

the Eighteenth Missouri Infantry at the outbreak of the Civil War; he was wounded during the battle of Shiloh in April 1862 and on leaving the hospital was discharged as being incapacitated for duty. He then enlisted in the Seventh Iowa Cavalry and served until the close of the war. He continued to serve as a scout for two years. He was married to Sarah E. Madison, a teacher in the Indian School at Genoa, Nebraska, on April 15, 1865. To this union five children were born. In the spring of 1872 he brought his family to Red Willow County and homesteaded on a tract of land which now joins the town of Indianola on the west side. On his homestead was buried the body of a Pawnee Indian woman, one of the victims of the Sioux Indian raid on her tribe at Massacre Canyon in 1873. She was fatally wounded and brought to the Korns home by a hunter, where she died. With the assistance of Edgar S. Hill and George A. Hunter, she was buried on the Korns' homestead. His wife died in Indianola on April 18, 1917. He left and went to live at West Plains, Missouri. On May 11, 1921 he was married to Isabel Upton. He died on August 26, 1927 at West Plains, and his body was returned to Indianola for burial. He was buried in the Indianola Cemetery near his first wife. He was survived by two sons: Edward R. and Carl B., and one daughter Mrs. William Wasson.

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##### ROLLAND C. LARMON

was born at Pomeroy, Iowa on July 31, 1898. He was the son of Edwin B. Larmon. While a young man he moved to Oxford and upon graduating in 1916, he took up work in the Oxford Bank. He received his training from Mr. W. G. Springer. In 1923 he moved to McCook as the new Ass't Cashier in the First National Bank of McCook, again working for W. G. Springer. Upon Mr. Springer's death at Rochester, Minnisota, in 1932, he was elected by the Board of Directors to the position of Cashier of the First National Bank. He married Lola Hensley on August 24, 1919 at Oxford and they were the parents of one son, Harold E.

However successful Rolland was in business life, it was overshadowed by his service to his fellowman. Some of the organizations to which he gave time and effort reflect his interests and attitudes: the McCook Park and Playground Association, Y.M.C.A. Board, Red Cross, March of Dimes, Hillcrest Home, Chamber of Commerce, Republican Valley Conservation Association, Rotary Club, Boy Scouts of America, Shrine Circus,

Shrine Band, South Platte United Chambers of Commerce, Nebraska State Bankers Association, Past Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge, Past President of the Rotary Club, active in the Republican Party, and Trustee of the Congregational Church. An indefatigable worker, his chief diversion was his family and his friends. Few men ever got more fun out of life than Rolland Larmon.

His death on May 26, 1953, at McCook, left a void in the lives of all his friends and family. His funeral was on May 29, 1953 and burial at the Memorial Park Cemetery were well attended.

##### CHARLES R. LARSON

was born August 30, 1899 at Bertrand, Nebraska. He lived there until he was a young man. He tried San Diego, California for a while, but was unable to resist the lure of his old home town. After his return he enlisted in the army. Mr. Larson spent several months at the University of Nebraska, in training with the radio electricians corps. He stated that he never did get his chance at "going over", but he had about enough army life to last him, just in training camp. Two years after his return, he decided that he was cut out to be a farmer. Starting to work on the old farm that his father had homesteaded. Charles tried it for several years. People retire from farming because they have accumulated quite a bit. He stated he retired because he had accumulated a lot of debts and two children. He was married to Dorothy M. Strickler on August 2, 1923. They started out together in the farming business, then moved to the other succeeding business. After moving to McCook, he tried selling cars, but later settled down in the life insurance business with George C. Hill. He is a member of the Catholic Church and the Chamber of Commerce.

