

## Well-Earned Tributes for Two High on the Cliff



**Walker and Carolyn Johnson** will be honored on Saturday, November 1, 2014 from 4:30-8:00 p.m. at Landmarks Illinois' annual Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards ceremony at the InterContinental Chicago. Walker and his wife will be the recipients of the Landmark Illinois' 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award known as the Joe Antunovich Award for

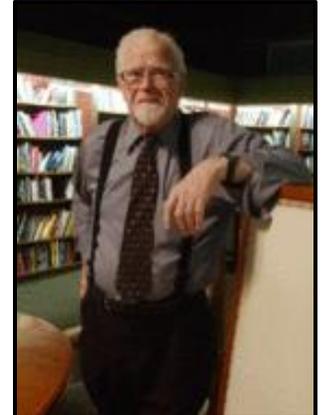
Leadership.

As a young professional, Walker's background in history and architecture propelled him to become a key member in the preservation movement surrounding Chicago during the 1970s. Working in grassroots advocacy to rally public interest and organizational networks for historic preservation, Walker was a founding member of Landmarks Illinois and initiated the preservation branch of Holabird and Root architects/engineers.

Walker's advocacy continues through his architectural preservation practice as a principal at Johnson Lasky Architects, co-founded in 1992 with Larry Lasky, CD'84. JLA's many projects of note include the restoration of Ragdale House in Lake Forest, the award winning Dana-Thomas House restoration in Springfield, as well as restoring the Chicago landmark Essanay Studios building in the Uptown neighborhood.

While Walker continues to provide leadership in organizations such as the AIA, the Association for Preservation Technology, Landmarks Illinois, and the Society of Architectural Historians, we at The Cliff Dwellers are gifted by his 30 years of membership. He has served the Club as our 41<sup>st</sup> President from 1990-1992; more recently, as a member of the Art Foundation and as the Chairman of the History Committee; and always, with his quick smile as a purveyor of camaraderie at the Members Table.

Zivio Walker!



**Wilbert and Marilyn Hasbrouck** will be honored on November 8, 2014 from 6-9 p.m. at the Society of Architectural Historians 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala at The Fortnightly of Chicago. The theme of this year's gala is "A Foundation for Preservation," honoring individuals who initiated early historic preservation work in Chicago and continue to support the conservation of the built environment. For their lifetime support of Chicago preservation as founders of the *Prairie School Review* and the Prairie Avenue Bookshop, Wil and Marilyn will be presented the SAH Award for Excellence in Architectural Media.

After relocating from rural Iowa in 1959, Wil as a young architect took a liking to the grandeur of Chicago's older buildings and spent a few noon hours picketing against the demolition of the Garrick Theater. This became the seedbed for the Hasbrouck's' involvement in Chicago's architectural preservation. Involvement with the Chicago Heritage Committee newsletter blossomed into their founding the Prairie School Press to reproduce out-of-print architectural classics. By 1964 they had launched the *Prairie School Review*. A decade later they opened the Prairie Avenue Bookshop to address the highly specialized topics of "architecture and design" for a broad range of interest levels.

Wil has impacted Chicago architectural preservation and renovation on many levels. He authored *The Chicago Architectural Club: Prelude to the Modern*. He led the project to move and restore the Widow Clarke House, the city's oldest surviving house. He worked in restoring the Manhattan and the Rookery buildings as well as Wright's Dana-Thomas House in Springfield. As a member of The Cliff Dwellers since 1964, Wil retells the stories of our Club with wit and wisdom. He served the Club as our 38<sup>th</sup> President from 1984-1985, remains an active member of the History Committee, and currently is updating and extending Henry Regnery's history of The Cliff Dwellers. Zivio Wil!

## Art Is Communication: The Role of a Cliff Dweller

by Bob Miller, CD '10

“Art is communication, and if there is no communication it is as though the work had been still-born. The reader, viewer, listener usually grossly underestimates his importance.” But not Cliff Dwellers. Cliff Dwellers understand Madeleine L’Engle’s words and actively participate in the creative process as music, painting, writing, acting, sculpture, architecture, design, and related categories come alive through members’ attendance and participation in the wide and varied programs and exhibits offered throughout the year at the Club.

