

been here a few weeks, what do you like?' So I selected news, and of course didn't know a thing about doing a news show. There were some great people in the newsroom that just brought me through."

During the first four years, Barbara recalls, she was the only woman in the newsroom.

"Back then you never really saw the reporter. It was all voice over," she says. "That's just the way it was done. I was mainly identified through voice. Even today, people hear me and turn around and say, 'Isn't that Barbara Boyd?' After three or four years, they decided they wanted reporter identification, so I started doing on-camera interviews."

Blazing a trail

Barbara's early broadcasts on social and economic issues earned her a loyal following.

In 1973, she reported the groundbreaking story of her own mastectomy — from her hospital bed.

"I wrote my script several days after my surgery while still in the hospital. The station sent out a photographer and we aired the story," she recalls. "During the piece the nurse brought out a prosthesis. It must have been this big (holding hands wide apart). I said, 'Obviously, this is for a much bigger woman!' We tried to add a little humor to lighten the story a bit."

"The piece was seven minutes long,"

Barbara says. "That was unprecedented! When the story was over the phones lit up. We had over 500 calls."

Although she was in uncharted territory as the city's first African American female anchor, Barbara says she didn't receive any negative reactions.

"I really didn't have a hard time," she says. "Once, I went to a news conference and they gave the news release to the photographer, not to me. And I think I got one hate letter, but I never had a problem getting stories. Unless there was a person who didn't want to get their story told."

End of an era

In 1994, after 25 years as a trailblazer, Barbara called it a career. Many in the industry have recognized Boyd's distinguished career in television and broadcasting. She has received numerous awards including four prestigious CASPERS, Woman of the Year from the American Cancer Society, Touchstone Award from Girls, Inc., Press Club, Drum Major award, UNCF, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman's Lifetime Achievement Award, induction into the Indiana and National Association of Black Journalists, Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Madame C.J. Walker Hall of Fame, a prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash award and appears as a Legend in Who's Who in

Black Indianapolis, and has appeared on the cover of *Indianapolis Monthly*.

Anything but retired

Although she retired in 1994, Barbara remains active in her community. She serves on the board of the March of Dimes, Indiana Children's Wish Fund, United Negro College Fund as the honorary chair of Y-Me breast cancer awareness fund and has also worked with Habitat for Humanity. She is a member of the Circle City Links, Silhouettes, Indiana Association of Black Broadcasters, Dialogue, Drifters and several Bridge groups. She continues with her public speaking engagements and has even appeared in several movies.

While her familiar braided hairstyles have given way to a soft salt-and-pepper bob, Barbara, at 79, still possesses many of the traits that made her a popular Indianapolis personality over the decades. She still has her trademark energy and speaks in the same precise, enthusiastic manner she employed on-air, often preceding her anecdotes with a grin and the words, "Let me tell you..."

She also continues to treasure the Fall Creek home she and her husband, the late Ted Boyd, bought more than 40 years ago. Ted's favorite holiday was Christmas, so they set up an enormous Christmas tree the year she retired, and it has stayed up ever since. ★



Fall 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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You're Invited

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual Watson-McCord

Holiday Party

Friday, December 19th, 7:30 p.m.
3544 Central Avenue

There will be a silent auction, cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and FUN, FUN, FUN
Cost is \$15 for residents, \$10 for seniors

Please call Dianne 258-1881 or Kevin 507-7660 for more information.

From Heyday to Heap: the Lifecycle of a Well-Known Property

by Jeremy Eeenbarger, Watson-McCord resident

IN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS such as ours, there always seem to be a few buildings that become weathered, vacant and rundown.

Looking at the deteriorating brick, collapsed roofs and boarded up windows of these buildings, I can't help wonder that, like Rudolph and his buddy Hermey the Elf from the 1964 Rankin/Bass stop-motion classic TV special *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, these once glorious buildings have somehow become forgotten and turned away to the Land of Misfit Toys.

How do such structures become so neglected, so lost and so forgotten? Were they victims of

vandalism, unsuccessful business ventures, poor maintenance or have they simply passed their expiration date? These questions entered my mind as I began to research the history of a nearby property in the midst of demolition.

Life Begins

The structure located at 659 E. 38th Street, just west of the Jackson Hewitt office, can barely be referred to as a building any longer. The City ordered that it be either refurbished or demolished, and for nearly two years the latter

continued on next page

WMNA MEMBERSHIP

YES! I want to join the Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association and let my voice be heard.

