

Judge Roy Leighton McFarland (1884-1961)



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY,
10 July 1908 p6:

PROF. R. L. MCFARLAND.

Announces His Candidacy for County School Superintendent.

Prof. R. L. McFarland, one of the best known young Democrats of Daviess county, has announced his candidacy for county superintendent. Mr. McFarland is a son of Mr. J. D. McFarland, of the St. Joseph neighborhood and his candidacy is subject to the action of the Democratic party. Mr. McFarland is a well known educator of Daviess county. Besides having several year's experience as a teacher in this county and in normal work he has been a member of the board of examiners of Daviess county. Mr. McFarland is a self-made young man. Not being satisfied with obtaining a degree at State college he went to the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, where he was graduated with the degree of B. S. During the past year he attended Yale and will be graduated from this famous college next June. If given the nomination Mr. McFarland will add much strength to the Democratic ticket in the regular election next year.



ROY L. McFARLAND
CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS
SECOND DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

Born February 24, 1884, on a farm near Delaware on Green River in Daviess County, Kentucky. Reared in same community. Married Mary Elizabeth Waltrip of the same community. Has four children, all boys: William, James, David and Hubert.

Educated in public schools of Daviess; Kentucky State University; National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, Bachelor of Science degree; Yale University, Bachelor of Arts degree; Yale Law School, no degree.

Occupied working on his father's farm, farming for himself, teaching school, school superintendent, state senator and county judge.

Offices held—elected school superintendent of Daviess County, Kentucky, 1909; re-elected 1913. Was president of Kentucky Educational Association in 1913. Elected from the Daviess-McLean senatorial district to the Kentucky State Senate in 1917. Election contested on grounds of holding office of county school superintendent at time of election to the senate. Lost the contest after having served about forty-one days. Was chairman of Educational Committee, and member of Agricultural Committee. Elected county judge of Daviess County 1921. Re-elected in 1925.

Has never lost an election. Has never been a candidate for Congress before.

Owensboroan Dies, Was Educator And Public Official

Roy L. McFarland 77, of 1805 Parrish Ave., died at 7 p.m. Monday at the Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital after a lingering illness.

He was born near Delaware, Ky., Feb. 24, 1884 and had lived in Owensboro and Daviess County all his life.

He attended the public schools of Daviess County and was a veteran teacher in the Daviess County school system. He was president of the Kentucky Educational Association in 1913 and attended the University of Kentucky, was graduated from the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, in 1907 and was graduated from Yale University, New Haven, Conn., in 1909.

McFarland had served two terms as County school superintendent of Daviess County from 1910 to 1918 and was elected to the State Senate in 1917. He had served as County Judge of Daviess County from 1922-1930 and was appointed Advisory State Highway Commissioner of the Second Congressional District in 1936.

Appointed to the position of Associate Commissioner of Revenue Frankfort, Ky., in 1938, he resigned Dec. 7, 1943 and from then on engaged in operating his farms in Daviess and McLean counties and buying and selling real estate until his retirement.

He was a member of the Pleasant Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church located between Elba and Delaware, Ky.

He is survived by his wife, Eli-

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Owensboroan

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zabeth Waltrip McFarland; three sons, James Allen, David and Hubert McFarland, all of Owensboro; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; three sisters, Mrs. Eunice Ranson of St. Joseph, Ky., Miss Bertye McFarland and Mrs. Ira Taylor Sr. both of Owensboro.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Haley-McGinnis Funeral Home by Dr. Charles Armentrout, pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, assisted by the Rev. J. Howard Scott, pastor of the Pleasant Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in Travis Cemetery. Nephews will serve as active pallbearers.

Honorary pallbearers will be: O. L. Magruder, Robert Weikel Sr., Ben S. McCormick, Clarence Westerfield, T. B. Birkhead, Jackson Bosley, Vernon Bosley, Gilbert Harrelson, John J. Huebner, Levi Baker, Moody Oldham and James H. McKinney.

The body is at the funeral home.



Our McFarland Family In Early Kentucky and Since, R. M. McFarland, Jr., Atlanta, Ga., c.1982, pp.15-16.

James McFarland, E-1.2.5.2.5, son of Bannister Wall McFarland and Martha Calhoun, was born Sept. 20, 1858, and died June 3, 1920. He married Belle Montgomery. Belle was born Jan. 26, 1861, and died Aug. 4, 1945. Their home was near Delaware, on the Green River. Their children were:

Roy Leighton McFarland, Feb. 24, 1884

F-1.2.5.2.5.1

Ora McFarland, Feb. 28, 1890

F-1.2.5.2.5.2

Eunice Hazel McFarland, Jan. 2, 1893

F-1.2.5.2.5.3

Gertye McFarland, Feb. 24, 1896

F-1.2.5.2.5.4

Bertye McFarland, Feb. 24, 1896

F-1.2.5.2.5.5

Gladys McFarland, 1898

F-1.2.5.2.5.6

Roy, the firstborn, F-1.2.5.2.5.1, attended the district schools and graduated from the University of Kentucky, Lebanon University, in Ohio, and Yale University.

He was elected Superintendent of Schools, Daviess County, and served two 4-year terms. In his first year as a member of the Kentucky Education Association, he was elected President. He was President of the Superintendents of the South also. He served as County Judge, Daviess County, 1922-30.

Roy served as State Senator, Kentucky District Highway Commissioner, State Banking Commissioner, and as Associate Revenue Commissioner, and engaged in real estate and farming.

He died Sept. 11, 1961, in Owensboro, where he had lived for 40 years and is buried in the Travis Family Cemetery, near St. Joseph, in Daviess County.

Roy and Mary Elizabeth Waldrip were married Oct. 17, 1913, at St. Joseph. They had four sons:

William Owen McFarland, 1914

G-1.2.5.2.5.1.1

James Allen McFarland, July 29, 1915

G-1.2.5.2.5.1.2

David Andrew McFarland, Nov. 18, 1917

G-1.2.5.2.5.1.3

Hubert Douglas McFarland, May 18, 1920

G-1.2.5.2.5.1.4

William Owen McFarland, G-1.2.5.2.5.1.1, never married. He was sick most of his adult life and died in 1946.

James Allen McFarland, G-1.2.5.2.5.1.2, graduated from Owensboro High School in 1934. Off and on for two years, he went to Jenkins Business School. He was a member of Central United Presbyterian Church, Owensboro, and lives in Owensboro.

James and Lydia Virginia Childress were married Mar. 11, 1939, in Owensboro. They were divorced in 1946 and neither has married again. Their children, both born at

Frankfort, Ky., are:

Mary Lois McFarland, Jan. 10, 1941

H-1.2.5.2.5.1.2.1

Ray Kirk McFarland, July 2, 1942

H-1.2.5.2.5.1.2.2

Mary Lois married an O'Flynn Aug. 20, 1959. Their home is near Owensboro.