Recently, as part of the Club’s Cabaret Series, with the skyline twinkling in the misty background, *Chicago*, *Chicago, my kind of town* and many of our favorites from the Sinatra songbook filled the Kiva. As one of the guests commented, “If you closed your eyes Frank was right there.” As was Tony Bennett, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin and several other vocal artists brought back to life through the artistry of Jim Bulanda and the appreciative interaction of club members and their guests who clapped, sang along and even rose to dance. Last July chanteuse Claudia Hommel delighted members with an evening of Parisian songs. Accompanied by pianist and vocalist Johnny Rodgers, Jim Cox on Bass and Pat Spaeth on accordion, she captured the room with her voice, boas, beads and playful interaction with her audience. The Cabaret Series continues on January 16, 2015. Donna Nowak will bring alive the songs, sounds, and history of the Big Band Era with a salute to *Soldiers in Greasepaint*. Mark your calendars, bring some guests and relive the Big Band era.

On a balmy night early in September, Club members gathered around the dinner table to launch the Salon Series of stimulating conversations. Our inaugural guest, the accomplished author and columnist from the Chicago Sun-Times, Neil Steinberg enthralled members and their guests as lively conversation bounced back and forth across the table. The evening culminated with Mr. Steinberg bringing into the conversation selections from his book with the intriguing title, *You were never in CHICAGO*. New and equally stimulating conversations will continue as additional guests are added to the Salon Series.

Join us for dinner on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> when Lost & Found Productions and playwright June Finfer present a staged reading of an original musical, *The White City*. Whatever your interests or artistic inclinations a Club function or program awaits your active participation. Join the Saturday morning Book Club or movie discussion groups. Participate in one of the Art Exhibit Openings or dinners with authors discussing their latest books. Inspire and be inspired by the young artists performing at the Club through the auspices of the Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation. Is there something you are interested in but haven’t seen offered? Program Committee Chair Virginia Harding welcomes your suggestions and input.

Art is indeed communication. And to reflect the joie de vivre of Club members it requires not only our support but our active participation as well.



Neil Steinberg enjoys an evening of delightful and energetic banter with members in the Kiva.



“Frank” entertained members and guests with a full moon rising over Lake Michigan.



What could be more delightful than sharing good food, good entertainment, and a good evening at the Club?

### The Months Ahead: Regular Events and Gatherings at the Club

Art Openings	Cultural Mile's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fridays	Saturday at the Movies	Art Foundation's 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays	CD Book Club
First Wednesday Art Exhibitions. Artists and Sculptors in attendance.	5:30-7:30 Program An open bar and dinner service are available. \$5 cover charge for Cliff Dwellers and their guests.	Films are shown Saturday in the Sullivan Room at 10:30 and discussions continue over lunch.	Evening programs in the Kiva. An open bar and dinner service are available.	Discussions take place on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday beginning at 11:00 and continue over lunch.
9/3 Art Exhibition Opens featuring illustrations by Tom Bachtell CD'96	9/12 Second Friday Program co-sponsored with the Jazz Institute of Chicago featuring jazz performed by the Irvin Pierce Trio	9/20 Luis Bunuel's <i>The Exterminating Angel</i> (1962)	9/16 Silivita Diaz Brown	9/27 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry winner Gwendolyn Brook's <i>Maud Martha</i>
10/1 Art Exhibition Opens	10/14 No scheduled 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday event due to CD site conflict.		10/21 <i>Urban Gateways</i> presenting short films created during the 2014 summer film program at the Art Institute of Chicago	10/25 Cliff Dweller Michael Hainey's <i>After Visiting Friends: A Son's Story</i> New York Times Bestseller
11/5 Art Exhibition Opens	11/11 Second Friday Program co-sponsored with the Jazz Institute of Chicago	11/8 <i>The Man in the Glass Booth</i> (American Film Theatre Selection)	11/18 <i>Ragdale</i> presenting some of the results of their program to record the wisdom and life lessons of their resident writers	11/22 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction winner MacKinlay Kantor's <i>Diversey</i>
12/10 Annual Members' Art Exhibition Opens.	12/12 Second Friday Program co-sponsored with JIC will feature Laurenzi/Ernst/Green	Holiday Break	Holiday Break	Holiday Break



Balloon magic amazed members and friends at Eve Moran's birthday party!



Brazilian jazz guitarist Paulinho Garcia entertains on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday.



