

Charitably



Speaking

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President's Message

I'm afraid some of you are just now learning of the passing of our Executive Director **Ric Purdy**, and I regret that. Ric was a good friend and colleague who will be sorely missed by all of us. But Ric's sudden, and completely unexpected, death left us a number of problems and issues, only one of which was an initial inability to access MCMA's computer files, and notification of members was unfortunately sketchy. We have been working our way through those issues, and I am extremely grateful to those members who have volunteered their time and talents to get MCMA over this difficult period. Also, as it is again year-end, I must ask that you consider making a 2012 donation to MCMA to help defray our expenses and lessen our dependence on the performance of our portfolio. Whether large or small, all contributions are appreciated, so please do what you can. – **Bill Anderson**

Recent Happenings

The sudden death of Executive Director Purdy in late September was a tragic loss for MCMA, and we are still in the process of adjusting to life without him. President **Bill Anderson** immediately appointed a Transition Committee (comprised of Vice President **Richard Adams**, member **Tom Crowdis III**, trustee **Kurt Hanson**, and Past-Presidents **William Jutila** and **Martin Joyce**) to work with him in addressing the steps needed to keep the organization running, and to make recommendations as to how we might better handle some of our responsibilities going forward. He also appointed trustee Kurt Hanson as interim treasurer and Past-President Martin Joyce as interim secretary. All of these individuals (most particularly President Anderson himself) have worked diligently in those roles, and we are keenly indebted to them.

Our Planning Committee had met earlier this year to examine requests for MCMA grants, but action on those grants had been delayed until we could get a better assessment of our expected portfolio gains (or losses) for 2012. That concern was obviated when we received a September donation in the amount of \$100,000. As the donation stipulated that it be used only for our charitable work, and that it be used this year, we were able to fund all of the grants recommended by our Planning Committee. The third condition attached to this donation was that the donor remain anonymous, so we are unfortunately unable to directly and adequately express our thanks, but it is deeply appreciated.

Our October Quarterly was held at The Riverside banquet facility in Middleboro, Mass. Following a poignant invocation by Past-President **Erling Hanson**, President Anderson described for the members some of the steps that were taken in the aftermath of the sudden and tragic death of our Executive Director Richard Purdy. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Past-President Joyce and accepted as read. The president then called on Vice President Adams, who summarized some of the items that have been addressed to date by the Transition Committee. Our newest associate member **James Libby** was introduced, and he told



us a little about himself. Chairman of our Triennial Committee **Peter Lemonias** gave an update on the planning for this March 2 event, and noted that we are seeking items to be offered in the auction that will be held that evening. The president then introduced Mr Paul Stajduhar of Ocean Spray, who gave us a brief but very interesting overview of the cranberry industry, cranberry products, and the Ocean Spray cooperative. The meeting was followed by a visit to a nearby cranberry bog at which harvesting was underway, and members were able to get a glimpse of at least some of the methods and equipment used in that operation.

Helping Others

For over 75 years The Carroll Center for the Blind in Newton, Mass. has worked effectively with those with vision loss, and has developed many methods for people with low vision to learn the skills needed to be independent in their homes, classrooms and workplaces. Organized initially as the Catholic Center for All the Blind, it counted heavily on voluntary support from the beginning, especially from women in the parish guilds of the Archdiocese of Boston, who raised funds to provide help via financial aid, clothing, employment-seeking assistance and transportation. In 1947 Father Thomas Carroll, who had worked during WWII extensively with blinded veterans, would become its Director, and over time the Center would become a leading innovator in providing assistance to the blind and visually-impaired. It established in 1952 the first community mobility (cane travel) program to teach safe travel skills to blind people in their homes. In 1954 a Rehabilitation Center was founded, the nation's first comprehensive residential center for newly blinded civilians, based on the successful VA programs for post-WWII veterans. Fencing for the blind is another example of innovation incorporated into the rehabilitation program to help blinded people develop balance, dexterity, and coordination necessary for cane travel. In 1963 Fr. Carroll founded the American Center for Research in Blindness, and in 1965 established the Geriatric Adjustment Center for older blind persons (again, a first of its kind). Following Fr. Carroll's untimely death in 1971, the Center was renamed in his honor. (In his lifetime he had received nearly 100 national and international awards for his work with the blind.)

In 1993 Carroll Center inaugurated an Educational Services department and began providing educational support to blind children in public schools throughout Massachusetts. It was the first to offer computer classes for the blind, and the first with on-line training in computers and other technologies serving the blind. In 2002



The Carroll Center

FOR THE BLIND



its new Technology Center opened, providing state-of-the-art training for blind children and adults on the latest computer software and hardware for education, employment, and personal use. The computer revolution is providing tremendous career opportunities for blind or partially sighted persons, and once again the Carroll Center is on the leading edge. MCMA has contributed often to this worthy institution, and our most recent grant was used to purchase equipment for use in the Center's Assistive Technology Program. This equipment will help students with vision loss get access to printed materials via IPODs that talk and PDAs (personal digital assistants) with Braille displays. And it will enable Carroll Center students to keep up and engage with their sighted peers, both academically and socially.

