

Ford County Historical Society
Presents

The Third Annual

HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR



OCTOBER 21 & 22, 2023

Maple Grove Cemetery

Dodge City, Kansas

Cemetery Tour 2023

MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY - DODGE CITY, KS

MATT DOWN ROAD



The area we will focus on today was purchased by Sacred Heart Catholic Church for burial of its members and is located immediately north of the West GAR section. Later, land to the east was added and the two areas became known as Old & New Calvary sections. The section is dominated by the Catholic Altar installed in 1951. On May 19, 1951 Pope Pius XII established the Diocese of Dodge City and Sacred Heart Church became the cathedral. The altar was dedicated on Memorial Day - 1952.

- #1 - Kathryn Sughrue
- #2 - Ottys Brothers
- #3 - Joe Sughrue
- #4 - William Hessman
- #5 - Niles & Ellen Hessman
- #6 - Frank & Matilda Hessman
- #7 - Nicholas & Barbara Mayrath
- #8 - Augusta (Gussie) Mootz
- #9 - Peter & Mary Mootz
- #10 - Lois Flanagan Bryson
- #11 - Catholic Priests
- #12 - William & Anna Leonard



Kathryn Peterman Sughrue



Mrs. Sughrue was born Kathryn Peterman on May 2, 1913 in Oketa, KS. She graduated from Kansas State University in 1936, and later earned a master's degree from Colorado State University. She worked for the Kansas State University Extension Service and helped set up a College of Home Economics program at Andhra Pradesh

University in Hyderabad, India. She also served as State Leader of Home Economics for the North Dakota Extension Service before retiring in 1973. She served 14 years in the Kansas Legislature as the state representative for Dodge City, Kansas. She introduced over 100 bills, including a bill to create the first Teachers' Hall of Fame. She received the Kansas State University Outstanding Alumnus Award and the Kansas Legislator of the Year Award. The current Dodge City High School auditorium carries her name and she is in the Dodge City Community College Hall of Fame. Of her accomplishments, she said,

"I never planned to have a career or run for public office. But I love people and am blessed with great relationships in my life. When I was asked to help, I was prepared to serve." She moved to Minnesota in 1998 where she passed in 2004.





AN OPEN SWITCH

CAUSES A COLLISION BETWEEN A PASSENGER TRAIN AND SWITCH ENGINE.

Resulting in the Loss of Two Lives.

This city was thrown into a state of great excitement early Monday morning when the report became current that the California express on the Santa Fe had been wrecked within a few hundred feet of the depot, at the hour of 4 o'clock. At break of day a large crowd had gathered upon the scene, ready to give any assistance in their power.

The cause of the accident was an open switch. The yard engine was doing switching and had run in on a side track with several loaded coal cars and was waiting there—apparently for the belated passenger train that was momentarily expected. The switch was left open, and a few minutes later the passenger train came thundering along at a good rate of speed, took the open switch and crashed into the switch engine and coal cars, leaving them a mass of ruins. Both engines were badly wrecked and several coal cars knocked into splinters.

Engineer Ingram, of the passenger, held his place at the throttle and reversed his engine before the crash came. He was considerably bruised though not seriously injured. His fireman, Joseph Otis, while in the act of jumping from the engine, was caught between the tender and cab and crushed to death. John

Kelsey, engineer on the switch engine, jumped from the cab window and severely dislocated both ankles, which will lay him up for some time. Gus. Kreger, the fireman, made a more fortunate jump and escaped injury.

The express and baggage cars were telescoped and the former completely demolished. The express messenger and baggage master miraculously escaped injury, a fact which can hardly be believed by those who witnessed the wreck. The express car was literally crushed into splinters, yet the messenger passed through it all without even a scratch. The baggage master was writing at his desk in the rear end of the car, and fortunately this portion of the car was left intact.

Aside from a thorough shaking up none of the passengers received any injuries.

As the work of clearing the wreck was progressing the lifeless body of a young man was found in the ruins of the express car. The body was removed to the depot, no one having identified it. A pitiable sight met the gaze of the spectators when a short time after Mr. Otis, father of the dead fireman, recognized the body as being that of his younger son, William. The sudden taking away of two of his boys was more than the old gentleman could stand.

Wm. Otis was staying on a claim in the east end of the county and had taken this train at Speareville to come home, riding on the rear platform of the fatal express car, probably not aware that his brother was on the engine.