James C. Smith, CD'84 created *Sea of Cortez* for his August exhibit at the CD.

## Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Cliff Dwellers,

The state of the Cliff Dwellers continues to improve. Since my last letter, we have gained new members and, in addition to the recently renovated interior, we now have new outside furniture, paid for with donations from a generous group of members, including the House Committee.

A history of the club published in 1947 stated, “how the club survives has never been fully ascertained....” In large part, it is due to the work of the Board of Directors and various committees, all staffed by volunteers. All members are welcome to participate on one or more of the Club’s committees, which is a great way to meet fellow members.

The Board continues to work towards positioning the Club for the future. Last year, for the first time in recent memory, the Club had a budget. Unfortunately, it projected a loss, just as the Club has experienced losses in most of its recorded history. In the past, operating losses were covered through special assessments or the sale of assets. For our next fiscal year, which begins October 1, the Board has developed and approved a responsible, balanced budget that includes a modest dues increase which should help put the Club on sound financial footing so that we can continue to thrive as a meeting place for artists and patrons of the arts.

A new art show featuring the architectural photography of Hedrick Blessing, including their photos of both the historic and current Kivas, will open on October 1 and be on display during the weekend of October 18 and 19, when the club will participate in the Chicago Architecture Foundation’s “Open House Chicago” program for the second year in a row. Last year, The Cliff Dwellers was one of the five most visited sites in the city. This year, by agreement with the CAF, visitors will be limited to CAF members and there will be a team of CAF docents on hand to help interpret the Club. Members are encouraged to attend as well, to enjoy the day, and help explain the Club’s benefits to potential new members.

There are many other exciting events planned for this fall, and I look forward to seeing all of you soon at the Kiva!

Zivio,  
Charles R. Hasbrouck, President  
The Cliff Dwellers

## Treasurer's Report to the Club

The Club facilities are looking nice, but our balance sheet isn’t looking so good. Specifically, we’re operating at a loss, and our operating account has gotten very low. Recent additions, such as the new deck furniture, have been possible only through generous contributions by individual members.

Late payments by members are aggravating the Club’s cash flow problem. Members who have delinquent balances of more than 60 days will be required to bring their accounts current, otherwise their Club privileges may be withdrawn.

Club utilization is not what it should be. Please consider the Club for any events you are planning, and come to lunch and dinner more often. For example, if every resident member came to lunch or dinner just one more time each month, that would improve our net bottom line by approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000 at the end of the year. Think about it.

Over the last six years, dues have gone up a total of just \$10.00/month, which has not come anywhere near keeping up with inflation or our expenses. Therefore, the Board has authorized a \$10.00/month increase in dues for both Professional and Lay members, and a \$10.00/year increase in dues for non-resident members and widows, effective October 1st.

We hope to keep enjoying our unique little Club for many more years, but we will need all of your cooperation and financial support.

David S. Chernoff  
Club Treasurer

## Irvin Pierce Trio Lighten the Night

by Lindsey Huges, CD'08

On September 12, as part of Chicago's Cultural Mile Second Friday's program, the Cliff Dwellers, for the second time this year, featured live jazz at the Club arranged through the Jazz Institute of Chicago. This most recent jazz group was a trio led by Irvin Pierce on tenor saxophone, with Rob Garringer on bass and David Phelps on drums.

Irvin is one of the recent young stars to rise through JIC's Jazz Links program. He is 20 years old and a graduate of Hillcrest High School. Irvin began playing sax at 10, and initiated serious jazz studies two years later at the Merit School of Music conservatory program. In 2012, he won 1st Place in the Civic and Arts Union League competition for area high school students. He garnered the People's Choice Award for the Grand Prize at that event. In his young career, Irvin has performed in New York City and at the Chicago Jazz Festival. He attended the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in NYC in the fall of 2012. In 2013, he toured with local jazz great Ernest Dawkins throughout Europe.

I spoke to Irvin briefly after the September 12 event, at which he performed superbly, demonstrating a command of the jazz idiom in both pop and jazz standard covers. He described his style as basic, tried-and-true hard bop. Irvin emphasized his attention to vocal and melodic phrasing when I inquired of the sort of sound he seeks. He offered John Coltrane as a leading, overall tenor influence, and named Gene Ammons, the recently departed Von Freeman and current Chicago straight-ahead bop star Ari Brown as favorite local models. I was very pleased to hear this young man cite Gene Ammons, because I can't hear that name without smiling over his big, joyous Chicago sound. Irvin displayed instances of comparable power when he blew at the Club this September.

