

NECROLOGY

ALBERT LEROY McRILL

1880 — 1956

Albert L. McRill, born October 1, 1880, was reared in Franklin County, Kansas. Upon graduation from the Williamsburg High School, he became the publisher of his local newspaper, as the youngest editor in the State of Kansas. His father was Calvin Whitfield McRill, originally from the State of Ohio, and his mother Viola Amanda Tapley-McRill, who came to Kansas with her parents from Michigan soon after the close of the Civil War. She was then ten years of age. The McRills were descendants of a Benjamin Mackrell, who according to the first Pennsylvania census in 1790, came from Scotland and fought in the Revolutionary War.

Albert also published papers in Quenemo and Ottawa before coming to Oklahoma Territory in 1902. After establishing the *Dispatch* and *People's Voice* at Watonga, he edited the *Day County Progress* at Grand, Oklahoma, the county seat of Day County (now Ellis County). Later he entered Epworth University (now Oklahoma City University) graduating in 1910 with the degrees of A. B., A. M., and L. L. B. He helped compile the *Oklahoma Statutes* of 1910, and began the general practice of Law at Oklahoma City in 1911, and remained in the active practice of law until his death. From the time he came to Oklahoma he was active in politics. In the campaign for constitutional prohibition of the liquor traffic in 1907 and 1910, he spoke throughout the State for the Anti-Saloon League. He was active in the crusade of the Central Hundred in Oklahoma City, and in the campaign of the Committee of One Hundred to establish the City Manager System of city government.

For several years he wrote a daily column, *In My Library*, for the *Oklahoma News*, published in Oklahoma City.

He was a member of the Methodist Church. For five years he conducted a men's Bible Class of 1,000 in downtown Empress Theater, and for thirty years taught a Sunday School class in the First Methodist Church of Oklahoma City. He was a member of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of 1916. He served on the Board of Trustees of Oklahoma City University and its predecessors for twenty years and was acting president of the University in 1924. For fifteen years he was associated with the Oklahoma City College of Law as professor, and at the time of his death was law professor at Oklahoma City University, where a plaque has been placed by his former law students in his memory. As research editor of the *Card Digest System*, he compiled digests of Oklahoma, Texas and California Law. He is author of *Oklahoma Fire Insurance Law*; *My Silver Jubilee*, a reminiscence of his 25 years with the *Fidelis Bible Class* of the First Methodist Church; *Summary of Oklahoma Law and Procedure*; *Satan Came Also*, an historical story of Oklahoma City from its birth to the present day; and several treatises on different branches of the law. He was special justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma.

In 1931 he served as Municipal Counselor, and was City Manager of Oklahoma City in 1931-33. He is author of the Ordinance under which the Oklahoma City Board of Education has operated since 1939.

Survivors are his widow, Mary McRill, of 1220 Sherwood Lane, Oklahoma City, step-son, James Horigan, attorney, a sister, Leona McRill and a brother, Leslie A. McRill, both of 1817 N.W. 14th Street, Oklahoma City.

Albert was also active for many years in the Masonic Lodge in Oklahoma City, a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner.

Funeral rites were conducted from the First Methodist Church, by Rev. John Abernathy, life long friend and fellow-worker of Albert, assisted by Dr. C. Q. Smith, President of Oklahoma City University, and Dr. Earl Dorff, pastor of First Methodist Church, Oklahoma City. Albert was laid to rest in the family plot, Rose Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City

—Leslie A. McRill

LOUIS SEYMOUR BARNES
1882 — 1956

The name Barnes is synonymous with name Ponca City. The passing of L. S. Barnes on Sunday morning, November 11, 1956, will leave a permanent void in the ranks of that City.

Louis Seymour Barnes was born July 11, 1882 at Adrian, Michigan, the son of Burton S. Barnes and the former Mary Louise Gilbert. His forebears had served in the Revolutionary War; and he was born into a family deep in the heritage of America. His father founded Ponca City and prepared the plat that is now the central area of the town. He interested settlers in the development by selling participation certificates in the venture, and from the beginning it was bound to success.

The elder Barnes brought his son Louis, then eleven years of age, to the new town following the opening of the Cherokee Strip. L. S. Barnes was educated in the Ponca City Public Schools. From early manhood he was successful in his every business venture. He bought a grocery store located on the present site of Center Building and expanded it into the City's largest department store. In 1924, he sold the business and organized the Security Investment Company. One of the original organizers of the Ponca City Savings and Loan Association, he was elected its President in 1934, and served in this position until his death. Under his aegis, the institution grew from assets of less than \$3 million to an excess of \$43 million. At the time of his death, it was the largest state supervised institution of Oklahoma. In 1917, along with other civic leaders, he organized the Security Bank of Ponca City and served as an active member of its Board of Directors until his death. The character of the esteem with which he was held is reflected in the fact that the bank remained closed for the period of the services. He has served as President of the Oklahoma Savings and Loan League and was a Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka. He was a member of the Advisory Council of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. He was appointed as a member of a Hoover Commission Sub-committee dealing with Government and private finance.