Joe P. Sughrue



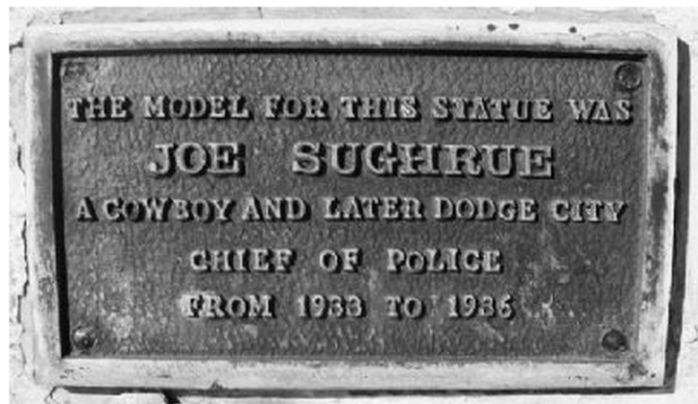
Joe Sughrue was the son of Patrick Francis Sughrue and Catherine Trittschler Sughrue. He was the live model for the famous Cowboy Statue on Boot Hill. The inscription on the statue base reads "On the Ashes of my Campfire This City is Built". The statue was made by Dr. O. H. Simpson, a dentist. The good doctor took up sculpturing as a hobby in his later years. He had his pioneer



lawman friend, Joe Sughrue, lay in a box while a mold was made with plaster. Dr. Simpson filled the plaster mold with concrete. Casting of the head of the statue brought about near catastrophe when the straw through which Sughrue was breathing was pinched and his air supply was cut off. The statue was completed in 1929.



Joe was Dodge City Marshal in 1919, Deputy Sheriff 1927-1932, and Chief of Police 1933-1936. His Chief of Police office would have been in the City Hall building dedicated in 1929 and is now the Boot Hill Distillery.





William & Johanna Hessman



William met and married Johanna Hursman in 1858 while living in Ohio. Johanna's family was from the Holland province in the Netherlands. The couple remained in Ohio for several years and did not follow the German migration to Ford County until 1878, when he moved his family to Kansas by covered wagon. They had thirteen children with seven born in Kansas. Of the 13 children born, only six survived to adulthood.

The couple settled a claim north of Dodge City on Sawlog Creek. William, working as a stone mason, started first in rebuilding original sod buildings at Fort Dodge. These stone buildings are still at Fort Dodge and are being used for various purposes one of which is the Museum (originally the Quartermaster Building).

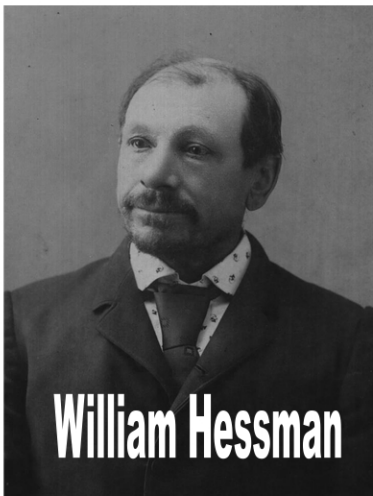
William's sons would accompany him on the building projects at Fort Dodge and Dodge City. In 1879, Frank and Barney helped their father cut stone from the Sawlog on Duck Creek, and haul by horse and wagon, the two (2) foot thick stones to build the John Mueller home (now known as the Home of Stone (1879-1880). Every stone fit in one specific place like a jigsaw puzzle.

Another Hessman project - the Sturm Ice House was built of wood and stone at Central and Spruce (site of the present day post office). This building burned and was not rebuilt. The Sawlog stone from the ice house was donated to the Episcopal congregation where a new church was constructed in place of one of the original all-denominational churches in the city at First and Spruce. William was retained to do stonework by the Episcopal church where the letter "H" can be seen etched in the mortar.

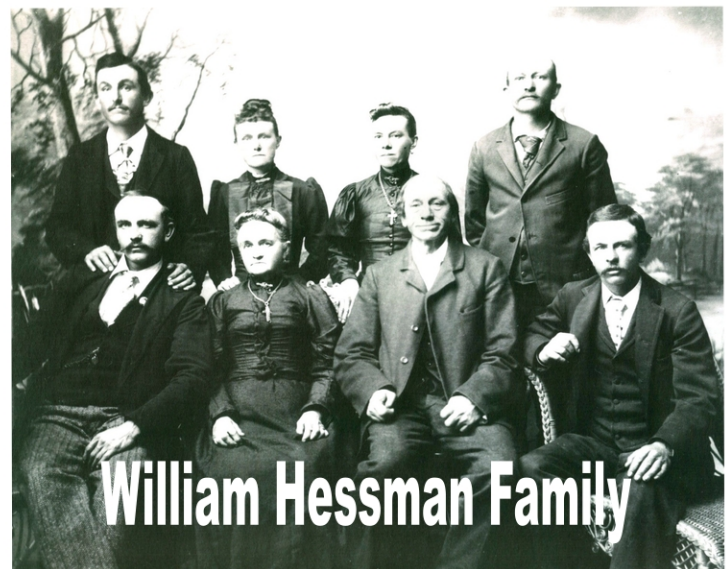
While William and two of the sons were working as stone masons - Johanna Hessman worried about the farm and keeping up the work. Henry and John and the girls worked with their mother on the farm.