Ray married about 1965 and lives in Melbourne, Fla., where he works with "Documentation."

James retired Jan. 3, 1978, after 24½ years with Green River Steel Co. Previously he was employed by General Electric Co. and Briggs Body Plant. His mother, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Waldrip McFarland, after the death of her husband, lived with James until ill health caused her to be a patient in Owensboro Daviess County Hospital in 1971. As her condition required, she was in hospitals and nursing homes from then until her death, Aug. 13, 1977. She is buried beside her husband and son, William Owen McFarland, in the Travis Family Cemetery, near St. Joseph, Ky.

David Andrew McFarland, G-1.2.5.2.5.1.3, served 2½ years in the Army Air Corps during World War II and earned the grade of Staff Sergeant in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operation. He became a master automobile mechanic. He has been a builder of homes for 20 years and has several rental properties. He is a Presbyterian and a Democrat. David and Irma Simon were married on Sept. 2, 1942, in Orlando, Fla. She was born in Owensboro on Oct. 31, 1918. She is retired from General Electric Corp. They live in Owensboro.

Hubert Douglas McFarland, G-1.2.5.2.5.1.4, served in World War II in the China-Burma-India Theater and did photography in Calcutta. He is a graduate of the School of Modern Photography, New York, and has been in professional photography in Owensboro since 1947, in name of McFarland Photography. He was a catcher in professional baseball. Hubert and Bernardine Oberst were married Aug. 15, 1953. Their children are:

James Andrew McFarland, May 31, 1954

H-1.2.5.2.5.1.4.1

Mary Charolet McFarland, Jan. 23, 1956

H-1.2.5.2.5.1.4.2

William Edward McFarland, Nov. 1958

H-1.2.5.2.5.1.4.3

James Andrew McFarland is a college student and is associated with the McFarland Photography studio. His hobbies are chess and gardening.

Mary Charolet is Manager of the Photography Department of an Owensboro department store. She was married to Charles Fulkerson on Jan. 24, 1976. Charles was born Nov. 12, 1954, in Owensboro, and is a farmer.

William Edward McFarland is a college student and manages a fast food restaurant.

Autobiography of Judge R. L . McFarland

Transcribed by his sister, Miss Bertye McFarland. Probably written during 1960-1961. He died in September 1961.

I, Roy Leighton McFarland was born February 24, 1884, on a 50 acre farm in the extreme southwestern part of Daviess County, near Delaware, Kentucky, on Green River. More specifically 87 degrees, 40 minutes west Longitude, 37 degrees, 40 minutes north latitude, 500 feet above sea level. (See U. S. Geological Survey, Calhoun Quadrant.) I was educated in the local schools, had some high school subjects in my home district, and in 1901 attended the Utica School, Utica, Kentucky, where some high school subjects were taught, and later attending the Normal Department of the State University, Lexington, Kentucky. In 1902, I was awarded a first class certificate which entitled me to teach four years in any school in Daviess County. I accepted and taught the intermediate grades at Utica, Kentucky in the fall of 1902. The following fall, 1903 I taught in the Halls School District. In the fall of 1904, I attended the Utica School under Professor Peyton, taking the subjects needed to enter the National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio. In the spring of 1904, I was awarded a State certificate which entitled me to teach eight years in any County in the State of Kentucky, and incidentally this qualified me to serve as County School Superintendent. Otherwise an examination was necessary to qualify for the office of County School Superintendent. In the fall of 1905, I taught in the Union Grove District. 1906 I served on the Board of Examiners under County School Superintendent, R. L. Allen. This Board consisted of the County School Superintendent and two persons appointed by the County School Superintendent. This board was to qualify teachers for certificates to teach, and students to enter high school. In the spring of 1906, I taught a spring term of school at Curdsville, Kentucky. Attended National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, from which I was graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in 1907, and Yale University from which I was graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1909. I was elected County School Superintendent of Daviess County, Kentucky, and served two terms, from the first Monday in January, 1910 to the first Monday in January, 1918. In 1917 I was elected to the Kentucky Senate, representing the district which was composed of Daviess and McLean Counties. My election was contested by Dr. Early, my Republican opponent in the General Election on the grounds that I had failed to resign as County School Superintendent before the day of the November election. I would like at this point to state that I had had no ambition to be a senator, but was solicited by many people to make the race and I told them that I would not make the race if I had to resign the office of County School Superintendent. Among the people who had solicited me to make the race were some attorneys-at-law and they advised me that I would not have to resign as County School Superintendent before the November election. I then consented to make the race. I was sworn in as Senator at the beginning of the 1918 Session and served as Senator for about 40 days when the contest vote was taken and Dr. Early was declared Senator because of my failure to resign the office of County School Superintendent before the day of the November election. Having served as County School Superintendent and President of the Kentucky Educational Association, Dr. Cherry of the Western Kentucky State

Normal, Bowling Green, Kentucky, asked me to visit the city and county school superintendents in Western Kentucky and call their attention to the importance of sending more pupils and retired teachers to the State Normal to replace the shortage of clerical workers who had been called into service in World War I. In the meantime I had been elected Principal of the County High School at Utica, Daviess County, Kentucky to teach, in addition to the regular high school course, the Smith-Hughes Agricultural Work, having taken a refresher course at the State University, Lexington, Kentucky.

I served as County Judge of Daviess County, Kentucky from the first Monday in January 1922 to the first Monday in January, 1930.

I was appointed by Federal Judge Charles I. Dawson, as Master to try the case of the Drainage Commissioner of McLean County in the Cypress Creek Drainage District, against John Carr of Ft. Wayne, Indiana and the Old National Bank, Fort Wayne, Indiana, for damage in connection with Cypress Creek, McLean County.

I bought and sold real estate and life insurance, and supervised my farm land until the spring of 1931, and by the request of the Honorable Dan Talbott, I accepted the position of Manager for the four counties, Daviess, McLean, Ohio and Hancock in Gov. Ruby Lafoon's race for Governor and Happy Chandler's race for Lt. Governor. My job being to set up a campaign organization in each of these counties. This was before Compulsory Primaries were held in Kentucky. A campaign was set up in each of these counties. As a result of these campaigns, a solid delegation from each county was sent to the State Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1932 I was appointed special deputy banking commissioner to liquidate the Central Trust Company of Owensboro, and served until it was finally reorganized with the present set-up.

I bought and sold real estate and supervised my farm land in 1935. Lt. Gov. Chandler and the Hon. Dan Talbott asked that I manage the four counties, Daviess, McLean, Ohio and Hancock in Lt. Gov. Chandler's race for Governor. At this time we had a compulsory primary law, enacted as a result of Lt. Gov. Chandler, while acting as Governor, having called a special session of the legislature for that purpose.

