

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

of Members of

Class of 1909

KEWANNA HIGH SCHOOL

Kewanna, Indiana

1952

NANCIE ROOT MILLER



To all the living classmates of the class of '09 the Kewanna High School, Kewanna, Indiana, I submit to you my autobiography from the time I graduated until now, June 17, 1951.

I am giving you a brief autobiography which seems to be needed to complete plans for a satisfactory reunion of the old class of Kewanna High School, 1909. At first thought I was eager to comply as autobiographies are popular and profitable these days. Generals Eisenhower and MacArthur and a few other notables not excepted.

However, there was no mention of remuneration, so it appears that honor is the main factor; that is all honor to the old class of '09. I was born Feb. 15, 1890 and have never married.

As I look back to the four years we spent at Kewanna High School, I wonder that life could be so simple and easy as it was then. We lacked all the advantages and privileges that students assume today by right of inheritance. But what a happy, carefree lot we were. No draft board to chill the hearts of the bravest 18 - 19 year olds. Boys then could make plans and expect to follow them through. We must have been terribly young and foolish at the time we graduated, much younger than the eighteen year olds of today, but by no means no more foolish. Had we had a smallest fraction of the interesting things to study, work with and observe that students have today, we might have been at least a better Junior class. It took Mother Raber to see what we needed and why. And I believe we all learned more the year she kept us in hand than we learned in all the previous three years combined.

Mrs. Raber ever had the happiness and interest of the class at heart so long as she lived. I had letters from her occasionally and she always asked about her children of '09. I could tell little of any save Ruth Vincent-Bruce, Aye Bruce, Vida Slick-McKinsey and myself. I have lost account of the date of her death but it was several years ago. She appeared to keep up her active interest in literature and things intellectual so long as she lived, as her name appeared at times in the Indianapolis paper where she had spoken to literary groups. What a fine influence she had over all of us. We all began to grow up a bit that year and to recognize true values.

Girls who had to make their way in the world had little to look forward to in 1909, except teaching or marriage. And so teaching seemed to be the object of my high school career. In the summer following graduation I attended a twelve weeks course at the old Rochester Normal College. And as I look back probably all I gained was a required credit to gain admittance to the teaching profession, a nice coat of tan and stronger muscles from rowing a boat across Lake Manitou twice a day, plus a mile walk from the West Side Landing to the college building.

In the summer of 1911 I attended a twelve weeks course at Indiana University and ever longed to go back and take a full four years course. I taught school for four terms. Two years at the Corbett school east of Winamac, which town was now my home. Then I taught in a two room school at Denham, commuting by train from Winamac. The school there was composed of children of foreign born parents who had no interest in school and the children were there because the law required them to attend. Naturally it was not an ideal situation and hard to take after two such delightful years at Corbett, for that school was really ideal so far as children, parents and general interest were concerned. After one year at Denham, I then taught one year at a school west of Thornhope. I loved the teaching and learned much more than the pupils, but detested the discipline and even in those good old days, discipline was necessary.

So, along about 1914 I gave up teaching to take some work where I might be at home all of the time. I entered a law and abstract office in Winamac and learned the abstract work from the ground up. And that is not intended as a pun. I worked for two different firms and liked the work of searching dusty old volumes and took much pride in finishing a nice long typewritten copy of the records in form of an abstract of title. There I learned something of legal documents, probate matters and practical business dealings about which everyone should have some knowledge.

When the first world war came along, I, like many others, became dissatisfied with my narrow existence in a small country town and longed to get out in the world and do something different. So first I took a Civil Service examination and received an appointment to Washington, D. C., for the princely sum of \$1000 per year. But like many a woman I changed my mind and went to Chicago instead where several of my Winamac friends had preceded me and who wrote glowing accounts of the vast opportunities to be had there. Probably glamour and prospects of a better wage influenced us as much or more than our self-inflicted patriotism. At least we were in the thick of things happening that were most interesting, history making and educational for a little hick country girl like me.

I found employment in the Insurance Exchange Building in Chicago at an Insurance Agency. You may recall that the war conditions raised wages enough that it brought out such a crop of fur coats and diamond necklaces as no insurance company ever dreamed possible to cover with insurance. My work was not very interesting but I was thrilled with city living and advantages that I too had not dreamed possible to experience. And who did not thrill to the sight and sound of the Jackie bands from Great Lakes Naval Station as they paraded the streets most every day. And such fun to keep in step to their stirring marches as we might be out on our lunch hour and even more fun to get caught in the jam of a parade and fail to get back to work on time. Then there was the excitement of welcoming the soldiers back from across seas; the Rainbow Division, for one, and then the day of

all days when the Armistice was celebrated. First celebration for Armistice, of course, was in error, — but it was celebrated pretty much, then the real one in November 11, 1918 was a celebration not to be forgotten. Since that time there has been so much history made that those days will probably be classed by future historians some day as minor events, in a changing world.

Since I could not go on to school I tried to make the most of my opportunities and my stay in Chicago was crowded with many happy months, both interesting and educational. Many of my Winamac friends and my sister were there and so I was content for a while.

In 1919 I had a siege of influenza, as we called it then. Now we are so hurried and on the wing that we haven't time to speak so many syllables and so shorten it to "flu." The result is the same in either instance. For some time my health was not so good as a result of the illness and I was forced to take some rest.

In 1920 I came to West Liberty, Ohio, to recuperate for a short while but was not able to return to Chicago and my work there. After about three years it was possible for me to do a bit of office work and I obtained employment in the office of an electric company, expecting, when able, to go back to Chicago. However, I have remained in the same office at the same kind of work since 1923. That sounds most tiresome and boring, but in that time I have worked for six different firms. Some folks change jobs, I just change employers. Each company has had different ideas of bookkeeping and each time I have learned all over a different way to keep the same books. The earlier companies sold merchandise, house wiring and even stock in their company and I loved the selling end of the work and so have kept interested in whatever there has been to do. Always I have met the public and what could be more interesting than people. Who can say that I have not followed "Mehr Licht" (most literally?)

There has been sandwiched in through the years some church and Sunday School work as teacher, literary work in a Tourist Club and of course a bridge club or two. There are still many things I would like to do. Travel not being the least. There are so many places in our country that I would like to visit, but travel and jobs do not always coincide.

The noticeable factor that stands out as I review the past 42 years is change, change, change. At first slowly and gradually to be expected, but in the past decade the tempo is faster and faster. "The old order changeth yielding place to new." We old timers have loved the old order and in many ways resent the violent, unreasonable changes in our world today. But may we take it in stride and try to avoid a bitterness that could cause our later years of life to become warped and unhappy. We who have lived through a period of relative security, peace and contentedness have much that the graduates of today have never known and possibly never will know. I am sure none of us would exchange the plain work-a-day life we all lived with its pleasant and happy memories

for the hectic, confused, uncharted atomic future that faces the graduates of today.

It has been nice to review these years with the class of 1909 and I am sure we are all indebted to the ones who have spent much time and energy on arranging the details for a perfect reunion.

May the later years for the remaining members of our old class be as peaceful and happy as the beginning years we spent at our old Kewanna High School.

