



## Bill Montgomery

He is the boy seated on the bottom of the mural, wearing a red sailor outfit, and about to fire a rocket

Born in Kansas City, MO in 1930, Bill Montgomery was three years old when his father Ralph Montgomery tragically passed away, leaving his mother to raise him alone. Mrs. Montgomery never remarried. Both Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery are buried at the Fullerton Cemetery in Carthage, MO. A stenographer by trade, Grace J. Montgomery was hired in 1940 by UKC as the personal secretary to President Clarence Decker. Exact dates of her employment are not known. However, one entry on Mrs. Montgomery's diary reveals the following:

*"In 1939-40 I was employed at the Folger Coffee Company, in the advertising department, but concerned about my job. A friend invited me to a tea where I met the Business Manager of the University of Kansas City. She said the President's secretary had just given her notice. She was leaving and thought I would be a good candidate for the position. She set up an appointment for me to meet Dr. Clarence Decker at his home where I spoke both with Dr. Decker and his wife, Mary. I was offered the job and so left The Folger Co."*

After about two years, Mrs. Montgomery resigned from UKC and moved to Columbia, MO to work at the University of Missouri for the Home Economics Department. Afterwards, she took a job at Monticello College in Godfrey, IL as secretary to the College president, Dr. Malcom Rohrbaugh. She then moved west to Claremont, CA to work at Pomona College and, in 1946, to Claremont Men's College (now Claremont McKenna) as secretary to Dr. George C. S. Benson, the first president of the school. She spent the rest of her life in California and passed away on September 6, 2001, just shy of her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

At the time that Grace Montgomery was employed at UKC, her son Bill was attending the William Rockhill Nelson Elementary School, but his first school was Francis Willard Elementary School. As you might gather

from his mother's moves, Bill led a peripatetic life, attending nine schools before college. This included a big city school (2), a military school (2), a small-town school (2), a prep school, a university school, and a public high school. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1952, served as an officer on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, and then spent his career in business, first at IBM for six years, then over forty years in the equipment leasing business at The Singer Company, Chase Manhattan Bank, Xerox, and Dell Computer. In each of those companies he was president of their finance subsidiaries. He has also served a term as president of the national equipment leasing association (ELA) and of the Dartmouth College Alumni Council. He retired in 1999. For the past 30 years has lived with his wife, Margaret, in Hanover, NH. He has two children and two grandchildren.