In July, 1936, I was appointed Advisory State Highway Commissioner of the Second Congressional District which included fifteen counties, and served two years and three months. At which time I was appointed to the position of Associate Commissioner of Revenue. This involved membership of the State Tax Commission and membership of the Alcohol Control Board. Resigned effective at the close of business December 7, 1943. This ended my career as a public officer. I have since occasionally engaged in the buying and selling of real estate, and at this time I have disposed of all of my real estate, consisting of both farm and city property with the exception of two lots in the City of Owensboro, one of which my home is located and the other a garage. I have since spent my time as President of the Kibitzer Association. In addition to my heavy duties in this Association, I am General Consultant, handing out free advice where ever needed.

I have heretofore remarked that I served as County School Superintendent of Daviess County, Kentucky, from the first Monday in January 1910, to the first Monday in January 1918. This involved two consecutive terms. It should be remembered at this time that the County School Superintendents were elected by the vote of the people.

Even in Daviess County, with the City of Owensboro, all the people including Owensboro voted directly for the County School Superintendent. It also should be remembered that about this time Kentucky passed laws radically changing in many respects the general set-up in educational affairs. At that time the so called new educational law was passed, as I remember, with the 1908 Secession of Kentucky Legislature. Before this time each rural district elected three trustees and they elected the teachers in that district. The only revenue which that district had was from taxes levied by the three trustees on the property within that district. The only other revenue obtained in that district was from the State on the basis of so much money per capita and that could only be used for the purpose of paying teachers. The County levied no taxes for school purposes. Under the law of 1908 creating a County Board of Education, this Board could levy a tax not to exceed 20 cents on a \$100 worth of taxable property in the County outside of the city of Owensboro. The people of the Sub-district elected one trustee. Of the Sub-district, trustees in one educational division of which there were eight in the whole county, elected one of their number as chairman of the Division Board, and by virtue of that election he became a member of the County Board of Education. Teachers were elected by the Division Board upon the nomination of the Sub-District trustee. No Sub-District had the power to levy taxes in that District. The law of 1908 provided ways of establishing graded school districts. The graded School district had the power of levying as much as 25 cents on each \$100 worth of taxable property within that District, and had the power of electing teachers in that District. Under the law of 1908, the County Board had the power of establishing County High Schools, and the first two county high schools were established under the administration of my predecessor, R. L. Allen.. They were established at Whitesville, Kentucky, and Utica, Kentucky. High school facilities were provided in Owensboro by paying the City Board of Education so much per pupil from the county in the city high school of Owensboro. This arrangement was changed by the County Board of Education by withdrawing pupils from the Owensboro High School and establishing the Daviess County High School. We did not erect a new building but rented for some time buildings for that purpose. The first was by renting a part of the old Federal Building which was owned at that time by the Honorable Urey Woodson, Editor of the Owensboro Messenger. From there we occupied the Old County Armory and was in that building until the administration of my successor, John L. Graham. The County Board of Education purchased what was then known as the Monarch Home and Property. This is still used as a County Junior High School. The County Board met regularly once each month. It should be remembered that at that time each county was compelled to hold a Teachers Institute for one week, and under the law, the County School Superintendent was required to visit each school at least once during the term of school. Having been raised on a farm and having to visit the schools at least once a year, incidently by horse and buggy, I became impressed with the great need of agricultural education among the people living on farms and how best to preserve the fertility of the soil. We obtained Dr. Fred Mutchler of the State Normal School at Bowling Green, Kentucky, now known as Western College, to instruct the Institute two years. Dr. Mutchler was working on a practical plan whereby the farmers could build up their own soil. I observed that farmers were attending this Institute. The farmers were meeting one day in the Circuit Court Room discussing the matter of establishing a County Farm Bureau. William Haycraft, a member of the School Board, came into my

office and informed me that they were about to break up without reaching a conclusion, and asked that the County School Board become the first Farm Bureau. I informed him that I felt that my work was done and I wanted to pass on to something else. He returned later and stated that, inasmuch, as the School Board was meeting once a month, that they were asking the Board to serve as the Farm Bureau, which we did. Inasmuch as I was President of the County School Board, I automatically became President of the first Farm Bureau. We employed the first County Farm Agent, Mr. Burrell, in Daviess County. Incidentally it was one of the first two Farm Bureaus in the State of Kentucky. I was appointed Chairman of the County School Superintendents to help get a law enacted whereby the Board of Education was enabled to make a salary schedule for the payment of teachers, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, in which we could recognize qualifications other than mere legal qualifications, such as high school qualifications, so many points for teachers teaching in the same school district so many years, and other points. In that same bill was provided a way that the County Board of Education could lay out a boundry including a number of Sub-districts, and of submitting to the voters within that boundry the proposition of a tax sufficient to establish and maintain consolidated or centralized schools. Realizing that this should not be imposed on the people, but was an enabling act to give the people in that district the right to vote as to whether or not they wanted a consolidated school.

I was appointed in 1914 to attend the Conference for Education in the South under the Rockfellow Foundation, which was held at Richmond, Virginia and was designated Chairman of County School Superintendents to recommend a more uniform system in the rural schools. I also, called upon the County Medical Association of Daviess County to recommend instructors on health, one on health generally, and one on oral hygiene. Emphasizing each year some special phase. For instance one year the importance of individual drinking cups in the school, another year the importance of the use of tooth brushes. I found this proved to be very effective. Upon visiting the schools I found in almost every school these measures were in use.

In assuming office the first Monday in January, 1910, I was less than 26 years old. There was a deep snow on the ground and the high schools at Whitesville and Utica were each under construction up to the second floor windows, the walls of each school being of concrete blocks. The contractor of these schools had abandoned these buildings and left the country, at this stage of construction. It should be understood that the people of each community had pledged payment of substantial sums of money in order to induce the county to locate the schools at these points. The completion of these two schools was my first problem. During my eight years as County School Superintendent of Daviess County, there was finished the two high schools and established a third, and built, as I remember, 34, one, two and three rooms sub-district school buildings, with funds raised by tax levy of 20 cents per \$100 of taxable property.

