

2nd Annual Eaton Cemetery Tour June 2017

Robert Wyrick 1872-1964

Mr. Wyrick and Mr. Neel partnered in the “Cash Clothing Store.” The two gentlemen became friends in Missouri, then both moved westward and met again in Idaho. They merged their business interests and moved to Eaton, where they became excellent citizens and very successful merchants. The name of the store indicated the type of business method, which proved to be very successful. They bought the best merchandise money could buy at the great marts from New York to San Francisco. They built up a trade that could have made any large city proud.



Melvel Lair 1852-1932

Mr. Lair was born in Knox County, Ohio. Mr. Lair is credited for building many of the beautiful homes in Eaton. He also built the First National Bank block, the Thompson & Denniss building, The Methodist Church, and the Reeman and Steele residences. He also built a school in Ault. His entire life was dedicated as a contractor and builder with a fine reputation of excellent workmanship.



George Yeagy 1864-1926

George Yeagy owned the “Busy Store”. The store sold groceries, clothing both men and woman’s, shoes, china and queens ware. The store occupied two brick buildings connected by an archway in the 200 block of Oak Street. Mr. Yeagy had his private office in the store but preferred to be on the floor where he liked to meet his customers personally. His marker is one of many in the cemetery from the Woodmen of the World.



Jack Roy 1902-1976

Jack Roy witnessed many of the changes in the growth and development of Eaton. He was here for the first streets, electricity, gas, water works, parks, schools, telephone, irrigation projects, newspaper, town hall, library, fire department, coal mines, brick yards, cemetery and his beloved golf course. Jack's parents moved here from Cheyenne in 1889 and purchased a tin shop. They made buckets, tubs and horse troughs. They expanded the business to include a bicycle shop and automobile garage, and they also had a stable. Jack drove the car for the town doctor, Dr. Carlson, for his rural house calls. He also drove the town hearse. The garage turned into a plumbing shop and Jack ran that business for 50 years. He learned to love golf from his father and soon became an avid golfer, serving on the board. Jack also loved to read and served on the library board for 15 years.



His wife, Mary was also very active in the community and loved to paint. Many of her pictures can still be found in Eaton homes.

Frank V. Brewington 1859-1912

It was much more convenient to rent a horse and buggy than to own one, and less expensive. The Brewington brothers opened the livery and catered to the class of people who liked fine turnouts, whether single or double buggies, hacks or carriages.



Frank came to Eaton early and grew with the town. He began farming, which grew into the livery and horse trading business.

He was a Hoosier by birth, moved to Missouri, then Wisconsin and finally to Colorado. He was married and had a home in Eaton and was well looked upon by his neighbors. He served as town trustee for one term.

The picture of his livery on the front cover of *Weld County Towns, the First 150 Years*.

Carlton Ledall 1905-1978

Carlton's parents, Charles and Hilda Ledall, came from Sweden in the 1890s and worked and lived in the Cripple Creek area. Charles worked in the gold mines and Hilda worked as a maid for the Carltons' in Victor. Mr. Carlton designed the first Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. (Does the Ritz-Carlton sound familiar?) When Carlton Ledall was born in Victor in 1905, he was named after the Carltons.



Carlton and Esther Nelson were married in Ault. They had five children. They moved to Eaton in 1947 and Carlton used his skills in repairing pumps, windmills and installing water pipe lines. The family continued in this business for 50 years. They were very active in the Eaton community serving on the school board, and he as mayor of Eaton.

E. G. Steele 1867-1954

Mr. Ernest G. Steele was the owner of the pioneer lumber yard in Eaton, located on the east side of the railroad tracks and occupying many yards and sheds on both sides of First Street. It was the largest and best stocked lumber yard for any town as small as Eaton (which was 2,000 people at the time). Mr. Steele was also the owner of a lumber yard in Ault. The lumber yards also sold cement, stone and other kinds of building materials. He also handled genuine Rock Springs, Wyoming coal, as well as coal from Colorado. Mr. Steele believed in a square deal and a satisfied customer.



Helen and Ben Nix

Helen 1907-1994 Ben 1905-1985

Ben and Helen both attended and graduated from Eaton. They were neighbors during their teenage years and married in 1925.

Ben was a very progressive farmer and had much knowledge in farming, and became one of the most outstanding farmers in Weld County. He raised potatoes, vegetables, sugar beets, and corn. He also fed sheep, and was one of the first owners of the Harsh hydraulic hoist.

He served on the Colorado Water Conservatory District board for 29 years, serving as president for 23 years. It was during this time that the Big Thompson project was completed. Ben also served on the board of the Greeley National Bank and Weld County Planning Commission.

Helen was an ambitious housewife raising chickens, a huge garden with fruit trees raspberries and currents. She was an excellent cook and shunned boxed cake mixes and insisted on making everything from scratch.



Herschel Dillard 1920-2015

Jean Dillard 1922-2008

Herschel was born and raised in the Galeton area. At 19, he bought a grocery store in Kersey and made his home there. In 1941, he married Jean Groves and they had 2 daughters. He was inducted into the army in 1942 and served as a tank gunner receiving many medals. Jean and his daughters lived with Jean's parents on a farm in the Eaton area during his service in World War II. He returned home and tried farming, and then purchased his father's grocery store in Galeton. He and Jean ran the store and post office until 1995. Dillard's Store was an anchor to the Galeton community where they were well-liked and respected. Herschel and Jean had six more children. Herschel was much loved by his family and community members.