FRANK J. BRUCE



I was born at Kewanna — west on the Fulton-Pulaski county lines — on the 13th day of July 1890. We lived most of the time in that area and except for a year or two when we moved to Syracuse, Indiana, I was there and attended school in country for the first eight grades and then to High School for four years when I drove a horse or came horseback most of the time some two or three miles. After graduating with the great class of '09 I went to Marion Normal for one term and then on to DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana.

Between my Junior and Senior years I left college to teach Mathematics and Science at Arcadia, Indiana. I was there two years and then went back and took my senior year and graduated with the class of 1916. Before I had my degree I was elected to the Principalship of the High School at Effingham, Ill. The following year, I moved with the Superintendent to Vandalia, Ill., where I had a similar position. Just about the close of that year Uncle Sam called and I went to the Field Artillery School at Camp Taylor, just out of Louisville, Ky., and I was there part of the time teaching Mathematics and part of the time going to school until the war was over. I was out of the army by the first of the year and got a job teaching at Montpelier, Ohio for the rest of the year.

The next year I was married to Mae Driver and became Principal of the High School at Franklin, Indiana. We spent one year there and then headed for the west. The next year I headed up the Science department at Chisholm, Minnesota. This was one of those wealthy Iron Mining towns where they had more money than they should. I had as much Physics equipment as we had at DePauw University. We intended to stay just a year or two at the most but they were reluctant to let us go and kept raising the wages until no one could meet it, hence I stayed five years in the same position and while there was on the committee that wrote the State Course of Study in Science for the State of Minnesota. In 1925 the Central Scientific Company of Chicago decided I would make a good man to represent them in the area and I moved to Minneapolis and started to work for them in August. Most of the time between then and January 1949 was spent in their employ.

I did work a year for George T. Walker Company and also about a year with W. M. Welch, both in the field of selling Scientific Supplies.

Since 1949 I have been here in the Ozarks where we have built a novel home and have two cabins which we rent out as we see fit. We like the climate and conditions here very much and probably will remain in this area until we pass on.

We have four children, two boys and two girls and they are quite widely separated. The oldest, Elizabeth, is married and has one daughter, Karen. Her husband is a Physicist and is stationed at Los Almos, New Mexico. He is Dr. Rolf Peterson. Our oldest son is married and is studying jet engines in California at the present time, but where he will be when he finishes school is not known. His name is Stanley J. Our next boy is in the Air Force, and is teaching in the Air Force School at Ft. Warren Air Base in Wyoming. His name is James and he is not married; his location, of course, is only temporary as an assignment with the military arm of the Government. Our baby is Margarete and she is married to a Mr. French. They are now in Madison, Wisconsin, where he is working toward his degree in Chemistry.

There are many sidelights and incidents that could easily fill a book on happenings in College, Teaching, Army and private life but I doubt if they would be in place in a report of this kind, as they would not be of interest since you would not know the parties involved.

Now since no one can sit down and do nothing; and since my social security and endowment insurance neither one begin until I am 65, which will not be for four years yet, I find it best that I should have something to do. We have a small place here overlooking the Lake which we try to keep looking very fresh and nice. We have two guest cabins which we rent when our children are not here and hence get some revenue. We also have 200 acres of land over near Fayetteville, Arkansas, the home of the State University. Then last fall I bought a 50 acre tract here on the lake that adjoins the Government strip on three sides and I am dividing it into lots and getting the road all in shape for retirement homes. It will give me something to do during the spring and fall months when there is not too much going on around here. We usually leave for a month or so in the winter either to Florida, Texas, Mexico, or some warmer part. We do not plan to make trips North during that time of the year as I had plenty of northern winters while in Minnesota. That should give you something to think about for Frank Jay Bruce.

GLADUS M. WHARTON



I was born on a farm in New Castle Township, Fulton County, Indiana, March 31, 1890. The first years of my life were spent in the same way as most other country children of that time. No important event except the usual number of cases of ivy poisoning, bumped toes and splinters here and there.

In due time I started to school, and after eight years struggling with the 3-R's I was graduated from the Jubilee grade school in a class of two, Clyde Collins and myself.

In the fall of 1905, I started my high school at Kewanna High School. Being from the country, and shy — and not knowing many in the class, I spent several trying weeks trying to get adjusted to the new school. After four years of hard study, and driving a horse countless number of miles to and from my home in the country, to Kewanna to school, I was graduated with a class of twenty.

Since I thought it was my duty to pass on to others some of the knowledge I had gleaned, I decided the best way to do it was to be a teacher. Therefore the summer following graduation, I attended the old Rochester Normal School. Due to sickness in the home and my parents moving to another locality, my school days were cut short and I had to change my plans.

Helping my folks on the farm took up most of my time for the next few years. Whenever I could be spared from home I worked as salesgirl in different stores in Kewanna, learning some of the things in connection with the retail business.

The fall of 1913 I took my first real trip to Colorado, where I spent six exciting weeks. For the first time the Rocky Mountains, the Mississippi River and other things I saw became real things rather than just something to be studied about in geography in school. I decided that traveling was a good way to further an interrupted education, so as often as I could I took a trip to some place of interest. In the fall of 1922 I was on a trip through Canada and to Niagara Falls.

Since 1924 I have lived in Kewanna, except for a year I spent in southern Illinois, and a year in Colorado.

I have been an active member of the Church of Christ in Kewanna since 1908, and a member of the Kewanna Rebekah Lodge since 1911. I realized my ambition of being a teacher in having taught a class of children in Bible school for a number of years. During the summer of 1930 I spent several weeks in Colorado, also went to Yellowstone National Park.

Since July, 1935, I have been employed by a local doctor and have tried to make life a little more pleasant for those with whom I have been associated. In 1939 and again in 1940 I spent my vacations in

Colorado, and in the spring of 1948 I spent six glorious weeks in California. Some side trips taking us to Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

The knowledge I failed to receive through formal education I have tried to acquire through my limited travels, and with my association with other people. I like to read, and my hobby is raising garden flowers, especially gladioli. I also like games and contests and like to collect written contests.

Now I must close this, for I am getting ready for another vacation trip to Colorado.

J. LLOYD COLLINS



My autobiography from the time I left High School in Kewanna to the present time, June 17, 1951.

After graduation from K. H. S. I attended Rochester Normal School for one term required for the teacher's certificate. While at the Normal School I roomed with Paul Guide. I was saddened a few years later to learn of his accidental death. I was born Feb. 16, 1889, about two and one-half miles east of Kewanna, Ind.

I taught (or kept) the Monger country school the year after finishing the normal course. I then obtained a position as teacher in a consolidated, graded school in Alsea, Oregon, near the west coast. The following two years I was principal of a small high school in Kings Valley, Oregon, a small but beautiful mountain valley in the coast range mountains.

After two years at Kings Valley I had accumulated enough money, so I thought, to matriculate in the University. In the fall of 1914 I was a freshman at the University of California, taking a course in technical agriculture. During the years at the University, I spent the summers at various occupations, in order to obtain funds to go back to the University again in the fall. In 1918 I obtained the B. S. degree in Agriculture. I then continued as a graduate student at the University in the field of Genetics and obtained the Ph.D. degree in 1923.