I believe in considering the office of the County Judge, it would be well to consider how the Fiscal Court of the county was created. The County Judge by virtue of being elected Judge of the County Court became Chairman of the Fiscal Court, and the other members by virtue of their office as Justice of the peace, became members of the Fiscal Court. Daviess County having been one of the first counties in Kentucky to adapt the Commission form of Governments it will be well to explain just what is the Commission form of Government. Previously to my becoming County Judge, a law had

been passed whereby the people of a county could vote on the proposition of establishing a Commission form of Government composed of three members, one from each Commissioner District. Daviess County was one of the first counties in Kentucky to vote to adapt the so called Commissioner form of Government. Under the Magisterial System each member was elected by the people of that district, not by all of the people of the county, whereas under the Commissioner form of Government, each of the three Commissioners were elected by all of the people of the county. The County was divided into three Commissioner Districts, one in the eastern part of the county constituting one district. The western part of the county constituted one district, and the City of Owensboro one district. One Commissioner from the eastern district, one from the western district, one commissioner from the City of Owensboro. This means that the Commissioner from the Eastern District must be a resident of that district. Commissioner from the Western District must be a resident from that district, and the Commissioner from the City of Owensboro must be a resident of that district, but they were elected by the people of the whole county. Heretofore I have referred to the fact that I served as County Judge from the first Monday in January 1922 to the first Monday in January 1930. This being two consecutive four year terms. I believe It will be well to consider the fact that this was immediately after the close of the first World War, and immediately after the adoption of the Prohibition Amendment by the United States and by Kentucky, and about this time, or previously, there had been a marked resurgence of what is known as the Klu Klux Klan. This was one of my major problems. I feel that this should be so considered because of the more or less unusual conditions to be met at that time, this being immediately after the end of the first great war in the United States since the Civil War. It seems that immediately after the close of a great war the people are upset and at this period it was characterized by an outbreak of lawlessness in general. There are many people living today who remember or have been told by their parents of the general lawlessness that followed immediately after the close of the Civil War. I have heard many stories by my father and other people of the lawlessness that prevailed here in Daviess County immediately after that war. So I regarded then, and do now so regard, the outbreak of what is known as the Klu Klux Klan not only in Kentucky and here in Daviess County, but in, many other states. I have always felt, and do now, that the County Judge of any Kentucky County is primarily the Chief Peace Officer of that County. Toward the last half of my first term as County Judge it was being whispered around generally that there was some great secret organization in Daviess County that you had better be afraid of. Here and now I want to say that I think there were many good citizens became very much worried about this and would come into my office and state that there was a secret organization in the County, and that I should be careful not to offend that secret organization. I would tell each one, "You must be referring to what is known as the Klu Klux Klan," and that I was not a Klu Klux Klan and did not intend to become one, and if they were a Klu Klux that was their business so long as they obeyed the law. That I was not a Catholic and didn't want any one to try to compel me to be one, that I was not a Negro and didn't want any one to try to compel me to be one, but if they were a Negro that is his business. I am not a foreigner, but if you are, that is your business, but don't want any one to try to compel me to be something I do not believe in and to do something I think I should not do as an officer of the law and an honest man. At this time, one of the three commissioners, Mr. William Horn was a member, and one

of the few people who admitted that he was a Klu Klux and he devoted much of his time in trying to persuade others to join. Mr. J. B. Hocker, at that time Tax Assessor, admitted that he was a member of the Klu Klux Klan. They requested me to meet them up in Mr. Hocker's office and expressed their concern about me not joining the Klu Klux Klan, and stated there was no middle ground, that you must be with us or against us, and they would be compelled to oppose me for re-election as County Judge if I did not join. I replied that I was very sorry that I could not be for them. It would be well to explain that at that time Owensboro was a third class city, and I understood that under the law, third class cities were responsible for damages to citizens whether to their person or their property. In addition to this, my predecessor told me that Mayor Hickman who was a well known park enthusiast, had obtained the sum of \$1000 as a gift from the Elks Lodge for the purpose of beautifying the Court House Yard and the right of oversight of any meeting of the public in the Court House Yard. The beautifying of the yard consisted of building walks and planting shrubbery. In other words, making the Court House Yard as nearly as possible a city park. In view of this, any person or group of persons wishing to use the Court House Yard were referred to Mayor Hickman and the reason for referring them. With no exception that I can recall, this arrangement was perfectly satisfactory. So when the Fiscal Court was in regular session one day, a person came into my office and informed me that he wanted to use the Court House Yard for a meeting of the Klu Klux Klan of Daviess County on a certain night. He gave his name and stated he was from Louisville and wanted to address the Fiscal Court. He and I went from my private office immediately into the County Court Room and I informed the members of the Fiscal Court that this gentleman wanted to address the Court, and they agreed to hear him. In his address to the Fiscal Court he said he wanted the use of the Court House Yard on a particular night for the use of the Klu Klux Klan of Daviess County, and that if it was not granted he would like to know just who was responsible for it not being granted. I immediately arose and informed him that I had not consulted the other members of the Court and was not speaking for them, that I was only speaking for myself as one member of the Court, and under the circumstances I felt it my duty as a peace officer to be responsible in so far as I was able to prevent any body or persons either masked or unmasked from holding any meeting in the Court House Yard especially at night, without the permission of Mayor Hickman, and that he could inform the Klu Klux Klan of Daviess County my feelings on the matter. Whereupon Mr. W. G. Riney, Commissioner from the Western Commissioner District, and Mr. B.W. Barrett, Commissioner from the Eastern Commissioner District, each arose and stated that my statement just made represented their feeling in the matter. The other member, Mr. William Horn, Commissioner from the Owensboro Commissioner District made no comment. Now it should be bourn in mind that there was a Kentucky law providing that it was a felony for any two or more persons to band themselves together for the purpose of intimidation. Under the circumstances that existed on the night that had been demanded to hold a meeting in the Court House Yard, the entire Sheriff's Office and several other officers of the law were at the Court House early in the night and seemed thoroughly able to prevent such a meeting in the Court House Yard. Confronted with this situation, the great crowd of people made no attempt to hold a meeting in the Court House Yard, but withdrew to the farm of Mr. R. E. Massey on the Livermore road near the city limits, the premises now being occupied by Wesleyan College. The Sheriff's

office made affidavit stating that this law was being violated and asked for a warrant for arrest. The County Attorney presented the warrant to me and I signed it as County Judge. Members of the Sheriff's office proceeded to the meeting being held in Mr. Massey's field and arrested two or three persons, one being the imported speaker of the night and one or two others present, and brought them into my office and I read the warrant to them, and asked them when they wanted an examining trial, and put them under bond for appearance. On the date for the examining trial they appeared in the Circuit Court Room. I heard the testimony and felt there was not sufficient evidence to hold them over to the Daviess County Grand Jury and so dismissed the case. Otherwise I do not feel that my problems as County Judge were materially different from those which usually confront any County Judge in Kentucky.

