

Chapter 8

Notables

TOMMY WARNER

Mr. Warner was the son of Otis and Martha Warner. There were twelve children born to this couple and of that number only two were boys - Ernest and Thomas. He lived with his parents on the Warner farm one mile east and one-fourth south of Clemons. He stayed with his parents during sickness and cared for them. After his parents died and the farm sold, he moved to town in 1935. He never married.

In town he lived over the Glen Jay Hardware and later moving to an apartment over the tavern. Tommy worked for the town of Clemons in the forties and fifties and did odd jobs for farmers and others. He helped keep fire in the stove at the fire station so the fire truck would start when needed. Another job for the town was walking the streets at night to check for fires and other wrong doings. He also mowed the cemetery and the town park. It was said that he was hired to mow around the town pump for \$2.00 a month. He is remembered as a kindly cheerful man who enjoyed life.

HARLEY CLEMONS

Does anyone know Harley Clemons? Well, most of you are probably better acquainted with "Hop" Clemons. For many years, during the 20's, 30's, 40's, and 50's, "Hop" operated a garage in Clemons. In the early years Hop worked on about anything that needed fixing and in later years, he overhauled lawn mowers and small engines. Hop had an artificial leg, but I'm not sure he considered that a handicap.

It used to be a marvel to go to his shop and sit down and watch him work with his glasses slid up on the top of his head, tools and parts strung around. If it could be fixed, Hop would fix it and if not, he still might get it going again.

Hop had a real knack and keen wit for summarizing a person or a situation and for expressing a philosophy.

In his later years whether continuing to tinker in his shop or while loafing in the barber shop or service station, he could spin yarns about the area or fishing that were quite entertaining. He was a most masterful storyteller.

"Hop" died November 1969. During his life he was a real fixture around town, one of those unique individuals with a distinctive character fondly remembered by all he came in contact with. He had a philosophy for enjoying life and he lived his philosophy.



Floyd Brackney's "CORN"
He painted the picture for the World's Fair in 1915.



FLOYD BRACKNEY

FLOYD B. BRACKNEY

A local Clemons man and talented, accomplished artist was commissioned by Iowa to do a painting for the World's Fair in 1915. This man was Floyd Brackney, son of Albert and Martha Brackney. Brackney, a graduate of Cornell University, displayed "Corn" at the San Francisco Panama Pacific Exposition. It was the central point for Iowa's exhibit.

"Corn" was painted in Clemons. Brackney was mayor in 1915. He died in 1944 in Lincoln, Illinois, and is buried in Clemons.

This painting is on display on the second floor rotunda of Iowa's capitol.

EUNICE TUCKER

Wedding cakes are baked in the Eunice Tucker home in Clemons. She also makes cakes for all occasions. In 1944 she started making wedding cakes; the first for Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ulery (now living in California). She recalls the second one she made was for Mr. and Mrs. Horace Howard of Clemons. From then on many more have been made for Marshalltown weddings and all surrounding towns.

Twelve dozen eggs go into making a large wedding cake. Her angel foods are made from "scratch" as are most that she makes. Eunice does make other kinds also when they are ordered. The eggs come from Mrs. Richard Witt and Mrs. Kenneth Armbricht. The egg yolks are given to friends who make them up into noodles.

Mrs. Tucker's kitchen serves as the mixing and baking center, and where sits her "faithful" Hamilton Beach mixer. The mixing and baking for a large cake, which serves over 200, takes all day. She has a set of seven different sized pans that are used to bake the various sized tiers and has developed recipes in the right quantity for each one. The two large bottom layers each require two batches of batter mixed consecutively. The batter is mixed in a two-gallon low crock.

The frosting of a wedding cake is another time consuming task. Eunice has developed her own recipes, never having been trained in cake decorating.

Taste is an outstanding quality of the "Tucker Angel Food Cakes", as many people who have tasted her cakes will testify.

Wedding cakes from the Tucker home cover a fairly large area. Some have gone out of state to Omaha and Parsons, and Kansas City, Kansas.

Eunice keeps busy with many church activities and is an active member of the West Marshall Senior Citizens, attending all of their functions and taking the scheduled trips.

Mrs. Tucker has made well over 2,000 wedding cakes and many more birthday and anniversary cakes. She says it is very interesting work and she enjoys meeting many friends.

EUNICE TUCKER
Clemons "Cake Maker"

EARL AND MARIE VAN METRE

As memory warms my thoughts, I am reminded of the last 34 years I have spent with Earl and Marie.

In 1948 Lois and I moved from Liscomb to Clemons. Soon after we became involved in church activities in which Earl and Marie had a major part. Earl was Sunday School teacher and choir member and Marie was choir director. (She had lots of patience.) They both served in the capacities until 1980.

In 1952, I was appointed Rural Mail Carrier at which time Earl was postmaster and Marie was his assistant. I served under the Van Metres until Earl's retirement in 1969. During those 17 years I do not recall of one disagreement we had and anyone knowing me would think that an impossibility.



MARIE AND EARL VAN METRE

I have always greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve under such fine people.

There are many things that stand out looking back over the years. Marie was very instrumental in forming the band mothers club in the forties, contributing her time and talents to help raise funds for the high school band uniforms and instruments.

Earl and Marie spent many hours working in Community Club and other civic activities always willing to do their share plus.

Earl also had a successful insurance business and probably the largest Farmers Income tax business in Marshall County which he operated for many years. Since there was no attorney in town, Earl was called

upon to do various legal work.