While at the University of California I was married to the former Norma Raymond on Dec. 22, 1919, in San Francisco, Calif., in the presence of about twenty friends and relatives. We spent a short honeymoon in southern California and then returned to Berkeley, Calif., where I was instructor in Genetics at the University. We remained in Berkeley until 1929 when we moved to Hawaii. We have one son, Lloyd Raymond, who was born in Berkeley, Calif. He has received his M. S. degree at the University of Oregon this June (1951) and is now on the staff there in the Department of Anthropology.

From 1918 to 1929 I was on the staff in the Department of Genetics at the University of California as assistant, instructor and assistant professor of Genetics.

In 1929 I came to Hawaii as head of the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding at the Pineapple Research Institute in Honolulu. For 10 years I also taught Genetics at the University of Hawaii, with which the Pineapple Research Institute is affiliated.

In 1938 and 1939 I spent 8 months in Central and South America, searching for new species and varieties of pineapples to be used in the pineapple breeding studies here in Hawaii. In 1939, after returning from South America, I was appointed Acting Director of the Pineapple Research Institute as well as continuing as head of the Department of Genetics. This dual role continued during the war, until 1945, when I returned full time to the Genetics Department.

During my residence here in Hawaii I have been elected to the presidency of the Hawaiian Botanical Society (1934), the Hawaiian Academy of Science (1944), and the Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, a national science honor society, in 1949.

Other interests, aside from professional activities, include swimming in the ocean, fishing, hunting, pottery-making, wood-working, gardening, photography, and loafing.

JOHN G. EVANS



I was born in Fulton County, Indiana on May 19, 1887.

Received my education in the schools in Indiana, and was graduated from the Kewanna High School April 30, 1909.

Have worked at various places since leaving school, including the following: Bunker Hill, Indiana, from there I went to Croswell, Michigan, in February 1911, where I did some farm work, including threshing flax and baling hay. Got work in a canning factory at Lexington, Michigan, running a syrup machine. After the fruit pack I did some farm work. I then worked in a sugar beet factory on hot presses. Returned to Indiana and soon went to South Bend under the guidance of an old classmate, Nelson H. Hudkins. Got employment in the Oliver Chilled Plow Works.

I worked as an inspector of plow bases for four years. Then I got employment in Croswell again in the canning factory owned by Mr. W. R. Roach. I stayed in Michigan until March 3, 1916, when I returned to South Bend and worked at construction work on the Studebaker Auto Plant No. 2.

On April 15th, I joined the National Guard 3rd Ind. Took the oath of allegiance May 30, 1917. After drilling and receiving instructions in the manual of arms, I was transferred to Company F, at Camp Shelby, Miss., for advanced training.

I contracted heart trouble and was discharged (S. C. D.) January 28, 1918.

I returned to Indiana and soon got work at the Oliver plant in South Bend.

On May 5th, I got another job in Mishawaka at the Ball-Band Plant, as a shoemaker. I worked there until June 24th and then went to Chicago. In a few days I left there for St. Louis and then on to Kansas City, Mo. Rode a freight train to Saling, Kansas and was hired by a farmer near Hollyroot, harvesting wheat. Returned to Kansas City and worked as a shipping clerk in a meat packing plant. I was filled with Ammonia fumes and quit the job. On July 5th, I got a job on the Missouri River.

In May, 1920, I bought forty acres of land in Lake County, Michigan. As I had never seen it I, naturally, was anxious to find out what I had bought, so, on June 5, 1921, I visited my place. I liked what I saw and soon moved on the place. Living on the farm I worked at various jobs in the neighborhood for three years. Then on April 15, 1925, I got employment with a fishing club. I worked for the Club in summers, hunting and fishing and also trapping fur until May 30, 1949. I was taken sick and a veteran friend took me to Grand Rapids to what is now Michigan Veteran's Facility. I am still there.

I do not regret my choice, or think my life wasted, as I have made my own living and cared for myself and have enjoyed doing it.

RAY E. KILE



Sincere greetings to members of the 1909 graduating fellow classmen of the writer, and in loving memory of those no longer living.

This is Ray E. Kile telling you a little about the joys and set-backs of life since we last met together or heard from each other.

As you remember, I was born near Prairie Grove, east of Kewanna, Indiana, the date: August 31, 1890.

Attended common school at the Old Prairie Grove School, with one month at Jubilee School, north of my home, due to Prairie Grove School being partly destroyed by a cyclone in March, 1902 (I believe). Then after common school graduation, I entered with the rest of you at Kewanna High School in September, 1905.

The next four years you will all remember as four of the greatest years of our lives. Do you recall all the fun we had as well as now and then some slight obstacle to overcome?

During the summer of 1909, and the entire school year of 1909, to June, 1910, I attended Indiana University at Bloomington, Indiana, studying law, but outside of being admitted to the Fulton and St. Joseph County bars in Indiana, have never done anything in the practice of law.

On the 26th of October, 1910, a most loving girl, Ruby Leap, became my wife. We were married in the Baptist parsonage in Kewanna and took a short honeymoon trip to Morristown, Indianapolis and Lebanon, Indiana.

We began housekeeping on a farm east of Prairie Grove and in 1913 moved to the old Caple farm east of Bruce Lake Station, and in August, 1914, moved to Rochester, Indiana, from where I carried mail thru a rural section northwest of Rochester. After resigning this job in March, 1920, went to South Bend and entered construction work. One of the buildings that I helped to build was the K. of P. Building, on the corner of Jefferson and Lafayette Streets. Also a water pumping station on Michigan Street.

From 1924 to latter part of 1928, I was a member of the South Bend Police Department. A job which had many phases of joy and anticipation and some disappointments.

After leaving the Police Department, I went to the old Bendix Brake Co., in South Bend, and started on maintenance supervision work, where I felt more at home than at any other kind of work. Was at Bendix for four years, then the depression started and when things settled down again, went to the old Oliver Plow Works in South Bend, as power plant engineer in charge of power house and boiler room during P. M. shift.

In December, 1936, accepted position as Superintendent of Maintenance in the 1900 Corporation Plant in St. Joseph, Michigan, where all the power washing machines for Sears Roebuck & Co., are made. We lived in St. Joseph until the middle of November, 1942, when I resigned my position and came to Chicago, back with the Bendix Corporation, now known as the Bendix Aviation Corporation. Helped to organize and run this wonderful Carburetor Plant during the World War II, having charge of different divisions of plant maintenance. Since the war ended in 1945, things haven't always been the best, but always managed to have enough to do to keep out of mischief. Spent three years with the Greyhound Bus Corp., here in Chicago, and at present with the Webster Chicago Corp., in Chicago. They make wire and tape recorders, phonographs and dictaphone machines; the best in the business. Forgot to tell you my job is Assistant to Maintenance Superintendent of two plants.

Now, this is in general what I have been doing for the past forty years, and, as we are all about the same age, those of us who have good health, sure have something to be thankful for. I only hope the rest of you have enjoyed good health in general as I have — only a few short sicknesses for me, and nothing wrong, but of course don't feel quite as young as once upon a time.

Oh, yes, by-the-way, still have the wife and sweetheart I started out with in 1910, and we are the parents of four: one girl and three boys. We had the misfortune to lose the daughter when she was past

eleven years old (double pneumonia) but the three sons are all married and have families of their own.

