

Robert Hayes Gore (1886-1972)

By Jerry Long
c.2025



Robert Hayes Gore



“Daviess County Bicentennial Chronology: 200 Historical Events”, by Jerry Long, Daviess County, Kentucky, 1815-2015: Celebrating Our Heritage, Daviess County Bicentennial Committee (Evansville, IN: M. T. Publishing Company, Inc., 2015) p.11:

1886, 5-24 Robert Hayes Gore was born in Knottsville. He was a newspaper editor-owner and capitalist, who built a financial empire. In 1933 he served as national finance chairman for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and for six months as the Governor of Puerto Rico. He died in 1972.



Saint Lawrence Baptismal Records, Whitesville, Kentucky, Anna Hamilton (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1985) p.139:

June 19, 1886 – I bap’t Robert, born May 24th of Henry Goar (non-Catholic) & Mary Carrico; sponsor - Sallie Carrico. – by Rev. Thos. F. Gambon.



Daviess County, KY Marriage Book T, p.178:

Joseph Henry Gore married Mary Catherine Carrico on 23 February 1885 at St. Lawrence



Daviess County, KY 1900 Federal Census, p.21B:

Owensboro, 818 Fourth Street, household #75-82; rents house:

Gore, Mary C.	head	Sep 1861 (38)	widow	seamstress, 4 children	KY
“ Robert H.	son	May 1886 (14)	single	laborer wagon factory	KY
“ Roy B.	son	Mar 1888 (12)	single		KY
“ Guy G.	son	Nov 1890 (9)	single		KY
“ Bessie	daughter	Oct 1893 (6)	single		KY
Carico, Isabelle	sister	Oct 1863 (36)	single		KY



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 1 April 1907, p.1:

BOB GORE RESIGNS.

Gives Up Position On Inquirer Staff to Go to Colorado.

Robert H. Gore has resigned his position on the INQUIRER and will leave on Tuesday for Trinidad, Col., where he will take a position as city editor of the leading daily of that place. Mr. Gore has been with the INQUIRER for nearly two years and he has made rapid strides. As a news gatherer he is both zealous and industrious. He is an eager student and an industrious and loyal worker, and, better still. a young man of good habits. He will surely climb higher journalistically in his new home.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 9 October 1907, p.5:

The Haurey - Gore Wedding –

The Trinidad, Colorado, Chronicle-News has the following account of the marriage there of Miss Lorena Haurey of Owensboro, and Mr. R. H. Gore formerly of this city:

At a very quiet little wedding held in the private chapel of the Catholic church at 8:30 last night, Miss Lorena Haury of Owensboro, Ky., became the bride of Robert Gore, city editor of the Chronicle-News.

There were but two witnesses, Mauplin Woodson and his sister, Miss Nan Woodson. The bride was very dainty in a pale blue gown, trimmed in val lace. Her hat was a tiny affair, trimmed in feathers and matched the gown.

After the wedding ceremony, the bridal party was received at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold McCrory on Beech street, where an elaborate seven course dinner was served, covers being laid for Mr. and Mrs. Gore, Mr. and Mrs. John English, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burkhard, Mr. and Mrs. McCrory, Miss Nan Woodson. Mr. Fred Armstrong and Mr. Mauplin Woodson.

The table was very prettily decorated, a center piece of roses and ferns being enhanced by pretty trailing smilax over the snowy cloth. A huge bow of ribbon marked the bride's chair.

Mrs. Gore arrived here from Kentucky yesterday and was the guest of Mrs. John English during the day. She is a most charming little woman, who has already made many friends of the people whom she has met. She is a native Kentucky girl.

Mr. Gore came to Trinidad some six months ago from Owensboro to take the position as city editor of the Chronicle-News. He was formerly with the Owensboro INQUIRER and was a most efficient newspaper man. During his residence here, he has made a large number of staunch friends who wish him much happiness in his wedded life.

Mr. and Mrs. Gore will make their home in Trinidad and are at present residing at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burkhard on Beech street.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 8 October 1909, p.3:

Robert Gore Here.

Mr. Robert Gore, formerly a reporter in this city, but now on the staff of the Evansville Journal-News, was in the city Thursday attending the fair and visiting relatives and friends. Mr. Gore has received promotions since leaving Owensboro and is now well up in his chosen field of work.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 14 December 1921, p.3:

**Former Owensboro Boy To Go
Into Book Publishing Business**

Robert H. Gore who for the last four years has been managing editor of the Terre Haute Post is to sever his connection with the paper on January 1. Mr. Gore is going the book publishing business in Terre Haute.

The Terre Haute Spectator says: "Mr. Gore the man who "made" the Post. When he assumed charge of the publication four years ago, the paper was regarded as being "on its last legs." It had a considerable circulation, but no business. The owners had sunk more than a hundred

thousand dollars in it. The paper was widely read, but the "punch. to put it over" in a business way had not been developed. Mr. Gore brought on the punch. Within a year the paper became a money-maker. In four years its circulation had doubled and losses were turned into, profits.

"The R. H. Gore Book company will publish juvenile fiction some of which will come from the pen of the head of the concern. Mr. Gore's brother, Guy H. Gore, of Flint, Mich., will come to Terre Haute and become associated with the publishing business.

"Mr. Gore will take with him when he leaves the Post the very large insurance business he has built up. Through an arrangement with the North American Accident Insurance company he has the United States right on three forms of accident policies put out through daily newspapers. Mr. Gore says already 132 daily papers are using his policies. The income from this business alone would be sufficient to bring returns mounting into five figures. Raised in a newspaper atmosphere, however., Mr. Gore is not content to divorce himself from the publishing business and will consequently take a plunge into the juvenile fiction book field.

