

NECROLOGIES

HOWARD SEARCY

1876-1946

Howard Searcy, widely known resident and civic leader of Wagoner, Oklahoma, died at his home on Sunday, February 10, 1946, at the age of seventy years. Funeral services conducted by the Reverend A. S. Cameron were held in the First Methodist Church in Wagoner, on February 13. Interment was in Elmwood Cemetery.

He was born in Hunnewell, Kansas, and educated in Winfield, Kansas, coming to Wagoner from that City in 1903. Two years before this time, he had married Miss Pearl C. Moyer of a pioneer family of Woods County, Oklahoma. Mrs. Searcy preceded her husband in death less than a year.¹ The couple had no children, Mr. Searcy's nearest surviving kin being some nieces, nephews, and cousins.

During his forty-three years' residence in Wagoner, Mr. Searcy had been engaged in the abstract and insurance business, at the time of his death, and for many years past, having served as the President of the Wagoner County Abstract Company. He served a term as President of the Oklahoma Title Association in 1927-28 and, at the time of his death, was a member of its Board of Directors.

He took great interest in the history of Wagoner County and Oklahoma. His wife, also, was greatly interested in historical matters, serving at the time of her death as State Regent for the Oklahoma Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Searcy had made many pilgrimages to historic places in Oklahoma.

Though a member of no church or fraternal organization, Mr. Searcy was a man of sincere beliefs and strong friendships, and especially loyal to his City and State. He gave freely of his means to religious, civic, and charitable causes, and his private benefactions were many. Especially was he noted for his willingness to give advice and aid in title and insurance matters, without cost, to rich and poor alike.

In his will, after providing for relatives, he left substantial sums to three churches in Wagoner. He left his interests in the insurance and abstract business to partners who had been associated with him for many years.

Wagoner, Oklahoma

By JIM BIGGERSTAFF.

¹A biography, "Mrs. Howard Searcy, 1877-1945," by Howard Searcy appeared in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXIV, No. 1 (Spring, 1946), pp. 15-16.

EARLE WESTWOOD SINCLAIR.

1874-1944

Earle Westwood Sinclair, son of John and his wife, Phoebe Sinclair, was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, on May 5, 1874.

In 1884 he came with his parents to Independence, Kansas, where he attended the public schools and then the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso.

Later he was in the employ of a lumber company in St. Louis. He was one of the early Mid-Continent pioneers in the Petroleum industry through his connection in 1904 with the Independence Gas Company and other organizations. In 1908 he was one of the organizers and became cashier of the State Bank of Commerce, Independence, Kansas, later consolidated with the First National Bank of Independence, of which he became Vice-President in 1910.

A larger field of activity and responsibility opened for him when in 1913 he became a Director and Vice-President of the Exchange National Bank of Tulsa and continued in that capacity until Feb. 11, 1916, when he became President, succeeding the late P. J. White. On May 19, 1921 he resigned as President of the Exchange National Bank of Tulsa to become associated with the Sinclair Consolidated Oil interest in New York. As President of the Exchange National Bank of Tulsa he not only discharged the ordinary duties of a bank President but also was the adviser and friend of many who sought his aid in the development not only of the oil industry but also of many Oklahoma undertakings. His never failing encouragement to many men and activities of the State will long be remembered.

In February, 1916, he, with others, was elected a member of the building committee which planned and successfully carried out the erection of the new bank and office building of the Exchange National Bank of Tulsa at the corner of Third & Boston Streets in Tulsa. This was the first unit of what is now the magnificent National Bank of Tulsa building at the same location, completed in the fall of 1917, when the Exchange National Bank of Tulsa moved from the crowded quarters at Second & Main Street to occupy the beautiful and commodious banking room on the ground floor of the new building. The office section of the building was promptly occupied mainly by oil companies as tenants, a number of whom have continuously maintained their offices in the building which in later years was greatly enlarged. Through the interests given the bank by moving into the new quarters, the business of the bank extended very rapidly. The deposits of the Exchange National Bank increased from the time Mr. Sinclair first became associated with it from \$1,885,374.00 to \$21,200,897.00 at the time he resigned the Presidency of the bank and removed to New York City.

While in Tulsa he was a member of the Tulsa Country Club, the Petroleum Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations. After going to New York he became Vice-President of Sinclair Consolidated Oil Company and was also chairman of the Executive and Finance Committee of that organization and President of Sinclair Refining Company and for the last few years prior to his death he had been a Director of the American Petroleum Institute.

