last-named county only when the Miami Indians had relinquished their last communal homeland.

The 1846 removal took a month to complete, but the impact of losing their land and being separated from generations of memories continues to be felt by Miami today. Moreover, for many Miami families, the removal is com-

plicated, because, by treaty and legislation, many were permitted to stay, and some who left later returned.

A special program with members of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is being planned in Kokomo to commemorate the forced removal, and to share today’s positive story about the revitalization of Myaamia culture and language in Indiana and beyond. The public event is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 18 at the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library. Watch for more details about the time and location on social media.



Above, HCHS Curator Stew Lauterbach and volunteer Joyce Cylkowski are ready to set visitors up for the Automotive Scavenger Hunt on the grounds of the Seiberling Mansion.

Below, left, a young participant dreams of the road in a vintage VW Bug.

Below, right, HCHS Executive Director Catherine Hughes checks out a 1930s Plymouth pickup truck.



Automotive Scavenger Hunt adds new fun for second year

The Howard County Historical Society invited families to come enjoy a free Automotive Scavenger Hunt on the front lawn of the mansion on July 9 and 10.

Participants were challenged on their automotive knowledge, trying to identify some curious automotive objects from the HCHS collection.

They enjoyed comparing historic cars like a beautiful Haynes supplied by Steve Ortman with a brand-new Ford F150 from Brad Howell Ford.

By completing each station, children collected the parts to build their own tiny car for the final test of getting it across the finish line – easier said than done!

The event was generously sponsored by the Kokomo New Car Dealer Association and Button and McGonigal Motors, as well as the Kokomo Automotive Museum.

Top right, HCHS Board President Sharon Reed get comfortable in a 1926 Haynes automobile at the Automotive Scavenger Hunt in July.

Bottom right, Aubrey Drake, acting in role as a maid to the Kingston family, interacts with participants at the event.

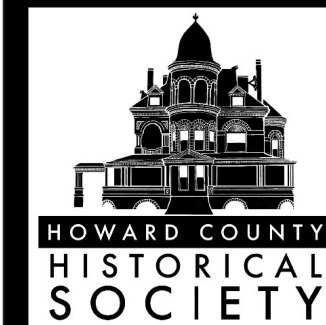


Save the Date!

*The HCHS
Annual
Meeting on
November 4,
2021*

*Program TBA
Watch for more
information on
hchistory.org*

Celebrate in Style!
HCHistory.org
765-452-4314
for event space
information &
availability



Seiberling Mansion

The Elliott House

Howard County Hall of Legends Nominations Due November 4
Go to <https://howardcountymuseum.org/programs/howard-county-legends>

Dave, continued from Page 1

From his obituary:

Dave was born in Anderson, Indiana, on Oct. 12, 1952, to Ralph and Barbara Broman.

He worked in radio from age 16 starting in Bluffton, Indiana, at WCRD. While attending Michigan Tech University and obtaining a degree in biology, he worked at WGGL. Dave continued working at various stations before moving to Kokomo in 1986 and working at WWKI for 25 years. Dave then became executive director of Howard County Historical Society in 2011 and retired in 2020. He was involved in multiple agencies and community organizations. Dave was an avid reader, bird watcher and hiker. He enjoyed woodworking and loved to camp, most notably in the U.P.

Dave is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Joyce Cylkowski; sons, Corey (Amber) Broman and Joseph (Traci) Broman; grandchildren, Adam (Alyssa) Walker, Mackenzie Broman, Aiden Broman, Karlie Broman and Elizabeth Broman; sister, Nancy (Paul) Leonesio; brothers, Robert (Karen) Broman, Nelson (Linda) Broman and Carl Broman (Ellen Herbener); and many nieces and nephews.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Chandler; and granddaughter, Khloe.

We are planning a further remembrance of Dave in the November 2021 edition of *Footprints*. Please send any memories or reflections you have to lindaferries50@gmail.com.

From the board president

Bring your own community perspective as a volunteer at the HCHS

One of the most precious resources in our community is volunteers. The quality of life in Kokomo is dependent upon the hands and feet of volunteers. This precious resource is responsible for the sustainability of our community.

A quick Google search suggests more than 26,000 nonprofit organizations in the United States. Within Howard County, there are more than 100 when you consider just churches and ministry-type organizations. Without volunteers, these organizations could not be effective in meeting the needs of our community.

