

MILES JOSEPH McLANE (1880 -1957)

Miles Joseph McLane was born to John and Elizabeth Murphy McLane on July 31, 1880 in St. Marguerite, Quebec, Canada. His parents were living on the farm owned by his grandfather James McLane in St. Marguerite. His grandfather James McLane had come to Quebec from Ireland around 1833. His mother's grandfather Andrew Murphy was the first settler in Frampton Township, Quebec and had come to Quebec with his parents and family in 1806 from County Wexford, Ireland. James McLane died on April 3, 1882 and apparently Miles' father John sold the farm and prepared the family to move to America.

In 1882, he emigrated with his parents when he was two years old to Weston Township, Wisconsin. The closest town was Christie, Wisconsin. He grew up on a farm there.

All the men of Miles' family had farms but they also came from several generations of men who worked in the woods as lumberjacks and laborers in forest stretching from Quebec, to Maine, and on to Wisconsin. Many of the men of the family were tall and husky, however, Miles was short and of slight build. But early in his life he developed a liking to working with horses. By 1900, he was employed in the timber industry as a teamster for hauling logs. He was boarding, along with his older brother James, at the home of a William Addams in Chelsea Township of Taylor County, Wisconsin.

He was beckoned eventually to North Dakota by the Homestead Act of 1862. On October 22, 1901 he filed his application for a homestead entry at the General Land Office in Minot, North Dakota. He applied for 160 acres in Section 13 in Stafford Township. He took out his first papers to become a naturalized citizen that same day at the Ward County courthouse in Minot.

Miles may have stayed on in Minot or returned to Christie the winter of 1901 as he did not take up residence on his homestead until April 9, 1902. Miles was known as "the first man across the creek." He built himself a 12 feet X 20 feet board sided house to live in. Later he added a 16 feet X 24 feet barn made of sod and an 8 feet square granary. He also planted 200 trees on the property.

Sometime during his initial occupation of the homestead he met and courted Hattie Jensen. Hattie Elvina Jensen was born March 11, 1887 in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Her parents were Christoffer and Kersten Jensen. During her youth, Hattie lived in a variety of locations with her family. They lived near South Dakota near Hankinson, North Dakota. They lived in Port Arthur, Texas during the great Galveston Flood on September 8, 1900 that was caused by a tidal wave from a hurricane. In June of 1902, her family moved to a farm 4 miles NW of Lawton, Oklahoma. Not long after that they relocated to Stafford Township, near Sherwood. They lived just two claims (about 1 mile) to the west of Miles. Miles and Hattie were married on February 18, 1907 in Minot, North Dakota.

On June 1, 1907, Miles filed his notice of intent to make final proof on his homestead claim at the General Land Office in Minot. He named W. I. See, Andrew Johnson, Peter Schiffman, and Thomas Fods as his potential witnesses. In preparation for filing for making final proof on his claim, Miles filed his second papers and became a naturalized citizen of the United States at the Ward County courthouse in Minot on September 16, 1907.

Miles and Hattie had their first child, a daughter, Dorothea Hazel in 1907. Dorothea took piano lessons from a young age on. She would play the piano at many Sherwood events through the years. By September 1925, Dorothea had a job working for the Sherwood Tribune newspaper. She was very smart and a very good student. She was accepted to start at the Minot

State Teachers College in September 1926. Dorothea graduated from the teachers college on June 14, 1929. Dorothea began her new teaching job when the Sherwood schools opened on September 16, 1929. She was assigned the 3rd and 4th grades. She would teach there for three years. The fall of 1932 brought a significant change to Dorothea's life. She was accepted into the Otis Art school in Los Angeles, California and departed Sherwood on October 1, 1932.

On October 25, 1907, Miles gave his testimony for the final proof on his homestead claim to the General Land Office in Minot. Witnesses Peter Schiffman and Thomas Fods gave testimony on his behalf. All three stated that he had continuously occupied the claim from April 9, 1902 to October 25, 1907 without any absences and that he had cultivated 135 acres for 6 years. He received his patent on April 9, 1908.

