

HISTORY OF SARAH RUTH AND FRANCIS EDWARD WALKER

There were eight children in the McMinn family, George, A Union Pacific employee who disappeared while on a 90 day leave from work, he was single; Lennie, who now lives in Washington State; Jessie, deceased; Reo, Office manager of the Walker Insurance Agency in Salt Lake City; Barney, deceased; Charles, deceased; Ethel, now living in Salt Lake City; and Ruth.

My family ran a large cattle ranch at Marfa, Texas. When I was 4 years old, they moved to Oklahoma, settling near Bruel. At this time, about 1900, Bruel was only a Post Office with two families. My father went before the rest of the family and built our home. Our original homestead was about 180 acres and our principal crop was wheat. In latter years my father increased his property to include three or four ranches. At the time we moved to Oklahoma that section was very sparsely settled. The nearest town was fifty miles away. My Aunt Frances Turner Miller was in the group that made the Cherokee run. There were no doctors and my mother and Aunt Frances used to ride on horse back for fifty miles around to tend to the sick. Aunt Frances was the midwife that delivered Mary. Our ranch was the center of the territory and my father the central figure in establishing the town of Buffalo.

He was the founder of one of the two banks in Buffalo and my two brothers Charles and Reo worked for him in the bank. At the end of the first world war my brother Reo left the bank and went to Denver and my brother Charles became owner and I served as cashier.

At about this time Francis Edward Walker came to Buffalo as his father's assistant in building the railroad from Winoka, Okla to Buffalo. While he was there he became interested in banking and purchased some stock in the other bank. Earl Brinks' father was president of this bank and Edward worked as cashier. We went together for two or three years and on Oct. 28, 1921 were married in Earl Brinks' home. For our honeymoon we took a short trip to Okmulgee, Oklahoma City and to Muskogee where we did our Christmas shopping.

We bought a home in Buffalo and Edward continued to work in the bank until Mary was born on December 9, 1922. In 1923 Edward sold his bank stock and we moved to Oklahoma City where he became interested in paving and drainage construction with Homer Wilkings being contractor and foreman. After some success he sold his share of the business to Homer Wilkins for \$2500. He then became affiliated with the Pierce Construction Co. until 1929 when he began selling insurance for the West Coast Insurance Co. During this time we invested quite heavily in real estate and lost most of our savings during the 1929 Real Estate crash.

On August 15, 1931 we arrived in Salt Lake City where Edward became manager of the Salt Lake Agency of Mutual and United of Omaha for Earl Brink. In 1934, we formed a partnership with Lyle Hiner and bought the Salt Lake Agency. In 1937 the partnership was dissolved and Edward became full owner.

We lived in the Oakwood apartments on S. 5th East until 1932 when we moved into the Harris Apartments and in 1933, moved into our home at 1376 Michigan Ave. In 1933, my brother Charles died and his children Dick, Olive Ruth, and Marty came to live with us.

Edward went on active duty with the navy in 1942 as a Selective Service officer in San Francisco. In 1942 he went to New Caledonia as Personnel Officer and French interpreter. In 1945 he returned to the United States and served as Selective Service representative for the 9th Naval District with headquarters in San Francisco and was discharged in 1946 as a Lt. Commander. In 1949 we sold the Agency and Edward accepted the position of director of Selective Service for the state of Utah which position he held at the time of his death July 22, 1949.