Without a question of a doubt Earl and Marie were the most faithful and dedicated members of the church. They gave thousands of hours of their talents and efforts as well as being very generous with monetary contributions. They contributed a large portion of the beautiful Hammond Organ in the sanctuary. In 1973, they contributed the finances necessary to construct a new addition on the southwest corner of the church. This unit consisted of conference room and pastor's study complete with electric heat, central air, and carpet with 2 storage rooms below.

In 1978, a special Van Metre Day was held in appreciation for their long and faithful service to the church.

Besides all the time spent for the betterment of the community and church, they raised Dean, Marvin, and Delores who in the meantime have grown to be wonderful adults.

It seems as though Earl in his teenage days was reprimanded by the law in Clemons for going down Main Street in a Model T Ford sitting up on the back of the front seat driving with his feet.

Well done, thou good and faithful servants.

E.W. (Woody) Shives

DELBERT & JULIUS BRYANT

Besides his farming interests located near the Mormon Ridge area, Delbert Bryant ran a custom business starting around 1912 when he traveled around the local area with his steam engines pulling his threshing machine and separator during the harvest season of oats and other small grains. During this same time he also operated a clover huller. These operations were discontinued when the combines began to appear.

Around 1915 he started a corn shelling business which he continued until his death in 1940. By that time his son, Julius, who had been a partner since the early 30's, took over the business until his death in 1963.

"A VANISHING MAN - SMITHY"

DAVID STUCKMEYER

Many phases of the blacksmithing profession have changed in 38 years. David Stuckmeyer opened his shop in 1934 after working with Jurgeson. He had learned acetylene welding under Jake Hass at Bangor in 1930. Stuckmeyer worked for no pay to learn his trade. He recalled when he built his present shop. He was single and slept on the ground behind his shop and cooked his meals on the forge. When he started, his forge was turned by hand while later it ran with elec-

tricity.

Stuckmeyer worked on wooden wagon wheels and stage coach wheels. These were for a centennial celebration in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Other projects were wheels for a hearse, buggy wheels, and wheels for circus wagons. These repairs called for making new spokes and hubs which Stuckmeyer does by hand. The spokes were made with a draw knife and a spoke shave. He also shortened and lengthened trucks. He worked from 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. until midnight or 2 a.m.

When Stuckmeyer first started he got \$1.00 to sharpen a plow lay and later got \$4.00. Grinding and sharpening a 7 foot sickle cost 50¢ and later cost \$1.75.

Blacksmith coal had really gone up. When he started he got coal for \$9.27 a ton. Later he got it from Des Moines for \$75.00 per ton. Blacksmith coal is a special ore. It must be clean, soft, and free of dirt or it will not weld.

Stuckmeyer was married June 8, 1937, to Edith Weuve. They have 3 children, Alice Scovill and twin sons, Larry and Daryl. David passed away May 1, 1971, at 63 years of age. He made a threading machine that was made from scraps. He always enjoyed doing something that couldn't be fixed. He really enjoyed his work. David had only a 5th grade education and went to Hazel Green school that was just north of Minerva.

BILL SPARKS

The buffalo herds of Iowa have been gone from the flat prairies for many years. In 1972, Bill Sparks, Don Sparks, and Harold Walters brought the American Bison back to the central Iowa area, more specifically Section 5 of Liberty Township. Three heifers came from Custer State Park in South Dakota. This park is adjacent to the Black Hills and roamed by a large herd of buffalo. By 1976, the herd had grown to approximately 200 cows and bulls.

The owners ventured into this project not as a hobby, but as a business strictly for profit. They raised and butchered the animals to sell for nearly \$2.00 per pound. The meat was very popular and sought by people from surrounding states. The buffalo meat has 25% more protein than other red meats.

In 1977 the herd was split up and many sold to a buyer in Missouri.

Even though only here a short time, many central Iowans enjoyed watching the American Bison roam Iowa once more.

LEO DUNN

Leo Dunn, who farms north of Clemons, was born and raised in Liberty township and graduated from

Liberty High School.

He and his wife, Kathryn, have five children; all of whom graduated from Iowa State University.

Francis farmed with his father until his death. Kenneth lives in Tipton, Iowa. Phyllis and her husband farm near Armstrong, Iowa. Maurice owns and operates a grain bin business in Marshalltown. Karen works for B.F. Goodrich in Louisville, Ky.

Leo feeds out feeder cattle each year and raises corn as his principle crop.

He was a member of the school board at the time West Marshall consolidated, and served seven years.

In 1967, Leo was cited as an Outstanding Farmer by the Federal Land Bank, and in 1970 was given the Wallaces's Farmer Master Farmer Award. He is one of only three Marshall Countians to receive this award.

FRANCIS DUNN

Francis Dunn returned to the family farm after his graduation from Iowa State University in 1964. He started building a farrow to finish hog operation in 1969, which he expanded and improved in the following years. He eventually produced over 2,000 hogs each year.

In 1974 Francis was honored by being named Iowa Master Pork Producer.

Francis was a member of the Marshall County Pork Producers and had served as secretary and treasurer on the board. He was also an active member of Sacred Heart Church in St. Anthony.

He and his wife, Lauralea, have five children: Paul, Mark, Amy, Sarah, and Emily.

On August 29, 1981, Francis died when he was overcome by silo gas.

The Marshall County Pork Producers established a memorial scholarship to be given to an Iowa State University student of agriculture each year.

CORN — CORN — CORN

The 1952 Iowa Master Corn Grower was E.W. Bartine of Clemons, Iowa. His winning yield for the Iowa corn yield contest, sponsored by the Iowa Crop Improvement Assn., that year was 169.98 bushels per acre. The prize-winning field was planted April 29, 1952, with Pioneer seed corn variety 352. The corn was drilled in 40 inch rows with a stalk every 8 inches, for a plant population of 19,800 stalks per acre.