"The manner in which Mr. Gore brought the Post back to life will cause his friends to at once predict success for him in his new field of operations."

Robt. H. Gore and his brother, Guy are natives of Daviess county, Ky., having been born at Knottsville. Their first business experience was in Owensboro. They have many friends here who will rejoice at their rise in the world.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 28 March 1929, p.9:

**Robert Gore Buys
Florida Newspaper**

Robert N. Gore, of Chicago, formerly of Owensboro, has bought the Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Herald Publishing company, it was announced in the Florida city yesterday, and will take charge of the property April 1 for operation. Gore is interested in insurance and investments in Chicago, out of which he has accumulated a large fortune in the last few years.

For several years Gore was employed on the Owensboro newspapers, coming up with them from a boy. He was reared in the city and frequently comes here to visit relatives. He went from Owensboro to Evansville, where he became connected with the Scripps-Howard organization and was at one time managing editor of the Evansville Press and editor and publisher of the Terre Haute Post.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 16 February 1933, p.1:

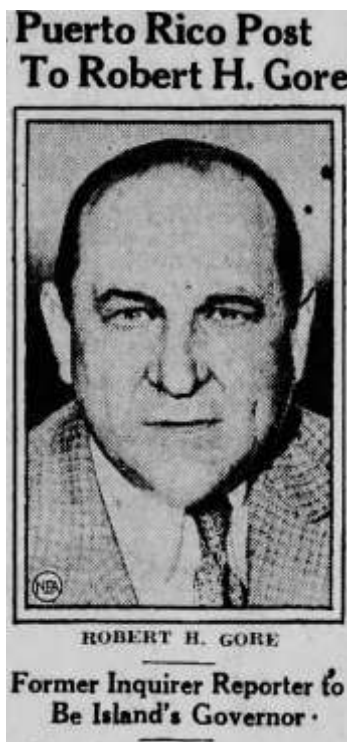
**Robert H. Gore Says Bullets Fired
By Zingara Missed Roosevelt 2 Feet**

Gore Is Former Reporter For Owensboro Inquirer

Robert H. Gore, of Chicago, close friend of President-Elect Roosevelt, and an eye witness of the assassination attempt at Miami last night, is a former Owensboro and Whitesville resident. While in Owensboro, Mr. Gore was a reporter on the Inquirer. In recent years he has been manager of the newspaper department of the North American Accident Insurance company, and is publisher of the Gore Newspapers of Florida, located at Daytona Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Deland. He has been the host of Urey Woodson for several days in Miami. Mr. Woodson was not in Miami last night, having departed for other Florida points a few days ago.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 27 April 1933, pp.1 & 7:



Washington, April 27. (AP) – President Roosevelt intends to name Robert Gore, of Chicago and Florida, formerly of Owensboro, Ky., governor of Puerto Rico.

A publisher of daily papers in Florida, he was closely Identified with the Democratic National campaign. He now is in Washington and his early nomination is in prospect. Gore had been mentioned for commissioner of internal revenue, which post still is vacant,

Former Representative Guy T. Helvering, of Kansas, again appears the probable choice for the latter office.

The name of W. D. Jameson, former member of the house from Iowa, is heard as a likely appointee for commissioner of patents.

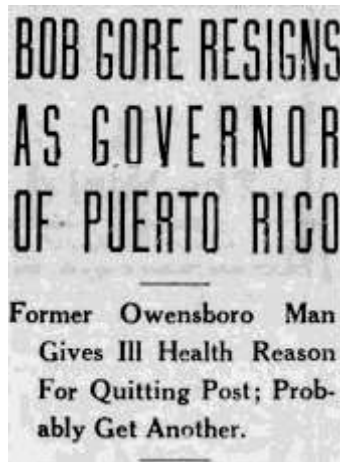
Robert H. Gore was born and reared at Knottsville, Daviess county. His first newspaper work was on the Owensboro Inquirer as a reporter about 25 years ago. He went from Owensboro to Evansville and later to Terre Haute, being| connected with the Scripps newspapers. He later engaged in the insurance business in Chicago and in recent years acquired a chain of newspapers

in Florida. He has made a marked success of all of the business enterprises with which he has been connected.

Mr. Gore married Miss Lorena Haury, attractive Owensboro girl.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 12 January 1934, pp.1 & 8:



Washington, Jan. 12. (AP) – President Roosevelt today nominated General Blanton Winship, former judge advocate general of the army as governor of Puerto Rico, succeeding Robert H. Gore of Florida, who resigned this morning.

The president also appointed Wright Matthews of Texas, assistant to the commissioner of internal revenue.

A new weather man for the nation likewise was selected, the president naming Willis R. Gregg of New York as chief of the weather bureau to succeed Dr. Charles F. Marvin.

General Winship is a veteran in insular affairs, having served in Cuba and the Philippines as advisor to the ranking American officials in these islands.

He was a military aide to President Coolidge and just recently retired as judge advocate general. He is a native of Macon, Ga.

Gore Native of Daviess

President Roosevelt accepted the resignation of the Florida newspaper publisher, formerly of Owensboro, Ky., who attributed ill health as the reason for giving up the post. He is in this country now.

Early appointment of a successor is expected. There also is strong likelihood that Gore, who played a part in the Roosevelt election campaign, will be given another assignment.