Here at the Howard County Historical Society, we are grateful for all the volunteers who support us in working to meet our mission -- **to collect, preserve and share the diverse history of all the peoples of Howard County.**

Our volunteers range from those who submit questions about our history, to those who serve on boards and committees, to those who greet our visitors and share our history.

Following our mission statement, we need volunteers from every demographic of our community so that we can tell the whole story. And, as we go forward, it is our hope that our volunteers reflect the demographics of our community so that when visitors come, they will see someone who looks like them.

Have you ever wondered how companies had their beginnings? The same applies to the many ethnicities in our community. Who was first? Why did they come? When did they come? Perhaps even asking, "Why did they leave our community" to provoke more thought. In *Footprints*, we have shared historical information about various people, groups and individuals. We know many more stories are out there, and we look to volunteers to help us find and share them.

With our recent exhibit, "Howard County African-American History Revealed," we could not have learned the history without the creation of the African-American advisory group. We rely on people from the community willing to volunteer information, pictures, stories and memorabilia. Thanks to their help, our executive director, curator and staff were able to create the exhibit from the community perspective. This has been the way we have gathered our history throughout the years. We are so thankful for all of those volunteers.

Volunteering is not a one-way street of benefits. Volunteers learn about the organizations they serve. They learn more about their communities. They build self-confidence by "putting themselves out there." Most of all, they make new friends and widen their circle. Having served in many areas of this community over the past 45 years, I know my life is much richer because of volunteering. As a volunteer for the Howard County Historical Society, business owners, teachers, city officials, students, coaches, hairdressers, therapists – anyone and everyone – can bring a perspective to our organization that we need.

So, we need you – our members and volunteers – to be a voice to the community calling for volunteers as well.

Perhaps you have a son or daughter, grandchild, cousin, friend or coworker who could benefit through volunteerism. Not infrequently, when I have asked people why they don't get involved or join an organization, the answer is simply "no one asked." Just ask!

Jill Snyder, our dedicated volunteer coordinator, is ready to train our new volunteers.

Sharon A. Reed
President
Howard County Historical Society

to see the developing exhibition, Howard County African American History Revealed. I was one of the volunteer hosts helping to direct visitors. Almost everyone I talked to cited the Juneteenth announcement as the reason they came. There were people from Marion and Ligonier who saw the information on Facebook.

Guests included Peter and Lenore Kane, who gave the exhibit a very positive review. Long-time Kokomo residents who once lived in the Old Silk Stocking Neighborhood, they hadn't been in the museum for quite a while. Two people from Lebanon, Va., came to Kokomo to go Kokomo Toys, a real indication of the store's reputation and appeal. They saw the Juneteenth free admission on the Kokomo tourism website and loved the new exhibit.

Dennis Morgan and his daughter, Katherine Putnam, who are part of the family of highlighted Tuskegee Airman Gordon Morgan, attended. They were happy to see the exhibit and may have more family memorabilia to share.



Visitors toured the African American History Revealed exhibit at the Howard County Museum on June 19.

Above, visitors learned the significance of "the Green Book." At left, family members of the featured Tuskegee Airman Gordon Morgan, Dennis Morgan and his daughter, Katherine Putnam, stand by the exhibit.



Juneteenth celebrated at Howard County Museum

By Linda Ferries
HCHS Publications Committee Chair

The Seiberling Mansion and Howard County Museum were open for free admission to celebrate Juneteenth, now a national holiday.

The day's name is a combination of "June" and "nineteenth," commemorating the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement by Union Army Major General Gordon Granger proclaiming freedom from slavery in Texas. It is also known as African American Freedom Day or Emancipation Day. While President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had officially outlawed slavery in Texas and the other states in rebellion against the Union almost two and a half years earlier, there was little enforcement of the proclamation without troops. Texas was the most remote of the slave states with few Union troops, so enforcement there had been slow and inconsistent before Granger's announcement. It is on this date that slavery finally ended across all states and territories.

The free day was generously

sponsored by Dave Dubois, realtor with The Wyman Group and Thistle Rock Farm. It was a great opportunity for the community



Lenore Kane utilizes a QR code on the map of the Carver Neighborhood to access more content.

New volunteers join the host team

By Jill Snyder
Volunteer and Membership
Coordinator

Two new volunteers have joined the host team at the mansion and museum. Ann Bradshaw and Karen Moran, both long-time residents of Howard County, have been in training since May.