William was a happy-go-lucky but hard worker and craftsman. He was also known for his yodeling talent. It is noted that William would rise at 6:00 a.m. each morning to do his chores, yodeling across the hills and fields, so even neighbors a mile or more away could hear him.

With William often gone on a project, Johanna hustled her brood together to bring in crops. One event that stood out in their memory was



when Johanna, a staunch and strict Catholic, kept her children home from Sunday Mass. The corn crops were threatened by weather conditions and had to be brought in.



Back row (L to R) John H, Anna Mary, Philemenia, & Frank J.
Front row (L to R) Barney, Johanna, William, & Henry W.



Niles & Ellen Wiseman

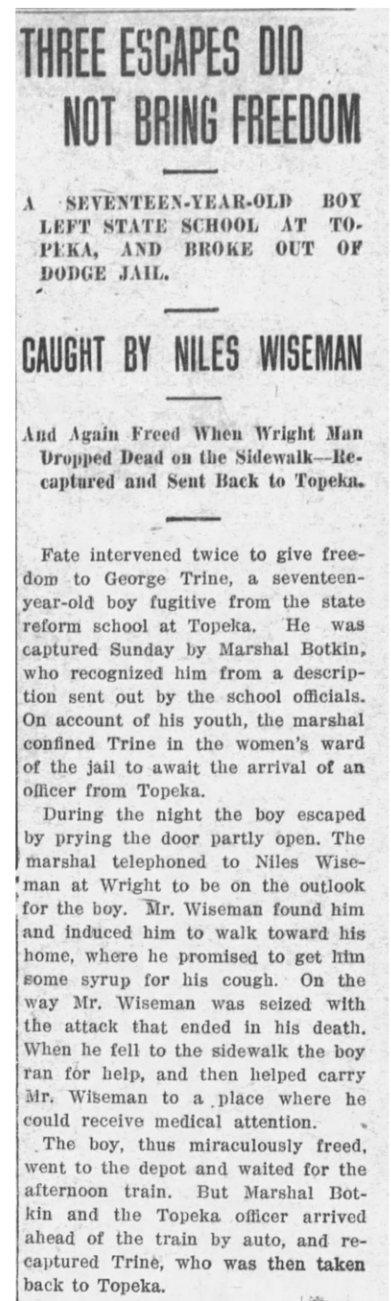


Niles Wiseman was a homesteader who came from Ohio with nothing but lots of energy and plenty of ambition. He, along with his young wife - Ellen, and two small children, settled in the Sawlog area of Ford County in the spring of 1884. He accumulated over 2,000 acres of the best land in Ford County. In 1904 they moved into a home in Wright before the town was established. Mr. Wiseman was responsible for the establishment of a town. He was also instrumental in the building of a splendid church at Wright.

Niles & Ellen went on to have a total of nine children and they all pitched in running the hotel (which was built by William Hunt in 1887), the post office, the creamery, and the Santa Fe Depot. They were also busy with farming and ranching on acreage west and north of Wright.

Niles was a pioneer in wheat farming. He bought one of the first binders and brought in the first load to the local elevator.

On the morning of December 14, 1914, Niles made his usual walk to the Post Office in Wright from his nearby home. Sadly, on the return walk, he dropped dead suddenly. He was accompanied by George Trine, a 17-yr old truant who Wiseman was hoping to return to the marshal. (see the news article at the right). When Niles died in 1914, Ellen remained on the farm until moving to Dodge City in 1930 where she was the next-door neighbor of Dr. O. H. Simpson, the dentist and creator of the "Cowboy Statue". Their son George moved to Wright in 1930 and lived in the hotel (now a private home). George is responsible for restoring the early-day Pleasant Vale Cemetery. The third and fourth generations of the Wiseman family continue to farm the Wiseman homestead.





Frank & Matilda Hessman



Frank Hessman was the fourth son of William and Johanna Hessman. Frank and Matilda's first born was a girl and they followed that with eleven boys. Frank worked for the Santa Fe Railroad earning \$1.10 a day. The first home of Frank and Matilda was south of the railroad tracks parallel to present day Wyatt Earp Blvd.

In 1893 Frank and his brother-in-law Tony Nuce decided to make the Cherokee Run in Oklahoma. They each acquired 160 acres adjoining, with a creek on Frank's piece. They built sod houses, and Frank replaced his with a wood frame house. Matilda and daughter Anna joined them, and they lived there for eight years, where the first 4 sons were born.