Gore was the center of a political quarrel in the island almost from the time he took office last summer.

More than a month ago he and his family returned to the United States.

Health Injured

Gore's letter of resignation follows:

"As you know, the climate in Puerto Rico has not been conducive to my own health or to that of the members of my family. I have had to return to the United States on two occasions to regain my health. My family returned in November and Mrs. Gore is now ill.

"Since my return to the States in November my own health is much improved and I do not want to jeopardize my physical condition by returning to Puerto Rico.

"I wish, therefore, to tender my resignation to become effective at your convenience.

"I want you to know that you will have my loyalty and cooperation as always.

"Sincerely yours,

"BOB GORE."

President's Cordial Reply

The president replied:

"My Dear Bob:

"It is with sincere regret that I accept your resignation.

"I appreciate fully your reasons for wanting to be relieved as soon as possible and I sincerely hope that you will soon be feeling fit again.

"I want you to know how much I appreciate your loyalty and continued cooperation in the difficult times through which we have been going.

"Drop in as soon as you have fully recovered. I want to have a talk with you.

"Very sincerely,

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT."



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 23 June 1944, p.4:



R. H. Gores Have 6 children With Army, Navy

These five sons of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Gore, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., formerly Owensboro, in five different branches of the service, are shown with their sister. Mrs. Dorothy Kirk, office manager of ship's service at the Ft. Lauderdale's Naval Air Station, where she has been employed since before the station was commissioned. The Gore boys. top row, left to right are: Theodore 'Ted', 18. Army Air Corps cadet, now at Maxwell Field, Ala.; Fred, 22, Lt. (j.g) USNR commissary officer, LST boat, now overseas; Joe, 24, purser for Transcontinental and Western Airlines in the Army Transport Service. who has flown to India, South America, Africa, Persia

and Scotland. Bottom left is George, 20, Pfc. infantry, Camp Phillips, Kansas, ASTP, now stationed at Missouri School of Mines, Rolla Mo. Center is Mrs. Kirk. Right is Jack, 28, chief yeoman in the Navy. stationed at Miami and making his home here. Four of the boys are graduates of Lauderdale High school.

Mr. and Mrs. Gore, leading residents of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., were both born in Daviess county, Mrs. Gore being the former Miss Lorena Haury, a niece of Miss Cornelia Arnold and the late Adam and Pete Gropp.

Mr. Gore, a former reporter of the Owensboro Inquirer, where he received his early newspaper training, served as governor of Puerto Rico in 1933 and 1934. He has numerous business interests. owning the Governor's Club hotel and the Sea Ranch, of Fort Lauderdale and the Hamshire House of Hollywood. He is president of the R. H. Gore companies which own the Gore Publishing Co., publishers of the Ft. Lauderdale Daily News, an interest in an insurance company and numerous other companies.

Mr. and Mrs. Gore have two other sons. Fitzgerald and R. H. Gore, Jr., of Chicago and another daughter, Mrs. C. L. Palmer, of Jacksonville, Fla. All of the boys have been students at Notre Dame university, in Indiana.

Before turning to the insurance and real estate fields. Mr. was also connected with the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 22 August 1948, p.5A:

**Bob Gore Tells of Plan To Build
Hotel Here Honoring Father**

From Owensboro Inquirer report er at age 18, to owner of a newspaper, two radio stations, six hotels, a large insurance business and a million plant orchid range, marks the of Robert Gore, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., who spent the week-end in his old home town, Owensboro, visiting with relatives and friends he left behind, when at the age of twenty he struck out on his own, accepting an offer to jump from Inquirer reporter to managing editor at Trinidad, Colo.

Now Mr. Gore, father of seven boys, two married daughters, and grandfather of twenty children, has come home looking a suitable location to build a 150-room hotel, which he intends to name the Henry y Gore, as a memorial to his father. In a conversation with Lawrence Hager, publisher of the Messenger and Inquirer, Mr. Gore revealed a sentimental adherence to memories of his birthplace, Knottsville, and Philpot where his father was a Daviess county farmer, and Owensboro, where he received his start in the newspaper business, through which he worked to other successes, greater financially than in the publishing field.

"By 1950 or 1951," Mr. Gore said, "I will be ready to add Owensboro to the chain of cities in which we are operating hotels. Meanwhile he will acquire the site on which to build."

Mr. Gore is planning to construct a hotel in Owensboro, comparable he says, to others he owns, including his Governor's Club and Sea Ranch, at Ft. Lauderdale. Four other hotels owned by Mr. Gore are in North Carolina, at Asheville, Hendersonville, Blowing Rock and Brevard.

Bob Gore's life as a cub reporter on the Inquirer is legendary in newspaper circles in this section of, the country. Before he was twenty, he solved a murder mystery which had baffled officialdom for days. He kept his solution a secret between the early hours of Saturday night and

time for the Sunday morning papers to come out. This was early in 1909. The rivalry between the Inquirer and Messenger was keen, and the scoop given by Gore to the Inquirer brought him offers from the Messenger and other newspapers. The story grew out of a murder, in which a difficult-to-recognize body was found by the police. According to Gore's narration of the events that followed, a woman then living here identified the body as her husband's and tried to collect insurance amounting to \$10,000. The company was not satisfied with the identification, and refused to pay. Efforts of authorities to solve the mystery drug out.