Miles and Hattie's second daughter, Lois Edna was born in 1910. Lois was interested in dramatic performances when she was young. She was among the cast of characters in several Sherwood performances. Lois learned early on how to assist in managing businesses. She started by assisting her father in keeping track of billing and receiving for his dray business. On December 29, 1927 she became employed by Lane Hardware in Sherwood assisting with invoicing. On August 29, 1929, Lois pursued her interest in business by moving to Fargo, North Dakota to attend the Interstate Business College. After graduating, Lois accepted a temporary secretarial position in a doctor's office in Fargo on July 17, 1930. By August 1933, Lois was employed by the J. A. Culls Company in Fargo. Mr. Culls was a friend of her father Miles when Mr. Culls had lived in Sherwood. Her room mate soon introduced her to James Servis who had attended engineering school at North Dakota State Agricultural College. Jim and Lois were then married on July 20, 1935 in Boise, Idaho where Jim was employed.

Miles and Hattie's son David Miles was born in 1912. On August 6, 1926, Dave got his first job at Weaver Hardware store in Sherwood. By April 1929, Dave had a job as a delivery boy for the Co-operative Store. Dave was always interested in sports and played on several Sherwood High School teams. Dave played left field for the Sherwood High School baseball team. In the Fall 1929, Dave played right half-back on the football team. Then he played a forward on the basketball team when that season arrived. The basketball team had 19 victories and only one defeat that season. After high school, most of Dave's time was taken up by working for his father on the Sherwood Dray Line. On March 22, 1934, Dave went to Minneapolis to take the Navy entrance examination and enlist. Dave met and dated Sherwood girl Dolores Schlenker while on leave from the Navy. They were married on May 20, 1939 in Culver City, California. Dave served an entire career in the Navy. He served with distinction in many assignments including the submarine service during World War II.

When the time came to build the church building for St. James Catholic Parish in Sherwood, Miles was elected to a panel of trustees to assist the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the building. In 1915, Miles donated \$200 to the building fund. That was a substantial amount of money in those days.

Miles and Hattie's second son, James Patrick was born in 1918. He was known as Pat his entire life. Pat was very interested in football and played for the Sherwood High School team every year he attended. While in high school Pat had a job at Harry Marsland's service station. He also met and dated Enid McLean while in high school. In 1938, he moved with his family to Santa Monica, California where he was again employed in the service station business. Enid McLean came to visit him in 1939 and they were married on October 26, 1939. Pat served in the U.S. Army infantry as a machine gunner in the Philippines during World War II. He also served as a jeep driver during the occupation of Japan after the war ended. He was involved in the

guarding of the Japanese treasury. Pat found career employment with the Northrop Aircraft Company in Southern California.

Miles was member of various clubs and organizations. He joined the Knights of Columbus Lodge at Minot on October 17, 1919. On September 23, 1920 Miles entered an agreement with a partner named Lewis Taylor to purchase Lot 12 of Block 6 of the original townsite of Sherwood, North Dakota from Lonzo W. Raney and Mamie L. Raney. This was the first step towards purchasing the Sherwood Dray Line.

Miles sold his Stafford township farm to an Oscar Mott who worked the farm in 1922 and moved his family there in 1923. Miles moved his family temporarily to the Dighton Taylor farm. Then on October 4, 1920 he moved his family into Sherwood. He took over the operation of the Sherwood Dray Line on October 7, 1920. Then on November 4, 1921 Miles formed a partnership in the Sherwood Dray Line with James Taylor.

Miles' Uncle Mike Murphy had a small homestead near the edge of town in Sherwood. Mike never married. Miles' looked in on him from time to time. In November 1922, Miles tried to help his Uncle Mike Murphy obtain medical treatment for cancer. His Uncle Mike died in February of 1923. His Uncle Mike Murphy left his forty acres to the St. James Catholic Church and it became known as the "Catholic 40."

Miles and Hattie's son Brian Henry was born in 1923. In September of 1938, Brian moved with his parents to Santa Monica, California. He finished high school in Venice, California in June of 1941. He got a job as an aircraft assembly man at Douglas Aircraft. He enlisted into the Army Air Force on January 3, 1943. He was an aircraft sheet metal worker. He worked on P-47's, P-24's, and A-20's. He was stationed in Belgium in the European Theater. After the war he found employment as a laboratory manager at Technicolor, Inc. in Los Angeles and would work there for an entire career. He lived with his parents in their Santa Monica home. After his father died in 1957, he would live with and take care of his mother Hattie for the rest of her life.