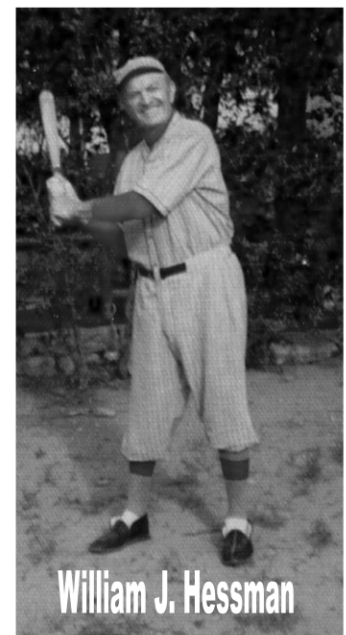
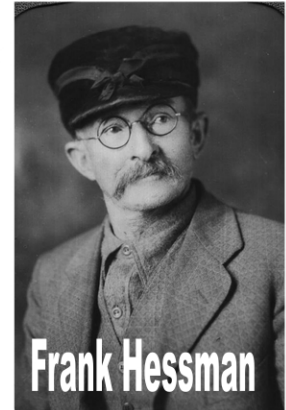
In 1901 Frank sold his land in Oklahoma and bought 480 acres in Ford County about six miles north of Dodge City - all pasture land. The move was a major undertaking and the trip took seven days, with the last overnight being spent at Windthorst so they could attend Sunday Mass.

Before they could settle on their land back in Kansas, there was a dispute with a man who leased the land from the government for his Texas longhorn cattle. When the Hessmans tried to move on to their land - the sheriff was called. It was discovered that the rancher was working the land and Matilda took her broomstick after them. When the lease was up Frank took possession of his land. Winter was near so he built a chicken house first and then a barn for the livestock. Since the house was not ready, they lived with Frank's sister, Minnie and her husband for about a year. The children started school in the fall at Bell Center.

Growing up on the farm five miles west of Dodge City near Duck Creek, Anna and her eleven brothers attended a school taught by legendary Gussie Mootz. She often said, "I'd never have made it, if not for their sister, Annie, who helped keep them in line." Annie would pack each a lunch, load the wiggly boys in the wagon and drive them to school. She always stayed at the school until classes were over, even after she finished her own education there, assisting the young teacher. The boys were known for their mischief and their love of baseball.

They played a version of baseball in grade school called "Ol' Cat", which could be played by any number of players. Generally, Mother Matilda joined in the long-running game when her work was done. The game consisted of just three regular "bases" - the pitcher's box, home plate and first base. The pitcher threw the ball until the batter hit it. If the fielders did not catch the ball or the batter wasn't put out racing to first base and back home, he continued to bat. As the boys grew up, they began to play regular ball by the rules and formed a team called the Prairie View Ball Team. Since all the members of the team were Hessman brothers, it was generally known as the Hessman Team.

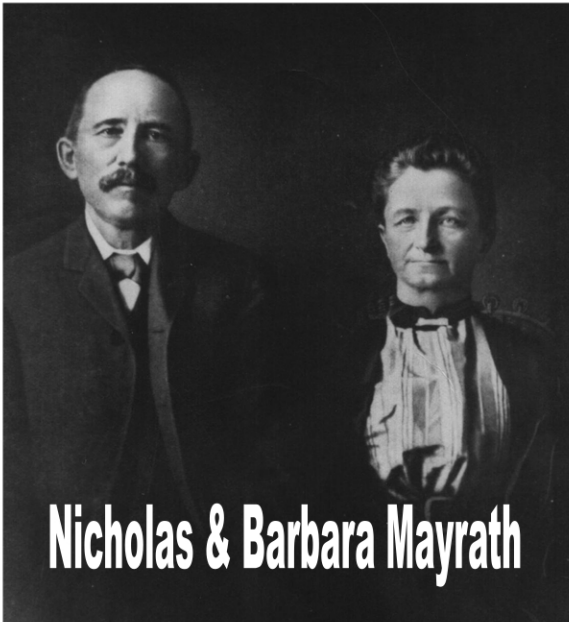
They continued to play as they matured and the game grew to include spouses and children. Legend has it, the best part of the game was the fight that followed, whether between the brothers or some rival team, no matter who won the contest. "Let's play ball" was always the call when a family reunion dinner was over.



The uniform pictured to the right worn by William J. Hessman is now part of the collections of the Ford County Historical Society.



Nicholas & Barbara Mayrath



Nicholas was nine yrs old when he came alone to America, settling in Wisconsin. He enlisted in the Union Army at 16 and was wounded several times as a member of the 13th Illinois Cavalry during the Civil War. His school opportunities were limited, however he was widely read and worked as a bookkeeper and accountant. After the Civil War, he settled in Chicago, Illinois where he had a dairy.