Then, one Saturday night, Gore received an anonymous call telling him there had been a killing "on Snow Hill." He thought someone on the opposition paper, the Messenger was sending him on a "rabbit run," but was afraid not to investigate, lest the tip be real. Taking a short cut, he was walking out the railroad tracks, and stumbled over a body. He took it a nearby house. From its temperature, he figured it was that of someone who had gotten killed jumping off of the last freight train that had passed. In the man's pockets he found papers which proved that he was the husband of the woman who had previously identified another body as that of her husband. Gore ran for an attorney and managed to waste time legally getting the discovery to the attention of the authorities, and gaining time to get the story in his Sunday morning paper, before the opposition knew about it.

After two years on the Inquirer, Gore, at twenty, went to Trinidad, Colo., as managing editor. In 1909, when the Evansville Press was having a hard time, he accepted its managing editorship. Later its owners promoted him to the publisher of the Terre Haute Post. There he hit upon a circulation promotion idea, which made him wealthy. He got the North American Insurance company to produce a cheap accident policy which he sold for 50 cents a year, with a subscription to his newspaper. Later more coverage was provided and the price went up to \$1.00. Subsequently it increased again. Meanwhile, Gore quit the newspaper business and became sole agent for the sale of the policies he had initiated. Other companies copied the idea, but before they could get into the field, Gore had signed up most of the larger papers in each city in the country. He took only one paper to a city. Now two of his boys run this business and a general agency in Chicago.

In 1928, Mr. Gore bought the Ft. Lauderdale Daily News. Later he purchased and sold newspapers at De Land, Daytona Beach, and New Smyrna, meanwhile moving to Ft. Lauderdale, where he took up orchid raising as a hobby. It has grown into a large business, based 1,000,000 orchid plants. There, also, he added an AM and an FM radio station to his holdings.

On his current visit to Owensboro, Mr. Gore was accompanied by his youngest son Ted, graduated this summer from Notre Dame University, of which his father is a member of the board of trustees. Mr. Gore's father died in 1896, in Owensboro, where the family had moved from the father's farm near Philpot. Robert was four years old when the family came to town. His mother was a Knottsville teacher, having been Miss Mary Carrico before her marriage to Mr. Gore. In Owensboro, Robert attended St. Frances academy, graduating at fourteen. He worked at the Owensboro Wagon company till 17, then attended St. Mary's College, near Lebanon, Ky., for a year before starting out as a reporter. A boyhood friend, George Gaw, a frequent visitor in Owensboro from Chicago, attended college with Gore.

Mr. Gore married Lorina Haury, of Owensboro, who is related to a number of families residing here.

In 1932, Mr. Gore became nationally noted in politics, having been finance chairman in the first Franklin D. Roosevelt campaign for president. He was later offered the office of Treasurer of the United States, but declined. President Roosevelt appointed him Governor General of Puerto Rico.



ROBERT GORE, Florida publisher and hotel man, (left) Saturday visited Lawrence Hager, publisher of the Inquirer on which Mr. Gore started a remarkable rise in the world of business and finance from the job of cub reporter on the Inquirer forty years ago. Mr. Gore had left Owensboro started remarkable rise in the world of business and finance from the Owensboro to become managing editor of a newspaper in Colorado a few months before Mr. Hager's father, the late S. W. Hager, bought the Inquirer in September, 1909.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 26 August 1962, p.4A:

Aug. 20 – Robert H. Gore of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., formerly of Owensboro, presents \$9,000 painting to Sisters of Charity to be hung in motherhouse at Nazareth, Ky.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 14 July 1963, p.8C:

**Robert Gore's Finest Investment
Will Help Handicapped Children**

Robert H. Gore, who once worked as a cub reporter for the Owensboro Inquirer, is about to make the most satisfactory investment of his long and successful career.

Young Gore came from his native Knottsville to enter the newspaper profession and after his stint at Owensboro became connected with Scripps - Howard papers at Evansville and Terre Haute.

While he was in charge of the newsroom at Terre Haute, Gore took up insurance as a sideline and this venture soon developed into an enterprise so profitable that he left Indiana and

purchased a newspaper at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and later, in Pompano Beach, entered the publishing business with the daily Sun-Sentinel.

Gore saw the great future facing Florida and as the years went by, he had much to do with the orderly development of the Fort Lauderdale area.

Now 77 years old, he is selling his two newspapers to the Tribune Company of Chicago. The price has not been made public but we are confident Bob is more than content with the transaction.

From the proceeds of the sale, he plans to buy tax-exempt securities and use the income to launch the education of as many bright but handicapped children as he can. By establishing a foundation for these children, he anticipates their talents will be fully developed and hopes they will become productive members of society.

Bob Gore has made many profitable investments as a businessman but we feel sure he regards the establishment of the foundation for these special children as his finest contribution to the development of human resources. We congratulate him on this humane endeavor and again note with pride he is a son of Daviess County.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 23 February 1964, p.10C:

R. H. Gore Remembers Help Given Him By Nun

**Former Inquirer Reporter Gives \$100,000
For Sisters Of Charity Of Nazareth Novitiate**

A Daviess County native, who started life as a very poor lad, so far as this world's goods are concerned, and achieved conspicuous success in journalism, government, and business, has donated \$100,000 to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in appreciation of the interest taken in him as a youth by one of their number.

Several weeks ago, Robert H. Gore Sr., who was born near Knottsville and who is now a foremost citizen of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., made the contribution to the Nazareth, Ky., order for the erection of the novitiate building.