##### GEORGE LELAND

was born in Ohio on September 16, 1844. He headed west, first stopping in Iowa, then continuing to Nebraska in 1865, where he settled down on a homestead in Lancaster County, upon which land a part of the city of Lincoln was afterwards located. Still pioneering, he with his wife Emma, came to Red Willow County in 1876, establishing a general store, a flour mill, and a saw mill near the mouth of the Red Willow Creek, which he had laid out and platted as the town of East Red Willow. He was the postmaster there until the town of McCook was laid out in 1882. He came to McCook, bought property and became one of the first citizens of the new town. Mr. Leland established the

first livery, feed and sale stable here. This building faced A street between West Second and West Third. He later erected a double store building and established a general store on A and West First, which he operated successfully until 1935, when he retired from active business. His wife Emma, passed away on November 9, 1927. On Friday, January 19, 1940 George passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Susie J. Best, in south McCook. His funeral was held on Sunday, January 21, 1940 and he was buried in the the Memorial Park Cemetery.

#### JOHN LONGNECKER

was born March 16, 1844 at Mayslick, Madison, Kentucky, where he grew to manhood. Lured by the tales of the new empire opening in the west, (a land of milk and honey, they said), he was determined to be a part of it. In November 1871 he, with ten others, which included Robert, Black, Jones, Byfield, Usher, McKinney, Davis and Ellis came and homesteaded land in Red Willow County, camping near the Red Willow Station. A few days later they filed on their homestead claims. After filing for his homestead John returned to his old home in Kentucky, where he married Katherine Owens on February 22, 1872, and together began the perilous journey into a life of hardship and unknown. To this union were born six children, four sons and two daughters. For the first fourteen months, they lived in a tent on their homestead. Later this was replaced by a sod house, then a log house, and finally a frame house. The first Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Red Willow County met under the shade of the trees before this sod house. In 1884 John Longnecker was instrumental in erecting a frame Church building about a mile from his home. As the county developed he served on various church and school boards. He helped organize and was a member of the first farm grange in the county. Black angus cattle were first introduced in this area with the birth of the first Galloway black angus on the Longnecker farm in the spring of 1885. The Longnecker's were the parents of: Jacob, Owens, Holton, Louis, Katherine and Gabriella. John Longnecker became ill on Friday, November 2, 1923, with a stroke of paralysis from which he never rallied. Everything that medical aid and kind nursing could do was done but all in vain. Death overtook him on Thursday, November 8, 1923. Funeral services were held in the Church of Christ, at Indianola, on Friday, November 9, 1923 and he was buried by the side of his wife in the Indianola Cemetery.

#### Wife of JOHN LONGNECKER KATHERINE OWENS

was born in Mason County, Kentucky on March 20, 1841. She was married to John Longnecker on February 2, 1872 at Mayslick, Kentucky. Her husband was a homesteader in Red Willow County, Nebraska and they returned there to reside. She told about their trip often. They started the trip from the railroad at Nebraska City. Two wagons started, one with five men and their's. They drove nine miles and camped for the night in order to have an early start the next morning. The horses of their wagon became frightened at the unknown and ran away. Her husband walked to find them and returned at eleven o'clock with out any luck. He started again between three and four; so her first night from under a roof was somewhat peculiar as she had never before seen any of her traveling companions before. It was a monotonous, uneventful journey which began the typical new life upon which she was entering. Riding along day after day, the rattling of the harness was the only accompaniment to the tread of the horses feet over the seemingly pathless prairie, grew irksome. There were two youths along, each about 18 years old, them used profanity continuously which was so annoying it seemed to sink into her brain long afterwards. At a time of provocation, she was shocked, humiliated, and brought to tears to find herself unconsciously using one of their profane words; a lesson in the power of association which was useful later in training her children. One night they camped near a spot where a group of immigrants had been slaughtered by Indians. The sod ruins looked ancient - the evening was calm and still and we seemed so far from civilization and the uncanny sense produced by the sun seemed to drop suddenly out of sight and the twilight changed to darkness, with the stars bright but so far off---I felt the Indians were surely at hand and I could resist my fears no longer---. After two weeks on the trail, they reached their destination and commenced home making, by living in a tent nine feet square, eating on the ground with newspaper for cloth and cooking by a campfire. On one rare occasion of rain in the daytime, an umbrella was held over the fire while their scant dinner was cooking. Preparation on Saturday for Sunday dinner was a custom in the old home, which she followed by making baking powder griddle cakes. Just as she finished one day, pleased with her success, two men rode up and asked if she had bread, upon being told what kind they requested her to let them have it, which she ignorant-

ly did. A nearby settler, who was present, told her the men would laugh at her for a "tender-foot" for not charging them. Years afterwards she learned that they were rich cattlemen and she thought of the time she had given away her poor little griddle cake, Sunday dinner.

