

Former GM&OHS President Bill Wylde, age 78, passed away on June 8, 2011 after a two-year struggle from complications due to liver failure. He had been living in a senior apartment building in Centralia, Ill. for several years.

Bill was a colorful character and always ready with a good story and plenty of jokes.

When elected as GM&OHS President, his acceptance speech began by telling us that his first 3 wives were all named Nancy. Then he said "I don't know what that has to do with GM&O, but I thought you'd want to know about it".

He was a prolific photographer and modeler, even finding space for a small layout in his cramped apartment. The crown jewel of his layout was a building with a hobby shop on the first floor and a bordello on the second; on the roof, a couple of 2nd floor 'employees' were sunbathing. He said, "well you know, guys can tell their wives they are going to a hobby shop, and that makes a good cover story." Only Bill would come up with something like this!

He was in the auto parts business most of his life, but also operated a used book store in Carbondale, Ill. for a number of years. Later, he donated his time and talents to the Centralia Historical Society.

Bill is survived by a son, three daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Bill was a Korean War veteran and is now buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery south of St. Louis.

Bill, cloaked in red and maroon, as you make your final journey, may the track be smooth, the signals be green and a pretty lady waiting for you at the end of the line!

R.I.P. our friend.