"Rhythm . . . good repetition and rhythm," Irvin replied when I asked him how he plays to draw an audience's attention toward real jazz, more of a challenge than ever in our distracted times. "Rhythm is key." By the second set in the Kiva, warmed up and fluid, Irvin played striking and beautiful chord changes on classics such as *So What*, while driven by the strong rhythms of Garringer and Phelps, both as young as Pierce and evidently just as dedicated to the rare and beautiful language of jazz. We can rest assured knowing that the future of this most American of arts rests in the capable and thoughtful hands of young talents like Irvin Pierce.



## Open House Chicago Returns to the Cliff

For the second year in a row The Cliff Dwellers joins hands with the Chicago Architecture Foundation and 149 other sites across the city to present Open House Chicago, a free, city-wide, behind-the-scenes look at many of the city's great places and spaces.

On October 18-19 from 10am-4pm, the doors to the Club will be open to the public. Last year over 4,000 individuals visited the Club, many staying for a bit of food or drink as they heard the story of the Cliff, our move from the top floor of neighboring Orchestra Hall to the 22nd-floor of the Borg Warner building in 1996, and the renovation of the Club interior in 2013.

This year visitors will enjoy our world class view from the deck, and a buffet lunch and drinks will be available for purchase. However, due to space constraints, tours of our site will be open to CAF Members and OHC Volunteers only.

CAF docents will assist our visitors and talk about the history of the Club and the Borg-Warner building. Hedrich Blessing staff will use their photography of both the Old and the New Club facilities to discuss architecture in the city. While a good number of members have volunteered to be on hand either Saturday or Sunday, the more members who can share a few hours of their time the better our part of OHC will become. Let Vivian know when you are available to help.

## Step by Step with a Circle of Friends

by Mike Deines, CD'03 with information and input from Jan Stilson, author of *Art and Beauty in the Heartland*

Henry Regnery stated in the opening sentence of *The Cliff Dwellers* that “A history of the Cliff Dwellers must necessarily begin with the 1893 World’s Fair. For it was the creative ferment caused by the fair’s preparation that brought Hamlin Garland, the founder of the club, to Chicago.” Certainly, Garland was a necessity to our being, but in the aftermath of the Fair a collection of like-minded young artists and writers became attracted to Chicago and its possibilities as a creative center for the arts and their futures. A number of their names are stenciled in gold on the walls of the Kiva.

Among those individuals was Lorado Taft, a gifted sculptor whom Daniel Burnham had asked to be in charge of all the sculpture for the World’s Fair. As his career moved forward, the gracious and outgoing Taft opened his Van Buren Street studio as a “center of aesthetic exchange” for promising young artists and writers as well as “haven for artists down on their luck.” Taft’s studio became “The Little Room,” and at their gatherings these young artistic idealists discussed the importance of Beauty in the lives of all citizens and how, through beautification projects and education, they might take their message to the common man. When The Little Room migrated to Ralph Clarkson’s studio in the Fine Arts Building, an inner circle of Taft’s friends including artist Charles Frances Browne, novelist Hamlin Garland, and Henry Blake Fuller, the author of *The Cliff Dwellers*, joined with others in “spreading a love of and a better understanding of art in the middle west by word as well as by deed.”

During the summers many of this group chose to escape the heat and overcrowding of the city at a farm in Bass Lake, Indiana; however, an outbreak of malaria in 1897 forced them to seek a new location for their annual retreat. Wallace Heckman, a Chicago attorney and patron of the arts, offered the use of his Oregon, Illinois summer estate, Ganymede Farm, to Taft and his friends from The Little Room. Accepting Heckman’s generosity, the future art colonists arrived in Oregon the evening of July 1, 1898 on the Burlington train from Chicago.

