



Clement Biddle Penrose VII

April 10, 1943 - May 5, 2019

CLEMENT BIDDLE PENROSE VII
NEW HARMONY, INDIANA

Clement Biddle Penrose VII, gifted arts cultivator, artist, musician and Robert Owen descendant passes at 76.

Clem Biddle Penrose VII was born in April 10, 1943 to Elizabeth Crawford and Clement Biddle Penrose VI of New Orleans, Louisiana. He passed away amongst family and friends at his home in New Harmony, Indiana on May 5, 2019. He is survived by Branden Favre, the son of his sister, Linda Penrose-Favre and her husband Ronnie Favre, of New Orleans, Louisiana, who are both deceased.

At age 12 and with the encouragement of his three "Aunties" on his mother's side, Clem was enrolled in art classes, studying with New Orleans' artist John McReady. In 1966, Clem first traveled from the Gulf-coast, to New Harmony, Indiana, the home of his ancestor, David Dale Owen, where he was welcomed warmly by his cousins, Jane Blaffer Owen and Kenneth Dale Owen. Clem would be mentored by them and become a part of their family. He received a BFA from the University of Southern Mississippi and won the National Collegiate Sculpture contest for his heroic scale bust of Andrew Jackson. He went on to receive his MFA in Painting and Art History from Pennsylvania State College. Clem had an innate sense of balance, whether it was in his oil paintings, watercolors, pen and ink, lithographs, sculpture, or as musician and songwriter. While art was his grace, music was his muse. New Orleans was a hot bed of musicians at the time; he picked up gigs playing with the likes of New Orleans musician, James Booker. From there he crisscrossed the country playing his guitar, singing and writing songs. Kenneth Owen once called him the family's "traveling troubadour".

While his wanderlust was never extinguished, he decided to settle down in New Harmony where he founded The New Harmony Artist's Guild, a non-profit arts collective that featured regular folk dance nights, music and poetry nights, and open music "circles" or what he dubbed "A circle of friends". His free-spirited gatherings proved to be a unique success. Penrose found that by combining the irresistible spirit of hospitality, learned in his hometown of New Orleans, with his own brand of "Hoosier Hospitality", he could simply

allow each musical participant a “turn” at choosing or leading the next selection, and in doing so, all felt included and inspired.

His spirit, his music, and his jams will continue to grace music nights at the Owen Community House.

We would like to thank his friends and family who were there until the end, Christian Rowe, Steve Lucas, Annie Owen, Abigail Owen, Erik O. Arneberg, Owen Lewis, and Christopher Layer.

Memorial donations may be made in Clem’s name to his beloved non-profit: The New Harmony Artists’ Guild Inc., Box 27, New Harmony, Indiana 47631.

A memorial service will be held at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 512 Granary Street, New Harmony, Indiana at 11:00 AM on Monday, June 3, 2019.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
318 Main Street
New Harmony, IN 47631

Tribute Wall



“ *Clement Biddle Penrose VII*

October 06, 2023 at 09:05 AM



“ *Clem and I have been friends since 1953.He was 9 and I was 6.His parents were my god parents and I had a crush on his sister Linda.He was definitely my hero.As boys we would build villages of mud and slate under his house then knock it down when our mothers would find us and drag us out.when we got older on more than one occasion we would wander around the French Quarter usually drinking beer or whatever,smoking pot and making music.Blues and laughter and good times.Loved him dearly and will miss him . Howard Abrams*

howard abrams - May 30, 2019 at 11:13 PM



“ *Bill & Angie Hein purchased the Eternal Paradise for the family of Clement Biddle Penrose VII.*



Bill & Angie Hein - May 16, 2019 at 08:41 PM