Ann has experience in volunteering in her church, 4-H, local schools and the Random Acts of Genealogy Kindness program. She is a big history buff and wants to increase her knowledge of Howard County. She is a substitute teacher for the Western School Corporation and received her education at Indiana University Kokomo in mathematics. She is an asker of questions and goes the extra mile with the visitors.

Karen also has been involved with local non-profits, serving on the board of Project Access and as funding representative for the United Way campaign. She earned her degree at IUK



Ann Bradshaw, left, and Karen Moran are two new volunteer hosts at the Seiberling Mansion.

and worked at Dupont. Her interests include gardening and reading, especially history. Karen is volunteering to learn more about local history and is enthusiastic about greeting visitors and making them feel welcome.

Thanks and welcome to Ann and Karen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BECOME A
VOLUNTEER

HELP SHARE OUR HISTORY

VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
MAY 8, 10AM-12PM
@ THE SEIBERLING MANSION
MAY 13, 4-6PM
@ THE ELLIOTT HOUSE
1200 West Sycamore Street Kokomo

For more information:
Jill.snyder@howardcountymuseum.org
HCHistory.org

If you missed the
Spring volunteer
recruitment dates, have
no fear. You can contact
Jill Snyder directly at

jill.snyder@howardcountyhistory.org

or call her at
765-452-4314.

Caldwell Kokomo correspondence is trip back in time to 1917

(Part Two. Also see: "On the trail of Kokomo's Caldwell Connections" (Part One) in the May 2021 issue of *Footprints*.)

By Gil Porter
HCHS Publications Committee

Howard Caldwell and Elsie Felt were married at the bride's home in the Indianapolis neighborhood of Irvington on March 23, 1918. After their honeymoon, they returned to his flat at 307 E. Taylor St. in Kokomo and lived there until Howard entered military service and Mrs. Caldwell returned to Indianapolis that summer.

Since August 1917, Caldwell had lived in Kokomo and worked as the assistant sales manager at Haynes Automobile Company. From his teen years, Caldwell had been drawn to the new and rapidly growing industry of mass communications. After graduating from Butler College in 1915, he likely saw the job at Haynes Automobile as a résumé-building rung on the ladder of life.

Back home in Indianapolis with Haynes and the Navy in their rearview mirror, Elsie and Howard got busy building a family and a career.

Daughter Virginia was welcomed in 1918; she later worked in advertising in Chicago and New York. Son Howard Jr., born in 1925, would become a legendary Indianapolis newsman and author.

Howard Sr., fresh from the ashes of World War I and perfectly positioned in an upwardly mobile Midwest city at the dawn of the modern media age, started a small eponymous adver-

tising company in 1922. Today, after a century of name-changes, Caldwell VanRiper, Inc., with 25 employees and \$4.89 million in annual revenue (Dun & Bradstreet data), is probably the oldest media communications firm in Indiana.

This happy story of success has roots in Kokomo. Howard and Elsie managed a long-distance courtship via the U.S. postal service, rail transportation and the occasional motor car trip. Although they lived here for only a matter of months as a married couple, Kokomo connections continued for the Caldwells. Freda Haseltine was a guest at their wedding (Haseltine Bros. was a longtime jewelry business on Main Street). Howard and Elsie saw Katherine Kautz socially (her father was the publisher of the *Kokomo Tribune*). Caldwell's supervisor at Haynes Automotive, Hal Keeling Jr., also left Kokomo for Indianapolis in late 1918. He was a named principal in Sidener, Van Riper and Keeling, Inc. (which subsequently was merged into the aforementioned Caldwell advertising firm).

The Caldwell family archive includes an amazing collection of heartfelt correspondence during those turbulent World War I years as Howard and Elsie Felt planned their life together. Kokomo was a thriving industrial town, and the Caldwell letters are a unique primary-source view of Kokomo in 1917-1918.

Timeline highlights

"Faithful beau in Kokomo"

(Howard's signoff on his Aug. 26, 1917, letter to Elsie)

Note: Caldwell rarely noted the date on his let-

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS STATE FAIR AUTOMOBILE SECTION, SEPTEMBER, 1917.

HAYNES

"America's First Car"

"AMERICA'S GREATEST LIGHT SIX"

at the State Fair Auto Show

HERE is an opportunity for you to see and admire the famous Haynes "Light Six," the car with the mature motor. For more than three years this engine has remained practically unchanged.

Within this time many other manufacturers have tried and discarded one or more motors.

Haynes' experience counts. This wonderful car of the Light Six field, the product of almost 25 years of experience in automobile building demands your closest inspection. For the merit of Haynes cars is not alone in the motor. In appearance, in comfort, in wealth of accessories, they equal cars costing many hundreds of dollars more.