In 1867, he married Anna Beck and they had one daughter. Anna died in 1870. He then married Barbara Lanser on June 16, 1873. After losing their home and belongings in a fire, they came to Kansas in February 1879. They settled in Dodge City in a one-room house with another couple, who had come with them from Chicago.

After experiencing homesteading, Nicholas changed his mind and purchased a quarter section, seven miles southwest of Dodge City, the first land filed in Fairview Township. On the claim they built a half dugout, half soddy. A rough board roof covered the structure and tin from cans covered the cracks between the boards.

Early farming included planting wheat, sown on 30 acres of new sod, the plants did not show up until March and then an invasion of grasshoppers finished it off. Water was hauled in barrels from three miles away. After failing three times to dig a well, Nicholas was successful the fourth time. Settlers and homesteaders from several miles would come to the Mayrath farm for their water supply.

Nicholas was a gardener in Illinois and decided to use the water for a big truck garden. It was a common belief that gardens should be planted and left alone, so the weeds protected the plants from dry winds and the hot sun. However, he ignored the advice of his neighbors and hoed and weeded and watered with the result being a garden that produced plump cabbages, lots of beans, and other produce. For a few years the garden produce sold in Dodge City providing a better income for the family than the crops and cattle. Nicholas was generous with his favors and advice and soon his neighbors took up gardening on a large scale and there were more vegetables in the county than there were buyers.

Barbara was able to buy the first cow for the farm. This one cow was the nucleus for a herd and by the second year they had 16 head. Milk delivery, butter and eggs took the place of garden produce for added income. Among the inconveniences of being a homesteader and farmer were the cattle drives, Texas fever, trespassing cattle herds, horse thieves, and droughts. Any one of these incidents would drive away newcomers from the east. Anyone who could hang on could often buy land for as little as one dollar (\$1) an acre to improve their holdings. The Mayrath family accumulated about ten (10) quarter sections, providing range for their cattle and room for crops.

Nicholas Mayrath was a very innovative farmer and active citizen of the community. In the early 1880's, he was named Justice of Peace, and later served as a township trustee. He was a member of the Dodge City Cowboy Band that participated in the Presidential inauguration of Benjamin Harrison in 1889. He was elected in 1892 and served as a Ford County commissioner for twenty (20) years. He worked diligently for a new courthouse, which took three bond elections before the building was assured. He spent the first day of the groundbreaking on the scene and supervising the project. He passed away on April 11, 1912, and the courthouse was completed in 1913. His name is also inscribed on the cornerstone as "Nic Mayrath".



Augusta "Gussie" Mootz



Born on August 24, 1890, Augusta Georgiana Mootz was baptized on September 9, 1890 in the little frame Catholic Church constructed in 1882. Gussie, as she became known, attended Third Ward School on top of Boot Hill. As a young elementary student, she and two friends were digging a playtime cave in the rocky slopes of the infamous Boot Hill when they unearthed human bones including even a human skull. She learned early to pay attention to the tales of old Front Street and the wild side of Dodge City.

After graduation from Third Ward High School, her teaching career began at Prairie View School north of Dodge City. That one year at Prairie View School, was the only year she did not teach in the Third Ward School. In 1925, the Third Ward School was abandoned and a new building was constructed a little north and west of the site. The new building was named Lincoln Grade School and Gussie began teaching in the lower grades until she moved to the sixth-grade level and there she remained.

She continued to further her own education during the summer sessions through the years. She obtained her degree at Colorado Teachers College in Greeley and completed post graduate courses at the University of California at Berkeley. In addition to her career in education she followed the tradition of her parents' belief that "flowers and green-growing things are a source of joy and beauty forever" and helped her sister Leona Mootz maintain her floral shop and the nursery business.

Gussie was an educator and principal of the Dodge City school system from 1910 to 1956. In April 1927 she became the principal of Lincoln School. After retirement she was a substitute teacher, teacher in adult education, and was the mentor of a Vietnamese family.

When she wasn't teaching, she was a member of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish, Church Council and Altar Society, Soroptimist International of Dodge City, and the Dodge City Cemetery Board. She also served as an officer of the Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and the local teachers' council. She also served as a pink lady in hospitals, in Meals on Wheels; and was a member of the local, state, and national Retired Teachers' Associations.



She received many accolades in her life with the first being chosen Kansas Master Teacher in 1955. Later, the Chamber of Commerce named her Dodge City's Outstanding Citizen in 1969. In 1971 she received an award as Outstanding Woman of the Community and in 1972 she was chosen as Kansas Outstanding Retired Teacher. She was inducted as a charter member into the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame on July 8, 1977.