On June 9, 1908 he married the former Mayme Elizabeth Davis of Perry. His children, all sons, now civic and business leaders in their own right, are Wendell Burton Barnes, Reginald D. Barnes, and Donald E. Barnes. With the inheritance of leadership received from their father, each has been eminently successful in his chosen field.

L. S. Barnes served as a member of the City Council of Ponca City and for many years as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. For more than thirty years, he was an active member of the Rotary Club and served as its President in 1930, and contributed a record of over thirty years' attendance without an absence. He was a Mason and member and elder of the Presbyterian Church. A great builder throughout his business life, during the last two years he completed fine new office buildings for the Ponca City Savings and Loan Association in Ponca City, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, and was one of the leaders in the building program of the beautiful new First Presbyterian Church of Ponca City, dedicated in June of 1955.

Services were on Tuesday, November 13, in the First Presbyterian Church of Ponca City, with the Reverend Arthur C. Young officiating. Interment was in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery at Ponca City. Tribute typical of this great and fine man was from the words of Reverend Young.

—George H. Shirk

Chronicles of Oklahoma
JOHN CHOUTEAU
1860 — 1949

John Chouteau, who departed this life on July 8, 1949, was born at Chouteau Station, Kansas, in 1860, the son of William Meyers and Mary Silverheel Chouteau. His mother was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moses Silverheel of Shawneetown, Kansas. The Chouteau family came to the Indian Territory, in the vicinity of Vinita in 1869, before either the Missouri, Kansas & Texas or the Frisco railroads had entered the boundaries of the present Oklahoma. John Chouteau was one of twelve children, seven, including himself, by the first marriage of his father, and five by the second marriage in 1877 to Addie McFarland of Kansas City. John Chouteau's first marriage was also at Shawneetown Kansas, to Nannie Rowland, to whom two children were born, now Mrs. Thomas J. Arrington, of Vinita; and Mrs. Tom Walker, of Midland, Texas. The second marriage, which was childless, was to Anna Davis in 1906, and who passed away in 1938.

After the death of Mr. Chouteau's second wife, his oldest daughter, Mrs. Thomas J. Arrington, and her husband, came to make their home with "Uncle John," as he was affectionately known by his myriad of friends in Craig County, and Eastern Oklahoma; then he began to give his entire time to a hobby of many years standing that brought out the artistic side of his life—the planting and cultivating of flowers in his yard that brought many visitors from far and wide each season to view the beauty of their artistic arrangement. Another hobby of his was penmanship and drawing. He liked to draw the pictures of his close friends and preserve them in an album. His talents along this line were so outstanding that he could have easily commercialized on either. He spoke as many as four languages and understood the tongue of several Indian tribes, so that in the early day he was frequently called upon by the courts to act as interpreter.

John Chouteau was a member of the Odd Fellows and Rebecca lodges, as well as of the Christian Church. But, like his forebears, he was also a good business man and took a keen interest in politics. Either he, or he and his father had owned several stores in Vinita, and altogether he was in the grocery business in that place for forty-four years.

Because of his long residence of eighty years in the Indian Territory, now the State of Oklahoma, and because of his widespread acquaintance among the early pioneers and others of eastern Oklahoma, John Chouteau had a veritable storehouse of knowledge on the early history and formation of the present Oklahoma. His great-great grandfather, Major Jean Pierre Chouteau of the Chouteau fur trading interest of St. Louis induced the "Osages of the Oaks" to move their village from the Osage River region in Missouri, to the Arkansas and Verdigris rivers in Oklahoma, in 1802. John Chouteau could recite by the hour anecdotes and incidents of a century and a half ago that Major Chouteau had related to his father and his grandfather, Frederick Chouteau, that were handed down as a part of early Indian and pioneer lore in this region. So extensive was his knowledge of details and incidents in connection with the beginnings of what is now Oklahoma that he was requested to document the same so that it could be filed with the Missouri Historical Society at St. Louis, Missouri, in what is known as the "Chouteau Collection" of papers and manuscripts. Other manuscripts were also prepared for exhibition for a memorial when erected at Salina to house the same, along with many objects donated by Mr. Chouteau for that purpose.

—J. M. Richardson