The Haynes four-passenger roadster has very truly been called "the greatest roadster in America." It combines the compactness of the roadster with the roominess of the touring car, thanks to Haynes engineering.

"Six horses" and plenty of more to this, the motor of four-passenger roadsters. It is built upon a new motor car chassis with 100 inch wheelbase.

And the Haynes-built touring car will give you extra comfort and speed. Sturdy construction of high-strength, high-grade materials, they make the Haynes car a safe, reliable motor.

Powerful brakes give you sure grip. No expense has been spared since and, moreover, although practically every inch of the interior has been adorned with plush, velvety, leather, there is no extravagance and in no sense a waste of money.

State Fair Show Exhibit No. 43

The Haynes Automobile Co. Reagan Automobile Co.
Kokomo, Ind. 414 N. Capitol Ave.
Chas. G. Sinden, Kokomo, Ind. Sole Distributor

"America's Greatest Light Six" "America's Greatest Light Touring Car"
HAYNES AUTOMOBILE CO. REAGAN AUTOMOBILE CO.

Caldwell wrote about working on this advertisement in an Aug. 29, 1917, letter.

Dec. 11, 1917

Caldwell attended a business dinner at the Francis Hotel (northeast corner of Mulberry and Buckeye streets) in honor of “Gibson, my predecessor at Haynes.”

Jan. 1, 1918

Caldwell planned to spend New Year’s evening at the YMCA. “A Victrola has been established in the lobby and a cherry wood fireplace, both of which are duly appreciated.”

Jan. 17, 1918

To conserve coal as part of the war effort, the federal government that month ordered a restriction on industrial manufacturing production. Here’s Caldwell’s observation about the effect on the Haynes Automobile Company office workers:

“Since heat will be kept up in the factory buildings to keep things from freezing up, the management believes no orders will be disobeyed by utilizing some of this heat to warm the office. They figure if the factory heat pipes are kept going, that no additional coal will be required to heat the office. We have not learned as yet what will be the interpretation of our burning gas in the advertising department’s villa. It may be that we shall have to move over into the warm brick building, which will be hard brick indeed.”

Jan. 20, 2018 “Sunday night”

“My boarding-house Y.M.C.A. mode of life is practically at an end,” Howard writes to Elsie. He was moving his belongings to his flat at 307 E. Taylor St. (where he and Elsie would live briefly while married) “on the installment

plan.” (Caldwell refers to this as the “Ellis” apartments.) Caldwell makes note of leaving “Mrs. Terhune’s happy family,” indicating he would no longer need to travel to her boarding house on West Mulberry Street for a meal.

Jan. 22, 1918

“I verily believe that life at 307 East Taylor Street is destined to be quite thrilling.” Caldwell moved to his flat two days before. The upper half of the duplex features a “Victrola.”

Wedding Announcement Card

(An original is still in the Caldwell family archives)

Judge and Mrs. Edward W. Felt announce the marriage of their daughter, Elsie Rebecca to Mr. Howard Clay Caldwell on Saturday March the twenty-third, One thousand nine hundred eighteen, Indianapolis

A Kokomo Highlight

(Written by Howard Caldwell Sr. Undated private manuscript in the Caldwell family archives)

“While in Kokomo, the most important event of my life occurred. I married Elsie Rebecca Felt, March 23, 1918.”

Extraordinary ephemera

- Coal cost \$9.50 per ton
- Dictaphones were all the rage for business dictation
- Postage went up to 3 cents
- The fare for a Pullman railroad sleeping car was 30 cents
- Caldwell’s salary at Haynes Automotive Company was \$30 a week

ters, only the day and sometimes the time of day. The dates offered are the existing post-mark dates on the envelopes, where we have them.

Yet when you read these lines, know ye that you had a faithful beau in Kokomo Ever and anon, thy ardent wooer, Howard.

Aug. 6, 1917, Postmarked 10:30 p.m.

Mentions first day on the job at Haynes. The first day was very interesting but he is discouraged by the "extreme ignorance of the details of my job." In particular, he struggled with "the Dictaphone", the electronic dictation machine. Caldwell's arrival in town that Sunday was delayed by "a severe electrical storm which had all but paralyzed traction traffic" ("traction" being synonymous with the Interurban train system that connected Indiana cities at this time).

