

You might be from McCormick!

By Jim Long

San Antonio, Texas

(McCormick native and former Messenger employee)

I recently texted an Instagram post to a friend in McCormick that said folks in small towns don't give a hoot about how many times a gas station changes its name. They "gonna" call it what they knew it as when it opened 20 years ago. We thought this was hilarious because it's so true.

For me that hilltop store heading up SC 28 to Abbeville will always be the Quik Way. Drive down SC 28 toward Augusta and you'll find what most folks say is Bee Perrin's place. I bet longtime residents still say Ye Olde Grocery, Bowick's and Harvey Lee Murray's. And that certain corner building in downtown McCormick will always be Don Wilson's.

Thinking of all these "filling stations" stirred up more old places and faces of my childhood in McCormick. It was a colorful and interesting place to grow up. I came up with a kind of Jeff Foxworthy style "You might be a Redneck" list of memories and people unique to our town. They are a part of a local history we all share. I hope they bring a smile to everyone. Some of these will just make you hungry.

You might be from McCormick ...

If you went to McCormick High School and climbed through a hole in the chain link fence to get your hands on a cheeseburger from Lan's Deli.

If you saw Jerry Clower perform at one of the first Gold Rush Festivals.

If you sometimes still want to use the word "Route" when you're writing your address.

If you liked to walk barefoot on the sawdust floor of The Orange Spot you might be from McCormick.

If you still look for the Knothole Off Main column or "Cracken's Corner in the Messenger every week you might be from McCormick.

If you say you remember that weird building, now demolished, at Little River Boat Ramp EVER being open you might be fibbing but you might be from McCormick.

If when you went fishing you bought minnows from Bladon's, Big John's or W.L. and Betty Wellmaker's Esso station I think you're from McCormick.

If you once bid on something you didn't really want, like an aquarium, just by scratching your nose at one of Sam Roland's auctions you might be from McCormick.

If you still miss Mr. Stanley Quarles' barbecue chicken and Miss Lila's coleslaw.

If you can find Red Row, Lost Wilderness, White Town, Fishing Village or Sandy Branch without using Google Maps.

If you know the loading platform of The Depot was used for a scene in a 90's remake of the Disney movie "That Darn Cat" you might be from McCormick.

If you ate at one or both of the Sugar Shacks.

If you happily can't believe there is a bookstore on Main Street you might be from McCormick.

If you still think of yourself as Backwater Boogie Band's "#1 Fan" and you still have a T-shirt to prove it, then Rock on Dude, and yes, you might be from McCormick.

If you seem to think there was a famous, world class French restaurant in Plum Branch called "The Plum" – but you never ate there – you're not crazy, you're from McCormick.

If you saw Allen Terry's annual, school reptile show like seven times and you are STILL scared of snakes you're smart and probably from McCormick.

If you can pronounce Huguenot, Bonsecour, Bordeaux

and Guillebeau correctly you might be from McCormick.

If Mrs. Cornelia Jones babysat you or your children or BOTH – you are certainly from McCormick.

If your mama wouldn't let you stay up late on Friday night to watch scary movies on Channel 6's "Shock Theatre" with Count Justin Sane. She probably was right and you might be from McCormick.

If as a child you dreamed of having your birthday party on Trooper Terry's television show but it never happened, I feel your pain, and you might be from McCormick.

If you thought the old Chamberlain house was the scariest place on Earth you might be from McCormick.

If you made up your Christmas list to Santa Claus by walking around the toy section of Ed Brown's Dime Store (or maybe Dodd's) you might be from McCormick.

If you think the best hot dog in the Universe was made by Mr. Paul Edmunds at Edmunds Supermarket and the best sausage dog came from Rick Jennings' place you're right and you are probably from McCormick.

If you "parked" at Carolina Park and your favorite song was likely "Desperado", "Freebird" or "Dust in The Wind" you might be from McCormick.

If as a kid you ran as fast as you could and screaming the whole way down that steep, giant, grocery cart ramp on the side of the Red & White you might be a native of McCormick.

If you remember when J.C. (Garrison) and J.B. (Long) drove backwards down Main Street you're probably laughing and you might be from McCormick.

If you smile with pride every time you hear Rhonda McDaniel sing you're definitely from McCormick.

If you were scared to walk across that darned swinging, swaying, log bridge at Baker Creek State Park.