The oldest son, Charles W., is a police sergeant in South Bend, has a wonderfully fine wife and two active boys, thirteen and eleven years old.

The second, Foster A., lives in St. Paul, Minn., a junior executive with the Brown-Bigelow Co. (lithographers). Owns a beautiful home, has a fine little wife and two boys, ten and six years.

The youngest son, Stanley W., lives in South Bend, and after World War II, in which he belonged to the Marine Corps, he entered construction work and is doing all right in carpentry. Has two girls, thirteen and two, and one boy, eight.

The three sons all married South Bend girls.

If we see each other in Kewanna, June 17, 1951, there will be plenty to talk about, but if not, maybe it would be a good idea to do as Nelson H. has done and make some effort to get in touch with each other. Nelson has sure put his heart into this event and I hope we can all be at this meeting so as to make him feel his efforts have had some results and also have been appreciated.

Best wishes for health and happiness for you and yours,

MARION G. WARD



To all of my living classmates of the class of 1909. Kewanna High School of Kewanna, Indiana. My autobiography from the time I left high school until the time of the reunion June 17th, 1951.

My birth date was September 19, 1891.

I was born in Logansport, Indiana, and moved to Kewanna, Indiana, at the age of one year.

During my childhood years I spent time with my father, who was a Doctor, visiting his patients.

My school years were all spent in Kewanna.

My family moved to Manchester, Tennessee, and in March, 1909, after my graduation I also moved to Manchester. While there we had a farm and saw-mill, but my father continued to practice medicine.

In February, 1910, I moved to Logansport, Indiana, and was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad as a Mail Clerk in the Depot. In August of the same year I went to work as a Clerk in the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops in Logansport.

In May, 1912 I met the girl who was to become my wife at a Sunday School Party.

In May, 1912 I transferred to the Transportation Department as a Fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

On April 28, 1915, I was married to Ethel Beamer of Logansport, at Logansport, where we lived.

On June 10, 1916 our first boy, Robert B., was born.

In April, 1917, we moved to Chicago, Ill., where I worked as a Switchman for the Chicago Short Line Railroad. And on December 5, 1917 our first girl, Grace, was born.

Then in July, 1918, our second girl, Ella, was born in Logansport.

In April, 1919, we moved back to Peru, where we have lived ever since.

On December 3, 1920, our second son, John, was born.

On November 27, 1921, our third son, Richard, was born.

On April 2, 1923, our third girl, Patricia, was born.

On October 14, 1924 our fourth girl, Barbara, was born.

On December 28, 1925, our fourth son, Paul, was born.

On October 4, 1927, our fifth son, James, was born.

On July 28, 1932, our fifth girl, Nancy, was born.

In 1944, I was appointed Yard Master for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad where I am still working.

In the early part of 1940, our son, Robert, joined the Canadian Air Force and went over seas in 1941. He served over Africa and Italy and in February, 1943, he transferred into the American Eagle Squadron of the United States Air Force and was shot down on March 18, 1943, over Bremen, Germany. He was married and had one daughter.

In 1942, our son, John, entered the Army and was commissioned a Second Lt., where he served in the Pacific till the end of the war, as a First Lt. aboard a B-29. He is married and has two sons and is employed as an Insurance Man.

Our son, Richard, was employed as a Clerk on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, but went to New York City, where he now resides. He is unmarried.

Our son, Paul, entered the Army in 1944, as a Cadet in the Air Force and served until the end of the War. Paul is now employed as the Assistant Round House Foreman on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in Peru. He is unmarried.

At the age of 18 our son, James, was employed as a Teletype Operator on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad here in Peru and was drafted into the Army in February, 1946. He spent 39 months in Germany in the Army of Occupation and is now serving in Korea, where he has been since September, 1950. He is unmarried.

Our daughter, Grace, is married to a Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineer and they reside in New York City. They have one son.

Our daughter, Ella, is married to an Oil Supply Dealer and they reside in Wewoka, Oklahoma. They have two daughters.

Our daughter, Patricia, is married to an Automotive Supply Dealer and they reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Our daughter, Barbara, is unmarried and is employed as an Abstracter.

Our daughter, Nancy, is unmarried and is employed as a Senior Clerk for the Prudential Insurance Company, Logansport, Indiana.

Each of our ten children is a graduate of the Peru High School here in Peru, Indiana.

FORREST L. (Duke) BENNETT



Contrary to the opinion of some, in the matter of writing an autobiography, the Duke is not writing this little narrative on the subject he likes best

The great trouble with autobiographies is the over-working of the pronoun I. If any of you object to this, you may stop reading now.

Changing times invariably bring twinges of nostalgia — moments when memory dress up “the good old days” in mantles of many romantic hues, and we look back on ourselves as pioneers. Of course, we wouldn’t consider ourselves pioneers in the sense that we had to push Indians out of the way in order to get some place in the old days.

Be that as it may — We naturally look back on our school days as the happy and care-free days of our life. A great deal of our happiness was the result of our association, day to day, with our classmates. A bond was formed between us which to this day has never been broken, despite our being separated by thousands of miles.

I shake my head when I recall such times as when someone in the Lab. mixed up a mess of something or other that had the aura of an ancient egg that had had considerable trouble in its time.

Who remembers the name of the person that delivered the Commencement address? Quote “You are the hope of the future — the world needs the benefit of your bright new outlook — your unbounded energy cannot be denied! your young vigor, fresh approach, youthful viewpoints are the panacea for all the business ills, etc.”

Alas! and sundry similar onomatopoeia representations of sorrow.

(Roy, I hope it will not be necessary for you to refer to your thesaurus after reading this narration.)

One of the happiest days of my life was the day of our reunion last June. I have often thought that it was more like a dream than real, and I am convinced the other members of the class were of the same opinion.

It was indeed a solemn occasion. The Class of '09, having passed on to its reward, to the Class of '10, our rightful heirs, so soon to take our place — NOT THAT THEY COULD FILL IT — we left our reputation: grade A and spotless, and our air of importance.

We left them any debts that we may have left unpaid, various un-

settled scores with the faculty, the janitor and others. All the slightly used and flavorless gum stored away for future use under the seats of the desks.

To our successors we also left a vast store of unexcelled ideas we had neither the time nor opportunity to put into effect.

To the Board of Education we left the thot that there should be more and better holidays and shorter terms.

To the principal we left polishing rags and wax to maintain the high gloss and polish on the seats of the chairs in his office. The job was formerly ably and efficiently done by the posteriors of certain members of our class. (Male)

To the teachers we left a vacant spot in their hearts, which they found impossible to fill by any succeeding class, as we had, at all times, conducted ourselves with dignity and charm. I yield to none in this statement.

After seeing my class successfully graduated from the old school, I settled down to the matter of making my mark in the world, such as it might be.

It seemed that, so far as the financial part of it was concerned, my chief objective was to be able to acquire the sum of \$25.00 a week in salary. A princely sum in that day and age.

As I had already started to learn the printing trade, my great thot was to study journalism, but the more I got into it the less I liked it. My mind seemed to have a leaning toward the mechanical part of the business, and the production of beautiful and attractive pieces of printed matter. The dream was not long in hatching, as about the year 1911, I had an opportunity to take charge of a private printing plant of the Dodge Manufacturing Company, in Mishawaka.