(Undated)

"I've spent a very delightful evening at the office writing a *Pioneer* story on the masterly manner in which Haynes motor cars are painted." A family named Frazier offered their residence as a gathering house for local Sigma Chi fraternity members. Caldwell writes a visit there was "most enjoyable." The guests sipped grape juice and were treated to corn popped in the fireplace. Caldwell was impressed

with the house and their bathroom: "I believe if I lived there I should look forward to Saturday nights with much relish."

(Undated)

"The fair city of Kokomo persists in prosaically pursuing the even tenor of its way. The tabernacle revival services are still the activity of chief concern. The YMCA is getting to be the meeting place for various congregations who attend in a body. When the Y boys gather in from Mother Terhune’s boarding house, we have to struggle to keep some of the good brothers from pinning a ribbon on us."

"Mother Terhune" was Mrs. Amanda Terhune. She ran a boarding house at 401 West Mulberry Street.

Aug. 26, 1917, Postmarked 10:30 p.m.

Written (Sunday) and postmarked the same day, Aug. 26, 1917. "This morning Hal and I went down to the factory and worked until noon. You musn't mind that though, for it's fun when there is nothing else to do." The three (Hal, his wife, Ruth, and Caldwell) went to the "Isis movie house" Saturday night (Aug. 25).



Caldwell attended this movie, as noted in his letter the next day.

"My appreciation of the show was heightened by a woman in the next seat who read all of the lines and interpreted the pictures to her unre-sisting husband." That Sunday afternoon, the three went to a band concert at "Kokomo's park, which Hal says is quite remarkable for the town."

Aug. 29, 1917, Postmarked 7:30 a.m.
"Tuesday night"

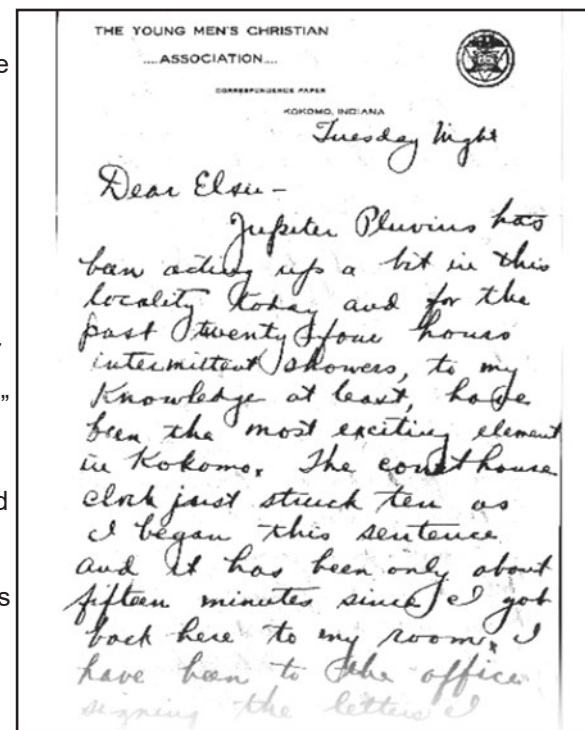
"The courthouse clock just struck ten as I began this sentence. ..." Caldwell writes that he is finding his work "more interesting every day." He and Keeling were working on newspaper advertisements that week to appear in the weekend editions of the *Indianapolis News* and the *Star*. Caldwell describes the "art stuff" as interesting and novel. "We received a portfolio of clever pencil sketches for the Pioneer covers yesterday, and today a number of magazine color layouts and a water color drawing for the front page of a folder we are working on." He writes he and Keeling "had a great time going over the stuff," Keeling's generally unfavorable opinions about some of the work notwithstanding.

Oct. 2, 1917

Caldwell mentions the slow pace in Kokomo after being in Indianapolis and that the rain showers kept him home at the Y where he could "drink deep of the YMCA volunteer musicians" (classical and refined sentimental numbers).