In a letter to a close friend still living in Owensboro, Gore talks about his contribution. He tells about his early life in Owensboro as a half-orphan whose mother was unable to pay the St. Francis Academy tuition. This was in 1894. "There was a young sister there who was not more than 20 years old," he remembers, "but she must have had a very strong maternal instinct, because she practically adopted me, and for the next three or four years she directed; my education and tutored me personally in everything, so I give her much credit for my success in life."

Gore was ever mindful of the kind treatment he received at the hands of this young nun nearly 70 years ago. "This accounts for my contribution of this \$100,000 to the Sisters, although the first sister in this order was a great aunt of my mother."

The name of the sister who took such an interest in him at the age of eight was Sister Emmanuel, a third grade teacher at the academy. "I have had other education," Gore says, "but none in which the personal interest of a Sister of Charity was bestowed upon me.

"You have, of course, heard the phrase 'bread upon the waters,'" Gore told his friend. "Maybe this proves that sometimes that happens."

The ground-breaking for the proposed novitiate toward which Gore made his contribution took place on Feb. 9.



AFTER FIFTY YEARS--This photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Gore Sr., of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was taken on the occasion of the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Formerly of Daviess County, Gore recently performed another one of many philanthropic acts when he contributed \$100,000 toward the construction of a novitiate building for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Nazareth, Ky. Nearly 70 years ago, at Owensboro's St. Francis Academy, Gore was taken under wing of a young nun of the order which he recently aided because she helped direct his life to such an extent that he gives her a great deal of credit for his successes.

Now a retired, successful businessman who was once governor of Puerto Rico, Gore has been making substantial gifts for quite a while. In 1962, during the sesquicentennial celebration of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregation, he presented the order with a \$9,000 oil painting entitled, "A Moment's Gossip," by Ridgeway Knight. The painting was done in about 1850.

A milk glass decanter of Jeanne d'Arc, a part of Nazareth's museum collection, is another of his gifts. I

n 1956, the Knottsville native established a trust fund for students at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind at St. Augustine with an initial gift of \$100,000. He stipulated at the time that the interest and accrued annuities from bonds in the fund would be used for the "relief, needs, and happiness of these handicapped children – needs which cannot be met by the school."

Gore's first job was that of janitor and bell-toller at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Owensboro.

Later, as an Owensboro Inquirer reporter, he started a newspaper career which led to exceptional financial success and personal distinction. He has large financial interests in and about Fort Lauderdale, where he was publisher of the Daily News, until he sold it, recently, to the Chicago Tribune. He is banker, insurance company owner, real estate and hotel man, though most of the responsibilities of operating these enterprises have been turned over to a company created by him.

Following the start of his newspaper career in Owensboro, Gore became managing editor of the Evansville Press, and then publisher of the Terre Haute Post, before launching upon a highly-rewarding venture in the insurance business in Chicago.

While associated with the Terre Haute newspaper, Gore inaugurated an accident insurance policy as a newspaper premium. The success of the plan, in which policies were sold to prospective subscribers for a very low price, was based on volume business, and Gore sold the plan to other publishers over the country.

In 1954, Gore ignored a growing murmur in the television industry that UHF was a doomed animal and constructed the most powerful UHF station in the nation at the time. He added to his holdings a 1,000-foot TV tower in Fort Lauderdale, and a new transmitter for his WFTL-TV station there. The tower is twice as tall as the Washington monument.

It was during the first Roosevelt administration, in the early 1930's, that Gore held the position of governor of Puerto Rico.

Gore capped his many successes when he sold his Fort Lauderdale Daily News recently to the Chicago Tribune emoluments reported to be by far the highest ever paid for newspaper comparable in size to the Daily News.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 31 August 1964, pp.1A & 8A:

High School Is Rededicated In Honor Of Former Teacher

St. William High School at Knottsville was rededicated Sunday as the Mary Carrico Memorial High School. Special ceremonies were conducted at St. William Catholic Church and later at the school.

The \$60,000 school, which was originally dedicated May 5, 1963, is now named for a former teacher at St. William School, who later married Henry Gore. Her son, Robert Hayes Gore of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., donated funds to St. William Parish, which brought about the renaming of the school in honor of his mother.

Gore is a native of Knottsville. Both of his parents are now dead.

Gore made his \$60,000 donation to pay for the school recently after receiving a letter concerning the school from Miss Brenda Sue Payne, who was a freshman at St. William High School last year.

During the dedicatory service Sunday the Most Rev. Henry J. Soenneker, bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, said the letter from the young girl "so touched the heart" of the wealthy philanthropist that he immediately sent a reply to the student and volunteered to pay for the school in memory of his mother.

Miss Payne is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Payne, Route 2, Lewisport. She is one of a family of seven. Last year she was sixth in a class of 39 freshmen. She is presently enrolled at the Mary Carrico Memorial School as a sophomore.

The letter was written April 15| and she received an immediate reply from Gore. As a result of the letter the wealthy businessman not only made a decision to donate a large sum of money to the St. William Parish but he promised Miss Payne a college education if she finished high school.

The scholarship, with all expenses paid, will be at Nazareth College, Bardstown, a school which Gore has endowed.

When Gore visited the parish, Bishop Soenneker said, he pointed out where Gore had lived and where some of his old friends had lived. Gore was impressed with the condition under which Miss Payne lived, which was similar to those of his own during childhood, Bishop Soenneker said.

Gore was impressed too that the young girl asked nothing for herself but something good for her community.

A low mass opened the dedication ceremonies at 4 p.m., with the Rev. Msgr. William B. Jarboe officiating. The dedication at the school building followed the mass.