In July, 1918, it became evident to Mr. Sinclair that there was a growing need and demand in the Tulsa area for Trust services and he at that time, together with the late R. M. McFarlin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and H. L. Standeven, County Judge of Tulsa County,

went to St. Louis and investigated the details of the organization and operation of Trust Companies in that city. When they returned Judge Standeven resigned from the bench and aided in the formation of the first trust company in Tulsa, Oklahoma, The Exchange Trust Company, of which Mr. Sinclair became President in addition to being President of the Exchange National Bank. Judge Standeven became its Vice-President and Trust Officer.

When announcement was made in May, 1921 that Mr. Sinclair had resigned his position as President of the Exchange National Bank of Tulsa to go to New York the news of his resignation and removal came as a distinct shock to the citizenship of Tulsa, because during the period of his residence and business activities in that city, he had contributed greatly to the development and up-building of the community.

He was familiar with the problems of men engaged in the oil industry and upon becoming associated with the Exchange National Bank emphasized the desires of that institution to serve the rapidly growing business in providing essential operating and development funds. He was a modest and unassuming man and was beloved by everyone who knew him and his untimely death caused a distinct loss to the various organizations with which he was connected and to the many people with whom he was associated in his various business enterprises and to the people of the communities in which he had resided and to the up-building of which he had contributed so much of his time and means. Since 1921 Mr. Sinclair had been associated with his brother, Harry F. Sinclair, as an officer and director of the Sinclair Companies, and the Sinclair Oil Corporation, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City. After his death, upon motion duly seconded and carried by a unanimous and rising vote, the directors adopted the following Memorial to the late E. W. Sinclair:—

"EARLE WESTWOOD SINCLAIR

**"President, Sinclair Refining Company
Chairman, Executive Committee,
Sinclair Oil Corporation**

"By the death on Sept. 21, 1944 of Earle Westwood Sinclair, we have lost an associate who for nearly a quarter century has occupied with distinction the highest positions in our organization.

"He was with us in the formative stages of our growth and from that period to the day of his passing he was a force for all that was constructive: a moderator in the best sense of that word, and a counsellor whose aid and advice were constantly sought by his associates.

"Of the thousands who mourn his death, it may be truly said that their most enduring memory of this man will be his kindness, his friendship and the understanding that he gave to them in generous measure. He was unceasing in his search for all that was good in the many and varied relations of his life and so deserved and won universal regard and respect.

and be it further

"RESOLVED, that a copy of this memorial be engrossed and tendered to members of his family in testimony of affectionate esteem for our fellow member and of the sorrow we share with them in the great loss we have sustained."

He was united in marriage in 1902 to Blanche Stich at Independence, Kansas, who survives him. To this union came two children, to-wit:

Kathleen (Mrs. Louis F. Bishop, Jr.) of New York City and John William Sinclair, with the Merchant Marines, both of whom survive him. He was also survived by his mother, Mrs. Phoebe Sinclair, of Pasadena, California, as well as his brother, Harry F. Sinclair.

He was affiliated with the Republican Party, Member of the Presbyterian Church and of the following Clubs: Lotos, Metropolitan, Rockefeller Center, Luncheon (New York); Maidstone, Devon Yacht (Easthampton, Long Island). At the time of his death, which occurred on Sept. 21, 1944, he resided at 300 Park Avenue, New York, New York.

Tulsa, Oklahoma

By ROBERT W. KELLOUGH.

ARTHUR LEE WALKER

1879-1946

Arthur Lee Walker was born December 16, 1879, in Johnson County Texas, the son of Thomas Franklin Walker, who was born in Texas, and his wife, Cornelia Eveline Williams, who was born in Alabama. He was educated in the common schools of Texas where he engaged in banking and newspaper work, and was associated for a while with Brann's *Iconoclast* at Waco and other newspapers, including such work at Fort Worth.

After coming to Oklahoma he was President of State banks at Temple and Waurika and owner of three Southern Oklahoma Newspapers, to-wit: *Waurika Democrat*, *Temple Tribune*, and *Randlett Enterprise*.

His first wife, Prudence Morgan Walker, passed away in 1915. After her death, in 1918, while residing at Oklahoma City, he married Mary Frances Kelly, who survives him, and they were residents of that city up until the time of his death. The following children came to that marriage: Art L. Walker, Jr. (II), Rita Jane Walker, Helen Frances Walker, and Mary Louise Walker who died in 1936.

Art L. Walker, Jr. (II) married Sylvia White, daughter of Mrs. James White and the late James White of Pensacola. The said Art L. Walker II and his wife, Sylvia White, had three sons, Art L. Walker III, James White Walker, and Timothy Andrew Walker.

The said Arthur Lee Walker Sr. (I) was formerly an active member of the Masonic Lodge, and later became a member of the Catholic Church and ceased to be active in the Masonic order.