She gave freely and willingly of her time, energies, and enthusiasm to community service. She was known as "the lady of the beautiful handwriting, the lady of infectious, disarming humor, and the lady who sends the most unexpected, charming, heart-warming and spirit-lifting letters and notes".

Gussie is symbolic of hometown career teaching at its heart-warming best. Any story of the scholastic career of the Third Ward school is her own story - and any story written of Lincoln School, too, is the story of Miss Gussie Mootz, homegrown Dodge City educator.



Peter & Mary Mootz



Peter and Mary Mootz were originally from Luxembourg and immigrated to Dodge City in 1877-78. Due to an "Indian scare" the Mootz' temporarily relocated to Leavenworth but returned when things settled down. The Mootz' were married in 1870 and celebrated 50 years of marriage in 1920.

In 1885, Peter Mootz and John Gysin are proprietors of the old reliable Dodge City Paint Shop. In 1886, Peter also worked as a janitor at the schoolhouse. Later that year the partnership was dissolved, and he ran the paint shop as the sole proprietor. In *The Globe Livestock Journal*, October 5, 1886, he was credited with the neatest and best piece of cabinet work of a mammoth ice chest which was placed in the Delmonico. The chest was an unusually large one with black walnut front, and beautiful architecture.

The Peter Mootz family was one of only a handful of Catholic families whose residency predated the founding of Sacred Heart parish. Peter and Mary were great lovers of flowers and established a greenhouse business in Dodge City - the only one of its kind in the area. As a florist and horticulturist, Peter took care of the church and when Robert Wright laid out Wright Park, Peter Mootz did the landscaping and planted the trees.

The Mootz family was instrumental in parish life from the beginning. Their daughter, Gussie, described her mother as "a great church lady". Mary Mootz took care of the church. If they wanted anything done, they put it in Mary's hands. She was once given a calf by a farmer and she sold tickets to raffle it off when the church needed money to keep going. Speaking with a German brogue, she was quite foxy and had an answer for everyone. No one got the best of her. Mary Mootz had great strength of character and when doing fundraising - businessmen found her charm irresistible. If anything were to happen to the priest - Mary could step in and run things!

Peter Mootz was also active in the parish took care of things at the church including lighting the coal oil stove before Sunday mass. He was also very community-minded serving on the City Council as representative of the First Ward and for a time as a member of the Board of Education. The family walked to church from their home on West Santa Fe Trail Street. It was recreation as well as religion, they would stop and talk along the way and once at the church - Leona would play the organ and Gussie would sing.

Uncle John Mootz was known as the "granddaddy of the altar makers" and helped construct the first church altar. The Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame received a piece of John Mootz' handiwork when Gussie donated an oak desk made of burnished oaken panels using peg construction (no nails) and adorned with innumerable hand-fashioned overlays which itself resembles an altar. A facet of its polished charm is an intriguing secret drawer.



Lois Flanagan Bryson



Lois Flanagan Bryson was born on September 7, 1917 to Louis D. & Clara Baeder Flanagan. Her grandparents were Ferdinand & Barbara Hetzel Baeder. Lois attended Sacred Heart Grade School, St. Mary of the Plains Academy, Dodge City Community College and in 1940 she graduated from Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Library Science Certificate.

St. Mary of the Plains Academy was a girl's high school before it was destroyed by a tornado in 1942. When she attended college in Dodge City, it was located on the second floor of what was then the High School (now Comanche Middle School). Dodge City Community College later moved to the building that would become the USD #443 Administration at 1000 Second, just across the street from where the new library would be built after her tenure.



She worked at the Dodge City Public Library from 1951 to 1982. She served the community in library services for 32 years. Thirty of those years were spent in the Carnegie building. She served as co-chairman with Jane Robison on the finance committee during the fund-raising drive to preserve the building. In 1951 she was the assistant librarian then in 1952 she became the head librarian. She retired as city librarian in 1972 when they declared Wednesday, August 30, 1972 as "Lois Flanagan Day".

She spent the next ten years as director of the public library outreach program for senior citizens and homebound adults. She made regular weekly visits to the nursing homes with books, records, and other materials. She made regular stops at the South High Rise, and worked with Meals on Wheels to reach seniors who may be homebound or who came to the senior center to exchange books and reading materials. In addition, she visited 23 people in their own homes on a regular basis. Her knowledge of fine books and an admiration for this city made her a "natural" for our city library executive position.

Lois saw two bond issues fail to build a new library in the 1960s. She was instrumental in the move from the Andrew Carnegie building to the Montgomery Ward building. She supervised moving 30,000 books to the new location.

In 1963 she was the principal person responsible for the library receiving the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award - a national award that goes to libraries for services they provide for patrons. The award is highly regarded and only goes to a few libraries in the whole nation. Lois was highly regarded among area and state libraries and was instrumental in the Southwest Kansas Library System being created with headquarters in Dodge City.

