

JOHN HARVEY McLEAN (1895 - 1955)

John Harvey McLean was born on January 1, 1895 in Underwood, Ontario, Canada. His parents were Charles and Elizabeth McLean. His Grandparents had emigrated to Canada from County Argyll, Scotland. When he was just an infant, he emigrated with his parents to Adams, North Dakota in April of 1895 where he grew up surrounded by Uncles, Aunts, and cousins. He was known as Harvey all of his life. Harvey's mother Lizzie died when he was eight years old. So Harvey then had to help his Grandmother Mary with tending to his younger sisters. He also was expected to help his father with the farming chores. Harvey went to school at the Tiber School along with many of his McLean cousins. Then his father died when Harvey was 22 years old and he became the head of the household.

Harvey met Elizabeth Samson in Adams through Harvey's sister Marie (Marie eventually married Elizabeth's brother Louis). Elizabeth (Beth) Gertrude Samson was born in Akra, North Dakota on October 8, 1892. Her parents were Jonas Samson and Katrin Asmundsdottir. Beth was born shortly after the family had relocated from Iceland. Beth's mother died on March 12, 1894 while Beth was still an infant, so she never had a recollection of her mother. With eight children to look after, her father decided to put the children into foster families. Beth's father remarried on August 11, 1896 and took into his household two of his second wife's daughters, so he still was not able to have any of his younger children with him.

Beth's first foster family was John and Elinborg Bjornason who lived in Akra, so she was at least close by to some of her brothers and sisters. Sometime after 1900 Beth lived with another foster family named Levi in Akra. They had a daughter named Runa who was about Beth's age. They not only were foster sisters, but were best friends for life.

Beth and her sister Helga were most likely influenced by their older brother John to seek higher education. John was a school teacher and later became a lawyer. So in 1909, Beth and Helga went to Fargo, North Dakota where she worked her way through college in the rural teachers course at the North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University). It was a three year program leading to a teaching certificate for rural schools that she obtained in 1913.

One of her first teaching jobs was in Canada near where her father was living. Beth came to Wynyard, Canada and taught school at the Harvard district school and stayed with some relatives. Harvey and Beth were married on July 25, 1919 in Grafton, North Dakota. Harvey continued on the farm established by his father and he and Beth began raising a family.

Harvey and Beth had their first child Enid in 1920 in Lakota, North Dakota. Enid went to the same Tiber school as her father where her aunt was her teacher. She moved with her family to Sherwood when she was about 12 years old. She went to Sherwood High School and was involved in many activities. Her best friend in high school was Helen Magnuson who was the younger sister of Dora Magnuson who became her step mother after her mother Beth's untimely death. Enid met and dated Pat McLane while in high school. Enid moved with her family in 1938 to Fargo where she attended the Interstate Business School for a short time. She took the opportunity to travel to the World's Fair in San Francisco in 1939 and then traveled to Santa Monica, California to visit with Pat McLane. Pat and Enid were married on October 26, 1939 in Culver City, California.

Harvey and Beth had their son Keith in 1924 in Edinburg, North Dakota. Keith spent his early years at Sherwood Elementary School. He moved to Fargo with his family in 1938. He became a student at North Dakota State University, but his education was interrupted by service

in the U.S. Army in World War II. He was trained in the use of seismographs and served at the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, he returned to North Dakota State University where he received a degree in civil engineering in 1948. He then began a long career with the North Dakota Highway Department at Bismarck. He married Hazel Granrude on October 14, 1957.

Harvey soon tired of the farming life and took an exam to be a mail clerk for the Postal Transportation Service. He took the exam 5 years before he was appointed. After he became a citizen he was promptly appointed as a mail clerk in 1927. The Family moved to Fargo where he served as a substitute mail clerk on several rail routes.

Harvey and Beth had their son Hugh in 1928 in Fargo. Hugh went to Sherwood Elementary School. Then he moved to Fargo with his family in 1938 where he finished high school. He used to come back to Sherwood in the summers in the early 1940s to work on the Magnuson farm. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946 and served in the Philippines during World War II. After the war he obtained a degree in mechanical engineering from North Dakota State University in 1950. While in college he met Beverly Furscht and they were married on November 26, 1949. Hugh spent a distinguished career with General Electric with assignments in Chicago, Dallas, and Schenectady, New York.

Harvey and Beth had their son Jay in 1931 in Fargo. Jay spent very little of his life in Sherwood, having gone to school there only a few years before moving with his family to Fargo in 1938. Jay spent the remainder of his school years in Fargo. While going to college Jay worked at the Fargo Forum newspaper. Jay obtained a degree in architecture from North Dakota State University. Jay served two years as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force at Rapid City Air Force Base where he was a photo intelligence officer. Jay obtained a masters degree in architecture from the University of Southern California in 1958. He was married to Elizabeth (Betty) LaVallie on August 1, 1858 in Fargo. Jay enjoyed a career in architecture in Madison, Wisconsin.