The presentation of a school bell, which was used by the former teacher, was made, along with the presentation of her portrait. Present at the dedication, representing Gore, were Mr. and Mrs. John Schmitt and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marks, all of Evansville, and Mr. and Mrs. George Heilman of Petersburg, Ind., nieces of the donor.

The school building, which contains eight classrooms – four home rooms, a library, business room, music room and science room, was first dedicated on May 5, 1963.

Students at the school will be taught by sisters of the Order of St. Ursula, with Sister Michelle as principal.

Gore was born in Knottsville and later moved to Owensboro where he worked with the Owensboro Inquirer. His objectives took him to Fort Lauderdale. He is the retired chairman and former majority owner of Gore Newspapers Co. at Fort Lauderdale, which was purchased last year by the Chicago Tribune. He is a banker, insurance company operator and hotel owner, and has heavy financial interests in and about Fort Lauderdale.



SCHOOL BELL – Father Maurice J. Tiell, pastor of St. William Church, looks at the school bell that that Miss Mary Carrico once used to call children to class at the parish school. With him is Miss Brenda Sue Payne, who as a freshman at St. William High School wrote a letter which brought about the rededication of her high school Sunday. The Knottsville high school is now called the Mary Carrico Memorial School. The money for the school was donated by Robert Gore of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in honor of his mother, Mrs. Henry Gore, the former Miss Mary Carrico. [[Three additional pictures taken during the dedication appear on page 1B of the 31 August 1964 issue.]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 22 May 1965, p.1B:

Letter Nets Girl Free Education

By Herb Marynell Jr. Messenger and Inquirer Staff Writer

Brenda Payne is going to college – free – just because she wrote a letter.

The story began last year when the newly established Catholic high school at Knottsville needed money to finish paying the debt on the building.

Someone told Brenda Payne that Robert H. Gore, a former Knottsville resident who parlayed selling insurance to newspaper subscribers into fortune, was a generous man.

And how!

His latest contribution was \$1,000 for books for the library. A batch of 400 arrived this week, of which 296 were purchased from Gore's funds, and more are ordered.

Brenda wrote to him last year telling about the needs of the community, the school, and about herself and her family – and she asked him to help. He did. In a letter he asked Brenda to see if her pastor, Father Tiell, and the bishop, Bishop Soenneker, would agree to a change in the school's name. They agreed.

In September, Gore came to Knottsville with a life-long friend and former resident of the area, Rock Moran, now a businessman in Chicago. Gore contributed \$60,000 to help pay the debt on the high school and church officials named the school, the Mary Carrico Memorial High School, after Gore's mother, who had taught in the community around the 1870's. Gore also donated portrait of his mother and the bell she used when she called school into session.

He also met Brenda and made his offer. She had not been told beforehand.

"I was thrilled," she said. "He said he wanted to thank me and he would pay for my college education."

Brenda, a 15-year-old sophomore at the school, said they talked for 45 minutes. "He did most of the talking," she said.

Gore offered to send Brenda to Nazareth College at Nazareth, Ky., a four-year girls school, providing she keeps a good grade average in high school.

"My grades are disasterous she says. What kind of grades do you make? "Every kind," was the answer. Actually she is doing quite well.

The Nazareth College is operated by the Sisters of Charity, a favorite charity of Gore's because a nun of that order, Sister Emmanuel, had helped him as a small child in the 1890's to get an education. He has donated \$100,000 to the order and in 1962, during the sesquicentennial celebration of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregation, Gore presented the order with \$9,000 oil painting entitled "A Moment's Gossip," by Ridgeway Knight. The painting was done around 1850.

In 1956, Gore established a trust fund for students at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind at St. Augustine, where he now lives His initial gift was \$100,000.

While in Knottsville, Gore and Moran covered the ground they once knew as kids. They visited an old cemetery and St. Lawrence Church, where Gore was baptised.

Gore also toured the school, noted a lack of adequate reading material in the library. He donated \$1,000 for the purchase of new books.

Gore, born in Knottsville, came to Owensboro as a youth and worked as a janitor and bell - toller at St. Paul's Catholic Church. He worked as a reporter on the Owensboro Inquirer.

He became managing editor of the Evansville Press and then publisher of the Terre Haute Post, before launching an accident insurance policy to newspaper subscribers that mushroomed into a fortune as it swept across the country.

He has large financial interests around Fort Lauderdale, where he was publisher of the Daily News before selling cut to the Chicago Tribune. He is involved in many fields, including the television field, and he is a banker, insurance company owner, real estate and hotel man.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 8 August 1965, p.1B:

County's Oldest Catholic Church Has Homecoming

.... A new electric organ has been donated by Gov. Robert H. Gore Sr., of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.. Gore was baptized in St. Lawrence Church...



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 9 July 1967, p.2A:

**Gore Gives
\$350,000 Gift
To Notre Dame**



Robert H. Gore, Sr.

The gift of a Knottsville, Ky., native and former reporter for the Owensboro Inquirer will enable Notre Dame University to construct a University Club for members of the faculty and professional staff.

The school's president, the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., said the \$350,000 facility is the gift of Robert H. Gore Sr. in memory of his wife, Lorena, who died in 1964.

Mrs. Gore was a member of the University of Notre Dame Woman's Council. Six of Mr. Gore's seven sons attended Notre Dame.

Gore is a former governor of Puerto Rico, former owner of the Ft. Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel and current honorary chairman of the Gore Newspaper Company. For many years he served on the university's advisory council to the College of Business Administration. Gore gave \$100,000 to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Ky., in 1964.

