

## THE W. F. FLOOD FAMILY

*By Edith L. Flood*

Reports of a thriving town in Indian Territory, hopes for good schools and even a college for the children they expected, and a degree of freedom unknown in older settlements--these were the lures that drew Frank Flood and his bride from Farmington, Arkansas, to Norman in October 1892. The little new town received them warmly, and they were soon taking an active part in community affairs.

William Franklin Flood was born in Ohio, April 30, 1866, the son of John Flood, who was a native of New York. John had been educated to be a Catholic priest but fell in love, married, and moved to Iowa, never communicating with his father again. His wife died when their son Millard was born, and John married an army nurse who had cared for his wife and baby. By his

second wife he had six more children, William Franklin, or Frank as he was always known, being the eldest. Eventually Frank's two brothers, Elwood and John, and his three sisters, Mina, Maude and Nell, were all married and moved to Oklahoma. Their mother followed her children to Oklahoma after her husband's death and lived in Perry until her death at the age of 96.

Frank married Nancy Jane Ray, the daughter of Thomas Newton and Frances M. Womack Ray, at Farmington, Arkansas, January 21, 1892. He purchased land in Norman in 1893 and built a house at the corner of what is now Flood and Main Streets. Here the first six of his seven children were born, and Frank added a story to his white frame house to accommodate his growing family. A Phillips 66 Service Station is now (1972) at this site. In 1910 Frank built a large stucco house on Tonhawa Street, across the street north of the present post office property, and it was here his youngest child was born. This house was moved in 1971 to the country by its present owners.

As a general contractor and builder, Frank Flood's services were in great demand in early-day construction. He supervised the paving of Main Street with brick bought from an Oklahoma City firm, and he built and owned several business buildings. He contracted for and built the first concrete sidewalks in Norman, and though most are gone now a few blocks of cement still bear his initials, and a short strip of brick paving is in place and can be seen east of the Santa Fe tracks, all the rest having been covered by black-top some years ago.

Frank initiated the Masonic Lodge movement in Norman, and maintained strong and active ties with the State and National offices of this Order. He was aware of other needs for cultural, as well as economic developments, and together with Emery Stubbeman, a Mr. Thompson, a Mr. Frank, and other far-seeing citizens, he helped with city planning, and establishment of city laws, many of which are still in force.

When the University of Oklahoma was established in 1892, Frank was given the contract for the first building, and for the construction of a board sidewalk from Main to the new campus. Later, as the need for a permanent university president's home arose, he built the "White House" on the corner of University Boulevard and Boyd Street. This house was used by succeeding presidents until 1969, when the university purchased the Sneed house at Pickard and Lindsey Streets. The original home, now called University House, is still beautiful with its well landscaped grounds, and is used for the offices of university and community development personnel, with the foyer, living and dining rooms reserved for meetings and receptions.

Busy though he was with development of the growing town, Frank still found time to teach classes in manual training at the University. Yearbooks of 1902 list him as an instructor. Only a few hundred students were enrolled at the University at this time, fewer than one hundred of college rank, with the rest being chiefly preparatory students. All of the work was carried on in one building on the forty-acre campus.

In 1914 he became a partner of his brother Elwood, who owned a hardware store in Perry, and the next year he bought out his brother's interests and became sole owner. In June 1915, after the graduation of his eldest son

from the university, and of his two eldest daughters from high school, he moved the family to Perry. He died of cancer in September 1915, and is buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Norman.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Flood bought a farm near Wakita, Oklahoma, where she lived until about 1924, when she moved to Norman, sold two buildings that she owned on Main Street and bought a home on East Castro. Her four oldest children were married but the three youngest lived with her and eventually all attended the university. When the youngest daughter and her husband moved to Geary, Oklahoma, Mrs. Flood sold her home and lived with them until her death, March 28, 1954. All her life a member of the Christian Church, she is buried beside her husband in the cemetery at Norman.

The eldest child, Ray, born December 14, 1892, was a member of the last class of the University of Oklahoma preparatory school. After graduation from the university with B. S. and C. E. degrees in civil engineering, he was assistant city engineer of Norman, Oklahoma, for a year and then city engineer of Drumright, Oklahoma. At his death in August, 1927, he was district highway engineer for nine counties in northeastern Oklahoma. In 1916 he married Edith Lyle of Oklahoma City, by whom he had three children. William Robert Flood, the eldest, born June 10, 1917, received an M.D. cum laude from the University of Oklahoma in 1941, interned at Alameda County Hospital in Oakland, California, and did his residency in surgery at Santa Barbara. He married Dorothy York Sarles of Hillsboro, North Dakota, June 27, 1942, in Oakland. He is presently physician and surgeon in Concord, California, and lives in the suburb of Pleasant Hill. He and Dorothy have three children: Richard Sarles Flood, born March 31, 1944, attended the University of Oklahoma, married Linda Lehmkuhl, is associated with an architectural firm in San Francisco, and lives in Pinole, California; Frances Jane Flood, born February 21, 1948, at Santa Barbara, received a B. S. degree in nursing, cum laude, in 1970 from Chico State University, California, and is presently enrolled in the University of Colorado studying for a masters degree in nursing; and Ray Steven Flood, born June 25, 1951, in Santa Barbara, and has completed two years work at Diablo Valley College in Concord.

