

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 issued 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

met the young Red Willow County Superintendent of Schools, Lillian Welborn, whom he married on November 12, 1900. When he advised his grandparents that he intended to make Nebraska his permanent home they were so incensed that they refused to send him his medical books, clothing, etc., to him, and he NEVER returned to get them.

Through the help of his friends, he established his office in the bank building, which burned a few months later and his equipment, furnishings, clothing, everything was a total loss. A less hardy and resolute person might have given up at this point. But when the bank was rebuilt, Dr. M. was ready to start anew, thanks to the help and encouragement of friends.

Even though there were many hard times and adversities, he never regretted his decision to stay in Indianola and took great pride in the community and its people.

From 1899 until 1906, Dr. M., as so many people called him, traveled over his wide territory by horse and buggy. In 1906 he bought his first car, with no windshield, no lights, no running boards, or doors, but it was his pride and joy. He had the old barn which stood at the rear of the lot where his home was located, converted to a "garage", a very crude one by modern standards. He always backed into the garage so he could drive out in a hurry when a call came.

It was never too cold or stormy for him to attempt to reach a farm home where there was illness and he was needed. Hospitals were not accessible, so babies were delivered at home and emergency surgery sometimes performed in the home, in the flickering light of a kerosene lamp.

His wife, Lillian, was an ideal doctor's wife - a devout Christian - she was an inspiration and help to him. If she resented being alone so much, having to change plans on a minute's notice, cancel vacation plans, or having to keep food warm for hours, she never mentioned it. His children learned at an early age that their father's work, his patients, came first, and they must accept that as part of living in a doctor's home.

During the terrible depression years, when many people did not have the money to pay medical bills, he cashed insurance policies to keep his office going. One of his children asked him about this and he answered, "I've always given my patients the best care possible, and I am not going to lower my standard of care because people haven't the money to pay me."

That answer really expressed his philosophy of life.

In 1940, when Dr. M. learned that the Masonic Lodge was about to lose the building in Indianola because of the foreclosure on the mortgage, he and his wife paid off the mortgage and then presented the building to the lodge - with the provision that the Women's Club and the Indianola Public Library occupy the lower floors, rent free, as long as those organizations existed and chose to stay there.

His wife, Lillian, died in 1941.

On March 6, 1945, the editor of the Indianola Reporter wrote:

With the passing of Dr. W. D. MacKechnie, Sunday afternoon, Indianola and Red Willow County loses one of its most outstanding men - outstanding for his high moral qualities and the great service he rendered to families of this area for over 40 years...He was a great man, and although he is now gone from our midst, his years of service will be remembered by hundreds for many years to come.

DAVID MAGNER

was born November 14, 1849 at Woodstock, Illinois. He entered Burlington service about 1887 and was transferred to McCook from Holyoke, Colorado in April 1891. He was one of the engineers to pull the famed "Mayham" special across the country in February 1897. His run was from Hastings to McCook, that was made in the never bettered time of 130.5 minutes, better than a mile a minute for 131.8 miles. The time stood until the streamlined Zephyr made its historical dash from the Mountains to the Chicago Exposition. He was forced to give up railroading in 1902 when he was injured in a wreck. He and his wife, Clara M., entered the business life of this city and engaged in the grocery and meat business. Upon retiring from this, he entered the garage business. In 1926 he was elected as Police Judge, and served in this office to the day of his death. He was widely known in Masonic circles, having affiliated with the order on December 15, 1887. He was a member of the local Chapter Royal Arch Masons, Royal and Select Masters of Occonoxee Chapter No. 16 and was Past Commander of the Knights Templar, St. John Commandery No. 16. He was known as the "Royal Chef", from his ability to take charge of Masonic banquets, no affair of this nature seemed complete without his guiding hand in the kitchen. On Tuesday morning, September 10, 1935, while trying to start his car, he was fatally injured. He died before he could be transferred from his home in

McCook, to the local hospital. His burial was September 13, 1935 in the Memorial Park Cemetery and was under the direction of the Masonic Lodge. His wife, Clara M. died in 1937 and was buried beside her husband.

CHARLES MARKWAD

was born in 1844, and his wife, Frederica Vevetser was born in 1841. They with their four small children, Louisa, Emme, Etta and August J. (Gus) emigrated to America from Germany in 1876. The early years of their marriage were spent in the Vevetser native province in Germany. They first settled in Lake County, Illinois where two sons were born to them, Ernest F. and Charles.

The family migrated west into Nebraska and homesteaded in Frontier County. Since the land was open range, fencing to come later, one of the daily chores of Ernest, with neighbor boys, was to herd the cattle. To alleviate the tedium and boredom of this task, they decided to imbed rattlesnakes on the tines of pitchforks and spent the day in teasing them. All went well, until one day Charles decided to check on the boys. He never told what their punishment was, but this amusement came to an end. The pitchfork handles were destroyed in the fear that any venom from the snakes might harm one of the family.

They sold their homestead in Frontier County and moved to McCook before 1900. Tragedy struck the family in 1900 when was received of the death of their daughter, Louisa, who had married Henry Penner on June 2, 1887. Henry owned a harness shop on Denison Street for a time before selling his business and moving to Omaha. At 9 in the morning they heard screams emanating from the rear of the Penner home and several women rushed to ascertain their cause. They found Mrs. Penner lying on a bed in a room leading off the kitchen. She was rolling herself in quilts and blankets and writhing in agony. In spite of the pain she was able to explain in broken sentences how the accident happened. She was trying to light a fire in the kitchen stove, she said, and to do so poured some coal oil on the kindling-wood. There happened to be some live coals underneath, which caused the oil to suddenly flare up, and before she had time to protect herself, her clothing was aflame. Her three year old son, George, was also burned about the head and face but his condition was not dangerous.

Mr. Penner never remarried and passed away in 1934. He was survived by his two sons, George and

Otto and two daughters, Jane and Tillie.

Charles Markwad passed away on the Barbazette farm southwest of McCook, February 13, 1909 and his wife Frederica on January 18, 1920.