Father Hesburgh said the University Club facility has long been needed and will replace a residence which the faculty has been using. The club will be a one-story structure located near the campus entrance. It will have a dining room, or rathskeller, with seating capacity for 150 persons. Contracts have been let and construction will start immediately.



Owensboro Star, Owensboro, KY, Steele Publishing Co., 29 May 1968, p.1:

**Robert H. Gore Story: Displaced Daviess
Countian Remembers Benefactors**

Last week the University of Notre Dame formally dedicated a new \$350,000 University Club. This sort of thing goes on every day on campuses all over the United States, and very few Owensboroans were aware of the South Bend event, the story behind the scene, and the man responsible for the new facility, Robert H. Gore, Sr.

Who is Robert H. Gore, Sr.?

Robert H. Gore is one of a dwindling group of self-made men in the business world of America.

He was born in Knottsville, Kentucky, in 1886, grew up in Owensboro where he attended St. Francis Academy and went on to attend St. Mary's College at St. Mary's, Kentucky.

Robert H. Gore entered the newspaper business at the age of 19 in Owensboro, as a reporter, and later moved to Trinidad, Colorado, as city editor of the Trinidad Chronicle News.

From there on, the Robert H. Gore story reads like something from the old "rags to riches" novels.

Confidante of presidents and governors, Gore, unlike most of the nation's old-timers, was both a rugged individualist but believed in working with companies.

His first modest fortune came from a brainy idea which put life insurance in with newspaper subscriptions. The idea sold like hotcakes, because the price was low and the volume was huge.

With the basic philosophy: "Before an organization can be a success, it must know what it wants to do and how it will do it," Gore built an international insurance empire that stretched from London to San Francisco, and was headquartered in Chicago.

In 1929 he bought the Ft. Lauderdale News, and immediately became a key force in the city, county and state and inevitable his companies began sprouting throughout the territory. They

dealt with everything from newspapers to construction to banks, to orchids, and he threw their weight, and his own, into community improvement.

As a member of the State Board of Controls, which runs Florida's institutions of higher education, he fought successfully against communism among the state's college teachers.

His newspapers were merciless and smashed at gambling, and drove from the State Department of Conservation, timber-interest members who were using state resources for their own profit.

As his fortune and family grew, Gore reckoned back to his own youth, when he was half-orphaned by the death of his father when he was nine.

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky received a \$100,000 novitiate from him because he credited a 20-year-old nun with giving him the best three or four years of training after the death of his father.

Remembering his first jobs as a janitor and church bell-toller in Owensboro, he was free with college scholarships, but also made his gifts to the "deserving." He made a gift of \$60,000 to the Mary Carrico Elementary School in his hometown of Knottsville, the money to be used for remodeling the school, which was named after his mother.

In 1954, Gore set aside a \$100,000 trust fund for the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, in St. Augustine. He gave rent free to a Ft. Lauderdale school for severely retarded children. At Holy Cross hospital, a \$100,000 gift built a specialized children's department to care for handicapped children and those suffering from deafness, blindness and speech defects. Servicemen's handicapped children at nearby Naval Air Station receive; special hearing equipment from him.

In 1952 he was presented the Award of Merit and the title of Honorary Fellow by the Carver Memorial Institute and set up a fund for outstanding Negro students at Florida A. and M.

It was back in 1933, that Gore was appointed governor of Puerto Rico by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. His term was short. The first law to be pushed through Puerto Rico legislature by the new governor, was the requirement of teaching English in Puerto Rican schools. The law was fought vigorously by Eleanor Roosevelt. Gore stormed to the White House and informed President Roosevelt that he would not serve as a figurehead, and resigned.

Gore formed the Gore-Milkon Mortgage Corporation in 1960, and was president of the Florida Warehousing and Manufacturing Co. In Chicago, the R. H. Gore Co., Inc., expanded to offices in New York, San Francisco, Louisville, Atlanta, Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, and during 35 years, he built the Ft. Lauderdale News from the \$75,000 plant he purchased in 1929, into a publication that was valued in 1962 at \$16 million.

This is just a portion of the success story of Robert H. Gore, Sr. If all his accomplishments were to be printed, they would consume the majority of space in this edition. Few people in the Owensboro and Daviess County area have ever met the man, and those who do know him and remember him, are in awe of his surprising rise to wealth and fame, and his dedication to help others.

The Owensboro Star salutes the "man of the week," the gentleman from Knottsville, Robert H. Gore, Sr., truly a legend in his own time.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 27 December 1972, p.1B:

**Robert Gore,
publisher,
area native,
dies in Florida**



Robert Gore

Knottsville native Robert H. Gore Sr. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a former governor of Puerto Rico and former publisher of the Fort Lauderdale News, died Tuesday in Florida at the age of 86.

Born in Daviess County on May 24, 1886, Gore began working as a blacksmith's helper in Owensboro at the age of nine and later worked at the Owensboro Wagon Factory. He began his newspaper career while a teenager, working as a reporter for the Owensboro Inquirer, a forerunner of the Messenger and Inquirer.

Gore, honorary chairman of Gore Newspaper Co. at the time of his death, was employed by the Evansville Press from 1907 to 1916, first as a reporter and then as managing editor. In 1916, he moved to Terre Haute, Ind., where he became editor and publisher of the Terre Haute Post. While in Indiana, he developed the readers' service insurance feature for newspapers. From 1922 to 1929, he resided in Chicago, Ill., where he established a national agency for his insurance service.