YES! Please renew my membership to the Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association for one year.

Joining the WMNA allows you to have critical input on decisions that are regularly made about your neighborhood. You must be a member in good standing in order to vote on critical decisions at WMNA meetings. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month from 7-8 p.m. at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church. As a member, you will be notified by postcard in advance of the meeting location.

We have no paid employees. Membership dues go toward the basic operating expenses of the organization such as newsletter and postcard printing, postage, distribution and various other expenses associated with the organization.

In 2008 we worked together to fight crime, improve our streets, curbs, sidewalks and parks. We helped make Watson-McCord a safer place to live. Join today and help us accomplish these tasks and more in 2009.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

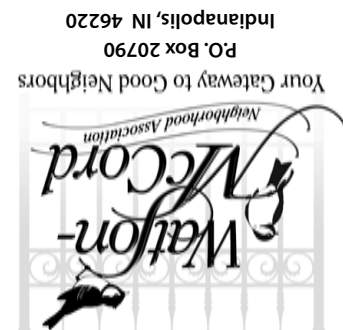
Residential Membership: \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100

Business Membership: \$50 \$100 \$200 \$300

Religious Membership: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000

Clip and mail form to: Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 20790, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Nonprofit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
 Indianapolis, IN
 Permit 323





MaCo Dry Cleaners (above) located at 659 E. 38th Street, circa 1960, was owned by Peter Pappas, his brother John and their cousin Ted Pulos. At the time, meter parking was still available along 38th Street and houses butted up close to the business. Structures nearby were later town down to make room for a parking lot. Across the street from MaCo Cleaners was a Hooks Drugstore (below), circa 1930 which was vibrant long before Walgreens moved into the neighborhood



has been its fate. Soon there will be nothing left to see. However, prior to this demolition, the unique architectural style and flair was still visible, evoking curiosity of what used to be.



John Pappas celebrates another day at MaCo Dry Cleaners.

business during its 20 year life and emerged a better face to the world.

The building became Fox Delicatessen during the 1950's.

Cleaning up the Neighborhood

Believe it or not, only one more business would occupy the building before it closed its doors for good.

In 1958, Peter Pappas, along with his brother, John and cousin, Ted Pulos, opened MaCo Dry Cleaners. Having recently moved to the United States from Greece, the Pappas family was anxious to create a good life for themselves in the Hoosier state.

For more than 30 years, the family ran a thriving dry cleaning business out of the building, surviving a number of external challenges, including a struggling economy, an increase in crime, and constant changes in the development of the area. Peter Pappas became a well-known businessman in the community and was regularly quoted in various publications regarding the local business climate.

In fact, in the mid 1980's, when Walgreen's announced they would be developing a store in the Maco Building – an unrelated business at the northeast corner of College Avenue and 38th Street – many believed a revitalization of the entire area would ensue. Peter was quoted in the *Indianapolis Star* on the topic. "It will help our business. It was a paradise here 28 years ago. We used to have banks, groceries, drug stores – but most moved out. The revitalization will help businesses and homeowners."

Though Peter began to see promise in the changes taking place, it did not happen quickly enough. MaCo Dry Cleaners closed in the early 1990's due to poor business.

Though the business closed, the property remained in the Pappas family until 2001, when it was sold to its current owner, the Sagamore Real Estate Group. After demolition, there are no immediate plans for the property.

This is a sad, but all too familiar ending to a diverse and vibrant commercial location. ★

Neighbor to Neighbor

An interview with Barbara Boyd, Watson-McCord's Pioneering Woman

WHEN WE THINK of a pioneer, we often think of a person who settles in a new region and endures many hardships while taming unclaimed wilderness.

Though Barbara Boyd would hardly identify herself as a pioneer, the irrefutable signs are there, as plain as the over-sized glasses on her face.

Barbara was born in Evanston, Illinois, on April 27, 1929. After graduating from Evanston Township High School, she attended the University of Illinois where she excelled in literature and the humanities. She later studied at the Columbia College School of Radio and Television. When she returned to Indiana she continued her courses at Indiana University.