During the Session of the Fifth Legislature which convened on the 5th day of January, 1915, he was Secretary to the speaker of the House of Representatives. Under Chapter 197, Session Laws 1915, under an Act entitled "To Conserve Natural Gas in the State of Oklahoma to prevent waste thereof, provided for the equitable taking and purchase of same, and conferring authority on the Corporation Commission and prescribing penalty for violation of this act and repealing certain acts and declaring an emergency", he was appointed to organize the oil and gas conservation department of said commission and perfected said organization, after which he resigned as head of said department to become private secretary to the Governor of the state and so continued until the death of Colonel Jack Love, member of the Corporation Commission, when he was appointed by said Governor to fill the vacancy resulting on the said Commission and at the expiration of said term he was a candidate for the office to succeed himself and elected at the general election in November 1918 for a term of six years and resigned in January 1923 to give attention to private interests and other public matters.

For several years he had served as Secretary of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission. On January 1, 1936 he became special representative of the Prairie Oil & Gas Company in charge of public relations but in 1940 he resigned said position on account of ill health.

He was prominent and a leader in Oklahoma State politics for more than two decades. He died late on Saturday, June 22, 1946 in Oklahoma City General Hospital. Funeral services were held at his residence at 3523 Claasen on Monday at 8:00 p. m. Mass was celebrated at 9:30 a. m., Tuesday in Our Lady's Cathedral, and burial followed in Memorial Park Cemetery. He was an ideal and faithful husband and father and a loyal friend. The State was deprived of an efficient and faithful public servant in his inactivity occasioned by his disability. He was one of the most efficient men ever in the public life of Oklahoma, and is worthy to have his name preserved in the history of the State to which he contributed so much in its organization and development.

Durans, Oklahoma

By ROBERT L. WILLIAMS.

GEORGE STONE

1867-1944

George Stone, son of Job Stone and his wife Elizabeth Frances (Townsend) Stone, was born July 25, 1867 in Conway County, Arkansas, and died in Oklahoma City, October 28, 1944. Interment was in Tecumseh cemetery.

George Stone's family came from England to Pennsylvania at a very early date. One of the three brothers who came to America, Steven K. Stone married a Holland Dutch woman named Mienheidt. The one son of this marriage was James K. Stone who also married a Dutch girl named Knotts, and they were the grand-parents of the subject of this sketch. Their son Job Stone was born Aug. 17, 1820 in Green County, Pennsylvania. He emigrated to Arkansas in April, 1844, and married Elizabeth Frances Satterfield (a widow whose maiden name was Townsend) May 1, 1864 at Conway, Arkansas. The Townsend family came to Arkansas from S. Carolina, and were of Scottish blood.

George Stone was the second son of this union. When he was a small boy his parents moved to Cave Springs, Benton county, Arkansas where he went to school, and grew to manhood. His mother died in 1877, and his father in 1887. He married Margaret F. Jones, daughter of Joseph Jones, and Martha F. (Wilkerson) Jones.

To George and Margaret Stone were born nine children, only five of whom are now living. They moved from Conway Arkansas to Johnson county Texas, in October 1893 where they lived five years and moved to Cleveland county, Oklahoma where he was engaged in farming and cattle raising.

In January, 1902, he moved to Asher, Oklahoma and was appointed deputy sheriff. While serving in that capacity he was shot in the leg by a member of the Swafford gang, a group of outlaws who were giving much trouble to the community. He suffered from this wound during the rest of his life, and limped slightly as he walked.

In 1904, he was elected Recorder for Pottawatomie County, and moved his family to Tecumseh, which was then the county seat. He served two terms in that office. In February, 1913, he received an appointment to the State School Land Department, which position he held until March 1, 1916 when he was appointed Steward of the Western Oklahoma Hospital at Fort

Supply, where he served for three years, then he moved to Oklahoma City and went into the insurance business, becoming an adjuster for fire losses.

After the death of his wife, April 22, 1925 he again moved to Tecumseh where he was engaged in the insurance and real estate business until his health failed and he returned to Oklahoma City and made his home with his daughter, and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor P. Johnston.

George Stone was a strong and forceful character who took an active part in community building, and in the affairs of the commonwealth. He and his wife were members of the Baptist Church, and supported the work of the denomination in a substantial way. Politically he was a Democrat, and stood firmly for party policies and principles. He took an active part in the work of the Pottawatomie County Historical society, and realized the importance and value of records of pioneer days, and made valuable contributions to them.

Children of George Stone and his wife now living include: Mrs. Taylor P. Johnston, Oklahoma City; George W. Stone jr., U. S. Navy; Mrs. Paul Tanner, Houston, Texas; Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, Chicago, Illinois, Mrs. J. R. Hampton, Portland, Oregon. (The latter two daughters were two of the triplets born October 26, 1905, one of which died at the age of six years.)

Shawnee, Oklahoma

By FLORENCE DRAKE.