



# Flushing Area Historical Society

810-487-0814

431 W. Main St. • Flushing, Michigan 48433 •

Facebook: [Flushings Area Historical Society & Museum](https://www.facebook.com/flushingareahistoricalsocietyandmuseum)

Winter & Spring Hours  
Tuesdays, 9 AM -1 PM  
and by appointment  
Closed Sundays until May  
For information, call or e-mail:  
810-487-0814 fahs@att.net

Museum 810-487-0814  
Museum tours & building use:  
Dan Anderson 810-686-6669  
Membership, program director  
Robert Davies 810-624-0278  
Donation of artifacts:  
Call Museum 810-487-0814  
President,  
Dan Anderson: 810-686-6669

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## Flushings Area Historical Society (The Depot)

431 W. Main St. at the R.R. track

7 PM, Monday, February 16, 2026

### Show & Tell

This is our annual February meeting where members, guests and visitors bring items that are unusual, collectable, significant to Flushing area history, or just strange and undefinable.

In the past, we have seen a wide variety of things that included railroad and other special tools, "Quack" medical devices, home and kitchen gadgets and the ever popular "mysterious" and "unknown".

The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be offered and a door prize will be awarded.

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The tool below is one of the many items that will be shown. It was a handy item to have in the early 1900's to the mid 1950's, but advanced technology reduced it to the scrap heap. It is about 12" long, has 2 sets of very sharp claws and adjustable to fit any size of \_\_\_\_\_?



**Notes from Dan's Desk:**

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope everyone has enjoyed their holidays. The Museum is closed now except for our Membership and Community Group Meetings. We may be closed but we're busy working on the inside. In celebration of America 250 birthday we will be moving display cases and setting up new displays. It will be exciting to see all the new and different displays telling the story of our country, state and Flushing. There will also be many activities in the surrounding area to celebrate the history of our nation. As the year progresses, I will continue to announce upcoming events and encourage you to participate. I am looking forward to this birthday celebration and hope you enjoy it as well. If you have any ideas or collections we can share, please feel free to contact me about your ideas.

As we look forward, we must also look back at the past year. Our Membership Meetings were well attended and we learned a lot about the history of Flushing. Community groups enjoy using our facilities for their meetings and visitors enjoy the many displays in the Museum.

Our biggest event of the year is Candlewalk and this years' event was very successful. Despite the cold weather we still had good attendance and people were happy watching the trains. In addition, people enjoyed the winter scavenger hunt going around the Museum finding the various artifacts that were on their list. Kids were also busy making crafts at the craft table to take home with them. On Sundays in December, parents and children were able to talk to Santa Claus. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Claus for their time at the Museum and know everyone enjoyed their time with them.

In closing I thank everyone for their support this past year and look forward to working together in the future. With all the work that has to be done and changes underway we can use all the help we can get. Stop by any Tuesday to help out or contact me with any questions you have. Together, let us continue to work on making this the best Museum possible.

**Show & Tell**

The electrical medical device to the left is an electro-homeopathic Device (c. 1890-1920), or "J.H. Bunnell & Co.'s No. 4 D.D. Home Medical Apparatus." It employed an electric current to treat a variety of ailments, ranging from headaches to cancer. The science behind it, called electrohomeopathy, touted the many uses of "red", "yellow", "blue", "green", and "white" electricity. It is powered by a dry cell battery which cost 60¢. There are 3 holes to insert the wires and current is adjusted from placement of the pins. Low is position 1 & 2. Positions 2 & 3 result in medium current. Positions 1 & 3 will give you the full charge. Cost new, \$10.00

**The Flushing Observer, Sunday, November 17, 1985, Section A, Page 3**

## Mac's

An era ends for Flushing prince of petrol



Flushing resident Frank McCarty retired on Oct. 31, 1985 from the Standard Station 226 Main St., which he had owned since 1949.

McCarty is currently negotiating with prospective buyers on the sale of the business.

**We now offer this profile of McCarty.**

**By Viki Marshburn**

**Observer Staff Writer**

The tall, reedy man in a faded mechanics uniform stares out at Main Street and smiles wistfully. His name is Frank "Mac" McCarty and he has looked out onto this Flushing street scene for 37 years as owner of the Standard station at the corner of Main Street and McKinley Road.

But today isn't just another work day. It is Oct. 31, 1985, the day that McCarty will retire and leave the business he opened on Aug. 28, 1949.

He has invested a great deal in Flushing -- his talents, his energies, his financial wellbeing. He has raised five daughters in this community and is active at St. Roberts Church and the VFW. For 24 years he has served as a city councilman.

Flushing and its people are his life. Today, a part of that life is coming to an end. One wonders, then, what the cherub-cheeked man with a twinkle in his eye is thinking as he gazes silently at Main Street. He appears calm, even jovial, but surely, at 4 p.m. with only 1½ hours of his last day of work remaining, he must be feeling a great deal of emotion under his relaxed exterior.

"I didn't really start to feel odd until this afternoon. All of a sudden part of your life is over," he says, standing to offer friends and acquaintances who drop in a piece of chocolate cake, one of the many gifts he received throughout the week.

