

PHIL C. KIDD

By Mary Lelia Kidd Holmes (Mrs. W. M.)

Philip Connor Kidd, better known as Phil C. Kidd, was born in Lexington, Kentucky on October 27, 1886.

His father, Capt. Phil C. Kidd, was a member of Col. Clukes Regiment under Gen. John A. Morgan, better known as Morgan's Raiders, during the Civil War. His great grandfather, Abraham Clark, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Capt. Kidd studied medicine, but on the death of his father for want of means, engaged in farming. Sometime about 1898, his ability as an auctioneer for fine stock made him a reputation that extended over the western, southern and eastern states to New Jersey to win him national fame as an auctioneer. He held a world's record for one auction of that era. He also clocked the first Kentucky Derby.

Lelia Major, Sedalia, Missouri, was visiting the Major's relatives in Louisville, Kentucky, when she met Capt. Kidd. They were married in Sedalia on May 25, 1875. They resided in the old family home, Elkwood, in Lexington, Kentucky. Lelia and Capt. Kidd had four sons: Major, Samuel Wooldridge, James Franklin and Philip Connor Kidd, Jr. (Phil C. Kidd).

Major Kidd married Nannie Gentry and lived in Sedalia for a short time before moving to Norman. He established a real estate and insurance agency, now known as the Foreman Agency. They had two sons: Gentry and Philip Major. Both graduated from Oklahoma University. Philip Major is now deceased and Gentry resides in Houston, Texas. Major and Nannie are deceased and buried in Norman. Samuel married Willie Price Ingram, and they had two daughters and two sons. James married Lucille Herring and they had a son and a daughter and settled in St. Louis. Samuel and James are deceased and buried in Sedalia, Missouri along with the widow of Samuel.

Capt. Kidd died while the boys were quite young and Lelia moved with the boys back to Sedalia, Missouri, to the old Major home. Capt. Kidd was buried in Lexington, Kentucky. Lelia in later years made her home with Major and Phil and died at Phil's home. She is buried at Sedalia, Missouri.

Phil graduated from Sedalia High School with honors. He was President of his Senior class, played football and was a musician. He decided on a banking career, but the path turned out to be a roundabout one. He first went to work with a railroad construction company and spent two years on jobs in New Mexico and South Dakota. A bout with typhoid fever sent him back to Sedalia, Missouri.

On recovery, he started work at the National Bank of Commerce in St. Louis, Missouri. The next seven years he learned the fundamentals of banking, three years in the bank itself before he became a traveling representative for the firm, covering points throughout the Midwest. For three years, he attended law school at night to acquire legal knowledge

related to the world of finance.

On one of his visits to Oklahoma to attend a bankers' conference, Phil met Ina Johnson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Johnson. E. B. Johnson was President of the First National Bank in Norman. Ina attended National Park ladies school in Washington, D. C. and later the University of Oklahoma. On November 27, 1912, Phil Kidd and Ina Johnson were married.

The following year, Phil purchased the stock of C. H. Bessent and became Vice President of the First National Bank in Norman. They had two children, Mary Lelia, born in Norman and Philip Connor Kidd, Jr., born in Oklahoma City. They also had five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In 1927, Phil and the stockholders purchased the bank from E. B. Johnson and Phil became President. He held this position until 1963, when Phil, Jr. became President and he became Chairman of the Board. He was active and held this position until his death on July 9, 1968. The Norman Transcript paid tribute to him in an editorial for his civic projects and commercial interests. Norman gained from a 5,000 to a 30,000 population. Ina Johnson, his wife preceded him in death February 7, 1967. Both are buried in Norman.

Phil was well-known in all banking circles. He was elected President of the Oklahoma Bankers Association in 1932. Prior to that, he had served as Vice President of the American Bankers Association. In 1934, he was elected by fellow bankers to a three-year term on the Executive Council of the American Bankers Association. In 1958, Phil was inducted into the Oklahoma Bankers 50-Year Club.

In Norman, Phil was instrumental in organizing the Kiwanis Club in 1928 and served as the first President of that organization. He later served another term as President. He was a past President and former Director of the Norman Chamber of Commerce.

Phil was also instrumental in bringing the Naval Base to Norman. He served three years as President of the Norman Council of Navy League of America and served two terms as National Director of that organization. The Norman group honored him at a recognition dinner in 1956 and presented him with an engraved plaque in his efforts for the continuation of the Naval Base here.

He established the award for Outstanding Midshipman of the N.R.O.T.C. which is known now as the First National Bank and Trust Company Award.

In 1961, he established the Trust Department in the First National Bank, which was the first Trust Department in Norman. He had 61 years banking service at the time of his death.

Phil was a 32nd Degree Mason, a Knight Templar (given his 50-year cap) and a Shriner. He was a sponsor of the Future Farmers of America and a member of the Sons of American Revolution: he was also a member of the O. U. Touch Down Club.

He belonged to the following clubs: Petroleum, Beacon and Tower of Oklahoma City and the Norman Country Club. He was a member and deacon of the First Christian Church and also served on the building committee.

The original bank was 66 years old when demolished and the new bank was completed in 1958. The former location is now a walk-up window and parking lot. The clock from the old building still hangs there. The new bank building is on the corner of Peters and Comanche Streets.

Ina and Phil celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at dinner with children and grandchildren attending. Ina wore her wedding dress that was made in Louisville, Kentucky. The dress is now on display in the Stovall Museum at the University of Oklahoma.

Survivors are as follows: Mary Lelia, who was married in her mother's wedding dress in Norman to William McClintic Holmes, Oklahoma City, on March 29, 1934. She attended Oklahoma University in 1933 and was Freshman Queen. Bill graduated from Annapolis and the University of Oklahoma in Petroleum Engineering. Their homes were in Texas for 28 years. Bill was Assistant to Management for Humble Oil and Refining Company. They had two children: (1) Phyllis, born in Midland, Texas, and graduated from Oklahoma University. She married John Ronald Murray, also an Oklahoma University graduate. He is presently Vice President and Correspondent Banker for the First National Bank and Trust Company of Oklahoma City. They have two children: John Ronald Murray, Jr., and William Holmes. (2) Barbara was born at the Naval Hospital, South Base, Norman. She attended Oklahoma University and married Luther Thomas Dulaney, Jr., of Oklahoma City. He also attended Oklahoma University and is now President of Dulaney Incorporated in Oklahoma City. They have three children: Luther Thomas III, Lisa, and Geoffrey Piersol. Bill passed away September 11, 1959. He was Capt. in Naval Reserve and was buried in Oklahoma City with military honors. Mary Lelia moved to Oklahoma City in 1961 and later moved to Norman in 1967. Now she resides at the family home.

Philip Jr. graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B. S. degree in Geology. He served in the Navy for two years as Ensign and Lt. J. G. and was associated with Gentry Kidd of Houston, Texas, for four years as an independent geologist. He has three children: Philip C. III, Margaret Lee and Donna Kennedy. Phil Jr. joined the bank as Vice President in 1958 and is presently President and Chairman of the Board of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Norman, Oklahoma.

NOTE: References for Capt. Kidd and Lelia Major were taken from "History of Fayette County, Kentucky", published in 1882.