Of course the matter of building and maintaining a system of county roads is one of the most important to the people of the county. In this connection I would like to refer to the fact that Daviess County was the first county to bring to Kentucky the capapillar tractor as a source of power in road building and other earth moving equipment. Before this time the power for such purposes was horse power. This the Fiscal Court felt was rapidly becoming inadequate. There were wheel tractors on the market at that time but their power was inadequate and their use impractical. So the Fiscal Court made a trip to Chicago to attend the National Contractors Convention to see if we could find more practical equipment. At that time it was the custom to hold conventions in the winter time, being at a time that by reason of cold weather it was impractical to carry on their usual operations. We found such equipment. It consisted of what was designated at the time and since designated as the catapillar tractor. We found two and only two makes of such equipment on the market. One being the C. L. Best and the other the Holt. They were the first known in the world. They made demonstrations that convinced us that they were practical. We asked each Company to refer us to the nearest case in Kentucky where they had either of these types. They informed us that there were none in Kentucky at that time. The nearest place to us was a contractor for C. L. Best near Newtonville, Indiana and a Township also in southern Indiana. We visited each and was soon convinced that they were thoroughly practical in every way. We advertised for bids and bought one C. L. Best 30. The results were so amazing that the next year we bought two catapillars, one C. L. Best and one Holt. The catapillar type tractor revolutionized the means of dirt moving in the whole world and the means of transportation where great power is essential over either smooth or rough country. Now I feel that it should be explained that the Federal Government had not been in the business of building highways until about the year of 1915, participating in helping counties and states to build a system of roads in the United States. This law provided that they should connect the county seats. In other words it became to be known as the Enter County Seat Law. That meant for instance they would help build roads from Owensboro to Hawesville, and from Owensboro to Hartford, and from Owensboro to Calhoun, and from Owensboro to the city of Henderson. Daviess County about that time had voted its limit of road bonds. My predecessors had entered into an agreement with the State Highway Commission to build the roads and two of these roads, namely from Owensboro to Hawesville was completed to the county line, and the road from Owensboro to Henderson had been completed to the county line, all but some one and a half miles when I came into office. By that time Governor Morrow, Republican, came into office and the State Highway Commissioner

he appointed abandoned all of this route with the exception of about two and one half miles on the Hardinsburg road from Owensboro to the over-head bridge and refused to build any of what is now known as Highway 60 unless Daviess County paid one-half of the cost. Daviess County had voted its limit of bonds and had expended it on the above mentioned roads and other county roads, and could not raise the money to pay half of the cost on Highway 60. When various groups of citizens on Highway 60 called upon the State Highway Commission for work on Highway 60, they were told to see the County Judge and the Fiscal Court and get some cooperation out of the Fiscal Court. Of course the Fiscal Court was willing to cooperate in any way it could but had no money with which to cooperate in paying half of the cost without taking it from other roads in other parts of the county. As a matter of fact we felt and do now feel that was a mere subtafuse excuse for not building Highway 60 so they could take the money to the eastern part of the State. In my campaign for reelection to the office of County Judge in 1925, I had the very active opposition of the Klu Klux Klan and those people who heaped severe condemnation upon the members of the Fiscal Court because the Fiscal Court felt that it could not furnish funds to pay half of the cost for the construction of Highway 60. They very actively supported Mr. James Wilson for the nomination which was held the first Saturday in August, 1925, and Mr. Joe Brown, my Republican opponent in the general election, which of course was in November. I was fortunate in defeating Mr. Wilson for the nomination, also very fortunate in defeating Mr. Brown in the General Election.

This is to relate an example of some of the weird experiences of a County Judge, I was living at 1805 Parrish Avenue, which is my present home, and at 4 p.m. if I could, I would come home, redress and go to work in the garden. This was my way of getting exercise. One day in the summer-time I had come home, changed my clothes and was working in the garden when Mr. Gipe and his son came down to advise with me as to what I thought should be done in regard to the daughter and sister who had married a man by the name of Norris, and said they thought he wanted her to die, that he was going with a young woman, younger than some of their own children. I informed them that I should not try to advise them what to do, that they should see Mr. Wilbur Miller, County Attorney and Mr. Glover Gary, Common Wealth Attorney, and see what they advised. Thinking that would probably end the matter, but after quite an interval here Mr. Miller and Mr. Gary came back with them to my house and they decided that a warrant should be taken for Mr. Norris' arrest. Of course this was taking up time. I went back up to the Court House after having called the sheriff, Mr. John Howard and his deputy, Mr. Lynn Dawson and issued a warrant for Mr. Norris arrest. By this time darkness had come. They went out with the warrant and did arrest Mr. Norris and brought him in, and his wife, Mrs. Norris came with him. Mrs. Norris was a very intelligent woman, she had been a teacher in the schools of Owensboro, and she informed us that she didn't want a doctor, that since their children had been raised without a doctor they were much healthier than the children who were raised with a doctor and that the school records of Owensboro would show it. Of course her coming down killed every cat in the alley. I explained to Mrs. Norris that I supposed all of us believed in prayer but some of us believed that the Lord expected us to work as well as pray, but if she didn't believe in a doctor that was her business. We thought that ended the matter, causing us to feel more or less foolish about it. In less than two weeks Mrs. Norris died and in less than a month Mr. Norris had married this very girl they had told us about. I relate this as an example

of what I think of murder being committed and the law looking on. We are so wedded and should be to the idea of religious freedom that I think that sometimes murder can be committed in the name of religious freedom.

I feel that one of the first most important thing that confronted me as County Judge was the making of a budget and keeping that budget balanced so that the county would be able at all times to pay its bills in cash rather than a great part of the bills with interest bearing warrants as some counties and even the State of Kentucky were doing at that time. To accomplish this it was necessary to fight friends and foes alike, and do it now. The reason for this, I think, was that many worthy citizens would become so impressed with some particular phase of county activities that they felt that it was more important than any other phase of county activities, and that whatever happened to the other phases of activities, that particular phase must be furnished with adequate funds even though other phases received little or none. A good concrete example of the importance of this, is that Daviess County was buying oak bridge lumber delivered places in the county designated by the county, subject to inspection, for \$3.00 per 100, while a neighboring county who were paying a part of their bills by interest bearing warrants were paying \$4.00 per 100.

It is the duty of the Fiscal Court to levy a rate of tax within the law on the property of the county sufficient to provide adequate funds to carry on the various activities of the county and supervise the expenditure of these funds in a way that they will not be wasted or stolen. The usual way of paying the bills for road work had been to adapt the County Road Engineer's list of bills. While I was County Judge, I required each workman to submit his individual bill showing in what part of the county he worked each day, and they were allowed at each meeting of the court, as had been done heretofore. But at the end of the Fiscal Year when a regular publication of all expenditures were made, if it showed that John Doe had been paid on a bill showing as part of his work was on a road near Yelvington, and the people reading this did not know of any one by that name, it showed that John Doe was a fictitious character, and some one representing John Doe had stolen the amount of John Doe's bill. This is the way we found that one County Road Engineer had been stealing from the County and one Engineer Clerk had been stealing from the county. I do not mean to imply or insinuate that county funds had been stolen under the old system of paying bills, but I do say that I think there was ample opportunity for it to have been done.

