

THE LAUER AND DOWNING FAMILIES

By Helen Downing Nisbet (Mrs. Alfred Nisbet)

Charles Lauer and wife, Louise Fischer Lauer, moved to Norman in 1905 from Iowa. Mr. Lauer purchased a bank that had been going for several years, called the Norman State Bank. Their son, Arnold L. Lauer, worked in the bank for several years. He married the former Bertha Beauchamp and later moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Their only daughter, Ada Louise Lauer, married Ralph Vernon Downing, from Iowa, on May 16, 1906. They went to live in Des Moines, Iowa, where Mr. Downing was engaged in business. On April 4, 1907, twins, a boy and a girl, were born. They were Richard Lauer Downing and Dorothy Lauer Downing. Later the same year the family moved to Norman and Mr. Downing became associated with Mr. Lauer in the bank. In 1912, a daughter, Helen Louise Downing, was born to the couple.

Meantime, there had been some bank consolidations and a new bank called the Farmer's National Bank evolved, with Mr. Lauer as President and Mr. Downing as Cashier. Mr. Lauer later retired and with Mrs. Lauer, moved to Monte Vista, Colorado, to enjoy many years on a ranch in that area. The bank became the present City National Bank.

Mr. Downing was a graduate of the University of Iowa and he and Mrs. Downing had met there. She took three years of study in Iowa and took her last year and graduation from Stanford University in 1903. Mr. Downing took Post-Graduate work at the University of Wisconsin School of Business.

Both Mr. Lauer and Mr. Downing owned farms near Norman and were active in social life in Norman and in the business community. Mr. Lauer was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Downing helped organize the Rotary Club in Norman and was its first President. Mr. and Mrs. Downing were socially involved with the University of Oklahoma faculty members and belonged to the Faculty Club.

Mr. Downing was interested in politics and worked for the Republican Party, although Oklahoma was primarily Democratic at that time. He was a Republican State Committeeman.

Mr. Downing was a strong member of the Masons in Norman and was a Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of the State of Oklahoma, a 33rd degree Mason and an honored member of the Red Cross of Constantine.

The three Downing children, Dorothy, Dick (Richard) and Helen, received their elementary and high-school education in Norman and graduated from Stanford University.

Richard Downing is deceased. His wife, the former Angela Mier, is still living in Norman. Richard and Angela Downing had three daughters, Leliah Ann, Susan and Julie.

Dorothy is married to Willis C. Wolf and lives in San Francisco, California.

Helen is married to Dr. Alfred A. Nisbet and lives in San Antonio, Texas.