After a while a dugout kitchen seven foot square was made, a stove set up and her culinary efforts were extended to making salt rising bread and ginger cake. Once she cooked turtle and another time had beaver ham. She also learned by having her arms badly blistered, not to hang out washing in the burning sun with sleeves rolled to her shoulders, as she had seen the negros do in the old home. There were times of loneliness, homesickness, and pondering the wisdom of coming to this country, but their motto was "Take what comes and make the best of it". A habit of idealizing, enabled her to make the best of "toil without recompense, tears all in vain" - but it was hard when her husband made one of the long trips to the railroad for supplies and provisions, which took from ten days to two weeks, and she was alone in the tent with a twelve year old boy for assistance. During one of the numerous "Indian scares", a group of soldiers were stationed nearby. When the soldiers left, they bought a cottonwood bunk and so rose from the ground to the dignity of a bed, above the reach of snakes, worms and frogs. Rattlesnakes were abundant and centipedes were the bane of her life. A table was made of a box, seats were stools made of a slab and small limbs of trees--two with three legs and one with four. Great pride was taken in keeping her tinware bright and though the years, brussels and axminster carpets, bric-a-brac and curios, oil paintings, Chinese jade, wedgewood lacquer, sandalwood and Japanese work were hers. They were appreciated and enjoyed, none gave greater pleasure than the gunny sack for a carpet in the tent and the few pieces of shining tinware hanging in her first little kitchen. At first antelopes and buffaloes were plentiful for a winter supply of meat. The men went hunting, being gone for two to three weeks at a time. Prairie fires were frequent and once when she was helping fight one, when looking towards the sod house where her five little ones were shut in, the flames were rolling fiercely over the top. The roof was made of timber covered with dirt and sod and that was all that saved it. That night she was too tired to get supper and nothing was left to eat but ginger snaps, which they gave to the children, while they went hungry to bed. Settlers had increased and became sociable and while there were

no doctors within one hundred miles, they were helpful to each other in times of supreme need. She suffered what most pioneer women had gone through: scarcity of food and sickness which followed drouths and grasshopper scourge, when nearly everyone left to find work elsewhere and for months not being around another woman. After the railroad had come to Indianola, she came to town and seeing a newly red painted structure, asked if that was the round house. The laughter which followed made her cautious about asking more questions, but as she knew nothing of railroad and windmills, how could she tell the difference between a roundhouse and a large water tank? After a long and fruitful life, she died at her home near Indianola on July 13, 1913, and was buried in the Indianola Cemetery.

#### BARNEY N. LEWIS

was born December 1, 1846 in Tyler County, West Virginia. At the age of sixteen he enlisted in the 15th. West Virginia Infantry, Union Army and served until the close of the war. While he was in a number of battles and minor engagements, he never was wounded nor hurt. He was present when Lee surrendered to Grant, and marched in the parade at the close of the war, in the grand review by President Lincoln in Washington D.C. He returned to his home and later came to Nebraska and took a homestead about eighteen miles north of Lincoln. He was united in marriage on December 1, 1877 to Anna Elswick and to this union seven children were born. In March 1883, the family moved to McCook. He was an engineer for the Burlington and continued in that position until he was retired by the company and on the pension list. Mrs. Lewis died January 28, 1928. He passed away at Huntington, West Virginia, September 5, 1930 of pneumonia, contracted while enroute from Cincinnati, Ohio to visit his birthplace, a visit he had long anticipated. He had visited his brother, Benjamin in Indiana enroute to the National G.A.R. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, September 9, 1930 and he was buried, with services conducted by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