Having been connected with this firm for three years and attained to the position of Assistant Advertising Manager, I decided that a business of my own was much more desirable.

There happened to be a place of the desired size available in Mishawaka about 1915, so I made the purchase. It took some time to build up the business and acquire the equipment necessary to manufacture the type of work I wanted to produce but I finally made it.

However, the work of profits and peace were slightly interrupted by war in 1917. I entered the service and served as a commissioned officer in the infantry. One great man has said: "an old soldier never dies — he merely fades away." I am doing a good job of fading.

Returning to Mishawaka after the close of the war, I picked up the reins of my business where I had dropped them and have continued to operate the business ever since.

I have always held that work is the salt of life, so, rather than retire, as I had thot I would do a year or two ago, I decided to fire the help and run the place myself, as a hobby, which I am now doing.

I have held membership, and have been active in, the following organizations for many years:

Religion: a shouting Methodist

Mishawaka Lodge Free and Accepted Masons

Mishawaka Chapter Royal Arch Masons

Mishawaka Council Royal and Select Masters

Mishawaka Commandery Knights Templar

Mishawaka Chapter Order of the Eastern Star

Murat Shrine

Have been a 32nd Degree Mason for many years

Served as Commander of Mishawaka Commandery in 1928

Served as Master of Mishawaka Lodge of Masons in 1937

Have also been a director of the Masonic Temple Association for several years

Mishawaka Chamber of Commerce

Kiwanis Club

Fellowship Club

American Legion

Lake Bruce Association

For recreation, I have maintained a summer cottage at Lake Bruce for twenty odd years, near which my good and noble friend, Aye J. Bruce was reared. I have spent many happy days there: out next to nature and where we are often reminded of God, and are given more time to calmly think things over.

These few words I have used to inform you of some of the highlights of my life during the past forty-odd years. And now, I am quite anxious to read what the experiences of the other members of my class have been.

P.S. I am now making \$25.00 a week.

LEROY C. HOFF



My father was a farmer and as honest as any man I have ever known. He taught us to be honest, truthful, and to respect the other man's rights. He taught me that when I had set my face to the plough I should never look back. We should fix our eyes on the mark we are aiming for and drive straight. This has been an invaluable lesson and has stayed with me through all of my life. I have never given much time to living over my past but have taken more concern of the present and the future to which I am aiming. Some things, however, still persist in calling themselves to my attention through memory and one of those experiences happens to be my high school days which brought me into contact with these dear friends who have never been forgotten and whose names will stand out clearly though several years have crept away.

gree in Valparaiso University and My Master of Science degree in Indiana University and was feeling the call to get some experience in another state. After consulting the family and making several trips we finally found ourselves the owners of fifteen hundred acres of ranchland in Missouri.

They say, "Once a Teacher Always a Teacher," which I suppose is a true saying, for I have heeded the call and am completing my fifth year in the schools of Missouri. My youngest of two sons, George, a World War II veteran, operates the ranch which Mrs. Hoff and I still call home and I look forward to the time when I can pull myself away from teaching and enjoy the pleasures of a free life on the Missouri hills.

My older son is with a large insurance company in Indianapolis, Indiana but feels the pull for the beautiful Ozarks and hopes for the day when there will be a suitable opening for him to join us in this country.

God has indeed been good to me and my family, for which we give our praise and thanks and pray that we may continue to do that which is right in his sight as the days go by.

NELSON H. HUDKINS



To all of my living classmates of the class of 1909, Kewanna High School of Kewanna, Indiana. My autobiography from the time I left High School until June 17, 1951.

I was born on election day, Nov. 4, 1890. After graduating from high school I worked in a hardware and grocery store owned by Jip Zellers for almost a year. It was my desire to enter Indiana University in the fall of 1909 and study journalism, but with no money and my father refusing to give or even loan me any money, I was unable to enter this college. I worked for Mr. Zellers until about Apr. 15, 1910 and at that time I packed my suit case and took the old Vandalia passenger train for South Bend. I probably would not have gone so soon but as most of you know, I lost my mother Aug. 5, 1908 and less than a year after that I inherited a step mother who was unbearable. And most of the class members were scattered to the four winds of the earth and no more good times at parties could be had, so I left to build a new life for myself.

My father told me I would starve in South Bend since I was only a green horn just off the farm and that I could not get a job. It so happened that I had saved a little money during the time that I worked for Mr. Zellers and that was one thing that my father did not know. It amounted to about \$150.00, which was a lot of money for me. Anyway, on the afternoon of Apr. 15, 1910, I arrived in South Bend. I

did not know a person up there and just started down a street looking for a place to get room and board. I found it at 214 S. William St. I did not like this place so I changed to 415 S. William St. on about May 21st of the same year. The name of the people here was Mr. and Mrs. Burnett Douglas. I had a home-like surroundings here. After getting in South Bend I secured a job with the Oliver Chilled Plow Works. I was taken into the inspection department to learn the business of plow manufacturing. I had said that when I left Kewanna that I was going to be a bachelor, but that was not the case, for on Apr. 12, 1911, I met the former Jennie E. Johnson of South Bend who became Mrs. Hudkins on Dec. 6, 1911. She has been the same sweet person through all the years that we have been married.

On about Oct. 1, 1911 I resigned my position as inspector with the Oliver Chilled Plow Works and went to Greenville, Mich. and opened a Variety store there. After my marriage as stated above, Mrs. Hudkins went along as my helper. After one year we sold the store and went to LaPorte, Ind., where a good job was promised me. But to my surprise when we moved to LaPorte the job did not materialize and then we moved back to South Bend on about Nov. 15, 1912. I got my old job back and again I worked for the plow concern for eighteen months. Then left the plow concern because of health conditions. Then to my surprise the M. Rumley Company (who were supposed to hire me after I left Greenville) called me to enter their employ as stock manager. This was about May 1, 1914. I was with this company for nine months and the entire plant shut down and I was out of a job again. We remained in LaPorte for a few months and since no employment could be found I went to Chicago on about May 1, 1915. I bought a delicatessen at that time and found that I had a bad location and had to sell at about a \$200.00 loss. Then I found a job with the Jewel Tea Company as a salesman. I made good with this company but did not like Chicago (although my wife did) and I went in to see the manager and told him I was leaving the employ of the company just two weeks later. He was surprised and started to ask questions. Such as — Don't you like the company you are working for? and — Aren't we treating you fair? I said, yes all of that is perfectly all right but I just don't like Chicago. Then he offered me a transfer either to Elkhart or Kokomo, Ind. I took Elkhart and moved from Chicago to Elkhart on Oct. 15, 1915 and took charge of their business here and in Goshen, Ind. Elkhart had a population then of about 20,000 people and Goshen had about 8,000 people. Now Elkhart has 35,557 and Goshen about 11,000 population. I remained with the Jewel Tea Company until July 7, 1919. Then resigned and took a position with the Prudential Ins. Co. of Newark, N. J., however remaining in Elkhart and working here for a period of two years. Then I was persuaded to take charge of the insurance department of the Elkhart Commercial Finance Corp. of Elkhart. This was not a good move, since I could not agree in many ways with the general manager. I stayed here for two years. The general manager was very anxious to get rid of me and offered me two months salary

as an incentive to get me to leave. This — because I had a contract that ran for several months beyond this date. I accepted his offer and cleared out.

