

AUG 15 1985

THE MC COLL HOME
502 SOUTH MAIN, WOODWARD, IOWA

We would like to welcome you to share in the heritage and history of our home. The following is a brief biography of the home and its inhabitants throughout the years. Much of the information has been taken from the Woodward Centennial Book, the book the Past and Present of Dallas County, and various newspaper articles appearing in the Woodward Enterprise.

Any stories, corrections, further details, or rumors that you would care very welcome.

THE HISTORY OF THE SENATOR ANTHONY MC COLL HOME

The Senator

Anthony Milroy McColl was born in Caledonia, Livingston County, New York, on May 19, 1858. He was one of the eight children of Hugh D. and Jane Ann Wooster McColl and came with his family to Iowa in 1877 and settled on a 600 acre tract of sod and timber land, in Dallas County, in the section of Des Moines Township, named by his father, and known as the Beulah School District.

Anthony M. McColl was reared to manhood in Caledonia, New York, and the common schools afforded him his educational advantages. His knowledge, however, was largely acquired by self training since coming to years of maturity. An article appearing in the book Past and Present of Dallas County written in 1938 provided the following insight of Anthony M. McColl: "...he is today a well informed man, having a good knowledge of all subjects of general interest, while in his home is a well selected library with the contents of which he is largely familiar. He and his brother assisted in opening up, developing and carrying on the home farm and remained with their father until his death."

As a youth of 21, Mr. McColl cast his first vote in the old Center schoolhouse east of the Jack Tarr place near the Des Moines River. The Dallas county school is no longer standing. That first balloting in which Mr. McColl took place was a special election dealing with the prohibition questions. After that he became deeply absorbed in state and local matters and when he was still 21 he was elected for the first time as a state convention delegate and for the next 72 years he attended every Republican state convention.

In 1890 Anthony started his political career when he was elected and served the first of his three terms as Clerk of District Court of Dallas County. Then a bachelor, he moved into rooms at Adel and stayed there during his six years as clerk.

Four or five years after the family arrived in Dallas county the railroad came through and located their station where Woodward is now, and during the time he was getting his start in politics he and his brother, Donald, established a grain elevator and lumber business in Woodward that Donald managed, and in which Anthony retained an interest until he was elected State Senator in 1910.

According to old newspaper accounts, Mr. McColl served as mayor of Woodward from 1899 to 1900. The paper also reported that the city of Woodward experienced one of the most destructive fires in the city's history on June 12, 1901 burning the block from Craft's store to McColl's Lumber Yard.

Mrs. Bessie Clyde Craft McColl

On October 28, 1903 A.M. McColl married Bessie Clyde Craft, at her parent' home in Woodward. Mrs. McColl always took her place through the years as his political ally, helper and hostess to the many dignitaries who visited their home. She was always interested in the issues in which her husband was interested.

A review of past issues of the Woodward Enterprise reveals the name of Mrs. Anthony McColl sprinkled amongst the many notable women and club members. One such club was mentioned in the 50th Anniversary, March 3, 1938 issue and is included in this biography because of its humor.

"How Dry I Am" Priscilla Club Pans City Council

A little less than a score of years ago, the Priscilla Club secured the funds for a drinking fountain which was set up downtown in Woodward. The city council in a meeting decided that the fountain wasted too much water and caused the city an excessive water bill, so they had to take it out.

The ladies were quite properly incensed at this action. So, when the Fourth of July arrived and a parade was scheduled the women acted.

Donning black costumes to represent and parody the various members of the council, they secured a black truck and with the proper signs, rode through the streets in the parade, singing, "How Dry I Am."

The results were that members of the council got angry. The fountain was not reinstalled however. Today it is located in the back of A.M.McColl's yard. Anyway, the ladies had their fun.

The Senator in Politics

Mr. McColl was first appointed State Senator to fill the place of George Cosson who had been made Attorney General almost as soon as he was elected. He served that term and another after that. Though a member of many committees, the fact that a bill which he introduced brought about the use of electric lights on all locomotives in the state was something to which he looked back with special pride. This made Iowa one of the few states in the union where electrically powered headlights streamed through darkness up miles of railroad track.

After his term in the senate he was appointed in 1913 as a member of the State Board of Control, serving 18 years in this position. He

also managed the first gubernatorial race of Gov. George W. Clark. It was while on the board of control that McColl gave his biggest lift to Woodward. He managed, after somewhat of a struggle, to have the State Hospital built here at Woodward. The work of Anthony McColl, Chairman of the Board of Control, in connection with the dairy herds and farms at the state institutions of Iowa was credited with building up the foremost state institution dairy cattle herd in the United States.

McColl, always popular and respected for his judgment, served the Republicans well. He was Dallas County Central Committee Chairman, a member of the state central committee and was a delegate to the national G.O.P. convention in Kansas City. He was regarded by his acquaintances as one of the oldest men in Iowa still taking an active part in issues of state and national interest and at the age of 93 he was looking forward to attending another state Republican convention in July 1950.

The Senator in Private

The couple lived all their married life in the stately home on Main Street in Woodward. The house was completed in 1903, the same year that they were married. Rumor has it that the Mr. McColl had the widow's walk on the top of the third floor built that high so that he could see the gold dome on the state capitol from his own house. At last check, there were too many trees in the way to determine whether this was truly the case.

