

City of Corydon Bandstand

dedicated to

WILLIAM “BILL” GODE



Bill Gode believed volunteerism was important for the health of small-town Iowa. He was active on Corydon City Council, the Wayne County Hospital Board of Trustees, Prairie Trails Museum, Summer on the Square, Corydon Old Settlers Celebration and Wayne Theatre, but bringing entertainment to the Corydon Square and this bandstand was his true passion!

Bill was born on October 25, 1932, in Clinton, IA, to W. Buell and Helen (Christiansen) Gode and graduated from Lyons High School in 1950. He attended Clinton Junior College and after graduation, attended Iowa State University. He was then drafted to the U.S. Army, and two years later re-enrolled in Iowa State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture specializing in Horticulture. He especially liked his years at Iowa State where he met his soon to be wife, Connie Jo Keller of Corydon. They were married October 26, 1956 at the Methodist Church here in town.

Bill and Connie traveled several Midwestern states inspecting flower shops and greenhouses for Florists Transworld Delivery Association. They moved to Detroit, Michigan, the corporate headquarters for the Association, where Bill worked in customer relations and public relations and advertising.

The decision to move to Corydon came swift and unexpected after going through Detroit riots and the loss of a good friend to a street robbery and murder. The decision was a good one and the Keller Flower Shop, Connie's parents' business, flourished. Later, Bill and Connie built a new flower shop in that same location on the town square.

Connie passed away in May of 1999, but Bill continued in the business with the help of excellent employees. When he sold the flower shop, he continued his dedication to volunteerism to help the City of Corydon and Wayne County thrive!



Bill was determined to bring a variety of entertainment to the bandstand and was often found at the Iowa State Fair searching out talent that he could persuade to come and entertain in Corydon. Not only did he find outstanding entertainment for the annual Old Settler's Days celebration, but he filled the bandstand every Thursday night during Summer on the Square. Some of his most famous finds included "The Blenders," "The Nadas," Marilyn May, Bob Door, and Robin and Linda Williams, with Bill's organization of the Basset Hound Dog Show being the most original!

Bill was especially proud of being named Iowan of the Day at the Iowa State Fair, Corydon's Old Settler of the Year and was a 50+ year member of the Corydon Lions Club. Bill's family all reside in northeast Iowa and they made many attempts following the loss of Connie, to encourage Bill to move up by them. But Bill was too dedicated to his "Corydon family" to ever leave. He passed away in March of 2025.

Bill's family and close friends thank the Corydon community for taking such wonderful care of him and especially supporting this bandstand renovation, crediting this true local hero often lovingly referred to as "Mr. Corydon!"

May many volunteers follow Bill's example of dedication and love for this community and let the entertainment flow from this beautiful bandstand for years to come!