August J. married in McCook, Lizzie Meissner, on November 11, 1899. He was an employee of the Burlington Railroad, then owned and operated a blacksmith shop before retiring. He passed away on February 17, 1938.

Emma married and moved to California. Her husband was a gambling man and they moved quite often to various parts of the country. Including taking part in the Gold Rush Days in the Klondike country of Alaska. One story is related about feeding her turkeys Carters Liver Pills. She had several hundred turkeys, while living in Oregon, and when they started dying when half-grown, she, upon butchering one, discovered a liver problem. The Indians helped her doctor the turkeys, three times at weekly intervals, with the Liver Pills and most were saved. That fall she rented barrels, butchered her turkeys, again with the help from the Indians, packed them in ice and sailed to San Francisco where she sold them on the docks. She sent money to her husband to either join her or stay there as she had no liking for the country and no intention of returning. Her husband was later killed in Alaska in a gambling place. She returned to California and made her home there for many years, passing away in 1946.

Little is known on Emma and Charles. Charles married Bessie Smith, the youngest daughter of William H. and Emma Smith. They had two children before her death, at an early age, on November 30, 1918. He later moved to Omaha.

Ernest F. married Iva Smith, also the daughter of William H. and Emma Smith, on March 8, 1904 at McCook. They first set up housekeeping on the F. S. Wilcox ranch south of McCook. In 1915, he purchased a farm five miles south of McCook from Louise H. Corwin where he spent his lifetime farming.

For many years, Ernest ran a truck garden, selling a variety of produce both at the farm and delivering goods to area merchants. He also raised and fattened livestock. Horses being his first love. Times were hard due to the depression, but no family left his farm without an ample supply of produce to feed their hungry families as surplus produce was freely given.

Ernest and Iva had four children, Cleo, Darwin, Jessie, and one son dying in infancy. Ernest passed away on April 6, 1947 and Iva on June 8, 1952.

CARL FREDERIC MARSH

was born on May 1, 1889 in a sod house, on a tree claim between Culbertson and Trenton to Frank C. Marsh and his wife. He attended the Trenton schools and went directly into the office at Trenton of his father doing scholastic duties. On May 21, 1910 he was married to Margaret E. Cundall. They were the parents of one son, Frederic, and two daughters. Acquainted with many persons in McCook, he entertained for a long time the thought of moving here from Trenton, before he did finally make the move in 1920. After coming to McCook, he was in partnership with his father in the sale of insurance and real estate. He joined the Methodist Church in 1920 and taught a Sunday School class for many years. He was influential in the progress of the local Y.M.C.A. and served on the original board. He was twice a delegate to the Republican National Conventions. He was appointed appraiser for the P.W.A. in Nebraska. His duties included reviewing appraisals on land acquired by the various projects and recommending acceptance or rejection of the offers made. He was the federal appraiser for major projects in the Loup Valley and Tri-County area, which included appraisal of land condemned for the Columbus, Sutherland and South Omaha Dam and bridge projects. He was a charter member of the Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge No. 135, Shrine organization, and the McCook Chamber of Commerce. He died on September 16, 1958 in McCook, and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on September 19, 1958.

WILEY MATHEWS

was born June 27, 1842. He served during the Civil War with the One Hundred Thirty-fifth Illinois Infantry and with the Fifth Illinois Calvary. He united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Muddy, Coles County, Illinois in 1875 and brought his letter to the church at North Platte, Nebraska in 1900. He was a member of the North Platte board of commissioners at the time of his death. He was stricken with paralysis and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Sageser, just south of McCook, Thursday, February 9, 1905 and was buried on Sunday, February 12, 1905 at the Riverview Cemetery with the McCook G.A.R. Post members acting as pall bearers. He was Commander of the G.A.R. Post at North Platte. He was survived by his wife, Eliza, and three daughters: Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Sageser and Mrs. Rodgers. Eliza Mathews was born August 16, 1837 and buried July 7, 1911.

JOHN RAYMOND MCCARL

was born November 27, 1879 in Des Moines, Iowa. The family moved to Nebraska, where Senator George W. Norris hired him as his secretary in 1914. Later, they were to clash over the expenditures of the Senator's pet project, T.V.A. In 1921 he became Comptroller General of United States until June 30, 1936. During his career, he clashed repeatedly with heads of alphabetical agencies who sought to spend public money in a manner which he believed did not comply with Congressional mandate. He was the only governmental official ever to say no to four Presidents and to make it stick. McCarl refuses... McCarl refuses.. these two words became anathema to patronage hungry politicians. He was probably cursed more often by high and low alike than any other man in government. Day after day, he raised the ban on certain spending projects. He frequently angered President Roosevelt, but he made his "no" stick. He was the agent of Congress, appointed for a fifteen year term, and the Presidents were helpless. After leaving government service he opened a law office in Washington D.C. It was in his modest Washington law office that unexpectedly on Friday, August 2, 1940, he suffered a heart attack. His remains were returned to McCook for burial on August 5, 1940, in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

FRANCIS LLOYD McCASHLAND

was the son of Francis Wilder "Frank" and Effie Cynthia (Case) McCashland, born May 29, 1900 in Harlan Township, Decatur County, Kansas. When he was four years old his father bought a farm 2 miles south of Lebanon and the family moved there.

Lloyd and Elsie Alfreda Gay were married March 28, 1923 at Beaver City, Furnas County, Nebraska. Elsie, the daughter of Charles Alonzo and Olive Pearl (Chency) Gay was born April 11, 1902 in Grant Township, Decatur County, Kansas. They lived at the McCashland farm where Lloyd and his father had been batching since the death of Mrs. McCashland. Their first daughter, Betty Jo, was born 18 January, 1924 and five more daughters were to follow. Frank lived with them 2 or 3 years before moving into town.

The Twenties was a time of plentiful rain and their crops were abundant altho prices for grain and livestock were low. In 1930 Lloyd bought a new Gleaner Baldwin Combine for \$1,655 and a new 10-30 McCormick Deering tractor for \$810. Compare that with the 40, 50 or 60 thousand dollars they want today. Crops were good and the farmer was optimistic that prices would.