In his dray line business Miles carried mail under contract with the Postal Department from the Depot to the Post Office in Sherwood; he delivered freight and express from the Great Northern Railroad from the Depot to the Post Office and to all the businesses in Sherwood. Among some of his notable jobs was putting in the Sherwood public swimming pool. Miles greatest delivery was a piano by block and tackle to the second floor of "the border" movie theater. Coal unloading and delivery was a major part of the work.

Hattie was active in some civic organizations in Sherwood. She acted as hostess in her home for a social meeting of the Degree of Honor Lodge on December 1, 1925. She was also a member of the Homemakers Club. She was a faithful convert to the Catholic faith and a good member of the altar society.

On June 18, 1926, Miles gained exclusive control over his property at Lot 12 of block 6 for the payment of \$300.00. This transaction enabled Miles to gain exclusive ownership of the Sherwood Dray Line as of July 1, 1926.

On April 4, 1927, Miles was re-elected to the Sherwood City Council getting more votes (83) than any other alderman candidates on the ballot. Then on June 7, 1927 Miles was elected to the Sherwood School Board. On April 1, 1929, Miles was again re-elected to the city council, this time he got the second most votes (74) on the ballot for alderman. Miles had been a volunteer fireman for the Sherwood Fire Department for several years. On January 6, 1930, he was re-elected as Assistant Fire Chief. Miles was again re-elected Assistant Fire Chief on

December 10, 1930 and again on December 15, 1932. He was also once again re-elected to city council in April 1931 and again in April 1938.

Miles was member of the Lions Club and served as Lion tamer in 1931. The Lions Club was the sponsor of the Sherwood boy scout troop and Miles was selected for the troop committee in November 1931. Miles underwent Scoutmaster training in March 1934.

On April 4, 1938, Miles was re-elected as a Sherwood City councilman for another four year term. Miles close friend Harry Marsland was elected Mayor.

After years of Miles doing the hard "back-breaking" work of a homesteader, farmer and owner and operator of the Sherwood Dray Line, Hattie helped him to decide that a move to California would be a good idea. Miles had many friends and connections to the Sherwood community and was reluctant to move on. However, he was furthered urged by his daughter Dorothea and son Dave who were already living in Southern California. Dort and Dave had already arranged to build a house in Santa Monica for Miles and Hattie. Miles sold his dray line business to Russel Steeves on September 1, 1938. They left Sherwood a few days later.

After a stop at daughter Lois' home in Boise, Idaho they were off to California. They moved into the home at 3710 Barry Ave. in Santa Monica, California. When Miles first got to California he ran a horse stable near Slauson Blvd. where the Fox Hills Mall now stands. Later Miles went to work at Douglas Aircraft Corporation in Santa Monica, where he would be employed for the next 17 years.

On May 20, 1939, their son Dave was married to Dolores Schlenker at St. Augustines Catholic Church in Culver City, California. Soon Pat married Enid McLean on October 26, 1939 at the same church. Then in 1940, Hattie's first three grandchildren were all born that year as Jim and Lois had a daughter, Dave and Dolores had a son, and Pat and Enid had a son. The years of World War II were difficult for Hattie as all three of her sons were serving in combat zones which meant that she was a "three star" mother. Dave was in the Navy submarine service in the Pacific. Pat was in the Army infantry in the Philippines. Brian was in the Army air corp in Belgium. She was proud that her family could be so patriotic to send all of their eligible men to serve in the "great war." But, she prayed the rosary everyday for their safe return.

Miles got to be with and enjoy 12 grandchildren. He enjoyed his semi-retirement years with frequent trips to Boise, Idaho, North Dakota, Lancaster, California and San Diego, California to be with his children and grandchildren. Shortly after a visit to son Pat's home in Lancaster, California, Miles passed away on August 3, 1957 at Community Hospital, Culver City, California. His death was attributed to chronic lymphatic leukemia. He was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery (off Slauson Blvd.) on a hill that overlooks where his horse stables once stood.

After Miles died, she lived with her son Brian at the Barry Avenue house for many years and later in new house on Charnock Road in West Los Angeles. Hattie passed away on January 29, 1964 in Los Angeles, California and was buried at Holy Cross cemetery.