Just to keep the record straight I want to say that on Feb. 10, 1917 we bought our present home at 1122 Strong Ave. and we have been at this address for over thirty-four years. We have no children.

After leaving the Elkhart Commercial Finance Corp. I opened my own office in the Haynes Bldg. (now Equity Bldg.) and entered into the insurance business together with real estate business, real estate loans, home building and building contracting. I was loan correspondent for the Lafayette Life Ins. Co. for eight years until the depression came along and they quit loaning money on real estate. Here is no doubt the part that you will not believe but never the less the truth. I started in my own business with a capital of \$800.00 and when I was forced out of business by the awful depression I owned over one hundred pieces of real estate valued at about \$100,000.00. Then came the stock market crash and sad to say — I could not sell a piece of real estate at any price nor could I rent a house for scarcely any price and collect the rent. I started my own office Mar. 23, 1923 and closed it on Aug. 1, 1931. I was doing business on rather large scale, employing around sixty people and I was doing it on other people's money for a long time. But when the crash came I had to make many sacrifices to pay those who had befriended me with money and I lost heavily. I salvaged out about \$15,000.00 and sold the "remains." That was a sad day for me, since I had always wanted a business for myself.

Then on Sept. 28, 1931 I went back to work for the Prudential Ins. Co. in Elkhart and remained with them until Nov. 5, 1947 (sixteen years) and on this date I had a fall over a guy wire in a client's yard, which accident has caused me to be idle from employment or a business because of injuries in the fall. I am much better now and will soon resume an occupation.

Going back to Greenville, Mich., a minute. There was where Mrs. Hudkins and myself found Christ and salvation at the First Baptist Church of Greenville and we have remained true to the faith ever since. I have had many pleasures during life and many hard and sad ones but through it all the Lord has sustained me and my good wife Jennie.

This autobiography is humbly and carefully submitted to all of the other fourteen living members of our good old class of '09.

GRACE (JONES) COOK



I was born Jan. 7, 1891. After graduation from Kewanna High School in 1909, I took twelve weeks at Rochester Normal School for teaching. I taught school for two years, then on April 16th, 1911 was married to William H. Cook, a clerk in a grocery store in Leiters Ford. We were living in Leiters Ford when our first child, Lucille, was born May 19th, 1912.

One day the telephones in town began ringing that alarm that meant for all the community to listen in. Central said, "Rush into the streets and look up — word has been given that the airplane 'Vin Fiz' will soon be in sight, it is following the Erie Railroad and will be accompanied by train." We all saw the VinFiz and marveled.

In 1913 we lived in North Dakota for nearly a year, then returned to Leiters Ford and went in the Restaurant business, which we continued for about 7 years.

In the year 1919 we sold the restaurant and Will accepted a position in the Monterey Bank. While working there we got our first vacation with pay, so we really took a trip. Tent, food and other luggage, all on our Ford, we traveled to the Shades and Turkey Run.

After four years in Monterey, Will accepted cashiership in Kewanna Bank. Of course, moving to Kewanna caused me to recall high school days and former associations there. Not many of the '09 Seniors were living in or near Kewanna anymore. Vida and I lived across the street from each other and had many nice times together.

Our next child, LeaBeth, was born Oct. 25, 1922, soon after we came to Kewanna, just 10½ years after our first child was born.

One day Professor Wright, who lived near us, called and asked if we would like to come over and listen to his radio. We were thrilled and away we hustled to take advantage of our first chance. So after one at a time adjusting the ear phones we listened to a very faint reception. But we had heard radio.

In 1928 we moved to Monroeville, Indiana, where we now live. This is a town of 1168 population and is 20 miles southeast of Fort Wayne. Will has been Cashier of the bank since we first came to Monroeville. Both our girls were married here, Lucille lives in Fort Wayne, they have one child, a boy. LeaBeth lives on a farm west of Bluffton, Indiana. They have three children, one girl and two boys.

Like all or most of you during these years we have had sickness, doctor and hospital bills and operations to talk about. Two years ago while we were fishing one morning in Michigan, me rowing the boat while Will was casting, what do you know, he hooked me in the shoulder. Not being able to remove the hook, he had to take me to the hospital to have it removed. Just one week later we had a collision with

another car and the police ambulance took me to the hospital to have my eyebrow sewed up. The nurse said, "Your husband must be trying to get rid of you, but is taking the long way around."

We have been active in Church work, always endeavoring to do our part in helping to build the Kingdom of God.

Any, or all of you, would be welcome to drop in and see us. We have our modern six room home. Not large you see, but just right for two aging folk.

Editor's note: Since Grace wrote this account, her husband, Will, has been elected president of the First Citizens State Bank, of Monroeville.

ELMER K. SPANGLER



Report to the Class of 1909:

As I look back over the years since our graduation here in Kewanna, I am more convinced than ever that as my friend Bill Shakespeare says, "There is a destiny that shapes our lives, rough hew them as we may."

In my case I felt at graduation that I was called upon to work with Souls, so felt the Ministry was my forte. However, I was wrong in a sense for while I am still working with Soles, they are of a different category. I have been in the shoe

business for 28 years.

When I was in High School I worked after school and Saturdays in Snapp's Store and little did I think then that through Mrs. Snapp's fine guidance I was to become a really and truly merchant myself.

I wanted to go to college and I entered DePauw University at Greencastle in September, 1909. The two years that I spent there were hard ones for I had little time for fun or relaxation since it was necessary for me to earn my way. The grind and real struggle for existence made me realize that perhaps I was on the wrong track, for I could see little ahead except a mere existence for some time to come.

One day, I chanced upon an advertisement offering a good opportunity to a young man in a General store in Clear Lake, Iowa. I answered this ad and was successful in getting the job, so in a short time I was on my way to Clear Lake.

It was while working in Clear Lake that I had the vision of working up to be a Buyer in a large department store and finally to own my own store.

Then came World War I and I enlisted in the Naval Aviation in 1917. I was in service 26 months, part of which was spent in France.

After being discharged from service, I returned to Clear Lake but stayed there only a short time, for I was uneasy to start working toward my goal and felt I needed to change to a larger place.

In July 1920, I went to Waterloo, Iowa, to be a buyer for Infants Wear, Blouses and Wash Dresses. It was in Waterloo that I met my wife, who was a Waterloo girl, but who was teaching in Minneapolis. We were married August 5, 1922.

In November of 1923 my big opportunity came to go East to Newark, New Jersey, with the Associated Dry Goods Co. I went as a protege of the new President who was a midwest man. He placed me as Buyer for Shoes of which at that time I knew very little. He admonished me to keep my eyes open and my mouth shut and come to him when I got in a tight spot. This was my start in the business that has been my life's work.

In the meantime Mrs. Spangler was made head of the Training Department of the same store and we worked long, long hours for the training we were determined to have.

