

years later he and his brother, Ben, organized the Carter State bank at Carter, Oklahoma.

In 1920, the Van Vacter family moved to Norman so that the two youngest children could attend the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Van Vacter taught at Bennett, Little Axe, and Corn Schools during his residence in Norman. He was a leader in the rural school activities and in 1932 the Oklahoma Educational Association awarded him the Distinguished Medal for his outstanding contributions in the field of education. Mr. Van Vacter passed away in 1945. Mrs. Van Vacter died in 1957.

Myrtle Lee Burnett, the oldest daughter, joined the Van Vacter family in Norman in 1921 after the death of her husband, Curtis T. Burnett in Elk City. She was first associated with Meyer and Meyer Furniture Company for four years. In 1925 she took a position with the Norman Savings and Loan Association where she remained for eleven years. She was Secretary-Manager the last year that she worked there. In 1932 Myrtle Lee Burnett married Herbert Lee Autrey; he died in 1933. In 1936, Mrs. Autrey became Norman's first woman Postmaster, a position that she held for twenty-five years and one month. The three Navy bases were located in Norman while she was postmaster. She retired in 1961.

Mrs. Autrey has worked in social, civic, and community projects since her arrival in Norman. She helped organize the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion, was first Vice President of the United Charities under President Felgar and took an active part in the fund raising drives to finance the latter organization. One such drive was successfully made with the assistance of Will Rogers at the new Field House. This event added \$3500.00 to the Fund. Mrs. Nell Hogan was secretary and case worker at that time.

In 1928, Mrs. Autrey helped organize the Business and Professional Women's Club and served as its president in 1928 and 1929. She is a charter member of the Dramatic Art Department of Sorosis Club which was organized in 1928. She served on the City Planning Commission nine years from 1927 to 1935.

Other activities in which Mrs. Autrey was involved include nine and one half years as secretary of the Norman Public Library, during which time the library was founded. In 1936 she became president of the Norman Sorosis Federated Club. In 1930 she served as Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, and was Worthy High Priestess of the White Shrine in 1931. In 1941, she was elected Regent of the Black Beaver Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution. In 1943, Mrs. Autrey became the first woman president of the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters. For several years she was a member of the Old Regime Study Club and the Faculty Club of the University of Oklahoma. She was a charter member of the Woman's Dinner Club of Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Autrey helped in the reorganization and development of the Norman Hospital. She organized the Polio Board and was its president for three terms. Dr. M. L. Wardell was the first president.

Mrs. Autrey helped organize the Altrusa Civic Club. She served on the Salvation Army Board of Directors for seventeen years and on the Cancer board for twenty years. She assisted in fund-raising projects for each of these organizations.

Since its organization, Mrs. Autrey has had an active part in the Cleveland County Historical Society, serving on the Board of Directors and as First Vice President.

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The Trinity Baptist Church has always been one of Mrs. Autrey's main interests. She helped in its organization, and was the first Sunday School Superintendent -- a position she held for several years. Prior to her affiliation with Trinity Baptist Church, she belonged to the First Baptist Church where she was Junior Superintendent, a Sunday School teacher, and served on numerous committees.

In 1936, a family summer home was built in the La Manga Group of summer homes in the San Juan Range of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. Mrs. Autrey now enjoys retirement and summer vacations there.

Mrs. Autrey is listed in Who is Who.

Ruby Jewel Van Vacter was married to Leonard Wade Grayson of Wichita Falls, Texas. They have two sons, Captain Jackson Lee Grayson and Richard Elno Grayson. Both served in World War II. Mr. Grayson died in 1953 and Mrs. Grayson moved to Norman a year later where she has made her home with her mother and Mrs. Autrey.

Mrs. Grayson is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, having served as Deaconess and President of the Adult Bible Class. She is active in other phases of church work. She was President of the Norman Sorosis Federated Club and President of Old Regime Study Club. She was Regent of Black Beaver Chapter of D.A.R. She is a Grey Lady in the Norman Red Cross. She has assisted with the Blood Bank drives at the University of Oklahoma since its inception. She has been on the American Society Cancer Board for fifteen years and is a member of the Amaryllis Garden Club, and the Cleveland County Historical Society.

Roy Warren Van Vacter, the oldest Van Vacter son, was married to

Jane Henson and they have two daughters. They are Laura Jane (Mrs. James) Taylor and Betty Jean Baker. Roy was disabled as a result of World War I. He died in 1929.

Gladys, Mrs. O. W. Been, now resides in Oklahoma City. She was graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1924, 1925 and 1954. She holds an A.B. and two Masters Degrees with majors in History, Social Work and Guidance. She was Case Supervisor of a Family Welfare Agency in Oklahoma City, was Public Relations Director for the United Charities in Chicago and has taught school for thirty-six years. She has done advanced work at the New York School of Social Work, and at the University of Southern California. Mrs. Been is retired and lives with her husband, a retired lawyer, in Oklahoma City. She has traveled extensively in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe and Japan.

Welcome, the youngest of the Van Vacter children, (called Van) married Ermine C.ism of Altus, Oklahoma. Their one daughter, Mary Ann White resides in Gallup, New Mexico. Van has been connected with The Associated Motor Carriers of Oklahoma for twenty-five years, having been Secretary-Manager of that Organization. His home is in Oklahoma City.

THE VAN VACTER FAMILY

By

Daughters: Mrs. Myrtle Lee Autrey, Mrs. Rubye Grayson, Mrs. Gladys Been

In 1895, Mrs. and Mrs. Toney Lee Van Vacter visited his parents, Mr and Mrs. Joseph Warren Van Vacter and their two sons, Ben and Bun, who had filed on claims in western Oklahoma. As a result of this visit, they sold their ranch, horses and cattle near Punningwater, Texas, and moved near Ural, Oklahoma. They acquired 1200 acres of land near Sadler, Oklahoma, which they owned until they moved to Norman, Oklahoma, in 1920.

A year following their arrival in Oklahoma the Toney Van Vacter family moved to Berlin, Oklahoma. There Mr. Van Vacter helped build a two story school house where he taught for two years. Gladys, the youngest daughter, was born there. Mrs. Van Vacter, who was a musician, helped with the early day entertainments.

In 1900, Mr. Van Vacter was elected County Superintendent of what is now Roger Mills and Beckham Counties. He organized many of the school districts in those counties. His visits to rural schools were made by means of horseback and in bitter winter weather he often rode with his feet wrapped in gunny sacks. He was instrumental in the establishment of Summer Normal Schools for the training of teachers.

After a year's residence the family moved to Cheyenne, Oklahoma, where Mr. Van Vacter continued his school activities. Welcome Easton, the youngest child, was born there. Myrtle, Rubye and Roy were born in Texas.

In 1903, the family moved to Elk City, Oklahoma, where Mr. Van Vacter was head of the schools and held Normal School each summer. In 1908 he helped organize the German State Bank where he served as cashier. A few