Then came the Big Drouth. In 1932 the corn crop was a bust and wheat sold for 30¢ a bushel. In 1933 Lloyd's 113 acres of corn made 2 bushel per acre. Wheat was back up to a dollar but there was very little to sell. Each day and each year the wind seemed to blow harder and they were in the midst of the Dirty Thirties. The black blizzards became more and more common place. The dirt blew from one direction until the wind seemed to blow itself out and the next day the wind turned around and blew it all back. This was before Rural Electrification and many days they ate their noon meal by the light of a kerosene lamp, but the dust had to be blown off the lamp chimney first. The table was always covered with a cloth but it was over, not under the dishes and food. When the table was set the silver ware was laid first, then the plates were turned upside over the silver to keep out the sifting dust. It was a few years before a daughter or two learned this wasn't the correct way to do it. In the summer of 1934 Elsie became very ill with dust pneumonia. Altho the windows were kept tightly closed, the dust sifted in around the window sills and every movement sent up puffs of fine choking dust. Lloyd set tanks of water outside the window, fastened 2 or 3 gunny sacks together, immersed one end in the tank of water and tacked the other end across the top of the window. If the wind wasn't too hot and drying this acted as a wick and the damp burlap filtered out some of the dust. Inside, sheets were hung at the windows in much the same way. Her complete recovery was slow for the great, rolling clouds of dirt continued into 1935 and beyond. In 1935 the farm was sold and the family moved into Lebanon.

The dust storms are remembered with sadness but the memory of the fueding, nomad caravan of horse-traders still bring back a feeling of excitement, wander and a "wee bit" of fright. Sometimes in the early thirties Lloyd gave this gypsy caravan permission to camp at the farm near a grove of fruit trees, much to his wife's dismay. They were in a conglomeration of vehicles, from horse drawn wagons to a truck, most of them covered with tightly stretched canvas. Eggs seemed to disappear from the hen house and cherries from the trees and the children weren't permitted to play outside. One day, while Lloyd was in the field loud voices and shouting was heard and rushing to look out, the family saw why. Dishes and utensils were being flung from the covered vehicles, aimed at those standing outside. There was much shouting and

blows were exchanged. That night Lloyd sent them packing and for years afterward a battered "gypsy coffee pot" was the prized possession in the McCashland daughters play house.

After leaving the farm, Lloyd worked as a heavy equipment operator, at a lathe in a machine shop for awhile, with a custom combine crew one year and another job or two before becoming manager of the east elevator owned by the Uhlman Grain Company in 1946.

With six growing daughters to sew for Elsie's sewing machine was always out and ready for action. Later her 21 grandchildren kept her busy for she was always around the first few days to give them their start in life.

Lloyd died on October 4, 1952 after being gassed with chemicals used in the elevator. Elsie died on January 10, 1961. Both were buried in the Lebanon Cemetery. Their children were: Betty Jo, who married George Orvis; Mildred Mae who married Elton Ohare; Glenva Gale who married Lawrence Orvis; Vada Carol who married Samuel Huntsman; Donna Lee who married Richard Meader; Sharon Irene who married (1) Charles Wolzen (2) Donald Mines.

FRANCIS WILDER (FRANK) McCASHLAND came to Red Willow County, Nebraska in 1904, having bought a farm 2 miles south of Lebanon. Frank was born October 26, 1869 near Cornell, Livingston County Illinois, the son of Benjamin Conwell and Cynthia Louise (Myers) McCashland and the grand son of Scotch Irish, Benjamin C. and Harriet (Foster) McCashland, both natives of Virginia. Frank's father, Benjamin and three of his brothers served with the Illinois troops in the Civil War, one brother Samuel loosing his life at the Battle of Peach Tree Creek, Georgia.

In 1872 when Frank was 3 years old his parents left Illinois and took a homestead in Fillmore County, Nebraska. Frank's father was gone for a week at a time breaking sod up around Hastings, leaving his wife and little son at home alone. There were still Indians and they came often to the homestead. They were not hostile, but still it was a frightening experience.

Frank was batching on his farm southeast of Graf-ton when, on March 5, 1894 he married a young school teacher, Effie Cynthia Case at the home of her parents Samuel John and Mary Parthena (Horton) Case. They were homesteaders near Sutton, Clay County, Nebraska. Effie was born there on February 10, 1873 and was a descendent of John Case who came to America in 1635 from England and John Howland and John Tilley of the

Mayflower.

In 1899 Frank, Effie and their 2 children moved to a farm in Harlan Township, Decatur County, Kansas. Francis Lloyd was born there on May 29, 1900.

In 1904 they bought a farm in Red Willow County, Nebraska 2 miles south of Lebanon and the family moved there. There was a sod house, sod chicken house and a dug-out barn with a straw roof. A son remembered that in particular for he fell through the roof at one time. It wasn't long before a new frame barn and shop were put up. This was followed by a new frame house with, wonder of wonders, a bathroom. Water was piped in from an underground cistern to a pitcher mouth pump over a porcelian sink and to a bath tub. The oval tub, built much like those of today was made of tin with a wooden rim and there was a stool to match the tub.

Altho Effie did not teach school after marrying, other than to substitute at Sutton and for her sister Maud, who taught in Lebanon, she had her own summer botany classes at her home near Lebanon. This was a real treat for neighbor children who had little to occupy them in the summer and walked, some for many miles, to attend classes every Wednesday. Long before the time of our slow cookers, Effie made one of her own. She lined a large wooden box with layers of sand and paper leaving room in the middle for a large, heavy, cast iron kettle. After much experimenting she found that a pot of beans or a chunk of beef, partially cooked and piping hot would finish cooking when packed in her "cooker", allowing the woodrange fire to die and leaving her kitchen blessedly cool.

Their son, Chester, joined the navy in 1917 and was made Chief Quartermaster and served until 1930 when he became a Fleet Naval Reserve. In 1940 he was recalled to active duty and served on a destroyer until he was sent to Norfolk, Virginia as Security Chief of the Base Police. Their only daughter, Gertrude Belle, married Harry Larson and their youngest, Frances Lloyd, married Elsie Alfreda Gay.