The second child of Ray Flood, James Ray Flood, born February 5, 1920, in Drumright, Oklahoma, attended the University of Oklahoma, was a career officer in the Air Force, and married Pauline Grace Malloy, of Eufaula, Oklahoma, in 1943, at Toccoa, Georgia. While still in the Armed Forces he and his family were in Germany for several years and later at Fort Mead, Maryland, where he retired in 1962. After his retirement the family moved to Norman where he is in the real estate business. He and Pauline have two children: James Ray Flood, II, born March 7, 1944, received a masters degree in geology from the University of Oklahoma, married Sara E. Clifton of Norman, in June 1966, has one child, Beverly Elizabeth, born October 21, 1970, and is now employed as a geologist for Union Oil Company in Lafayette, Louisiana; and Kathryn Lyle Flood, born February 22, 1949, holds a B.A. in French from the University of Oklahoma and at present has a French scholarship as Special Instructor in Marseille, France.

Ray and Edith Flood's third child, Margaret Lyle, born in Drumright, January 5, 1925, attended Oklahoma College for Women at Chickasha and the University of Hawaii, and married Joseph Daniel Eubanks, Jr., in May 1941, at Los Angeles. The Eubanks live in Honolulu, where Margaret is travel

agent for Trade Winds Tours. They have two children: Joseph Daniel III, born in San Diego, March 21, 1945, holds an M.S. degree in psychology from Tulane University, married Jo Beth Barnes of San Antonio, Texas, in 1969, and lives in Honolulu, where he is associated with the First Hawaiian Bank; and Barbara Lynn, born May 30, 1950, in Whittier, California, married Robert Brandin in Honolulu and has one child, Robin Kanoelani, born October 23, 1970.

The Frank Floods' second child was a daughter, Alice Jane, born September 21, 1895. She married Ruben Peter Hughes of Salina, Kansas, December 23, 1919. A widow since 1934, she lived in Oklahoma City for many years, but presently lives in Wichita Falls, Texas. Three children were born to Alice and Ruben: Alice Jane, born at Assaria, Kansas, in 1920, is a graduate of the School of Nursing of the University of Oklahoma, and is presently Surgery Supervisor at the Wichita General Hospital, Wichita Falls, Texas. She and her husband, Leonard J. Mahoney, whom she married in Shawnee in 1941, have four sons. The eldest son, Joseph Patrick, born August 4, 1942, holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Wisconsin, served in the Army during World War II, married Donna Kay McAlister June 6, 1965, and is now a research physicist at Eatontown, New Jersey. He and Donna have two children: Barbara Elizabeth, born September 13, 1968, at Madison, Wisconsin, and Cynthia Lynn, born July 24, 1971, at Eatontown.

The second son of Alice Jane and Leonard Mahoney, Michael Hughes, born January 21, 1944, in Oklahoma City, attended Central State College at Edmond, Oklahoma, and the University of Oklahoma. He holds a B.S. in Business and is employed by the Manufacturers Insurance Company in Oklahoma City. He has served with the Marines. The third son, William Ray, born April 6, 1946, in Oklahoma City, has attended Central State College, Oklahoma State University, and is now a student at Midwestern University, Wichita Falls. He will receive degrees in Education and Art in June 1973, and is now teaching an art class in high school. He married Linda Jean Byers, June 19, 1971. His military service was with the 82nd Airborne Division.

The youngest son, Leonard James, born December 16, 1954, is a freshman at Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Alice Jane and Ruben Hughes' second child, Effie Agnes, born December 18, 1922, at Skiddy, Kansas, attended both the University of Oklahoma and Vanderbilt University, and had three years' training as a nurse. She married Elliott Shufflin Banta of Coffeyville, Kansas, December 22, 1946. The Bantas now live in Casper, Wyoming. Their eldest child, Peter Alan, born February 5, 1948, in Oklahoma City, was killed in an automobile accident, December 20, 1971. An Ensign in the U. S. Navy at the time of his death, he held a B.S. in Business Administration from Northwestern University. The Bantas' second child, Lloyd Hughes, born October 30, 1949, at Lewistown Montana, will receive a B.S. from the University of Colorado in December, 1972. The third child, Teresa Jane, born April 22, 1953, at Sterling, Colorado, has attended Casper College, the University of Wyoming, and is now a student at the University of Kansas. The youngest child, John Elliott, born May 18, 1957, in Casper, is a high school student.

The third child of Alice and Ruben Hughes, named Nancy Frances for



her maternal grandmother and great-grandmother, was born at Wakita, Oklahoma, December 1, 1924. Like her sisters, she also is a nurse, a graduate of the School of Nursing of the University of Oklahoma. On August 9, 1946, she married George J. McDade in Oklahoma City, where she and George still live. They have two children. Charles Edward, born September 20, 1947, attended Central State College and is now a seminary student at Southwestern Methodist University at Fort Worth, Texas. He married Linda Ann McFarland March 28, 1969, in Midwest City, Oklahoma, and has one son, Charles Edward II. Another son, David Franklin, born August 13, 1950, attended Oklahoma State Technical College, and is now employed by the Cato Oil and Grease Company.

