

## H. O. MILLER FAMILY

*By Wayne E. Miller\**

Humphrey Olin Miller (1870-1941) married Ella Kellar (1874-1935) in 1897 in El Paso, Illinois. Frances, Wayne, and Lloyd were born in Illinois before the family moved to Lawton, Oklahoma in 1905, where John was born. Two years later they moved to the Big Pasture, then in Comanche County, now Cotton County. Here Garvin was born. The family moved to Norman in 1911 and their last child, Mary, was born in 1912. They lived in a house in town until January 1, 1912, when they moved into the old house on the farm they had bought south of town. Very soon they built a new home. It was a ten room, two story white house with porches across the front and back and a basement. It was modern with running water if the engine was kept in running order. This was a task at which no one in the family seemed too proficient. The farm was the NE 4, Sec. 8, T 8 N, R 2 W which generally is the part of the Oklahoma University golf course south of Constitution Street. The section line road of that day ran about a hundred yards south of where Constitution runs. The house stood on a rise among the cedars south and west of the old wartime building used for many years as the golf course club house. There are still remnants of the pear and apple orchard on the south part of the farm. The Millers sold the farm in 1923 and in 1940 it was taken over by the government as part of the South Base. The house was used as an officers' club, a PX and storage at various times. It was sold for lumber and demolished around 1963. The creek ran to the west of the barns and one year the Oklahoma University Engineers hid the law cannon along its banks for some months. In addition to this home place Mr. Miller also owned the S 1/2 Sec. 14 T, 8 N, R 2 W, near Noble.

H. O. Miller served Cleveland County in the House of Representatives in the 4th (1913) and 5th (1915) legislatures and was influential in securing funds for several of the buildings now on the Oklahoma University campus. He was chairman of the Selective Service Board of Cleveland County during World War I. The family were members of the First Christian Church and Mr. Miller was on the Official Board for a number of years. Mrs. Miller was active in a Homemakers Club. In 1916 Mr. Miller purchased a large Reo touring automobile which seated seven people, two in the front seat, three in the back seat, and two folding seats would let down from the back of the front seat. The Miller farm was a popular place for many organizations and groups to hold meetings and picnics.

After selling the farm in 1923 Mr. and Mrs. Miller and the younger children moved to Oklahoma City but after a year or so they returned to Norman and lived at 304 South University Blvd. (This house was completely remodelled in the late sixties.) Mr. and Mrs. Miller left Norman in 1933 to make their home in Goddard, Kansas, where Mrs. Miller died in 1935. Mr. Miller died at Snyder, Oklahoma, in 1941 but they are buried in the IOOF Cemetery in Norman at the side of their youngest child. Mary, while in nursing school in Oklahoma City was killed in an auto accident in 1932, and was buried in the Norman cemetery.

On August 4, 1920, Frances married Willard M. Wickizer, son of D. A. Wickizer who was pastor of the Norman Christian Church for several years. They had a small family wedding in the Miller home and left immediately for Caney, Kansas, where Willard was pastor of the Christian Church. Willard and Frances had both received degrees from Oklahoma University in June, Frances a B. A. in Music (piano). Willard was an executive secretary for the United Christian Missionary Society (Christian Church) for many years until his retirement in 1966. They have continued to make their home in Indianapolis, Indiana. They have a daughter and two sons and four grandchildren.

Wayne met Elsie Wade at Oklahoma University and they were married June 20, 1925. Wayne received a degree from Oklahoma University in civil engineering in June 1923, and retired from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tulsa, November, 1970. His specialty was bridge construction and he supervised the building of many of the large bridges in the east and northeast parts of Oklahoma as well as work on the TVA and the Arkansas River Waterway. Elsie died in March of 1972 and was buried in Tulsa. Wayne is now living near his daughter, Joyce Wells, and her husband, David, and their two children, Chris and Mary in Denver, Colorado. Joyce holds a degree in public school art from Oklahoma University and a Masters from Denver University.

Lloyd K. married Lela Raines in 1933 and they are now living in Zepata, Texas, but they maintained a home at 1610 South Chautauqua, Norman, for a number of years and both their daughter, Barbara, and son, Bill, are graduates of Norman High School and Oklahoma University. Bill is in Memphis, Tennessee, and Barbara in Columbia, Missouri. There are four grandchildren.

John T. married Thelma Spencer (Home Ec. degree 1931, Oklahoma University) August 5, 1934, in the parlor of McFarlin Methodist Church, Norman. They have lived in Goddard, Kansas, just west of Wichita, where John has owned and operated large wheat farms while Thelma has taught.

Garvin and Ruth Miller (no relation) married May 10, 1930. They had met in high school and Ruth was in Oklahoma University School of Nursing in Oklahoma City at the time of her marriage. They owned and operated a large wheat farm near Snyder, Oklahoma. Ruth died in 1954 and was buried by their infant son in the Miller plot in Norman. In 1965 Garvin married Mrs. Cleo Rogers of Snyder. They are now living in Eufaula.

Mrs. H. O. Miller's nephew, Tom Whetzel, married Odile Berry, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Houston H. Berry, for whom Berry Road was named and whose farm was located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Berry Road and Lindsey. Tom and Odile have lived in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, area, but also have a home in North Palm Beach, Florida.