Effie died on January 4, 1922 and was buried in the Lebanon Cemetery.

Lloyd and Elsie were married in 1923 and Frank made his home on the farm with them for two or three years before moving into Lebanon and later to Minden where he was a grain elevator manager. He married Julia Byer Applebee in Minden on April 15, 1928. They later moved back to Lebanon where he managed the east elevator and also did carpenter work.

Julia died on July 24, 1937 and Frank died on March 11, 1945. Both were buried in the Lebanon Cemetery beside his first wife, Effie.

GEORGE EMKEE McCLAIN

was born September 6, 1877 at Cullum, Illinois to Samuel and Effa McClain. His family moved to Nebraska in 1884 and homesteaded in Coleman precinct, Red Willow County, where he was to spend his childhood. He was united in marriage to Edith Fraley and to this union were born three daughters, and one son: Olive, Cyril, Margorie and Claude. After moving to McCook, he was engaged in various businesses. He started a lunch wagon on West B Street. He also operated lunch wagons at nearby towns at different times. He bought the old ice pond south of McCook and transformed it into the Pastime Park, with a large dance pavilion, swimming pool, picnic grounds and other recreational features. In 1915 he became a Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Ed Flitcraft and filled out his term when he resigned. In 1920 he was elected sheriff and was re-elected to this position up till the time of his death. While visiting his daughter in Norton, Kansas he was seized with an acute heart attack from which he was to die a week later on February 8, 1934 at McCook. He was buried February 11, 1934 in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

Wife of GEORGE E. McCLAIN

EDITH ELIZABETH FRALEY

was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She was married to George E. McClain on March 7, 1900. They were the parents of three daughters and one son. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Cyril Viersen, at McCook on October 24, 1941 and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on October 27, 1941.

SAMUEL DOVER McCLAIN

was born October 14, 1851 at Dayton, Ohio to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin McClain. He grew up in his home town, until nineteen when he moved with his parents to Princeton, Illinois. There he met and was married to Ella Martin, on January 27, 1874 at Princeton, Illinois. They were the parents of eight children: Wilber, George, Harry, Lillie E., Laura Bell, Ollie May, and two children who died in infancy. The family moved to Cullom, Illinois in 1875, where they resided for nine years. They came to Red Willow County in 1884, taking up a homestead one mile west and six miles north of McCook. The county at that time was a broad ex-

panses of prairie, without a sign of a house, tree, or furrow. There they lived, until moving to McCook in 1899. The family lived in west McCook, and Samuel did carpenter work to make the necessary living expenses. He often "fiddled" at dances to help earn the family board. He often recalled the old days and made the remark that he did not know what they would have done for amusement at times, had it not been for his old violin. For the six months that they lived in town, after filing on the homestead, the family used to drive to the place and spend the night there in order to fulfill the necessary time requirement to be spent on the claim. The family lived in dugouts, sod houses, and the like at different times of their pioneering. Mr. McClain, worked a great deal at the well driller trade, and he dug several wells that were 250 to 300 feet in depth. For a long time, the well on the McClain homestead, was the only one in the immediate neighborhood and surrounding neighbors hauld water from the McClain well. In 1899, Sam moved his family from the homestead into McCook and purchased the oil business, running the tank wagon, retailing kerosene and gasoline to the homes for several years. He was the first agent for the Standard Oil Company in McCook. He and William Zint, purchased lots on west B Street, where they erected the Monte Cristo building, later on he bought Zint's interests. For several years, while on the homestead, he was Justice of the Peace in his precinct, and later served for a term as Police Judge of this city. He also cried auctions for twenty-five years, working from Maywood to Oberlin, and for some distance east and west. He retired from active business in 1926. He passed away at his home in McCook on Saturday, May 13, 1928. His funeral was held on Tuesday, May 15, 1928, and he was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

LEWIS WILLIAM McCONNELL

was born September 24, 1857 at Beardstown, Illinois. Living there until he was seven or eight, his family then moved to Virginia, Illinois. He grew up there, going to school, playing baseball, and working in stores. Athletics were over-emphasized in those days also. McConnell had a job in the drug store, and a job on the town's baseball team. The team had a game one afternoon, and McConnell's pitching arm was needed. He decided to play baseball; and his boss decided that the store could struggle along without him. That was that, to sum up the situation in a

muchly over-used nutshell. Over emphasizing baseball led to McConnell launching out into private enterprise. With \$375, when he still was a year or so shy of his majority, he pooled his resources with a chum, and the two bought a pharmacy of their own. Well, if you've ever owned a store of your own at the ripe old age of nineteen, you know the vast satisfaction he felt when the co-proprietors said "howdy" to their first customer. It was not long, until he bought out the partner and became sole owner of the establishment, and shortly later, he decided to give up the business and go to Chicago, where he could continue his study of pharmacy. Taking an interest in a Chicago drugstore, McConnell lived there six years, finding time to study and graduate from the Chicago College of Pharmacy. By 1890, he had his fill of Chicago, that was the year of strike and ugly labor strife in Chicago. Looking out his store's rear window upon sold-eir-chaperoned fights; he decided to head west. McCook was the terminal of his safari. For two years, he was engaged in the stationary business, and then he purchased the drug store of C. M. Smith & Son. His store was later moved to another location. After the Temple building was erected, he became a partner with Fred Pennell in managing the theater. The two brought the leading theater companies, entertainers and prizefighters to the Temple stage, and the money taken in on these enabled the Masonic Lodges to complete payments on their building. On Friday, April 24, 1936, he suffered a heart attack which ended his life. His funeral was held on Sunday, April 26, 1936 and he was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery. He was survived by his second wife, Nellie Smith, whom he had married in 1916.

RODERICK SUTHERLAND McDONALD

was born in Glasgow Scotland on September 17, 1859, where he spent his boyhood and attended school. The family moved to Stirling Scotland where young Roderick was apprenticed to a stone mason learning the stone cutting trade. He then served with the British Army in India. In 1880, at the age of 21, he came to America. He lived in many of the growing cities working on many of the finest buildings being constructed. In Waupun, Wisconsin he was married to Elizabeth Eliza Drummond on April 27, 1884.