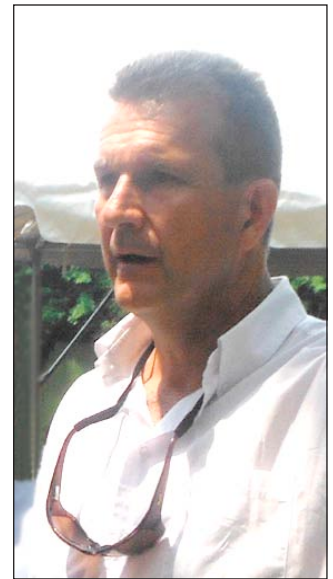
MCMA History

We touched on our July visit to Forest Hills Cemetery in the previous issue of this newsletter, but we thought it might be interesting to dig a little deeper into MCMA's connections with this well-known and respected landmark. Those connections take several forms. Currently, of course, member **George Milley**, who arranged for our visit, is president of the cemetery. And **Erling Hanson**, Past-President of MCMA (and the originator of the *Charitably Speaking* newsletter), was its previous president. Other connections include both architecture and (how shall we put this?) occupants. *(As always, names of MCMA members are shown in bold type.)*

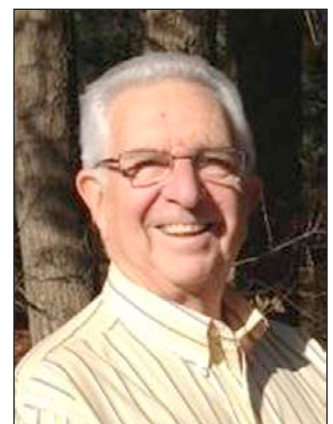
The most immediately visible piece of architecture is the gate house, located alongside the driveway to the main entrance. This two-story Gothic Revival cottage was designed by **Gridley J. F. Bryant**, son of *the Gridley Bryant* ("Father of the American Railroad Industry"), and one of the most prolific designers of the latter half of the 1800s. (Other works by Bryant include Boston City Hospital, Charles Street Jail, and, with Arthur Gilman, Arlington Street Church and Boston's Old City Hall.) Another prominent structure is the stone bridge over Greenwood Avenue, just inside the main entrance. This bridge was designed by architect **William Gibbons Preston**, better known maybe for his suspension bridge – the shortest in the world – in Boston's Public Garden. (Among Preston's other designs were the first building on MIT's original Boylston Street campus, the Hotel Vendome, the Beaux Arts building that now houses the XV Beacon Hotel, and of course MCMA's own Mechanics Hall.) Preston is also interred at Forest Hills.

Several of the monuments within the cemetery have "connections" to MCMA as well. One of the most prominent is the Chadwick Mausoleum, a Gothic Revival structure designed by the aforementioned William Preston. Another is the Edmund Dwight monument, designed by architect and illustrator **Hammatt Billings**. And a number of the many Celtic crosses within the cemetery were the creations of sculptor-designer **John Evans**, a collaborator of H.H. Richardson, and considered one of the finest stone carvers of his time. (The photo of the cross on the next page is illustrative, but we're not sure if it's actually one of Evans' works.)

Many MCMA men are buried at Forest Hills, and several of their tombs were pointed out during our tour. One of these was that of **Oliver Ditson**, founder of the first music publishing house in America, who joined our organization in 1839. Ditson, born in 1811, had apprenticed as a printer, and at age 24 opened his own printing shop at 107 Washington Street. He combined his knowledge of printing with his skills as an organist at the Bulfinch Street Church, and in 1836 copyrighted his first musical printing. He soon moved to larger premises at 115 Washington Street and took on partners to help with the fast-growing sheet music business. Eventually, he would expand to New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, and would be among the largest publishers of sheet music in the country. *(No, this is not a statue of Ditson himself. It is a sculpture titled "St. John the Evangelist,"*



In the above photo:
George Milley. Below:
Erling Hanson.



and it was bought by Ditson at a bankruptcy auction from its previous owner.) Another noteworthy member residing at Forest Hills is **William Grueby**, creator of some of the finest art pottery of the late 19th century, whom we profiled in an earlier issue of this newsletter (as we have done also for Gridley Bryant and Hammatt Billings).

Forest Hills Cemetery is a beautiful spot for a leisurely drive/stroll, and it is simply brimming with history. You don't have to have ties to MCMA to enjoy it, of course, but it's even more of a treat when you do.



At top right is the Gothic Revival gate house designed by Gridley J. F. Bryant.

At immediate right is the stone bridge over Greenwood Avenue designed by architect William Gibbons Preston.



Below (l. to r.), a Celtic cross, typical of those designed by stone carver John Evans; the Chadwick Mausoleum, another Gothic Revival structure designed by William G. Preston; and the statue of St. John the Evangelist that marks the gravesite of noted music publisher Oliver Ditson.

