

So in 1932, seventy-five years after the original dedication, there was no celebration. On the night of March 19, Frank Duffy, promoter, was holding a public dance—admission 50¢. The situation in 1957, the 100th anniversary, was even more dismal—the hall was dark on March 19. The trustees, who had been trying to sell the hall since 1948, regretfully recorded in their annual report of 1957 that their sole prospect had failed to show up for the final sale.

Their misfortune was our good fortune, for had they sold the hall, there would be nothing more to tell. But since 1957 much has happened. We have already experienced the great rededication week which took place on the reopening of the restored hall in 1977. Since then, the hopes of the preservationists have been realized, and their foresight proved accurate. Once more Mechanics Hall is the cultural center of the community, approaching its 125th year with a glorious building, an active membership, and an exciting range of programs. On March 19, 1982, in the spirit of 1907, we can truly celebrate again.

*Florence Zuckerman*



*Ichabod Washburn's guiding hand brought Mechanics Hall into being, and his generosity and skill saved it from financial disaster shortly after it opened.*



*The Mechanical and Electrical Exposition in 1909.*