They moved to St. Louis, Missouri where he helped build the beautiful depot there. Their first two children were born there, Alexander and Elizabeth. In 1887 they moved to McCook, Nebraska, again to build the depot, the Temple building and many other

of our beautiful stone buildings. They had nine children here, Francis died in infancy. They decided McCook was the place they wanted to stay so they bought the house they were to live in forever, at 324 West First Street. The children born here were: William, Florance, Susan, Mary, Norman (Pete), Doris, Stewart, Francis and Robert.

There were 28 grandchildren of various ages and four that were called the "little cousins" and were treated as such. Every Sunday morning after church they would go to Grandpa Roderick's and he would take them with him to "check out" the YMCA. On the way they would stop at the candy store next to the theater and get an ice-cream cone. These were not ordinary cones, they were tall ice creams with a big cherry on top. He spoke with a heavy Scottish accent and rolled his r's. He would get us all together on the floor in front of the piano and with one of the Aunts playing he would sing and sing. If you try you can almost still hear him sing "Annie Laurie" with so much feeling tears would come to your eyes.

Esther and Dorothy Miller say, when they were young the McDonald house was the place of entertainment. No one having any money to spend on enjoyment, the McDonalds always had music and song at their house and sometimes even popcorn. Mr. McDonald loved to keep the young folks busy and entertained.

He had retired (as much as he would retire) and besides his building work also worked with people at the "Poor Farm". In fact that is why he always wore a beard. Returning from the farm late one evening a thunder storm came up and a high wind blew an electric wire down and it hit him across his cheek and cut his tongue. He was thrown from the buggy but lived to tell the tale. He could never turn down a 'down and outers' sad story. He had to feed and house them all. When the YMCA was full he would bring them home, move a child or two to another bed and give the fellow the bed. In the morning he would have to give the bed a good cleaning for fear of bugs before she would be used again. His wife warned him many times if he kept up this practice she might as well open a boarding house. He didn't stop so she did. Attorney, Fred Hanson, Sr. says, "Roddie was a short man but he was a big man in his generous life."

He was a supporter of the country school his children attended when he first came to McCook. Those were the days when the mothers and older daughters cleaned the schools and the fathers and older sons cut the wood and carried the water for the teachers.

He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and held all the different offices of this organization. At one time he was District Deputy Grand Master of the Odd Fellows. He was an active member of the Baptist Church and taught a class of young men whose interest he held to the end of his life.

Though leaving ten children, twenty-eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren was monument enough, there is a monument in our Riverview Cemetery attesting to his good work. The G.A.R. monument was erected by him. According to the paper at the time of his death, a Mr. Irwin, a carpenter foreman for the Burlington Railroad, insisted the monument needed a jawl pin, Mr. McDonald rejected his advice. There were high words and the majority of the assembly ruled that McDonald knew his business. Mr. Irwin insisted Mr. McDonald did not know of the high winds in this country to which he replied, "I will guarantee you it will stand longer than you and I will live". That was in 1899, the article appeared in 1936 and in 1981 the monument still stands for his Great-Great grandchildren to see.

He passed away in his sleep early in the morning on December 11, 1936. Buried from the Methodist Church and buried in the Memorial Cemetery.

Wife of RODERICK S. McDONALD
ELIZABETH ELIZA DRUMMOND

was born in Fairwater, Wisconsin on January 4, 1869 to Alexander and Susan (Campbell) Drummond. The youngest of eight children and the only one born in America. The family moved to Waupum, Wisconsin where she spent her childhood. We don't know much about her childhood beyond the fact that she did graduate from high school, something not many females did in her day and she was proud of that fact. In 1884 on April 27 she was married to Roderick Sutherland McDonald. She was then 15 years old. He had come from Scotland the same as her parents had. She bore eleven children, Elizabeth, William D., Florance, Alexander, Susan, Norman, Robert, Mary, Doris, Stewart and Francis who died in infancy in 1897. They lived in Wisconsin the first three years of their married life and then moved to St. Louis, Missouri where her husband helped build the famous St. Louis Depot.

Arriving in McCook in 1897, they decided this was the place to stay and started building a life for themselves. Robert was born here as were all but Bess, Bill, Florance and Alex.

Elizabeth was an active church member of the Baptist Church and was a member of the Degree of Honor

and the Rebecca Lodge.

By the time grandchildren knowher she was almost always sitting in her chair on the porch or in the house. This was good for the younger cousins because you could get her undivided attention, something I'm sure the older grandchildren couldn't share. She was so active in charity work and her family when she was able. She was a big lady (from not being able to get around well) and she had the best lap ever. She had a yard swing and big trees in the yard at 324 West First Street. The children would swing from the trees to the swing and to her lap and she never failed to exclaim over our wonderful feat. She always had a big white apron over a colorful dress and her hair was thick and white to the day she died. She had always been interested in children and she and her husband would have young people in all their lives. Older people of today remember that if it hadn't been for her house they would not have known the enjoyment of singing and playing games with others when they were young people. It was hard times and people worked long hard hour and were too tired to entertain the young ones. Maybe because they had so many children of their own to enjoy a few more didn't make any difference; just added to the enjoyment.

She died in 1937 and was buried in the Memorial Cemetery at McCook.

PATRICK FRANCIS MCKENNA

was born November 12, 1858 at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. He entered service with the C. B. & Q as station employee in Hastings, and came to McCook with the first railroad crew in 1882, when the railroad was built through McCook. He was a member of a freight crew running between Red Cloud and McCook. He worked his way up and retired on February 1, 1929 as a conductor.

He passed away on Thursday, November 25, 1936, at the McCook hospital, and was buried in the Calvary Cemetery at McCook. His wife, Anna, survived him. Anna M. died in 1921 and is buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

DENNIS M. MCKILLIP

Many of the McKillip family that immigrated to America in the early 1840's were born near Glasgow, probably the town of Airdrie, Scotland. It is said that the father was killed in a mining accident in Scotland and that the mother died a short while after the family arrived in Maryland. The family first settled in the Cumberland Mountains of Allegany County

Maryland around Mt. Savage.