While attending the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, a town some 35 or 40 miles northeast of Cincinnati, on an interurban line, pupils were assigned subjects to write upon. In assigning these subjects, President Creagor, having a sense of humor, assigned to Wilbur Wright the subject of aviation. At that time the Wright Brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, a few miles northeast of Lebanon and on an interurban line, had claimed that they had successfully flown in a craft heavier than air at Kittyhawk, North Carolina. No body believed it and regarded them as wild eyed cranks. They were the butts of all sorts of jokes. By the way, Wilbur Wright was of no kinship to the Wright Brothers, Wilbur and Orville. At that time there was nothing written down about aviation. So our Wilbur Wright asked for a letter from President Creagor to the Wright Brothers at Dayton. Wilbur Wright went over to Dayton to see the Wright Brothers. I suppose that due to the fact that our Wilbur Wright had the same name and the letter from President Creagor attracted their attention that otherwise they would

not have accorded to a person approaching them under other circumstances. At any rate, our Wilbur Wright came back and wrote on the subject of aviation and delivered his speech in Chapel and predicted everything that we have since seen in the development of aviation, although the great poet, Tennyson had spoken of Argosies dropping down from the sky. We said that the Wright Brothers were crazy and if he went over there and talked with them he would be crazy too. It should be remembered this was the school term of 1906 and 1907. In 1910 or 1911, they were running Sunday excursion trains from Kentucky, Indiana and adjoining territory to Louisville to see Glenn Curtis fly. I remember that Gilbert Holbrook and I, among others made the journey to Louisville. We felt well repaid for our trip in seeing a man actually fly in a craft heavier than air. I relate this incident as an example of how fast improvements have been made in our way of life in a comparatively short time.

Heretofore I have spoken of having attended Yale College in New Haven, Connecticut, which is about 76 miles from New York City. During a part of the time I had a roommate by the name of Harvey Whitaker. I had known him at the Old National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio. He was taking a course under Professor William Bailey who was teaching American Social Conditions. I read his text books and talked with him until I was convinced that if I could have taken an examination on the subject that I could have made a credible grade. Professor Bailey every year took his class through New York City, and Harvey Whitaker arranged for me to accompany the class on one of these trips. Some of the things I saw was the City Morgue, Blackwell Island in the East River, where was located a short term penitentiary, an insane asylum, and the City Hospital. Also Ellis Island. Some overcrowded sections of the city, Chinatown, the Bowery, Haymarket and flop houses. This trip with Professor Bailey is one of the most interesting experiences of my whole life, but I can only very briefly refer to some of the things I saw. The City Hospital on Blackwell Island in which was located the venereal disease section, where I saw some of the most pitiful and hopeless conditions I ever witnessed in my life. The City Morgue to which was brought unidentified bodies. Ellis Island was a port of entry for emigrants to this country. At this particular time I was informed that there were some million and a half, or two million emigrants per year. We saw what was referred to as the Supreme Court of the Island. It was a body of men who finally passed on the matter of whether a particular emigrant could stay in this country or be sent back to the country from which he came. I saw the boats that brought the emigrants from Ellis Island over to New York City. We saw the crowded areas of New York City. In some city blocks we were told 5000 people lived. The homes of the people consisted of two or three rooms from the ground floor up to the sixth or seventh stories. Where at certain intervals of the day the whole street on one side of the block was roped off for the purpose of allowing children to play. At other intervals another street was blocked off, etc., until all of the four streets around the block had been blocked off. This procedure continued all through the daylight hours. Rev. Samuel Calhoun, the son of George Calhoun, my great-grandfather, was born in Henry County, Kentucky, September 15, 1793. He was a Presbyterian preacher. John Caldwell Calhoun was born in South Carolina in 1782. While attending Yale College I knew they thought a great deal of John C. Calhoun. I saw on the campus a two story brick building and asked why that building was there. I was told that Yale College had preserved that building because John C. Calhoun had roomed there. At the time of my graduation from Yale College, the

graduating ceremonies were held in Woosley Hall, in a large auditorium holding several thousand people. The Deans, of the various colleges presented their graduates to the corporation. After the Deans of the various schools had presented their graduates they called in distinguished people for Honorary Degrees. Among them was Admiral Sperry who had just completed a successful circuit of the globe with the American Fleet. William H. Taft was President of the United States at that time, was a member of the corporation and a graduate of Yale College. William Lyon Phelps, a noted teacher of Tennyson and Browning was the Master of Ceremonies in presenting each of these distinguished people, and in presenting Secy. of War Dickerson, noted that he was a southern man and said that the man whom Yale delighted to honor above every other person who graduated from Yale was a southern man, John C. Calhoun. So this was an official declaration declaring that Yale delighted to honor John C. Calhoun as the greatest man ever to graduate from Yale. Some of my reasons for desiring to go to school at Yale, it was where my great-grandfather, Samuel Calhoun's cousin, John C. Calhoun had graduated. Another reason was that New Haven was on the seacoast. I wanted to have an opportunity of getting acquainted with some old retired Sea Captains of a sail boat having sailed all around the world. As luck would have it, the opportunity came in the person of Captain Landfair who had sailed boats all over the world. Another reason, Yale College was very liberal in its policy in allowing students a variety of subjects that he might select. Part of this liberality was in the following manner. A student might select any subject he wished so long as it was one of his major or minor subjects. This was the reason why as a candidate for Bachelor of Arts Degree I was enabled to take subjects in the Yale Law School and have a year's credit in the Yale Law School. It is also why I was enabled to take subjects at the Yale Divinity School, and have two credits in the Yale Divinity School. I found both very helpful to me in my work as County School Superintendent, and especially in my work as County Judge. It should be noted at this time that in Kentucky the office of County Judge does not require that he be a lawyer. I never took the bar examination to practice law.

We should remember that Kentucky was the 15th state admitted to the Union and the first state admitted west of the mountains. We should also remember that at this time Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun, all great orators, visited Kentucky in their campaigns for the Presidency. I have heard my mother say that great-grandfather, Sammy Calhoun say that John never came to see him except when he was running for office.