#### Wife of BARNEY N. LEWIS

#### ANNA M. ELSWICK

was born December 1, 1855 in Wisconsin. Her parents moved to Ohio when she was an infant. She came to Nebraska in 1872 and was united in marriage to Barney N. Lewis on December 13, 1877. They lived on a farm near Lincoln for a number of years and then moved to

Lincoln where they resided for three years and then came to McCook in 1888, where they have resided continuously since. She died on Saturday, January 28, 1928 after a long and painful illness at her home in McCook. Funeral services were held on Monday January 30, 1928 and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

#### ANDREW LORD

was born in 1848. He came to Red Willow County and opened a harness, shoe and hardware store in 1882 in Indianola. At a point - before the site of McCook was designated as a division point for the Burlington Railroad - Indianola was a town of 2,000 population, was the stopping off point.

On September 5, 1886 he married Ellen Paterson at Box Elder. Ellen was the daughter of William M. Paterson.

Mr. Lord often told his children how salesmen with trunks full of merchandise would get off the train at Indianola, rent a room and sell their wares. A week or so later they would head east to restock.

Lord built extensive shelving in his corner store out of crating and reportedly buried money in the earthen basement of the building. This was never found. When Andrew died in 1913 his son Mc Arthur, took over the business. He is buried in the Indianola Cemetery.

Ellen Paterson Lord died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Clark, at Modesto, California on January 9, 1938. Her body was brought back to Indianola for burial in the Indianola Cemetery.

#### McARTHUR LORD

was born September 12, 1889 in Indianola to Andrew and Ellen Paterson Lord. He grew to manhood in Indianola and was married July 1, 1908 to Gertrude Lehn at Indianola. To this union were born five children: Lucille, Geraldine, Andrew, Robert and Clifton.

Mack, as he was known by his many friends, grew up in the business his father, Andrew, started, working in the store in his early years making harness and repairing shoes. He took over the running of the business at the death of his father in 1913. The store has grown into a complex of 5 buildings and was incorporated, Mack being Chairman of the board, and his son, Clifton, president of the firm.

Mack was a charter member of the Indianola Rotary Club; a member of the Elk's Club; a member of the Holy Name Society; was on the State Hardware Board for eight years and Past President of the Nebraska Retail Hardware Association; he was a member of the

Indianola School board for six years; member of the City Council for six years; and mayor of Indianola for six years. He had always worked for progress of our area; being one of the men instrumental in making arrangements for paving the main street of the town; he was also a past member of the Republican Valley Conservation Association and several other civic organizations.

McArthur Lord died Sunday, February 8, 1970 at the Cambridge Hospital and was buried in the St. Catherine's Cemetery at Indianola. Surviving him were his widow, Gertrude; five children: Lucille Hammond of Omaha; Andrew of Auburn, California; Geraldine McKenna of Omaha; Clifton of Indianola; and Robert of Sugus, California. Fourteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one sister, Mrs. Lizzie Clark of Turlock, California. The Funeral Mass was offered on Wednesday, February 11th. with Rt. Rev. Ray Wageman officiating. Burial was in the St. Catherine's Cemetery at Indianola.

#### Wife of McARTHUR LORD

#### GERTRUDE E. LEHN

was born September 28, 1887 at Indianola to Dan and Veronica Lehn. She was united in marriage to McArthur Lord in 1908 and he preceded her in death on February 8, 1970. Mrs. Lord was a member of the St. Catherine's Church and the St. Catherine's Altar Society. Gertrude died February 15, 1980 and was buried in the St. Catherine's Cemetery at Indianola. She was survived by two daughters, Mrs. Don (Lucille) Hammond and Mrs. Joseph (Geraldine) McKenna, both of Omaha, Nebraska; three sons, Andrew of Auburn, California; Clifton of Indianola and Robert of Surgus, California; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

#### CLIFTON C. LORD

was born June 5, 1921 at Indianola, Nebraska to McArthur Lord and Gertrude Lehn. He married Anne Gehlbach, the daughter of Chris Gehlbach of Canon City, Colorado on September 6, 1948 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Cliff, as he is known, grew up in Indianola and worked with his father, McArthur Lord, in the business just as his father had done with Andrew Lord. He became president of the business when it was incorporated. When his father died in 1970 he became the owner.

