

SPEAKERS FOR HISTORY-RELATED PROGRAMS
TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Dr. Pete Bill

A retired educator and administrator of the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Bill had a 33-year teaching career, and has been the recipient of 29 teaching awards at the Veterinary College, Purdue University, and national level including national recognition by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges and the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators. Dr. Bill is an active history researcher and collector of artifacts of Purdue and Tippecanoe County, a frequent presenter at Tippecanoe County Historical Association events, and an invited speaker for local, state, and national associations and organizations.

Title	Description	Presentation Length
Michael Murphy, the Flying Irishman of Tippecanoe County	Michael Murphy was born near Tippecanoe County and became a daring barnstormer and wing walker in the early days of aviation. Despite being famous nationally for his aerobatics, he became the Army Air Corps' premier instructor and advocate for the US Glider program at the beginning of WWII. As such, he was assigned to fly the lead glider into Normandy on D-Day, a story captured by Steve Spielberg in <i>Saving Private Ryan</i> and in the documentary <i>Silent Wings</i> . This presentation will talk about the breadth of Michael Murphy's exciting life and lasting legacy on professional aerobatics as Tippecanoe County's "Flying Irishman".	45-60 minutes Power Point presentation
Charlie Shambaugh: Tippecanoe County's "Mechanical Genius"	Always one to tinker with anything mechanical, Charlie Shambaugh created Lafayette's first commercial airport, was an automobile entrepreneur, and built and drove racecars in the Indianapolis 500 in its earliest years. Come hear about one of Lafayette's more "interesting" characters and its recognized "Mechanical Genius".	45-60 minutes Power Point presentation
John T. McCutcheon	It's not often a Tippecanoe County farm boy grows up to be a world-recognized Pulitzer Prize winner. But John T. McCutcheon's hayseed start laid the groundwork for his extensive travel adventures, his work as an illustrator of world events, and his "Forest Gump" ability to be in the right place at the right time in history. Come hear about McCutcheon's young life here in Tippecanoe County and how the self-described "country bumpkin" became well-recognized friends with presidents, kings, and dignitaries from all over the world.	45-60 minutes Power Point presentation

<p>Tippecanoe County and the Great Flood of 1913</p>	<p>The details of the Flood of 1913 has been captured in books and magazines for over a hundred years. However, the story of the flood in Tippecanoe County rarely is mentioned. Research into local news sources and documents has uncovered many stories of heroism, loss, and renewal that confronted Tippecanoe County citizens when faced with this unprecedented natural disaster. Come learn about some of the stories and see images rarely seen before of the destruction in Lafayette and West Lafayette.</p>	<p>45-60 minutes Power Point presentation</p>
<p>When Wylie Post Unexpectedly Dropped in on Tippecanoe County</p>	<p>Wiley Post was a hard-scrapping Texas lad with a 6th grade education and an insatiable appetite to push the boundaries of known flight and break aviation records during the 1920's and 1930's. His exploits and stratospheric adventures (wearing crude protective equipment) were the stuff newspapers loved. So it was that one day while attempting a new world's record, Wiley Post quite unexpectedly was forced to visit Tippecanoe County. Come learn about how this came to be and Wiley Post's amazing, but tragically shortened, aviation career.</p>	<p>35-45 minutes Power Point presentation</p>
<p>Mudlavia and Kramer</p>	<p>In the late 1800's healing mineral baths and sulfur water elixirs were quite the rage. Capitalizing on this national trend, Harry Kramer developed a huge hotel and spa around a spring in nearby Warren County and created Hotel Mudlavia. The story of Harry Kramer and Mudlavia is a tale of one man's vision to capture the "healing power" of Mineral Springs is a place that today mostly no longer exists.</p>	<p>40-60 minutes Power Point presentation</p>
<p>Return from the Dead, the Story of Governor Harry Leslie</p>	<p>The 33rd Governor of Indiana attended college as an "all-round Purdue man" and outstanding athlete until an event in October 1903 changed his life forever. Come hear about Harry Leslie's return from the dead story and how it is forever linked to one of the darkest days in Purdue University's history.</p>	<p>45-60 minutes Power Point presentation</p>
<p>Medicines used in Tippecanoe County from 1915 to 1919</p>	<p>Although by 1900 Europe had embraced the germ theory and had researched new medications and treatments, United States physicians still often used herbal remedies compounded by druggists and herbalists as they had done a century earlier. This lecture is an interesting voyage into treatments prescribed by physicians in Tippecanoe County taken from the actual prescriptions they had written. You may be shocked by what was considered the standard of medicinal treatment you would have received as a resident of Lafayette from 1915 to 1919.</p>	<p>30-60 minutes Power Point presentation with artifacts</p>

<p>Lizzie Shoemaker: Breaking the glass ceiling in Science at Purdue in 1886; Purdue's first MS degree</p>	<p>Elizabeth Shoemaker grew up in nearby Chauncey, Indiana, a mere stones-throw away from the new Purdue campus. She was highly engaged in the predominantly male campus and succeeded in achieving her BS in 1884, but was not content to stop here. Working with Professor Charles Barnes, she completed graduate work in Botany, but had to push President Smart and the Purdue faculty to consider her for Purdue's first Master of Science degree. Lizzie's tale is an interesting insight into academia circa 1880's.</p>	<p>30 minutes Power Point presentation with artifacts</p>
<p>Joe Halsmer and His Flying Car</p>	<p>The patriarch of the Halsmer airport started out as a typical Hoosier farm kid trying to fashion flying machines out of old wooden crates and baling twine. However, the Halsmer brothers ended up being one of the more successful pioneers founding an active airport in Tippecanoe County and constantly tinkering with aircraft. The pinnacle may have been Joe Halsmer's flying car. Come here about the aviation adventures of Joe Halsmer.</p>	<p>45 minutes Power Point presentation</p>
<p>Student voices; the story of the Purdue Debris and Exponent</p>	<p>Students began publishing newspapers about Purdue not too many years after the college admitted students. One of the earlier attempts was a newspaper known as "The Purdue". Later, the Purdue Exponent and the yearbook Debris both debuted in 1889. Notables like John T. McCutcheon were there at the beginning and no fewer than six Exponent and Debris alumni have won Pulitzer Prizes. Artifacts of early publications will be on hand to see.</p>	<p>30-40 minutes Power Point presentation with artifacts</p>
<p>Aviation pioneer in Tippecanoe County; the story of Cap Aretz</p>	<p>Many folks in Tippecanoe County recognize the name Aretz from the local airport located off of Indiana 25 just northwest of Lafayette. However, the story of Lawrence "Cap" Aretz touches many aspects of early aviation in Indiana. Come hear the interesting experiences and personalities Cap Aretz encountered in his 50 year aviation career.</p>	<p>45-60 minutes Power Point presentation</p>
<p>The Tale of the Purdue Victory Bell and Bell House</p>	<p>Although the brass Purdue Victory Bell, mounted on its own caisson, is rung after each Purdue home football game victory, its history makes such a rise to symbolic importance seem quite unlikely. Come hear the story behind how this bell went from lowly campus alarm clock mounted in the dingy power house, to a symbol of celebration and pride in Purdue sports.</p>	<p>20-30 minutes</p>