In the meantime, my ambition was to be a buyer for one of the large stores on 5th Ave. in New York City. This dream came true in 1928 when I was elected Buyer for Shoes in James McCreery's on 5th Ave. and 34th Streets.

After five years at McCreery's, we began to have a longing to get back to the Middle West and to be nearer to our folks, for they were getting along in years. While we were in this mood, I was offered a position with the three Schuster Stores in Milwaukee. This offered us just the opportunity we needed and we came to Milwaukee in 1934. We have loved Milwaukee and decided this would be the place for our own store.

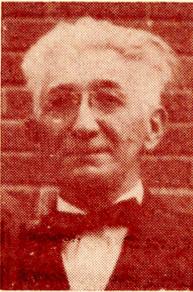
We thought and saved for the day when we could get started but it was not easy to give up a good salary and start cold. We had decided to make our store different from the ordinary shoe store, so decided on an Orthopedic store. I took a special course in orthopedics and in fitting and in March, 1941, we were ready to start.

We are in a suburban district on the upper East side but because of our special work we draw customers from all over the city.

All was fine until Pearl Harbor and shortly after that the rationing of shoes. Since there are many shoe factories in Milwaukee and with my Schuster contacts, we lived through that period and have been going steadily forward since. Mrs. Spangler and I do all the work and learn to know our customers very well. We have all the business that we can take care of and are not interested in building it into a big business but want to keep it more or less of a hobby.

Now here we are today back with the good people we started with and looking forward to many more years of happiness, health and prosperity for us all.

CLYDE S. COLLINS



I was born December 24, 1888 in Union Township, Fulton County, Kewanna, Indiana.

Three years of my grammar schooling was spent in the Polecat common school but was graduated in 1905 from the Jubilee school. Upon completion, I entered the Kewanna High School and received my diploma in 1909, and followed the occupation of farming.

In June 2, 1914, I married Miss Clara Olsen of Rochester, Indiana. To this union five children were born: Irene, Ruth, James, John, and Joseph

— all living.

In 1921, I decided to study dentistry and entered the Dental School at Indianapolis, Indiana. Upon completion of one year, I returned to my farm and operated a gravel plant for ten years with the exception of one year which was spent working for the First State Bank in Kewanna. Although ten years had passed, my desire for higher education and knowledge remained and I re-entered the dental school in 1931 and completed two more years before circumstances required me to return to the farm.

I operated the farm and gravel plant until 1943 and then entered the school of Mortuary Science at Indianapolis. Graduated from this school in June, 1944. Upon completion of my studies, I moved to Indianapolis and worked as an embalmer for Shirley Brothers until 1946. I then moved back to my farm of 164 acres and am still there at the present time, June 17, 1951.

ETHEL (HICKLE) CAHILL

Dear Classmates of '09, Kewanna High School:

Ever since I received Nelson's letter last November (1950) I have been hoping I could arrange to come to Indiana this spring, but it has not worked out that way for me. So, it is with great reluctance that I must inform you of my inability to be present at the reunion.

You have my very best wishes for a successful and enjoyable reunion. I will certainly be with you in thot and spirit, and I trust it will warrant repetition.

It has stirred up a great deal of interest in me, and brought to my mind many happy memories, which I regret not being able to reminisce with you on this occasion. I know some of the biggest thrills of my life were during my school days and young life spent in the Kewanna community.



As we go along the road of life and gather experience, it takes so much to give one a thrill.

Well, the autobiography frightens me. I have never kept a diary, but have kept on living each day as it came along, dreaming and planning for the future, but after all "the best laid plans of mice and men goes" (You complete the quotation).

I was born near Winamac, Indiana, July 13, 1890. I lived in and around Winamac and Kewanna until I was six years old. The first school I attended was a country school, Colledge Corner, south and west of Kewanna. We moved during that year to Amboy, Indiana, and lived there until I was nine years old, when we again moved to Kewanna and lived up on the hill and across the railroad. You will all remember my home, as I lived there until the year I was graduated from the Kewanna High School in 1909. So most of my school days were in the Kewanna Public School.

I went to Indianapolis the following fall and worked at the millinery trade, returning to Kewanna that winter. I think it was during that winter, or spring, that I went to work in the telephone office. Here I must make a comment: for two years before I was graduated, I operated the switch board there each Sunday, for which I received one dollar. This money I saved to help buy my graduating clothes. The money I saved during the two years I worked in the telephone office was used to attend Normal School at Marion, Indiana.

I qualified for a teacher, but before the term started, I went to visit a sister in Chicago. I decided I liked the bright lights and excitement, so, procured a position (job) with Rothchild & Co., in the millinery department. I lived in Chicago until March, 1912, when I came west to Calgary, living with my brother, R. P. Hickie. I have really liked the west and have had a most enjoyable life.

At the time I came here, there were not too many girls, but many promising and eligible young men. Nuf said. I did meet a very nice class of young people. Among the friends of those days has been a Mayor of Calgary, several Council members, and many successful business men. Our present Lieutenant-Governor and family are among my most intimate personal friends. So, since my arrival in Calgary, I enjoyed the association of some of its leading citizens. I have met some very prominent personalities, among them the present Duke of Windsor. He owns a big ranch about 75 miles from Calgary, which is one of the places of interest to tourists.

I have discovered on some of my trips home that many people have a very erroneous conception of this part of the world. I might state here that it is one of the wealthiest provinces in Canada, in natural resources. One of the largest oil fields in America is being developed here now.

The American Womans Club always entertains any notable American visitor. We entertained at a reception this spring for the U. S. Ambassador to Canada. Both he and his wife were very charming per-

sonalities. This Club provides considerable social life for its members. To join one must be proposed by a member in good standing, and vouched for by two other members, then voted on by the entire Club, so, the membership consists of a very good class of people.

I enjoy working with the church groups, so find my time pretty well taken up.

I met my late husband four months after I came to Calgary, but was not married until several years later. He passed away October 25, 1946. His work took him over the three prairie provinces and I traveled with him a great deal, and enjoyed it very much.

I have made a couple of trips to California since I have been alone. I went down in May, 1948, by way of Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Nev., Los Angeles, and San Diego. I spent four months there when I was joined by my sister, Kathryn. We returned to Seattle, where she lives. We stopped at all the larger cities along the coast. Then in January, 1949, I went to San Diego, again staying ten months. I liked it very much there and I think I would like to go there to live. I had a little trip to Winnipeg this spring to visit a friend who lost her husband last fall. She wants me to come and live with her and I may do that.

I think this covers the high-lights of my life. When I come to Indiana again I will try and see as many of you as possible when I might tell you more of my experiences.

Life has been really good, but, as with everyone, there has been reverses, illness, and death, but this we must expect in a true Christian spirit, and be thankful for the many blessings.

It would be a great pleasure to have any one of you visit me, and a letter from each of you would be appreciated.

I do hope you will forgive the mistakes as this is the first draft of the autobiography, and I couldn't think of correcting and copying it.

LELA McCOY HIZER



I have lived here so long on this same farm that it seems like I never did anything else except this same thing, but there is never a dull moment on the farm. So we are quite content with our lot in life.