The third child of W. F. and Nancy Flood, Eva Marie, was born November 20, 1897, and died in Norman April 28, 1959. She received a B.S. in nursing from the University of Oklahoma and in 1919 married W. F. Andreskowski, who received his M.D. the same year and who died in 1969. Eva and W. F. had three children: Theodore Franklin, born December 27, 1921, at Ryan, Oklahoma, holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma, was a civilian pilot trainer during World War II before going into the Army, married Betty Jean Haupt of Omaha, Nebraska in 1954 and at present is Assistant Superintendent for Wilson and Company in Oklahoma City; Betty Helen, born June 27, 1924, at Ryan, holds an M.M. Ed from the University of Oklahoma, is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon (music fraternity) and of the National Association of Security Dealers, is now engaged in insurance and securities and is a real estate salesman in Norman; Joanna Ruth, born November 29, 1930, at Ryan, holds a B.S. in Education from the University of Oklahoma, married G. W. Sullivant, Jr., of Poteau, Oklahoma, in December 1952, and has two children, Michael Scott, born June 3, 1957, and Mark Randall, born September 12, 1958. The Sullivants live in Oklahoma City.

Nina Katherine, the fourth of the W. F. Flood children, was born January 14, 1901, and died June 27, 1958, at Terral, Oklahoma. She married LeRoy Grady Hightower of Terral, in April 1921, whom she met while she was teaching in the Terral school. The Hightowers had three children. Their eldest child, Mary LeRoy, born October 27, 1922, attended Oklahoma College for Women at Chickasha and in August 1948 married J. T. Armstrong. An R.N., she is presently Charge Nurse at the Midwest City Memorial Hospital. The Armstrongs have three children: John LeRoy, born November 10, 1950, attended Oklahoma State Tech Institute, has served in the U. S. Armed Forces, spent some time in Germany, and at present is a tester at Western Electric; Nancy Jane, born November 23, 1951, attended Oklahoma State Technical Institute, and is a nurse at St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City; Mary Kathryn, born April 29, 1953, is married to James E. Decker, and serves as nurses' aid at the Midwest City Hospital.

The Hightowers' second child, Frances Marie, born January 26, 1927, has a B.A. from Oklahoma College for Women and an M.A. from Louisiana State University, taught mathematics at Heidelberg, Germany for five years, married D. Wayne Wilson, Jr., also a mathematics instructor, June 4, 1960. The Wilsons, who live in Dallas, have two children: Davis Wayne, born April 4, 1962, and Linda Frances, born October 14, 1965.

Thomas Grady, the Hightowers' son, was born August 27, 1928, married Jannie McDaniel, and has three children. He is employed by the Halliburton

Oil Company and lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

In 1903, the Frank Floods had another son, whom they named William Franklin, Jr. He attended the University of Oklahoma, earned a B. S. in petroleum engineering, and in 1937 married Virginia Baker. An employee of the Phillips Petroleum Company at Bartlesville, he was killed in a car accident in April 1938.

Lloyd Bertrand, the next child of the Frank Floods was born in 1908, and also held a degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Oklahoma. In 1932 he married Marguerite Geis, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Geis of Norman. Together with nine other men, members of a seismograph group, he met a tragic death in an explosion south of Norman in June 1934. He was the father of one child, Larry Bertrand, who was nine months old when Lloyd was killed. Larry, born August 30, 1933, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, holds a B. A. in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma. On October 27, 1956, he married Louise McGinnis in Meridian, Mississippi. He attended the university on an N.R.O.T.C. scholarship, receiving a regular commission upon graduation and then serving in the U.S. Navy until October 1968. He is presently in partnership with his brother-in-law in the wholesale lumber business in Meridian. He and Louise have two children: Melissa Louise, born January 26, 1960, and Lloyd Bertrand, born October 5, 1962.

The youngest child of the Frank Floods, Martha Frances, was born October 17, 1910, attended the University of Oklahoma for two years, and C.I.A. at Denton, Texas for one year. She married Henry Lee August Frost, son of another early day resident, May 16, 1931. The Frosts, who live in Geary, Oklahoma, have two children and four grandchildren. Their eldest child, Martha Jane, born in Norman, January 20, 1934, holds a B.A. in history from the University of Oklahoma. On July 13, 1956, she married Thomas G. Teague of Okarche, Oklahoma and is a librarian at Tulsa CCL. She and Thomas, who is a pharmacist, have two children: Ann Elizabeth, born in Dallas, September 14, 1959, and Susan Carol, born in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, October 5, 1962.

The Frosts' second child, Sarah Ellen, born March 18, 1938, in Norman, holds a B.S. in Education, and is a teacher in Special Education for retarded children. She and her husband, Laun Smith, live in Mesilla, New Mexico. By her first husband, Charles Gay, she has two children: Timothy Lane, born May 30, 1959, and Patrick Neal, born February 5, 1961.