The Heckman estate, located atop the forested east bluff of the Rock River, rose 200 feet above the river with a breath-taking view of valley below. A lone, ancient cedar tree, the Eagle’s Nest Tree, which gave the camp its name, rose near the highest point of the bluff trail. During the week that followed the group entered into a lease with the Heckman’s that would continue as long as one of the founding members remained alive. The charter members who signed the lease were: Lorado Taft, Wallace Heckman, Ralph Clarkson, Oliver Dennett Grover, Charles Francis Browne, Henry B. Fuller, Hamlin Garland, Horace Spencer Fiske, James Spenser Dickerson, Allan B. and Irving K. Pond, and Clarence Dickinson— a dozen friends from The Little Room who now shared a rustic art camp in northern Illinois.

These men, their families, and any guests they might invite, were to use the land in pursuit “of the fine arts, literature and the professions.” The rent on the land was initially one dollar a year, but this was increased with the construction of permanent buildings to ninety dollars a year. The rent was delivered on Labor Day, and then it was always accompanied by a costumed parade, pageant, and picnic on the landlord’s lawn.

Another stipulation of the lease stated that the artists must be responsible for at least two lectures a year to be held in Oregon. The artists--Taft, Garland, and Browne in particular--diligently observed this agreement, doing what they could for art education in the community, and in future years extending into schools and communities throughout Illinois.

Nine years later in November of 1907 each of the twelve charter members of the Eagle’s Nest would attend a meeting in the studio of Ralph Clarkson in the Fine Arts building. The Chicago Tribune reported, “President Judson of the University of Chicago acted as temporary chairman and Wallace Heckman as temporary secretary. The meeting was the sequel to a former meeting at which a decision was reached to found a social organization of local artists and art lovers. It had been proposed to take the name “The Attic Club,” and many supposed that would be adopted. But at the last moment the committee on organization suggested “The Cliff Dwellers” as the name. This caught the fancy of the ninety-five men in attendance and by unanimous vote it was decided to incorporate under that name.” WF + LRm + EN = CD! Zivio!

From the summer of 1898 until the death of the last charter member, Ralph Clarkson, in 1942, the Eagle’s Nest Art Colony was a source of beauty, nature, and an endless stream of cliff dwellers.

## Black Hawk Statue Repair Green-lighted

By Vinde Wells

Shaw Media vwells @shawmedia.com 2014/08/12

OREGON – The wait is over: The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has given its blessing to a plan to repair the 103-year-old Black Hawk statue that has been damaged by weather and time.

“It’s my understanding that the IDNR has approved the plan,” Frank Rausa of Sterling said Tuesday (. “Now all that’s left to do is issuing contracts. We’re making progress.” Rausa is a member of the Friends of the Black Hawk Statue, the organization spearheading restoration and fundraising efforts.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency OK’d the plan last week. Approval from both agencies was needed for the work to move forward.

The statue, which overlooks the Rock River from a high bluff at Lowden State Park near Oregon, is under The IDNR’s jurisdiction. The agency received a \$350,000 grant for the project from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Because the statue has landmark status, IHPA also had to sign off. Black Hawk has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 2009.

Created by sculptor Lorado Taft in 1910 as a tribute to all Native Americans, the statue draws thousands of visitors each year. It was unveiled in 1911.

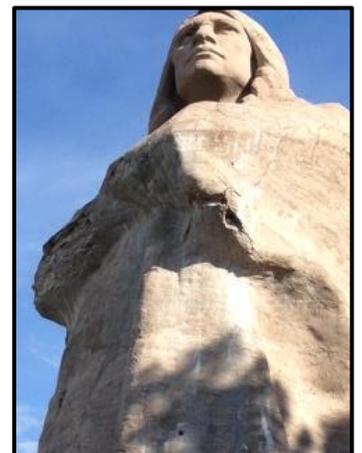
Testing and evaluations done last fall and this spring by Thornton Tomasetti of Chicago, an architectural firm that provides engineering design, investigation, and analysis services to clients worldwide, showed that three areas of the statue greatly needed repairs. Chunks of the concrete have fallen from its folded arms, and more areas are loose and ready to fall.

Preparation work began in mid-July when a crew removed the bushes and limestone blocks from around the base of the statue and put up a fence around it. Scaffolding was delivered late last week.

Special stairs are needed for the scaffolding, but once they are secured and the scaffolding is in place, the repair team will begin testing various mixtures of concrete and other materials to see which one will work the best.

A rededication ceremony will be held once the work is done, probably in July 2015. So far, about \$725,000 has been raised for repairs; \$75,000 to \$100,000 more will likely be needed to complete the project, Rausa said.