Fred Magnuson 1867-1955

Josephine 1866-1945

Fred immigrated from Sweden and came to Colorado in 1885 where he worked for the Union Pacific Railroad out of Cheyenne. He knew he wanted to farm and began working for Gov. Eaton who helped him get started. He married Josephine Carlson in 1892. They both longed to return to Sweden, and went there to farm his home farm. They came back to Eaton in 1905 with a family of six. The Magnuson farm remains in the family on WCR 33.



They had wonderful memories of the “Old Country” but loved America and the opportunities it afforded those who wished to work hard.

R. M. Haythorn 1861-1944

Robert Haythorn was one of the first teachers in the Washington School. He came from Antioch, Ohio in 1885 where he had taught for five years. Not finding a room in the hotel, Robert purchased a few pieces of furniture and lived in an empty room in the school. Mr. Stockfleth welcomed the new teacher with a very large watermelon. In 1886 he was appointed Deputy Superintendent of Weld County schools.



Mr. Haythorn shared his room in the school with Rev. King, the first pastor of the Congregational Church. They had to walk $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the Kellogg place west of Eaton to get meals. One day during a dust storm they decided to go hungry for the day rather than walk in the dense dust.

Mr. Haythorn married Maude McClave, a teacher in the Platteville School. They made a permanent home in Eaton.

The Haythorns developed the farmland southeast of Eaton. The land had to be broken up before it could be planted. He built a fine house one mile south of Eaton which is currently occupied by a Haythorn.

Thomas and Mary Leadbetter

Thomas 1853-1929 Mary 1853-1954

Thomas settled first in the Lone Tree district. He returned to Maine after a year in Colorado and married his sweetheart, Mary. Mrs. Leadbetter was a more cultured lady and couldn't understand how flowers could even grow on the cactus strewn prairie. When Thomas pointed out the site of the town of Eaton, all Mary saw was a railroad running through a windy, cactus prairie with not a building in sight. She claimed to have never seen an antelope or Indian back east. Antelope were numerous in this area and she was shocked to see one looking in her window. Getting use to Colorado took some time for this couple to settle in and start farming in the Eaton area, where they homesteaded. These pioneers had to be a hardy group but had the forethought for the future of this barren prairie.



Albert Allison 1882-1950

Albert was born in Missouri, moved to the Windsor area, and later to Ault and began farming. He and his son owned a large hardware store. His son, Albert Jr. managed the store. They also had an insurance business. Albert Sr. increased his farming proceeds from \$5,000 to \$30,000 in only 6 years. They owned 12 work horses and 4 mules to assist in farming.



Richard Carroll 1863-1939

The brand on top of the Carroll headstone was registered prior to 1899, and is still registered to Carrolls. The family lived in the Galeton area.

Myrta, his wife, wanted Richard to have the largest headstone in the cemetery. Greeley Monument installed the headstone using a wagon and team of horses. There are pictures



of the installation in the Greeley Museum.

Myrta was first married to a Carelton in Ft. Collins (who died in 1902). They had a farm in the Black Hollow area. Myra later married Richard Carroll.

Oscar C. Sullivan 1907-2002

Oscar was born in Georgia and moved to Colorado when he was 17 with only \$2 in his pocket. He worked on farms around the area while raising hogs on the side to make enough money to buy his own farm. He did buy a farm east of the Country Club on Rd. 43. He donated land to Eaton for water storage tanks you can see today across from the Country Club.



He married Hazel Holmes and they became the parents of 8 children, whose families continue to live in the area

Alvin Dorsey 1911-1984

Alvin was born in Purcell, but lived most of his life in Eaton. His mother died when his brothers and sisters were young and he became the cook for his family. He farmed with his Dad and learned to work hard. He met and married Louise in 1931. They farmed the Haythorn farm south of town for 42 years and raised their family there. Alvin was regarded as one of the best farmers in the area. Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey were very active in the community and supported the local businesses, church and schools.



Hiroshi Tateyama 1916-2006

Hiroshi was born in Ault in 1916 to George and Chitoys Tateyama who came from Japan. They faced many hardships on the land they farmed in Ault. The land was barely broken out of sod and they had to smooth the soil so it could be planted. In 1921, they were hailed out and his Dad had to take a job in Wyoming working in an iron mine. His Mother stayed on the farm and scoured the fields for pods of beans.



She gathered six bags of beans, and after selling them, took the money to the bank to pay on their debt. The banker refused the money and told her to use the money to help feed her family.

Hiroshi's father became very ill in 1927 and his mother and siblings worked the farm plowing and planting. His mother was killed in a car accident on their way to Eaton during a dust storm.

Through hard work and perseverance Hiroshi became well known in his community and country. He served on the Eaton School Board for 23 years. He was selected as "Top Farmer in American Agriculture." He was a member of cattle and dairy feeders.

He and his Yo were active supporters of the Eaton Historical Society. The old gas pump in the drive of the museum is from the Tateyama farm.

Roland Marcus 1905-1988

Ruth 1906-1987

Roland was born and raised in the Lucerne area. He went to Omaha where he learned barbering. He returned to Eaton and opened his first barber shop beside Steele's Market. Haircuts were from 10-15 cents. He later located where Gene Smallwood's barber shop is today. He married Ruth Cole in 1926. Ruth volunteered for the Health Dept. and worked with children in the local schools.



They retired to a house on Cheyenne Ave. and began a Christmas tree business selling up to 2,000 trees a season. Kids loved circling through the trees to pick just the right one for their family.

Mark and Ruth were very patient and kind with the kids, and picking out their own tree became a tradition for Eaton kids. After they picked their tree, they got to pick a sucker from a Christmas tree on the lot.