Harvey then took a substitute assignment at the large mail terminal in St. Paul, Minnesota and the family lived there for a short time. He did not like working in the large city terminal and was happy when he finally received a permanent assignment in Sherwood, North Dakota where he would be on the Great Northern route from Sherwood to Granville. This transfer caused a move of the family from St. Paul to Sherwood. Harvey would ride the train daily to Granville, transporting the mail from Sherwood and surrounding communities to the main line. He then would pick up Sherwood area mail and sort it on the way back.

Harvey was active in the Sherwood Masonic Lodge and Harvey was installed as senior steward on December 26, 1935.

Beth was quite instrumental in assisting in the organization of the Sherwood Campfire Girls in May 1932. In June 1932, Beth and Harvey joined the local golf club and played often together. Then in July, Beth moved her family into the Gilliland house. In September, the Campfire Girls started their regular meetings again with Beth and Mrs. Lee Steeves as their leaders.

Being a teacher by education, Beth was active in the Sherwood Parent Teacher Association. Beth was also active in the Lutheran Ladies Aid and entertained a meeting of that organization in her home on March 22, 1934. Beth was a learned person and was quick to find ways to enjoy intellectual pursuits. She was a member of the Sherwood Study Club. Beth had a part to play at most every meeting.

On September 1, 1935, Beth had a son who was born dead. The baby was buried in the Sherwood cemetery on September 3. Beth spent several days in the hospital recovering. Harvey

thought it be better to lighten her load, so he hired Dora Magnuson as a housekeeper to take care of many of Beth's household duties. In 1936, Beth began to have further health problems. She was enduring an especially difficult pregnancy. She had toxemia with high blood pressure and she was hemorrhaging. Beth died on September 7, 1936.

Harvey married Dora Magnuson, who had been their housekeeper, on December 31, 1937.

Dora was born in 1911 in Mohall to Andrew and Eva Magnuson. Dora attended grade school and some high school in Lorraine and Eden Valley. Dora attended the State Teachers College at Minot where she had graduated in 1932. She was looking for a teaching job but they were quite scarce. She landed one as a substitute in Souris, North Dakota for a short time.

With her abilities to cook and her skills as a teacher, she started taking jobs as a housekeeper and that is how she came about to be acquainted with Harvey McLean.

In 1937, Dora had worked in a job related to a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. She worked with Sherwood Recreation Supervisor Ted Lund on a project to record some of Sherwood's recreational activities.

During his vacation in March 1938, it was announced that Harvey would be moving his family to Fargo where he would work on the main line between Fargo and Minot. They left Sherwood on July 4, 1938. His new position was working out of the Great Northern Railway Depot in Fargo.

Harvey and Dora moved the family from Sherwood to Fargo to a house on 10th St. North. In 1940, Harvey and Dora decided to have a house built on 7th Street North in Fargo and that would become the family home from then on. Harvey liked to work in the yard and kept a nice garden atmosphere.

Harvey took his job very seriously. His diligent work was recognized when he was promoted to clerk in charge on the Fargo to Williston route. Unfortunately, that route caused him to spend the night in Williston before returning to Fargo the next day.

In 1950, Harvey and Dora had a son Ronald. By this time, Enid had been married and out of the home for over 11 years, Keith was living in Bismarck, and Hugh was newly married in Moorhead, Minnesota. However, Jay was still in the home. Ron was educated in the Fargo schools. He obtained a degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin and received a law degree from the University of North Dakota in 1975. Ron married Mona Dahlbert on Jul 19, 1975 in Fargo. Ron practices law in Fargo.

In 1952 Harvey was still heathy. In fact, up to that point in his life he was seldom sick or ill. But in 1953, he told Dora that he was sick and needed to see a doctor. His blood pressure was 240 and they put him in the hospital.

In January of 1954, Harvey went to Los Angeles, California to visit Enid and her family. Harvey enjoyed seeing Jay graduate from college in 1954.

On January 23, 1955, Harvey was found dead in the garage of his home at 1254 7th Street N., Fargo. He had been under treatment for a heart ailment for some time. A post mortem examination disclosed that death was due to the heart ailment.

Dora went to work in February of 1957 at a home for unwed mothers called the Florence Crittenton home. She was a food service supervisor, cook, house parent, and resident training manager. Seventeen years later it changed and became home for the mentally retarded and handicapped under the name of Fraser Hall. Dora retired from Fraser Hall on September 16, 1986 after 29 years of service. Dora died in 2007 in Fargo.