If you still say "Rescue Squad" and not "EMS" you might be from McCormick.

If you like to brag to people from other small towns that author and scholar Dr. Angela L. Walker Franklin, president of Des Moines University, is a native of McCormick, South Carolina. You should and you might be from McCormick.

If Mr. Jack used to cash your payroll check at his side counter in Strom's Drug Store when minimum wage was \$4.25 you're my age and you might be from McCormick.

If your personal motto is, "Good better best, never let it rest, until good is better and better is best."

If your friends and family used to travel from far-away spots like Antreville, Hickory Tavern or Honea Path just to eat with you at Charlie's Seafood, they knew what was up, and you're a McCormick resident.

If you got your first stereo, complete with turntable, state of the art 8-track tape player, and you bought it on a monthly payment plan from Johnny Brown's Western Auto you might be me and you're from McCormick.

If your picture or one of your relative's pictures is in one of the books written by Bobby Edmonds you gotta be from McCormick.

If you know who Keturah was you might be from McCormick.

If driving under the train overpass near Mr. Gip Lindley's old store is your idea of a thrill ride.

If you had to write the dreaded 100, minus two, plus one for talking too much in Mrs. Dorothy Pruitt's class, while she diagrammed one sentence across two blackboards, you are definitely from McCormick.

Finally, bonus points if you can correctly identify the following: the R and D in R and D shopping center, the Tom in Tom's Grill, and the B in B-Mart. If you can you MUST be from McCormick!



Bobbie Hutchings (center) was recently installed as the newest member of the Rotary Satellite Club of McCormick. She is pictured with Rotarians Linda Williford, chairperson (left) and Anne Barron.

Rotary Satellite Club welcomes Bobbie Hutchings

By Linda Williford, chairperson

Rotary Satellite Club of McCormick

On Tuesday, Feb. 22, the Rotary Satellite Club of McCormick installed Bobbie Hutchings from the Talmadge Center as its newest Rotarian. A familiar face to many, Bobbie brings her expertise in event development and organization which will help support the many projects Rotary is working on in the McCormick area.

Despite being a small group of Rotarians, they have a presence on YouTube where they developed a program, "Rotary Reads the Classics". Members of the Rotary Club have read several classic children's books which proved to be a very successful program during the COVID pandemic while children were sequestered to their homes.

The Rotary Club will also be sponsoring two students from the McCormick area who will have the opportunity to attend RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) program this summer. Students will attend a week-long intensive leadership training event at Erskine College in Due West where they'll acquire skills designed to build self-esteem, team-building, communication and realize the importance of community service. Graduates of the RYLA program will also be eligible for a \$5,000 per year scholarship to Erskine College.

Prior to the pandemic, the Rotary Club began the process of developing an Interact Club at the McCormick High School. Interact (a Rotary Club for students 14-18) members connect with local Rotarians and become involved in local and international projects. Besides having fun and making new friends, Interactors will develop and implement two projects – one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding. The Rotary Club mentors and guides Interactors as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills.

Whether they're painting walls, sending valentines, acknowledging veterans, donating books to the Little Libraries, collecting food for the Food Pantry, or participating in Toys for Tots, you'll find this group of like-minded Rotarians fulfill the Rotary philosophy of "Service Above Self."

Look for more details on a Rotary hosted Red Cross Blood Drive that will take place at the Senior Center in McCormick on May 26.

If you would like more information on how to join this great group of Rotarians for fun, fellowship and networking, contact Anne Barron at 864-992-7039 or Linda Williford at 864-602-0238.

School Board from page 1

the school complex and drainage issues. The contractor has also identified the need for changes/improvements in school classrooms and teaching facilities. These include space dedicated to the performing arts and the science labs.

Trustees also approved the second and final reading of the 2022-23 school calendar. Under the option approved, students would begin classes on July 21 and end with a half-day session on June 6, 2023. The calendar continues the year round concept with four 9 week class sessions separated by two week intercessions for remediation and rest. The mid-year holiday intercession would begin on Dec. 15, with a half day of classes ending at 11:30 a.m. and resumption of classes on Jan. 4, 2023. Spring vacation would occur during the week of April 10, 2023, with MHS graduation scheduled for Friday, June 9, 2023.