Cliff jokes about looking for loot in the basement prior to cementing it.

Cliff worked in the store as a youngster after school and on weekends and has been involved with the business all his life except for a stint in the army and while away at college. Therefore, he pretty well knows what is in the store which now covers a quarter of a block including the original structure, two additional buildings and a warehouse. He has uncovered such ancient items as buggy whip ends and a buggy heater which was intended to operate with charcoal.

His father acquired the second building in 1925. It had been an opera house at one time.

A story in the January 24, 1902 issue of the weekly Reporter relates how McArthur was riding his bike around town and ran into a Christian Church window and broke a light. He had been saving up \$2.50 to invest in a government bond but it took all money to pay for repairs.

Cliff built the third building and warehouse in 1978. He points out that he is now taking in trade dining room suites on the 50th anniversaries of persons who bought their original furniture from his father.

Cliff seems genuinely concerned with the welfare of all his customers. For the most part he knows everything about them and their families. And, he's obviously an excellent salesman with long-term goals in mind.

Cliff bills his establishment as the only shopping mall in Red Willow County. Furthermore, he brags about having, "The largest home furnishings and appliance store under one roof for many miles around."

He and his wife have numerous tales to tell--all pointing to how much they enjoy living in and doing business in Indianola. At the same time, Mrs. Lord notes, "Believe me, there are days we feel we've been here 100 years ourselves." Cliff remarks, "Dad knew everybody." "I don't know anybody we wouldn't know..We're personal friends with and know much of our customer's history," Mrs. Lord adds.

Cliff, who is the town's mayor, and his wife have two girls, Connie McKay of Elgin, Illinois and Corinne Winnings of Atkinson, and a son, Tim, who is a senior at Republican Valley High School.

The concensus of opinion here is that Tim will carry on the business when it becomes his turn. He presently takes care of the trucks and works around the store after school. "He's doing just like I did." Cliff says of his son. "I used to come down after school and help Dad." after a slight pause, Cliff says, "Tim's a better worker than I was."

WILLIAM D. MACKECHNIE

was born October 2, 1877 in Bothwell, in northern Ontario, Canada, his early life was spent in the sparsely settled wilderness area, where his father, Reverend Duncan Mackechnie, a Scotch Presbyterian minister served two-sometimes three parishes in that remote area. On Sundays, after the morning service was held, young "Will", as the family called him, often accompanied his father on horseback or via horse and buggy through the woods to another country parish where an afternoon or evening service was held, returning home after dark.

His first job was at the age of ten - when he was janitor of the little white frame church in the tall pines at Mattawa, where the family had moved. The floors had to be spotless, the pews polished, and the twelve hanging lamps that lighted the little church must be filled with oil, the wicks trimmed, and the glass shades washed and shined each week. If his work was satisfactory, he received 50 cents at the end of each month. And his father made him tithe.

Because of the poor educational facilities in Mattawa, at the age of 12, he was sent to live with his well-to-do grandparents and maiden aunts in London, Ontario. It must have been a very sober, somber life for a young lad of 12 - living in a strange city with a family of sedate adults and a grandfather who was extremely strict. It was all work and no play for young Will, and on Sundays he was forbidden to whistle--for his grandfather considered it irreverant on the Sabbath.

At the age of 14, Will had completed Collegiate High School in London (equivalent to one year of college) and he was sent to Queens University of Western Ontario Medical School in London. While he was in medical school, his father died--and this was a great shock and loss.

Little wonder that this new M. D. felt the need of a vacation before establishing his medical practice. A cousin, Dr. Mackechnie, who was practicing in Holdrege, urged him to come to Nebraska. On the suggestion of a Scotch friend, he continued west to Indianola to meet the William McCallums who had emigrated from Stratford some years before. He immediately liked the outgoing, friendly people of this small western town--so different from the formal, reserved atmosphere of the life he had known. People put out the Welcome Mat - assured him that Indianola needed a doctor. His decision was finalized when he