When the current library building was dedicated on August 16, 1982, a special honor went to Lois Flanagan, as former director (who continued to work as outreach director after stepping down from the director position). In her honor - the public meeting room became known as "Lois Flanagan Meeting Room".

She was a member of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Daughters of Isabella, Soroptimist International, Women's Chamber, Philomath Club, and Salvation Army, as well as many volunteer jobs at Manor of the Plains.

She married Raymond Bryson in 1984 and they traveled extensively. Ray was a retired employee of the Arco Jet Space program of Rockwell International - moving to Dodge City in 1980. He was a member of Sacred Heart Cathedral and a veteran of World War II serving in both the Army and Marines. They were only married for 17 months before Raymond passed away.



The Catholic Priests



Father John Smolej (Smoley) Originally from Yugoslavia, Father Smoley was ordained in his native country in 1985. He accepted a chaplaincy in the Austrian army in 1903 and rose to rank of Captain before resigning and coming to the United States. Father Smoley was fluent in English, German, Russian, Polish, Slovak and Croatian. This made him in great demand in the foreign settlements in the US in 1907. He served in Indiana, No. Dakota, Wisconsin, So. Dakota, and Pennsylvania. In 1936, after becoming ill, he retired from active service and entered the St. Francis Sanitarium in Colorado Springs. After a one year stay there, his doctor advised him to go to Dodge City "where the altitude would be low and more conducive to his health concerns". He lived at St. Anthony's Hospital and remained there until his death.

Father Hilary Hernandez Born in Spain, Fr. Hernandez was ordained in 1906 and served the Diocese of Salamanca until 1910 when we traveled to Mexico to work as a missionary in the Diocese of Monterrey. In 1914, during a period of persecution & killing of priests, he escaped to the United States and met Bishop Hennessy in San Antonio, who then welcomed him to the Diocese of Wichita. He was appointed chaplain of the St. Mary of the Plains Academy. After the Academy was destroyed by a tornado in 1942, he was then appointed chaplain of St. Anthony's Hospital. During both chaplaincies, he also served as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church which was then located in the Mexican village. He led the building of the new church on Avenue J which was dedicated by Bishop Carroll in 1950. He retired from active ministry in 1953 after serving Our Lady of Guadalupe for 39 years. He passed away in 1956.



Father James Murphy Originally from Canada, Father Murphy was ordained by Bishop John McNamara in 1940 in Washington DC. Prior to joining the clergy, he taught at St. Bonaventure University, St. Joseph Seminary, and Siena College - all in New York state. His first assignment in the Diocese of Dodge City was in Great Bend. He established the parish in Greensburg in 1952. He later served in Ashland and the mission in Sitka. A new church was built in Ashland and the Sitka mission closed. He also served in Marienthal, St. John, Seward, Belpre, Meade and also as chaplain at Larned State Hospital. He retired in 1982 to San Antonio, TX where he passed away in 1993. Since most of his service was in the Diocese of Dodge City, he was buried here in Dodge City.



Monsignor Joseph Stremel



Born in Loretto, KS (NE of LaCrosse), Msgr Stremel was ordained in 1944 in Wichita. His first assignment was assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita. He later was assistant pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Windhorst and also served as pastor in Bucklin. He also served as Superintendent of School in Windhorst. He taught at Windhorst High School and was the main pastor later. He later served as chaplain at St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City where he also was head of the theology & philosophy department. He served other chaplaincies in Great Bend and was appointed pastor in Great Bend in 1972. His last pastorate was in Kinsley. He passed away in 1996.



William & Anna Leonard



William 'Bill' Sylvester Leonard was the son of Stephen and Carrie Leonard. He courted Anna Johanna Tenbrink by crossing the Arkansas River on horseback to her home north of Bellefont, Kansas. They married on September 4, 1903 and they had four children.

William sold insurance for a while, opened an Auburn car agency, opened a tire repair shop where the bus station stood on Second Avenue and established a tire repair and vulcanizing school. Vulcanizer shops throughout the southwest were nearly all graduates of Leonard's school. He maintained a tire shop long after the school closed. He was an inventor and is credited for inventing the V belt. He manufactured soap and started the Leonard Tire and Battery Company in 1914.

William and Anna settled in Dodge City in 1916 then in 1917 they built their home at 1005 Sixth Avenue (the first house south of Trinity Hospital). William was an early day cowboy of Dodge City. He was well acquainted with ranchers and stockmen throughout the area. He was Col. W. S. Leonard, Auctioneer, a graduate of Missouri Auction School and his specialty was livestock and farm sales.