I have heretofore spoken of having been born on a 50 acre farm owned by my father, James McFarland, who was one of several children, boys and girls of Banister Wall McFarland who owned some 175 or 189 acres of land about one or one and a half miles east of the 50 acres owned by my father, on what is now known as Kentucky Highway 56. It being the farm now owned by Mrs. Florence Whoobrey. In those days it was the custom of the boys not to stay with their father after reaching the age of maturity, but they went out and earned enough money to equip themselves for farming and making enough money to make a down payment on a small farm. Among such equipment was a team, usually one horse and one mare, one cow, one sow hog and some sheep. I have referred to the fact that I was born on the night of February 24, 1884 during a severe blizzard, deep snow, etc. It may be recalled that at that time there was a great rise in the waters of the Ohio and Green Rivers. In those days there were no hospitals available and

no improved roads. Families having sickness in their home were helped by their neighbors. This was the situation on the night of my birth. Neighbors, men and women gathered at my father's home. One of the men rode to Beech Grove for Dr. Towns, other men helped my father with the animals and the women helped with my mother. It so happened that the mare was giving birth to a colt, the cow was giving birth to a calf, the sow was giving birth to pigs, the sheep were giving birth to lambs. For a long time afterwards it was quite a joke among our neighbors about the trouble my father had the night of my birth, and for a long time they would tell me about the night I was born.

I was the first of eight children born to James David McFarland and Viola Belle Montgomery McFarland. The following brothers and sisters were Edna, Halle, Ora, Eunice, Gertye and Bertye (twins) and Gladys. We were born and raised to maturity in what was known as the Hall School District. The boundaries of this district included some five or six square miles of territory. The southern boundary being the Daviess and McLean County line. The eastern boundary, Knob Lick Creek. Western boundary being a part of Delaware Creek and the Northern boundary included no fixed natural or political marks. The school house was located near the geographical center of the territory in some 100 or 125 acres of original woodland. No part of it at that time had been cleared up and only a small acreage of the woods has been cleared up to this day. The school building was a large one story frame building, the material was of native lumber consisting of yellow poplar, white oak and red gum. In those days this district supported a large school population, sometimes 100 pupils or more. The school building had two flues for fire. When there were two teachers a thin partition made up of sections could be quickly erected to separate the long room into two large rooms, each with a flue for fire. This arrangement enabled the building to be what has since become known as a community house where all sorts of public meetings could be held. Public meetings included church and various other meetings for business and entertainment. There was but one county road near this school house and it was on the edge of the timberland located on the north side of the roads, some little distance from the school buildings. At this point it would be well to remark that there was a ridge some 500 to 550 feet above sea level running from the south almost due north. The school house was located on the eastern slope of this ridge. The other county roads within this district were located, one some three quarters of a mile south of the school house. One about equal distance east of the school house. The other about equal distance west of the school house. At that time and for some time afterwards there was no stock law. That is, there was no law to prohibit farm stock from roaming at will on the roads. I think one reason for there not being such a law was the fact there was so much woodland. At that time I did not fully appreciate what a fine location we had for a school house. It was not until I became County School Superintendent and became interested in good sites for the location of a school house, and I think until this day that I have never seen a better location for a school than the Hall School.

In 1921, I bought the land on the North side of Parrish Avenue from the junction of Independence Avenue and Parrish Avenue, down to the Bosley Road. On the east side of Bosley Road from Parrish Avenue to what is now the Christian Church property and from the back part of what was the Christian Church property and what was then Smith's Addition School, north to Willis Street. All of the property south of Willis Street to Independence Avenue. In all some seven or eight acres of land. At that time the city limit

ran west from what is now the concrete walk immediately in front of my door on Parrish Avenue running from Independence Avenue to about 550 feet west of this line to a stake in Mr. Cooper's yard, thence northward to 9th Street along the east side of the Catholic Cemetery. It is the city limit now with the exception that from the point in Mr. Cooper's yard southward to the south right away on Parrish Avenue which was changed a few years ago.

I had gone into office as County Judge the first Monday in January, 1922. My first term ran to the first Monday in January 1926. My second term from the first Monday in January 1926 to the first Monday in January 1930. Some time during the last part of my second term, the late Thomas Medley, Miss Alice Baker and I appointed ourselves a committee of three to promote the idea of the city of Owensboro purchasing an open tract of land of some 34 acres owned by the late Judge E. P. Taylor and his son, Dr. Moreland Taylor, for a city owned park. At this time, Owensboro being a third class city with a Mayor and two Commissioners, Owensboro having gone from the old councilmantic system of government to a non-partisan form of government. At this time Mayor Beck, John Howard and Sam Stone were the commissioners. Mr. Medley and Miss Baker busied themselves by contacting citizens about the matter and sending them up to consult with the Mayor and Commissioners. I having been a public officer as County School Superintendent and County Judge realized the problem they had about the matter. They fully agreed that it was a very laudible thing to do if they had the funds to do it. I told them that I appreciated their situation. We had gotten the price of Judge Taylor and his son to \$20,000 and finally we worked out an agreement for the payment of the \$20,000 to be made in ten \$2000 payments. It was under these conditions that the city purchased what is now known as Moreland Park. We had in mind just what we have now, a large auditorium where all sorts of entertainments, public and private, could be held.

"Pleasant Hill (Knob Lick) Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized by C. C. Boswell in the fall of 1840, at the house of Stephen S. Winstead, on north side of Panther Creek. Most of their people lived on the south side of the creek, and for a time services were held, alternately, on both sides, in private houses. For a few years they occupied the Knob Lick school-house, on Knob Lick Creek, from which it was nicknamed. In 1846 they built a log house, 26 x 20 feet, near where the present church stands, on two acres of land donated by a gentleman from Indiana. The present structure was built in 1865. It is a frame building 26 x 40 feet. The present membership is 111. Services every alternate Sunday by Elder Willls Smith of Owensboro. Rev. C. C. Boswell, the first pastor, lives near Mattingly's bridge north of Panther Creek. The Baptist also hold services in this church; services the first Sunday in each month by Rev. Benjamin Bracket, of McLean County." (Daviess County History, pages 557-558).

My father and mother belonged to this church, and it was this church that I joined in the fall of 1897 at the age of 13 years, and have been a member every since. However, there is no church at this site now. It has been moved to a point on the Daviess and McLean County line about one mile west of Elba, Kentucky, on the Elba and Delaware Road.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that Thou has spared our lives and have given us health and strength and the right exercise of our mind. We thank Thee for friends and loved ones. We Thank Thee that Thou has enabled us to repay our financial obligations. We thank Thee that we have some prospects of wellbeing in our

future years. We pray Thee, Lord to continue these blessings and may we be able to live nearer unto Thee in the future than we have in the past. Forgive us our sins and be with the sick and afflicted and the distressed in either body or spirit every where in this whole world. Give us health and strength. Merciful Father be with us and guide us and direct us. May Thy will be done. Amen.

I was married to Mary Elizabeth Waltrip, October 17, 1912. We had four sons, William Owen, James Allen, David Andrew and Hubert Douglas.

Every since I was old enough to study geography and something about granddivisions, islands, peninsulass etc. I looked upon this section as being a peninsula, when I saw how the Ohio and Green Rivers gradually became closer together until they joined some ten miles above Evansville. Until fee bridges were built at these places it was largely a peninsula, from the defination of peninsulas I learned from geography books. North or south you ran into at best, slow, often dangerous, and many times purely inadequate ferries.