To donate: Donations can be mailed to Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702. Make checks payable the Illinois Conservation Foundation, and write Black Hawk Statue in the memo field.



**WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**  
MEMBERS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO  
**ON AND OFF THE CLIFF**

CAN SUBMIT STORIES, REFLECTIONS, ARTICLES, POEMS, PHOTOS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ARTS TO  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR MIKE DEINES by e--mail [mjdeines@yahoo.com](mailto:mjdeines@yahoo.com)

Share Current, Past, and Future Stories about The Cliff Dwellers.

## Cliff Notes—

- Since our last publication individuals interested in literature and the arts have become members of The Cliff Dwellers. We welcome them and look forward to their active participation in Club activities and events.

**Tom Harris, Pamela Ambrose, Edward Fried, Hemmant Jha**

Additionally, a note of appreciation is extended to the following members who nominated these individuals:

**Charles Hasbrouck, Leslie Recht, Mike Deines, Elizabeth Purdy.**

- **Saturday, October 25: Book Club:** *After Visiting Friends: A Son's Story* - a New York Times Bestseller written by Cliff Dweller Michael Hainey will be discussed with Michael Hainey present. A former student of Club Secretary Bill Drennan, he is the Deputy Editor of *GQ*. The discussion will begin at 11:00 and will continue over lunch.
- **Club librarian Tim Herwig** recently noted that ours is a “non-circulating” library available to members. No overdo fees will be charged if any borrowed volumes are returned in a kindly manner. Members who would like to donate literary and historic publications and materials related to the Club or our members should contact Tim.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 11: A Talk by Stuart Dybek**, one of Chicago’s most acclaimed writers will be hosted at The Cliff Dwellers by The Society of Midland Authors. This spring, Farrar, Straus and Giroux published Dybek’s first books in 11 years: *Ecstatic Cahoots*, which includes 50 micro-stories, and *Paper Lantern*, a set of love stories. A social hour, with complimentary snacks and a cash bar, begins at 6 p.m. The talk will begin at 7 p.m. Dybek is an Honorary CD Member.
- **Looking forward:** in December and January the visual art exhibits at the Club traditionally feature the works of our members. Connie Hinkel CD’01 [connie.hinkel@att.net](mailto:connie.hinkel@att.net) is in charge of curating the wall exhibits; Ruth Aizuss Migdal CD’14 [aizussmigdal@mac.com](mailto:aizussmigdal@mac.com), the sculpture exhibits. Additionally, in the spirit of featuring the artistic works of our members, we welcome CD musicians who would like to share their talents and play at the December 10<sup>th</sup> Art Opening.  
We are looking for 8 works of sculpture, glass, ceramics or architectural models made by members for the Members' Art Exhibition to place on the 17” x 20” bases in the Kiva. Interested members should send Ruth jpeg photos of work they would like to exhibit.

- **Of Little Note: When Bill Bowe had not appeared for his newspaper and glass of ice-water prior to lunch** at the Club at his usual “first-come-first-served” early hour for several weeks, Tim Herwig called Encyclopedia Britannica to solve the mystery. Bill had retired! So, a couple dozen members formed a “Golden Era” reunion committee and tricked Bowe, the self-proclaimed Emperor of the Era into coming to the Club for a free lunch at the Member’s Table. The “free” ploy worked and the largest Member’s Table of 2014 gathered to feast on the Tuesday buffet and Bill.

Several members rose to the occasion. Deirdre McCloskey noted that “Bill was the spark at the Members Table. We could always count on him to bring down the level of conversation.” Larry Okrent spent several hours in the dark room searching his 1947 EB for any reference to one *William Bowe* and found nothing. Shifting to Wikipedia he immediately discovered one Theodore “Bill” Bowe from somewhere in Michigan and offered a five minute substitute biography. Delightful but distant!

Mr. Bowe with his son Pat at his side to steady him through the ordeal reminded the gathering of friends, “When I joined the Cliff Dwellers I was tall and thin and young.” Ever the showman, he hesitated. “Now, I’m older.” He paused, “One out of three is okay.” And then in closing Emperor Bill added, “My term in office has become commonly known as “The Golden Era”—a wonderful time that you might not want to visit again.”

Really, Bill. Really!