Barbara returned to the Evanston area after graduation and soon made the acquaintance of Ted Boyd. Ted, a native of Indianapolis, was living in Evanston at the time, working as the Executive Director of the Emerson branch of the YMCA. Ted was introduced to Barbara through a cousin.

"Ted was a very competitive badminton player," Barbara recalls. "I knew I had met my match when he showed no sympathy on me on the playing court."

The couple married April 11, 1953. When an employment opportunity with the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis opened, Ted, with Barbara in tow, settled in Indianapolis. The couple's first home was on Scofield Avenue, on the east side of Indianapolis. Tragically, that home was destroyed by a fire. The couple soon began to look for a new home.

Ted found their Guilford Street home in 1972. The home was occupied by an Eli Lilly executive and his wife at that time. They Boyds were drawn to the home and to the area because the neighborhood was established and there was a feeling of cohesiveness. "It was a good place to raise a family," Barbara says.

Ted and Barbara bought the home and raised their children, Karen, Brian and Darren there. Today, Barbara has 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren...all but 3 still live in the area. Ted Boyd died on March 11, 2007 at the age of 81. The Boyds were married for 54 years.

Discovering her niche

After their move to Indianapolis, Barbara found herself becoming a household name as a result of a chance encounter.

In 1969, she recalls, Channel 6 was doing a documentary on Indianapolis and wanted to



Barbara Boyd

shoot some footage at a Head Start program she had helped open on June 10, 1965. When the producer called, he said he also wanted to audition a teacher in the classroom where they had previously filmed.

"When I took the call I jokingly said, 'Well, honey, if you're looking for a star, here I are!'," Barbara recalls with a laugh. "You know, joking! And they said, 'You're interested?' And I said, 'Sure, why not?'"

In 1969, at the age of 40, Barbara joined the staff of WFBM-TV (now WRTV 6) News as a general assignment reporter and later as a

consumer reporter. The career move not only made her the first African American female on television news in Indianapolis, but also the first African-American female to anchor a news show.

"At first, they didn't know what to do with me, so I started out with Jim Gerard on the noon show for a couple of weeks," Barbara says. "I didn't have any on-air time ... I just observed. Barbara also shadowed Carolyn Churchman on her Man on the Street radio interviews. Then I went to the news side for a couple of weeks. They said, 'Well, Barb, you've

continued on next page

2008-09 WMNA officers and board members:

Dianne Montgomery, **President**
Randy Kingsley, **Vice President**
Neil Bagadiong, **Secretary**
Betty Hurn Johnson, **Acting Treasurer**

Board of Directors:

Damon Davis, Dan Kraner, Dan Pierson,
Michael Pettry, David Woodruff, Barb Zech

Our Mission

The Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association exists to promote, create and maintain a viable and productive living environment conducive to neighborhood enhancement. We provide our members with services, representation, programs and a commitment to enhance quality of life through community-based problem solving, neighborhood-oriented services and public/private cooperation.

A Star-Studded Venue

Much like the rest of the Watson-McCord Neighborhood, the building was constructed in the 1920's. Though surprising, the building had a Hollywood-style beginning. For the first 10 years of its life, it served as a movie theater. The likes of Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplain and Lillian Gish made appearances on the silver screen every Friday and Saturday night within walking distance of many of our homes. The last curtain was drawn at the theater just 10 years after it opened. The building was put on the auction block.

In the 1930's, the building was purchased, and for the next 10 years, Virgil F. Hamm ran what was commonly referred to as "the friendly neighborhood barber shop."

In the 1940's, the business was sold to another barber, who incorporated the popular reference into the new business name, creating Fuller's Friendly Barber Shop. Hundreds of shaggy-haired, scruffy-faced men entered the

Giving Back to Our Community

I've been a realtor for 12 years, and have lived in the Meridian-Kessler, Mapleton-Fall Creek and Watson-McCord areas for 13 years. My love of older homes inspired me to become a realtor. Living in a 100-year-old home has taught me to understand the work that goes into home restoration.

Housing values in our neighborhood are constantly rising. Make sure you have a realtor who knows and understands the value of your older home.

I donate five percent of the commission from every home I list and sell in the Watson-McCord neighborhood back to the Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association.



Mayor's Community Service Award Community Volunteer
Top 5% in production nationally
"Keep Indianapolis Beautiful"



Kevin Warren, Realtor
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Voice Mail: 317.558.6811
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Residence: 317.925.4723