I think It is true that Kentucky has more milage of navigable streams than any other state in the Union. Starting with the Mississippi River in the extreme west, Ohio river on the entire northern border, the Tennessee and the Cumberland River passes entirely through the state. Green River, Salt River, Kentucky River, Licking River, Big Sandy River. This situation and all of its advantages imposed a great problem when it came to crossing these rivers. This problem in the early days was solved with what was known as ferries, using ferry boats. In the very early days, Kentucky had passed what is known as a perpetual franchise. Later on laws required that franchises could be issued for only a limited time, therefore any particular franchise must be renewed from time to time. In order to induce persons to acquire land on either side of a river, and equip them-selves with the necessary boats to perform this public service, they were given a monopoly of the business on the rivers of Kentucky within the limits of a mile up stream and a mile down stream. On the Ohio River they were given a monopoly on the business for one and a half miles up stream and one and a half miles down stream. (It was for the alleged violation of this law that Lincoln as a very young man won his first lawsuit in Squire Pate's court near Lewisport, Kentucky.) The County Judges of the counties with streams in or on its border fixed the fees which the ferrymen might charge for ferrying any class of vehicle. As motor vehicles increased, ferries in general became inadequate for handling the traffic, especially was this true during my two terms as County Judge of Daviess County from the first Monday in January 1922 to the first Monday in January, 1930. To illustrate the seriousness of this problem here in this part of the State it might be well to enumerate some of the places having ferries. For instance, take the Ohio River, there was a ferry at Grissoms Landing, up the river a few miles there was what was known as Wilson's Ferry. The ferry at Owensboro. A few miles up the river was the Ellis Ferry and further up the river was the Rockport Ferry. On Green River the following are some of the ferries, Spottsville Ferry, Mason's Landing Ferry, Birks City Ferry, Calhouns Ferry. Going up stream, the Curdsville Ferry, the Delaware Ferry, Rangers Landing Ferry, Eastwood Ferry, Wrightsburg Ferry, the Calhoun, Rumsey Ferry, Livermore Ferry, etc. As motor vehicles increased in number the seriousness of this problem increased until it became apparent that the fees ferrymen were properly allowed to charge, instead of toll ferries, toll bridges could be built. So as County Judge I pointed out this situation to the late Richard (Dick) Owen and to the late Col. Ben Johnson, both of whom at one

time or another were members of the State Highway Commission. This resulted in Col. Johnson sponsoring what became known as the Toll Bridge Law whereby toll bridges would be built, and after the bonds had been paid on any particular bridge they became what was known as toll free bridges. It was under this law that the present bridge at Spottsville, the present bridge at Calhoun, the present bridge at Livermore, and the present bridge at Morgantown were built on Green River, and on the Ohio River the Henderson, Evansville Bridge. Also the Owensboro Bridge.

Tornado in the western part of Daviess County, Ky. March 27, 1890. I was six years old in February before and have always had, and do now a very clear memory of that day. All day long the sky was overcast and a mild wind blowing, and occasionally could see where the sun was. Late in the afternoon the whole southwestern part of the sky begun to darken, but no thunder. The cloud rose up in the southwest from horizon to horizon, and my grandmother, Lou Ann Montgomery and her sister, Viola Cheshire were at our house. The two old ladies were watching the cloud and they rushed into the kitchen and dropped on their knees praying and saying the storm was right down in George Clouse's field. About that time it hit the house, taking the roof off, blowing fire from an open grate into a closet. Mother was perfectly calm and grabbed a bucket of water and put the fire out. Father had my younger sister, Hallie, in his arms holding the door while I was on the floor trying to get my boots off and crying to go down to Aunt Villie's house. In approximately two minutes the storm had passed leaving the elements perfectly calm. The only noise was the neighing of horses, cows bawling, hogs squeeling, and people hollowing for help. Aunt Villie's house and the frame barn was completely wrecked. On the same ridge south of our house stood the stables practically unharmed, but a large hickory tree on the west was leaning at about a 45 degree angle over the roof. Father rushed down and got all of the stock out of the stables before the tree fell, and left some one to keep the stock from going back into the stables, while he rushed to Albert Harris house which was in a large valley on a small bluff near a spring. The elements were unusually quiet, there were cries for help from our neighbors on the west. Father hurried to their rescue and found the house had blown down a small bluff, crushed upside down through the top of a large honey locust tree. No noise was heard from Mr. Harris and one child, but the baby could be heard crying. As it was supper time and a fire in the cook stove it was feared that the house would burn before the baby could be rescued. However the baby was dead when they got to it. The only survivors were Mrs. Harris, and Hiram Eidson who was working on the farm. Practically no rain fell during the storm, but the weather could be heard roaring on the west side of this ridge toward Delaware creek, and none on the east toward Knoblick Creek. Mr. George Stone who lived northwest of the Harris house waded water to his arm pits in an effort to get to the Harris home. So we must conclude that the wind of the tornado drew this backwater from Delaware Creek up this valley to the east. So far as I know these were the only two deaths in our immediate community, but numbers of people were injured and property destroyed. Those who were not in the storm came to the rescue of those who were in distress. Uncle Will, Uncle Sam, and Uncle John McFarland who were not in the path of the storm came the next day with enough material to help father put a new roof on the house. And on that same day a baby girl was born. Debris was scattered all over the country, such as furniture, clothing, pots and pans, house logs sticking in the side of a hill, straws and planks driven into large trees. For instance, Seat and Leslie Alexander and I the next summer were down in Mr.

Alexander's woods and saw some black cloth in a tree that we could and did climb, and found a lady's black skirt. In the pocket of that skirt a billfold was found containing \$4.00 or \$5.00. The owner of this skirt was never located, so we divided the money between us. So far as I know, we are the only ones who ever actually picked money out of a tree. This twister left a narrow strip of destruction from the Mississippi River through Louisville, Kentucky, killing approximately 100 people in that city.



Hubert Douglas McFarland
(1920-2007)

Hubert Douglas McFarland (1920-2007) graduated from Owensboro High School and the School of Modern Photography in New York. He was one of the first men to volunteer for the armed services the day after Pearl Harbor, during World War II. He served as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Corp, and worked in the photo lab in India. A professional baseball player he was the catcher for the Owensboro Oilers. Mr. McFarland was a professional photographer in Owensboro for over 50 years. He and his wife owned and operated McFarland Photography. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bernardine Josephine Oberst McFarland, by his parents, Roy Leighton McFarland and Mary

Elizabeth Waltrip McFarland, and by his brothers, William Owen McFarland, James Allen McFarland and David Andrew McFarland.