By 1850, the family had moved to Jackson County, Iowa, near Bellevue. The younger members of the family living with older, married brothers. They helped to break the wild prairies of that country. Some of the family remained at Bellevue, other brothers moved to Rock Island County, Illinois. The younger brothers came west into Nebraska.

Dennis McKillip was born August 28, 1839 at Ayers Scotland. He enlisted in the Civil War, August 5, 1862 at Muscatine, Iowa and served for three years. He was 5 ft. 6 in. tall, had blue eyes, light hair and a fair complexion. His occupation at the time was that of a miner.

Dennis was a Private in Company A, 35th. Iowa Volunteer Infantry and fought in the Seige of Vicksburg and at Jackson, Mississippi. He was wounded in action at Pleasant Hills, Louisiana on April 9, 1864 by a gunshot wound in the right thigh. He was treated at Adams General Hospital at Memphis, Tennessee and discharged from there on May 19, 1865 for disability.

After leaving the service, he lived at Buffalo, Iowa. On February 22, 1874 he married Melissa Lewis and they were the parents of four children. While in Iowa, their first son was born on January 4, 1875. He was named Dennis also.

The family moved west into Nebraska and by September, 1879 he had filed a claim in Thornberg Precinct, Hayes County, Nebraska. along the Willow Creek. The country was sparsely settled in the vicinity of their homestead with only his brother William, a nephew Michael, plus other family members living near-by.

Dennis became a naturalized citizen of the United States on March 6, 1882 at Culbertson, Hitchcock County, Nebraska.

After their arrival in Hayes County, three more children arrived. Claude L. on July 9, 1880, Merville A. on August 26, 1882 and Bridget M. on August 30, 1885.

Dennis was the first Postmaster at Thornburg, Nebraska. He later sold his land, some to brother William and some to his brother James McKillip, and in 1900 they moved to Keith County, Nebraska, near Paxton Postoffice. Two years later they moved to Lincoln County, North Platte Postoffice. In 1910 they moved to Douglas County, Missouri, Ava Postoffice for four years, then to Iola, Kansas until 1916. In 1917 they moved back to Red Willow County, living with their son Claude until both of their deaths. Dennis passed away November 13, 1921 and

is buried at the Riverview Cemetery at Mc Cook.

His son, Claude McKillip, married Ida Pearl Phillips, on September 5, 1902 at McCook. For a time he ran a saloon in McCook, purchasing the equipment from J. Walter Lathrop in 1911.

He purchased a farm in 1917, 11 miles south of McCook where he and his wife lived for a number of years before retiring and moving back to McCook. They had four children, Ralph, Nile, Doris and Lois.

Claude passed away in September of 1955 and is buried in the Riverview Cemetery at Mc Cook.

Wife of DENNIS M. MCKILLIP
MELISSA LEWIS

was the daughter of John A. Lewis and Phebe Walton Lewis and was born January 19, 1846 in Switzerland County, Indiana.

Her parents moved to Rock Island County, Illinois when she was ten years old. Her father apparently died and her mother remarried to Joseph Bonsall on August 1, 1859 at Muscatine, Iowa.

On June 4, 1862 Melissa married William Taylor, also at Muscatine. Mr. Taylor was a farm laborer and they lived at Illinois City, Rock Island County, Illinois until the War. She then lived with her family at Muscatine across the river from Illinois City. She divorced Mr. Taylor after the War and later married Dennis McKillip in 1874.

She united with the Christian Church when about twenty years old and always held to that faith.

Melissa passed away on Sunday, March 11, 1923 and is buried in the Riverview Cemetery at McCook.

CHAUNCEY SAMUEL MESSNER

was born in 1879, the only child of Samuel Roberts Messner (1851-1911) and Anna Eliza Henton Messner (1844-1933). He was a lifetime resident of Beaver Valley near Danbury, Nebraska. He attended Hamburg and White Hall country schools and graduated from the Danbury High School and Omaha Commercial College at Omaha. Most of his life was spent in farming and raising livestock.

He was an active member in the Masonic Lodge and was a member of King Cyrus Chapter Royal Arch Masons at McCook, the Scottish Rite at Hastings, and the Shrine at Hastings. He was presented the Jordan Medal in 1958.

Chauncey died in 1958 and was buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery.

Wife of CHAUNCEY SAMUEL MESSNER
ALICE MAUD RUBY

was born in 1883, the daughter of John Wesley Ruby (1840-1895) born in Harrison County, Ohio and Sarah Elizabeth Austin (1845-1916), living at Hackney, Ohio. She came to the Beaver Valley, near Danbury, with her parents in 1887 along with three sisters and four brothers.

In 1903 Alice was a school teacher and postal clerk and married Chauncey Messner. She and her husband lived on the Messner homestead until they purchased land nearby. She was known for her fine hand work, especially quilting. They had two daughters, Anna Fern Messner Hochmeister (1905-1935), and Edna Elizabeth Messner Parker (1906).

Alice died in 1973 and is buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery.

SAMUEL ROBERTS MESSNER

was born at Pine Village, Warren, Indiana, the son of Daniel Abraham Messner (1825-1905) born in Drake County, Pennsylvania, and Rebecca Ann Wood Messner (1825-1871) born in Drake County, Ohio. He came in the company with William Taylor Henton (also of Pine Village) to Johnson County, Nebraska in 1873. Fitting out an ox team they drove to where the Beaver and the Sappa Creeks join. At this place they fell in with Joe and Eugene Dolph and the four of them came up the Creek together. The Dolph brothers were just returning from filing on their homesteads. Samuel Messner and William Henton were the third and fourth to file a claim on the Beaver, west of Lebanon.

Samuel, William Henton, George S. Johnson, the Ashton brothers, and Dolph brothers took a leading part in organizing the county.