In other business –

- David Loadholt provided the district's revenue and expenditure report through Feb. 28. He reported revenues of \$6.6 million and expenditures of \$5.7 million out of a total general fund budget of \$9.6 million, and indicated that the district should be in good shape, financially, for the remainder of the school year.

- Trustees approved an overnight trip for approximately 9 JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) students and two chaperones to attend the first annual National Career Development Conference in Dallas, Texas. The conference will begin May 5 and end May 7. The total cost of the trip is expected to be around \$11,600, with most of the funds coming from existing JAG sources.

- Trustees also approved the district's recommendation to establish a new position – Transition/Vocational Facilitator for Special Services. The incumbent will assist students with disabilities who are working toward the SC High School Credential and/or post-secondary goals for employment. This will include helping them with their oral and written communication, and managing their vocational training experiences.

- Dr. Hembree reported on district and school achievements during the past month, which included the development of a new district brochure, a successful teacher recruitment fair that helped them identify potential candidates for hire, approval of the district's application to become an e-learning district in the event of natural emergencies, the presentation of the Scholar Athlete Award to MHS Senior Omarion Key, and MHS winning the State JAG Championship.

There were no public comments at the meeting.

The next regular monthly meeting of the board is scheduled for Monday, April 11 at the MHS Media Center. The executive (closed) session will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the public (open) session at 7 p.m.

South Carolina Humanities now accepting nominations for the Governor's Awards in the Humanities

South Carolina Humanities is pleased to announce that nominations for the Governor's Awards in the Humanities and the Fresh Voices in the Humanities Awards are now being accepted through May 14, 2022. Established in 1991, the Governor's Awards celebrate the Palmetto State's humanities academics and advocates. SC Humanities recently introduced the Fresh Voices in the Humanities Awards as a way to recognize innovative individuals who use culture and history to bring people together, but whose efforts may have gone relatively unnoticed beyond their own community. SC Humanities awarded 94 Governor's Awards since 1991 and 10 Fresh Voices Awards since 2018.

All nominations should be sent by May 14, 2022, to the attention of Dr. Randy Akers, SC Humanities, P.O. Box 5287, Columbia, SC 29250. Nominations can also be emailed to rlakers@schumanities.org. Nominations must

include: a letter describing the contributions of the nominee (up to three pages); a resume or C.V. for nominated individuals; 2-3 letters of support for nominated organizations/institutions; and contact information for the nominee, including name, phone number, and email address. Please note that individuals, organizations, and/or institutions may not nominate themselves.

The Governor's Awards in the Humanities Award Ceremony will be held at the Pastides Alumni Center in Columbia, South Carolina on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022. Table sponsorships are available, as well as individual tickets. To reserve one or more tables or to purchase individual tickets, call 803-771-2477.

To learn more about the Governor's Awards and see a list of past winners, visit www.schumanities.org/annual-events/govawards.

Jackie Brown announces bid for re-election

I am seeking re-election to McCormick County Council District #5. In October of 2021, I was elected to serve out the unexpired term of the late Earl Coleman, former county council representative for District #5. I have gained valuable experience in these few months that will allow me to continue to serve the people of McCormick County. This new experience and my past experiences as a member of the staff at the MACK, McCormick County Literacy Association and McCormick County School District have all afforded me an opportunity to see how county government directly impacts many of the services provided by organizations in our community. I want to serve as a change agent to ensure that our county takes advantage of all our natural resources to attract business opportunities to our community. Our county has been involved in a number of county-wide planning initiatives that need to be brought forward to support entrepreneurs in our county who have opened businesses based on those plans. Our community is rich in natural resources that can be enhanced with support from our local and state governments.



I bring a perspective to council that draws on my experience as a former member of the county planning commission, local arts council, literacy council, school board, Gold Rush Committee, American Red Cross, South Carolina Commission for the Blind and various other groups and organizations. I am offering myself as a candidate to be re-elected to represent McCormick County Council District #5

McCormick Tire & Oil

117 E Gold St McCormick, SC 29835

"High Quality Car Services"
864-852-2443

10% Military Discount Daily
10% Senior Citizen
Discount Every Wednesday

Hours of Operation
Tuesday and Wednesday • 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday and Friday • 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday • 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday and Monday • Closed

Services Offers:
Tire and Brake Service • Oil Change
Front End Work • Ball Joint
Wheel Bearings • Car Wash
And More