Oct. 18, 1917 Postmarked 10:30 p.m.
"Thursday night"

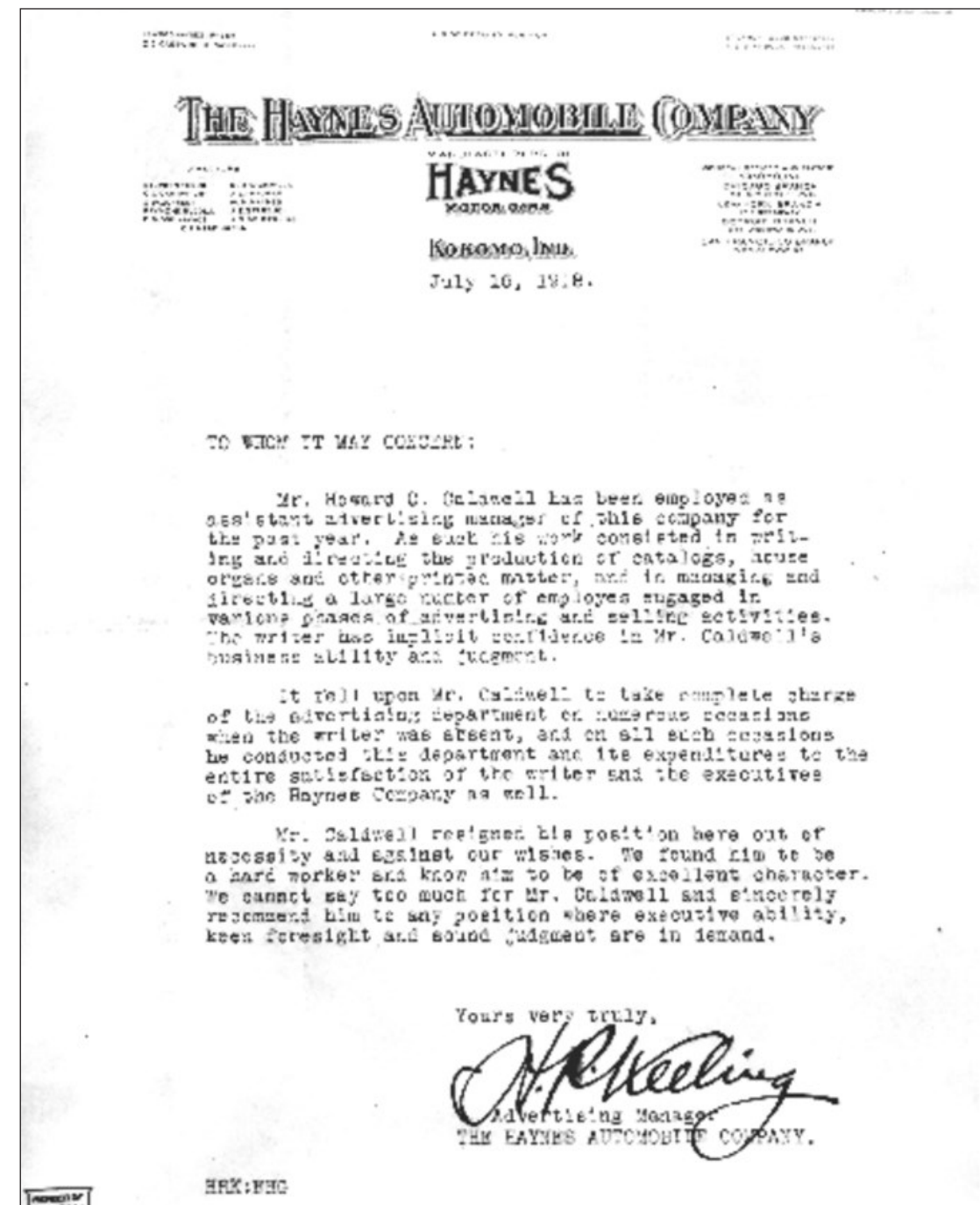
"The rain has fallen in sheets almost incessantly since noon." Was "busy chasing through the factory today" arranging for a photo shoot "Friday" showing how Haynes cars are built. Intended as "strong selling points." A "troublesome task" in that Caldwell had to learn himself "how Haynes cars are built."



Above is an example of YMCA stationery from the period when Caldwell lived there.

Nov. 18, 1917 Postmarked 10:30 p.m.

Plans a "business trip" to Indianapolis the next week. This involved wiring a message ahead to the people he would see and then riding the Interurban from Kokomo to Indianapolis. Caldwell writes that Keeling wanted him to "see his shipment of groceries from Sears + Roebuck (sic)." Sears sold groceries via the mail in those days, and Keeling's most recent haul was impressive: a dozen or so cans of salmon, peas and a "ten-pound carton of nuts." Sears heavily promoted its sugar supply in the grocery catalogs it mailed to consumers, and Keeling was a buyer: Caldwell noted Keeling had a "25-pound-bag of sugar."



Haynes Advertising Manager Hal Keeling wrote this letter of recommendation for Caldwell in 1918.