He was united in marriage to Annie Elizabeth Henton at Indianola, Nebraska on April 1878. To this union one son, Chauncey S., was born.

They farmed the soil and raised livestock and Mr. Messner was one of the earliest settlers helping to organize the Republican party in the county and was prominent in the Masonic circles.

At the time of his death at Danbury, on July 15, 1911, he was a very prominent man. He was buried in the Hamburg Cemetery on July 17, 1911.

Wife of SAMUEL ROBERTS MESSNER
ANNA ELIZABETH HENTON

was born October 14, 1844 at Cincinnati, Ohio. When she was five years old, her parents moved to Attica,

Fountain County, Indiana, where her father took charge of a ferry across the Wabash River. Thus her memories of childhood days were filled with associations of this famous river. Her mother died in 1857, when Anna was but thirteen years of age, and being the second daughter in the family of six children, early knew the responsibilities of caring for a family. The death of her father a few years later brought added cares to this great responsibility. Early in the spring of 1872, her brother William T., in the company of Sam R. Messner, migrated to Red Willow County, Nebraska, and settled in the Beaver Valley, near where Danbury stands. These pioneers sent back to their relatives in Indiana such glowing reports of this valley and the wonderful opportunities to be had, that they induced others to come. Accordingly, in the spring of 1877, when her brother Richard decided, after the death of his wife, to bring his daughter Anna May to Nebraska, and try his fortune. Anna Elizabeth came along to care for his little girl. Arriving here in her brother's prairie schooner in April 1877, she not only found relatives and friends, but also a beautiful valley, which so pleased her that she took a homestead and entered into the life of this pioneer community. In April 1879, she and Samuel R. Messner, drove an ox team to Indianola and were united in marriage. In later years, she used to love to tell of the experience they had in driving across the prairies to this little county seat town, and especially of the difficulties they had in fording the Republican River. Interesting and exciting experiences were not lacking, that is if Indian scares, prairie fires and plagues of grasshoppers and drought could furnish such experiences. Nevertheless she and her husband, held steadfast to their task of wresting a living from the soil and building a home here in spite of the many difficulties and hardships and the success they made was a monument to their industry, faith and perseverance.

The Messners retired from the farm and settled in Danbury, where her husband died in 1911.

Anna Elizabeth, the daughter of Milton Tallman Henton (1815-1867) born in Highland County, Ohio and Elizabeth Ann Gunckle (1821-1857) born at Montgomery, Ohio, died at the home of her only son, Chauncey S., on June 6, 1933 near Danbury. She was buried in the Hamburg Cemetery.

HENRY HOWARD MITCHELL

was born November 21, 1841 in Fayette County, Penn-

sylvania. During the Civil War he served in Company E, 168th. Pennsylvania Volunteers. After the war, he and his family came to Red Willow County where he spent the remainder of his life. He had married Emeline Show in September of 1859 and they were the parents of: Russ, Edward J., James, Henry, Nicholas, Laureta, May, and Sadie. He passed away in McCook on October 31, 1914, and was buried in the Riverview Cemetery.

THOMAS MOORE

was born September 15, 1845 at Montreal Canada. He served in the Union Forces during the Civil War with Company K, 96th. New York Volunteer Infantry, from 1861 to 1865. He was married on January 1, 1867 to Sarah Robena Gibson, and they were the parents of four children: two daughters and two sons. The family moved to Nebraska and lived in McCook since 1907.

He was a member and Past Commander of the local J. K. Barnes Post No. 207 G.A.R.

Thomas died on Sunday, April 25, 1926 at his home in McCook and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on Tuesday, April 28, 1926.

Wife of THOMAS MOORE

SARAH ROBENA GIBSON

was born March 23, 1849 in St. John's Canada. She was married to Thomas Moore on January 1, 1867 at Ellenburg Dept, New York.

They came to Nebraska in 1879 and moved to McCook in 1907. She was a mother of four children.

After a long illness, she died on Saturday, August 23, 1916 and was laid to rest in the Longview Cemetery on Monday, August 25, 1916.

GEORGE B. MORGAN

was born October 16, 1858 at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. He was married to Mary Frances Good at Red Oak, Iowa on September 1, 1886, and they were the parents of two children: Alta and Donal H. The couple came to Indianola, Nebraska on their wedding trip and lived there about one year, before moving to the Beaver Valley where they established the first store on the present site of Danbury. Mr. Morgan was Danbury's first postmaster as well as it's first general merchant. He continued in the merchandise business here for twenty years and has been a resident of Danbury while engaged in farming and stock raising. The Morgan's traveled quite extensively and visited many places of interest in the United States as well as

several countries in Europe. They made voyages to foreign countries, accompanied by their daughter in 1929 and 1931.

He was a member of the Danbury Masonic Lodge since 1915 and served as secretary of the group from 1920 to 1933.

George passed away in his home in Danbury on Wednesday, February 10, 1937 and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook on Thursday, February 11, 1937.

FRANK B. MORRISON

was born May 20, 1905. On his father's side he was a product of a Colorado pioneer family and on his mother's side, a pioneer Kansas family. His father died when he was two years of age and he grew up with his widowed mother and sister at Manhattan, Kansas, where he was graduated from high school and from Kansas State University with a degree in science. He came to Nebraska to attend law school where he was graduated with a Juris Doctor Degree in 1931.

Locating in Southwest Nebraska after graduation, first an instructor in history and government of the Nebraska School of Agriculture in Curtis, and then as a lawyer and County Attorney in Frontier County, he became well grounded in the problems of rural Nebraska. He developed at an early age a profound interest in bringing a higher standard of living to its people. He became associated with the Republican River development, and was an early leader in the rural electrification movement, forming the first REA Co-op in the state.

Upon becoming a partner in the McCook law firm of Butler, James & Morrison, he became active in the McCook Chamber of Commerce and formed the McCook Park and Playground Development Association. Morrison created Circle Drive Addition to finance park development in the City.

While in McCook, he developed his reputation as one of the state's leading trial lawyers. He expanded his interest in resource development by becoming attorney for the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District and the McCook Public Power District. The Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District was the first water distribution district formed under the Pick-Sloan Plan for the development of the water resources of the Missouri River Basin.