At the age of 94, Mr. McColl had the honor of being the oldest licensed auto driver in the county. He passed the vision test and conformed to the other rules and received a renewal of his drivers license from the clerk who was astonished at the ease with which Mr. McColl passed the tests.

In Memoriam

In April 1951, M. S. Stokely of Des Moines, owner of the Stokely Lumber Company in Woodward, donated five acres of ground to be used as a park. This park now bears the name "Anthony M. McColl Park," which will now remain as a memorial to his as Woodward's most distinguished citizen. The park now has a shelter house (the former interurban depot building remodeled), the skating rink has since been replaced by tennis courts and there are plenty of slides and swings for the town's young people, with all the work for the project donated by Woodward residents.

Mr. McColl passed away September 14, 1952 at his home at age 94 years. The services were planned to conform with Mr. McColl's wish that the rites be under the trees in the yard that he loved, and nearly 500 persons from all over Iowa paid their last respects to A. M. McColl, former State Senator and longtime Republican leader. Bessie Clyde Craft McColl passed away in 1963. They are buried at the Woodward Cemetery.

The Senator's House Since

Following Jean Milroy McColl's death the home was sold to Mr. & Mrs Rex McMahill. In 1970, the home was featured in the Des Moines Sunday Register Picture Magazine. Mrs. McMahill had done considerable remodeling so many of the houses original features were altered. These alterations included the painting of much of the home's oak woodwork on the lower level, painting and remodeling of the large oak fire place in the Senator's library as well as complete repainting of the exterior of the home from the original buff color to an olive green with white trim.

The home was then sold to Mr. & Mrs. Tom Royer.

In 1980 the home was purchased by Mr. and Mrs Armand Perrier III. They lived in the McColl home for four years and their daughter, Angela was born during that time. The Perrier's expended considerable efforts and time to preservation of the character of the home. After extensive research, they determined that the home's exterior had been painted a pale yellow originally. They attempted to duplicate this color with all new siding. They also began the re-decoration of the home back to its Victorian character with new wallpaper in the front rooms. A Victorian love seat grouping was purchased to coordinate with the new paper. Their most ambitious effort was the removal of one wall between the kitchen and the Senator's study, creating an open family room atmosphere between the rooms.

The Present Owners--

Steven C. and Jan Danielson Kaiser,
and daughter Makenzie

Our love of Victorian homes has been a long romance. Whenever we travel we are always enamored by older homes and the history that is behind them. Our decision to purchase the old McColl home was not a difficult one to make.

We became the owners of the home on January 15, 1985. Our plans to move into the home as soon as possible were interrupted on January 21 when water pipes were frozen and destroyed much of the ceiling in the kitchen, family room, and dining areas. Because of this our plans for remodeling were increased considerably.

As of today, we have replaced the old green carpeting in four of the downstairs rooms with oak hard wood floors. Considerable time and sweat was required and a GREAT BIG THANK YOU goes to my father, Vern T. Danielson for without his skills and work we would never have accomplished everything.

The Senator's Library has become our warm and friendly Fireplace (family) Room. We have replaced the old tile around the fireplace with new marble which complements the warm old oak of the mantel. New wallpaper in a French floral pattern of putty, mauve and peach is enhanced by the beautiful old leaded glass in the bay windows.

The kitchen has been totally revamped and makes use of the most modern materials seen in the entire house. Almond Formica in European

styling has been used as cupboards highlighted with warm oak trim. A new fretwork in the same oak stain has been added as a room divider between the kitchen dining area and the Fireplace Room. A small bath off the Fireplace Room has also been finished in a small mauve patterned wallpaper accented with oak fixtures.

Upstairs, the Master Bedroom has been newly decorated in a French Cameo pattern of buff and cornflower blue complemented with a floral border. The guest room and upstairs bath have also been newly wallpapered.

Our love of wood floors is evident throughout the home. The wonderful staircase had been covered with carpeting and paint for so many years that upon its removal we were delighted to find lovely aged oak. Every minute of work removing paint was worth it. I can hardly walk up the steps without remembering those cold winter days when we worked while our daughter scurried around in her little walker amidst the dirt and saw dust.

In the front rooms, we have used the dusty rose patterned wallpaper that was newly applied by the previous owners and complements the Victorian love seat grouping. The large built in love seat under the oak staircase has been newly cushioned and is filled with pillows made of fabric that matches the wallpaper. Victorian flocked sheer curtains hang beneath the antique satin drapes in an eggshell color. The unique bay windowseat area at the northeast corner of the home is accented with French lace swag curtains.

At the back of the house on the second floor, was an old sleeping porch which was used during hot summer nights. This porch had been enclosed several years ago and used as a fifth bedroom. We transformed this room into a laundry area. Our neighbor, Freda Adams tells of many summer nights when she could hear the Senator's guests from Washington as they retired out on this back porch.

Last but not least, we have created a new use for the original formal dining room. The room is now being used as a law office for Steven C. Kaiser. It has been decorated in a mallard duck motif and makes good use of the small private porch entrance that faces the street in the back of the house.

We hope that you will enjoy your tour of our home and we are pleased to be able to share a little of the history of one of Woodward's last Victorian homes.

Steven, Jan, & Makenzie Kaiser

August 10, 1985