After I left KHS I entered the old Rochester College for a twelve weeks' normal course, and after that I went there for an eighteen weeks' course the next two summers, giving me a very busy life for those years with my teaching thru the winters. Then I had a chance to take a business course at the Logansport Business College where I could do the work in as short a time as I could make the grades. I finished my Book-keeping in three months, where six were the required time, and started

to do office work. I stayed for a year and had to quit on account of my health.

My father needed someone to stay with him, so I stayed with him until his death in 1921.

It was on a hot summer evening in 1920, in June that ROMANCE in a Model T Ford came to me. I had just finished milking the cows and was starting to the house with two big pails of milk when the car stopped beside me and a young stranger asked for me. It seems that mutual friends of ours were coming and had arranged for us to meet, but, as June is a very busy season on the farm, they were delayed. Imagine how I felt and how embarrassed with that milk and all be-draggled from that hot job I had just finished! Nels said I didn't look half as bad as I imagined I did, and that he decided then and there that I would help him so he wouldn't have to work half so hard for a living! He sure got fooled for we both have had to do plenty. But I am way ahead of myself here.

We had to introduce ourselves. He was Nelson Hizer, of Grass Creek, and I think he carried those two pails of milk to the house for me and helped separate it before our friends arrived and all was well for that evening. It was quite a while after that before we became serious enough to think of a future together for my father was sick most of that winter. But we did love each other and on March 26, 1921, were married at Kewanna, going to housekeeping at once on the farm Nelson was born on, and which was settled by his Grandfather Sommer. We now own all the farm and don't ever expect to live anywhere else.

All hasn't been joy or happiness in our lives, for, in 1926, we lost one of our dearest treasures when our little seven year old son died from a brain tumor. Ray was my stepson but no mother ever loved her own flesh and blood more than we did or were together more. Then in 1949, we lost a granddaughter that grieved us so much, too.

In 1928 our daughter Ruth Ann was born, and Jeanne arrived in 1932. Ruth Ann married Earl Gault and they have three children. Jeanne married Gene Miller who is at present time in England with the armed services, and she is still with us.

With the advent of electricity our life on the farm has become much brighter and we envy none of our city cousins, for we have all the conveniences they have and freedom besides, to do as we please, or think we do, anyway.

There is nothing hum-drum or dull on the farm, and we never like to be anywhere else. We have made several vacation trips, but we are always glad to be back to the place called "home."

I think we can say, as did the story of "The Village Blacksmith,"

"Toiling, rejoicing, sorrowing,
Onward thru life he goes,
Each morning sees some task begun,
Each evening sees its close,
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose."

The Class of 1909 Holds in Remembrance



AYE J. BRUCE

Aye J. Bruce was born Apr. 6, 1890 in Fulton County, Indiana, north of Kewanna, near Bruce lake. He spent his boyhood days on the farm of his parents. He attended grade school in the country near where he lived and upon completion of the grade schools he entered the Kewanna High School in the fall of 1905. It was during the four years in High School that he met Ruth L. Vincent, a member of the class and she became his sweetheart and later his wife, Sept. 12, 1911. He was the father of Virginia Jane Bruce and Robert Vincent Bruce. Both children preceded him in death as did his wife, Ruth L. Bruce. He established the firm of the Bruce Products Company and was its president until his death on Dec. 18, 1948. He married the second time and lived in or near Detroit, Mich., and was again the father of a son and daughter. His second wife Myrtle and two children still live in Detroit. He was buried in Detroit, along with his first wife, Ruth, and their two children. He was one of the twenty who graduated from the Kewanna high school in 1909 and is loved and respected by not only all of the classmates but by everybody that knew him. His departure and absence from the remaining classmates is keenly felt. Early in life he and Ruth accepted Christ as their savior and became members of the Methodist Church. We miss you Aye and wish that you could be with us at our reunions.

RUTH LORENE (VINCENT) BRUCE

Ruth Lorene (Vincent) Bruce was born in Jasper County, Indiana, on May 9, 1890, the daughter of Elmer and Emma Vincent. In the fall of 1905 the family moved to Fulton County about five miles southwest of Kewanna. She entered the Kewanna high school in the fall of 1905 along with the other members of the graduating class of 1909. During her high school years she met and fell in love with our classmate, Aye J. Bruce, which romance culminated in their marriage on Sept. 12, 1911. She was the mother of a son and daughter, both of whom have passed on. Her untimely death occurred on Oct. 20, 1918. She was only twenty-eight years of age at her death. Her sudden departure from our midst has caused many a heartache. She was loved and respected by all who knew her and particularly the members of the graduating class of 1909. She was a faithful member of the Methodist Church. She had a kind and easy disposition and to know her was to love her. She was buried at Detroit beside her husband, Aye J. Bruce and her two children, Virginia Jane Bruce and Robert Vincent Bruce. We miss you Ruth as we miss all of the departed loved ones of our graduating class of the Kewanna high of 1909.

VIDA G. (SLICK) MCKINSEY

Vida G. (Slick) McKinsey was born east of Kewanna, Ind., on Apr. 28, 1890, evidently on the farm of her parents in the Prairie Grove community and was the daughter of Byron E. and Lucy Slick. She started in high school at Kewanna in the fall of 1905, along with the other members of the graduating class of 1909. She was married to Harlan McKinsey on Apr. 12, 1911, and was the mother of a son and a daughter. She passed on to her reward on Sept. 2, 1939, and was buried in the I.O.O.F. cemetery east of Kewanna. She was a faithful member of the Methodist Church and of the Order of the Eastern Star. She lived a beautiful life and was loved and respected by not only the old class of 1909, but by every one who knew her. We miss you Vida and we of the old class of 1909 feel very keenly the loss of a true friend and classmate who always had a pleasant smile and a kind word for everybody.

PAUL GUISE

Very little is known about Paul Guise. We know that Paul was born sometime during the years of 1890 or 1891 around the Leiters Ford, Ind., community, and that he attended grade schools near his home. After completion of the grade schools he entered high school at Leiters Ford and completed three years there. Since Leiters Ford did not have the senior class as yet, he transferred to the Kewanna high school in the fall of 1908 and completed the senior year at Kewanna and graduated on Apr. 30, 1909. He married a young lady who lived near Leiters Ford and was the father of two children. Our best information is that he had a son and a daughter. Some time during the spring of about the year of 1914 he accidentally shot himself while shooting rats on his farm. He was buried in the cemetery at Leiters Ford, Ind. Paul was kind and considerate of every one and loved by us all. He was no doubt the most valuable player on our football squad in the fall of 1908. We do not have the exact date of his birth or death.

MAX ARMSTRONG

Max Armstrong, who was a member of the graduating class of 1909, departed this life on Sept. 25, 1942. Max died someplace in Wisconsin and his body was returned to Kewanna and burial was made in the I.O.O.F. cemetery at Kewanna. Little is known of the activities of Max after graduation on Apr. 30, 1909, except that he never married and did own and operate a jewelry store in Chicago for many years. His father was the late Dr. A. Armstrong of Kewanna, a medical doctor, and his brother Paul was also a medical doctor. Max was an easy going kind of person and was very much admired by every one who knew him. He, too, was a member of the class of 1909 and received his diploma on Apr. 30, 1909. We all miss you, Max, as we miss all of the other members who have passed on.