William and Anna lost their son, Willie, in a hunting accident in 1917 just two weeks prior to their son Arthur being born. He was accidentally shot with his own rifle while getting into an automobile to come home from a picnic party with a group from Offerle. He died at the hospital in Spearville. Bill Leonard himself died in a multiple car crash on March 15, 1935, in one of the worst dirt storms to strike the area near Nickerson, Kansas.

William and Anna had a total of four children - William Jr (Willie), Agnes Mary, Sylvester (known as Bud) and Arthur. Agnes never married but along with her two surviving brothers - were the second generation owner/operators of Leonard Tire & Battery. Agnes passed in 1987 at which time Bud & Art retired and turned the business over to Art's son - Mitchell (as the third generation).

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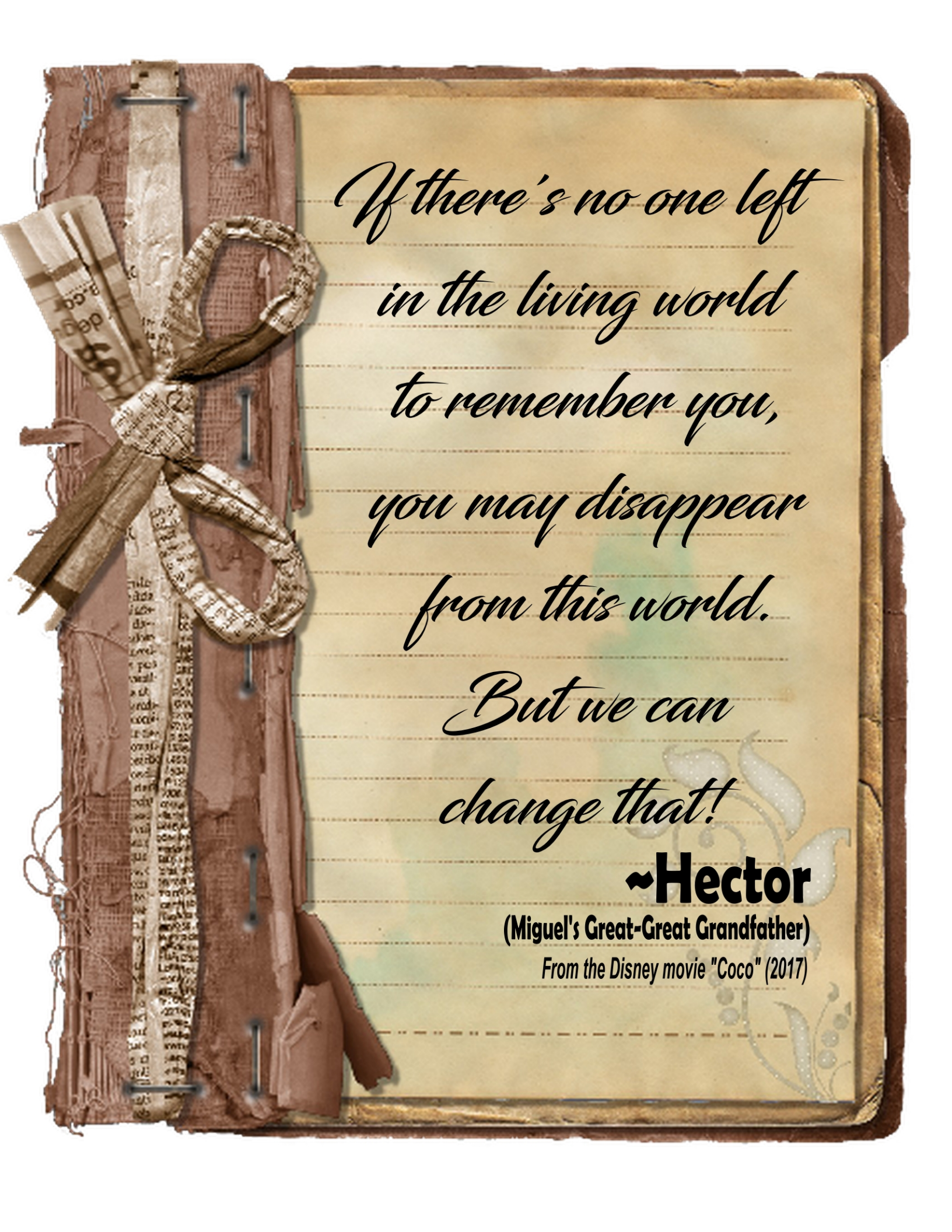
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The Dodge City Globe
The Wichita Eagle**

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*If there's no one left
in the living world
to remember you,
you may disappear
from this world.*

*But we can
change that!*

~Hector

(Miguel's Great-Great Grandfather)

From the Disney movie "Coco" (2017)