"I've really enjoyed this job and the people I've met over the years," McCarty said. He looks down at his hands and pauses for a moment. The ubiquitous smile fades. "Yep, I'll miss it, I've made a lot of friends."

Back in 1949, McCarty was working for a friend at a Standard station in Durand, who convinced him to open a station in Flushing. The rest, as they say, is history.

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(McCarty continued)

"I had been a draftsman in Durand and had worked on the line at Fisher in Flint but I knew that I wanted more than that. I wanted some freedom," he said.

McCarty chuckles. The idea of private ownership and freedom being one in the same amuses him, now. However, despite the headaches, he has found the job to be rewarding and lucrative enough to pay his bills.

"I'm not rich but I've been able to raise my family and I've been fairly prudent," he notes. "I've got no complaints."

When McCarty opened his station, gasoline was 29.9 cents per gallon. Much of his work had to be done in late spring, summer and early fall because the station was without an enclosed garage, and he labored seven days a week.

There have been many changes since that time. A new station was built in 1952 with indoor facilities to repair and maintain automobiles; the work week was substantially reduced; and, in McCarty's words, "things started to get easier."

Although he employed many young men at the station, the 64 year-old McCarty could be found on any given workday pumping gas himself and washing the windshields of customers' cars.

He clearly enjoys chatting with his clientele and being around people. "I like doing things for people.

"If you treat people right, then they'll treat you right," he said. "Most of my customers are very happy and I've nurtured their trust."

McCarty points out that he is friendly even with his competitors. "One of them is taking me out to lunch this week!" he added, grinning widely.

It is the social contact, which his work provided, that McCarty will miss the most. "I like talking to my customers and having friends stop by," he said as he watched two men walk up to the front door of the station. "After I retire, I'm only going to see them if I run into them, just by chance."

As the men walked into the office, Frank stood and greeted them with a familiar smile. They were old buddies. "Hey, Mac, there's no excuse to not take off now, right?" asked one of the men. They stood at ease in the office, kidding McCarty about

his last day on the job and welcoming another longtime friend into their retired ranks.

McCarty grinned wryly while listening to their banter. "We're going fishing soon, Mac!" said the other man as the two departed. "Okay," said McCarty quietly. "You know. I don't think of myself as a senior citizen," he said as he watched the men walk past the gas pumps and down Main Street. "I'm too active and too interested. But I don't have the strength in my hands that I used to. I guess that I hate to think of getting older, everybody wants to believe that they're 21 yet!"

Although McCarty will miss his work and his customers, he firmly believes that the decision he made three months ago to retire at the end of October is a good one.

"I owe it to myself and to my wife to do a few things," he said. "I'd like to visit Ireland and see our children who live out of state."

McCarty has enjoyed good health over the years but surgery this past summer caused him to lose 40 pounds and he would like to enjoy some leisure years in case his health will not permit it in the future.

"The aging process is part of life," he said. "After 60, anything can happen and you're living on 'bonus' time so you might as well enjoy it."

A great deal of his enjoyment in life after retirement will come from seeing his family more often. McCarty speaks often of his wife and five children and they are obviously the greatest source of pride and joy in his life.

"My family is the most important thing to me," McCarty said matter-of-factly. "My five daughters were the best investment I ever made and my wife was the ingredient."

McCarty stared out at Main Street and gazed up at the clock. One more hour to go until closing.

A young vendor came in to say goodbye, McCarty rose as the young man reached for his hand and grasped it firmly while telling McCarty how much he would miss his acquaintance.

"I feel kind of weird," said McCarty as he watched the young man drive away. "Man lives by routine and retirement interrupts that routine but you find another way to work it out. Everything changes."

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(McCarty continued)

One Of McCarty's employees walked through the office and into the garage at a fast pace. "How's that tire?" McCarty inquired. The response seemed to please him. The customer would be satisfied. "I guess I'm concerned about the business right up to the end," he said. "I've got a lot of senior citizen customers who are widowers and I will wonder how it's going for them. But you have to believe that life will take care of itself."

The phone rang and McCarty's steady, low voice

monotone noted that the gas pumps would be drained the next morning. He sat back down at his desk and continued his vigil of Main Street. After closing time that evening, drivers along Main Street could observe McCarty busy in the office, giving instructions, putting a final closure on his life's work. He is a man who believes in accepting life's changes with dignity and humor. "Every day is a good day, some are just better than others," he said smiling.

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**Thank you:** We wish to express thanks to all our members who donate money to the Flushing Area Historical Society in memory of a loved one or friend. This money is placed in a trust fund and the interest received helps with the expenses and operation of the Depot. The Historical Society is a 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt, non-profit Michigan Corporation. There was one memorial received in the past two months.

Robert E. Walsh (9/19/1930 – 11/15/2023 from Norma Walsh

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**Check the mailing sticker on your newsletter for your renewal date. If it is highlighted, it is now due.** Thanks to those who pay for two or three years as this saves a considerable amount of paperwork. We print 8 newsletters a year: Feb. - June and Sept. - Nov. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail when renewing, fill out the "e-mail" line at the bottom of the membership form below. Make sure that fahs@att.net is in your address book so it does not end up in the "spam" folder.

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## Flushing Area Historical Society

431 W Main St

Flushing MI 48433-2035

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February 2026

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