His state-wide acquaintance was expanded when he became first national committeeman and then president of the Young Democrats of Nebraska and then as

the District Governor of Rotary International.

In 1955 he expanded his law practise by entering a law partnership in Lincoln under the name of Doyle, Morrison and Doyle.

When elected governor in 1960, he brought to the state government a new vision of the potential greatness of the Cornhusker State. The need for expanded water utilization was given primary emphasis. The need for more balanced economy was recognized through the creation of Nebraska's first Industrial Development Act which greatly expanded the state's potential for industrial development. Morrison was the first governor to set up Governor's Trade Expansion Tours which brought more national and international attention to the nation's heartland. He reorganized state government and state institutions through new legislation to give additional efficiency and effectiveness. New emphasis on the value of education was projected through the governor's Conference on Higher Education, a committee for exceptional children, and creation of Nebraska's Educational Television Network.

Governor Morrison set up the Status of Women Commission, the State Safety Council, the State Arts Council, the Community Betterment Contest, the Old West Trail, and the Nebraskaland Foundation. During the Morrison years, the Chain of Lakes concept on the Interstate Highway came into being, the Power Review Board was established bringing a new degree of order out of the chaotic public power situation, the first retirement program for state employees was implemented, the Mid-West Governor's Conferences brought new attention to the Middle West, the College of Medicine at the University was taken out of the doldrums and put on a new progressive expansion schedule, the new College of Dentistry was built, the science complex at the University came into being and new priority was given to expansion of the state colleges, and the first state health insurance program adopted. Morrison almost singlehandedly rescued and brought into being the famous Research Center at Clay Center. The Nebraskaland Foundation was created to help develop the State's resources.

The theme of the Morrison Administration of state government was that man was trustee of the universe and government his most effective tool in the responsible administration of human and natural resources.

As advisor to the state department in India in 1968, Morrison advocated that the Nebraska system of irrigation districts, power districts and sanitary

districts, financed by revenue bonds, be used as a tool in bringing a far higher standard of living and nutrition to the developing nations. The change of national administration in 1968 removed Morrison from a chance to implement the Nebraska program internationally.

Probably the greatest impact of the Morrison Administration on the state's history was psychological in giving to the state a new vision of its potential greatness.

Frank Morrison married Maxine Hepp at Greeley, Nebraska and to this marriage were born three children, Frank B. Morrison, Jr., a prominent Montana trial lawyer, David John Morrison, an Omaha businessman, and Jean Marie Morrison, the wife of a Denver physician.

Mr. Morrison is presently Douglas County Public Defender working for judicial reform.

(This story was written by Maxine Morrison)

ALEXANDER S. MUIRHEAD

was born October 29, 1839 in Neuburn Virginia. He was married to Harriet Arnold on December 19, 1860 in Virginia, and to this union two sons and five daughters were born. During the Civil War, he served in the Confederate Army. He came to Nebraska in 1875, homesteading near Oxford where he lived until 1890. He and his family moved to Missouri, where they resided on a farm until his health forced him to retire. They moved back to McCook in 1916 and lived with his daughter, Mrs. Laura Osborn. He died in McCook on Sunday, September 12, 1920 and was buried in the Longview Cemetery on Wednesday, September 15, 1920. Harriet died in 1921 and is also buried in the Longview Cemetery.

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GUY LEON NELSON

the son of Charles W. Nelson and Minnie Edna Hubler was born July 27, 1905 at Blue Hill, Webster County, Nebraska. He moved with his family at the age of two years to a farm northwest of McCook, in the Coleman Precinct, Red Willow County in 1908. He attended the rural school near his home. Percy, as he was called, graduated from the McCook High School, where he was outstanding in sports. On June 1, 1927, he married Rosa Elnora Schlegel, on a farm northwest of McCook and they were the parents of five daughters: Nadine, Avis, Dorothy, Fern, and Karen and one son, Arlyn Lee, who preceded him in death. After farming

in the area until 1948, he moved his family into McCook where he lived until his death. He was the builder and operator of the Bowl-Mor Alleys in McCook. He was a member of the Red Willow County Noil Conservation District and in 1947 was elected chairman of that board. He was a former Red Willow County Commissioner. He was a member of the Methodist Church, all Masonic bodies in McCook, the Order of the Eastern Star, Tehama Shrine of Hastings, Tehama Shrine Club of McCook, and the Elk's Club. He died in an accident while constructing a duplex in McCook on Monday, June 7, 1972. His funeral was held in the Methodist Church and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

GEORGE WILLIAM NORRIS

was born July 11, 1861 near Clyde, Sandusky County, Ohio to Chauncey Norris and Mary Magdalene Mook. He was the eleventh of twelve children. His father died of pneumonia when he was 3½ years old. Against the wishes of his mother, his only brother, John Henry, enlisted in Company A, Fifty-Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which became part of Sherman's march from Atlanta to the sea. John Henry suffered a slight wound during a skirmish at Resaca, Georgia, from which he died of infection on May 27, 1864. Thus at a very early age George William Norris became the man of the house. Two of the people who were instrumental in shaping his life were the teacher at Mount Carmel District School, where he first went to school, Mr. I. D. Speidell. The other was a member of the Mount Carmel Debating Society, George Setzler, a wagonmaker. While still young, George became a good debator, which helped him out later in life.

George first went to Baldwin College and then to Northern Indiana Normal School (today Valparaiso University) to become a lawyer. To earn his way thru college, he would teach school after graduation. He taught school near Bolles Junction, Washington, but didn't like the country and returned to Ohio and taught at a private school at Warrenville. With the money that he had saved, the deed to 80 acres of land in Johnson County, Nebraska, and \$300 his sister, Melissa, loaned him; he bought a modest law library, some office furniture and embarked in a partnership with H. H. Harrington (a Beatrice, Nebraska schoolmate at Valparaiso). In less than a year this partnership dissolved because of no business. George then sold the land in Johnson County and moved his law practice to Beaver City. In the early days at