A philanthropist, Gore moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1929 and purchased the Fort Lauderdale Daily News. In 1960, he founded the Pompano Beach (Fla.) Sun Sentinel. He sold both newspapers to the Chicago Tribune Co. in 1963. He was also a land developer and hotel owner in Florida.

Gore was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's national finance chairman in 1933 and shortly thereafter was appointed governor of Puerto Rico. As governor of the island, he pushed through the Puerto Rican legislature a bill requiring that English be taught in public schools.

Among the companies he helped found were R.H. Gore Co. of Chicago, North American Co., R.H. Gore Orchids and the Gore-Milkon Mortgage Co. of Fort Lauderdale.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Lorena Gore.

Surviving are nine children and several grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were not known late Tuesday.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 29 December 1972:

EDITORIALS

Robert Gore: a local legend

Robert Hayes Gore Sr. came out of the hills of Knottsville in the 1890s, arrived in Owensboro and went on to become a multi-millionaire by way of Terre Haute, Ind., Chicago and Florida. He was a native son of Daviess County who made good without being overly-famous locally. However, the national business scene was aware of him.

Young Gore was a demonstration of industriousness. While his mother, the former Mary Carrico was teaching at t St. William School, Gore became a blacksmith's helper at the age of nine, served as sexton and handyboy for St. Paul Catholic Church at 4th and Bolivar and worked at the Owensboro Wagon factory.

But it was newspaper work that lured him and he was to make millions in connection with journalism.

As a reporter for the Owensboro Inquirer, he resourcefully came up with a scoop story frequently for his paper on Sunday morning, much to the indignation of the rival Owensboro Messenger.

From here he went to the Evansville Press in 1907 and by 1916 had graduated to managing editor. Then he joined the Terre Haute Post, a Scripps-Howard paper, as editor and publisher.

Edward W. Scripps observed that Gore was producing a superior newspaper for a relatively small number of subscribers. Scripps added circulation manager to Gore's duties.

Gore created an automobile accident insurance plan that paid up to \$1,000 for death or injury in a vehicle mishap. Circulation of the Post soared. The insurance premium was 75 cents a year.

Gore sold his insurance idea to many another newspaper, including the Owensboro Messenger, hungry for new subscribers.

Despite a dramatic letter from Scripps, who predicted a brilliant future for Gore in the newspaper industry, Gore moved to Chicago to manage his now national insurance enterprise and soon was in the \$5 million bracket.

By 1929 he was in Florida where he purchased the Fort Lauderdale Daily News and spread into land developing and hotel ownership.

Gore was a backer in 1932 of Franklin D. Roosevelt for president. Mr. Roosevelt appointed him governor of Puerto Rico in 1933. He guided a bill through the legislature requiring the teaching of English in Puerto Rican schools.

The president's wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, visited Puerto Rico and reportedly sided with people opposed to Gore's teach-English bill.

According to The Associated Press, Gore went to Washington and told President Roosevelt: "If Mrs. Roosevelt is going to be governor of Puerto Rico, why the hell don't you appoint her governor of Puerto Rico? Because as of now, I quit."

After his service in Puerto Rico, Gore built the Governor's Club Hotel at Fort Lauderdale. He also helped organize the University of Notre Dame Club at Chicago.

In 1960 he founded the Pompano Beach (Fla.) Sun Sentinel and in 1963 sold his new paper and the Fort Lauderdale Daily News to the Chicago Tribune for \$18 million. He also became a member of the board of directors of the Chicago Tribune.

Among the companies with which he was associated were the R. H. Gore Co. of Chicago, the North American Insurance Co., R. H. Gore Orchids and the Gore-Milkon Mortgage Co. of Fort Lauderdale.

In Aug. 1964, St. William's High School at Knottsville was rededicated as the Mary Carrico Memorial High School in honor of Gore's mother. A \$60,000 donation by Gore paid off the debt on the school.

In retrospect, one can be saddened by the fact that Gore became a tycoon elsewhere. Surely if he had remained in Owensboro his wizardry in finance would have made itself felt in a number of endeavors that could have added to the stature of the city.

Gore died Dec. 26 in his apartment at the Governor's Club Hotel. He was 86.



**A History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky, Hugh O. Potter,
Daviess County Historical Society, Owensboro, KY (Montgomery, AL:
Herff Jones-Paragaon Publishing, 1974), pp.60-61:**

ROBERT HAYES GORE, SR.

A modern, non-fictional Horatio Alger character was a native of Knottsville in Daviess county who "built up two newspapers and a financial empire" and served for six months as governor of Puerto Rico in 1933 under the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was Robert Hayes Gore, Sr., who resigned the governorship, blaming Eleanor Roosevelt, the nation's then "first lady" for "interfering" in his conduct of the island's affairs.

Governor Gore was a son of Joseph Henry and Mary Carrico Gore. In 1963 he endowed the Mary Carrico Memorial High School at Knottsville to perpetuate the memory of his mother.

Following his death, the *Owensboro Messenger and Inquirer* said of the 86-year-old publisher-capitalist:

"Born in Daviess county on May 24, 1886, Gore began working as a blacksmith's helper in Owensboro at the age of nine and later worked at the Owensboro Wagon Factory. He began his newspaper career while a teenager, working as a reporter for the *Owensboro Inquirer*, a forerunner of the *Messenger and Inquirer*.

"Gore, honorary chairman of Gore Newspaper Co. at the time of his death, was employed by the *Evansville Press* from 1907 to 1916, first as a reporter and then as managing editor. In 1916 he moved to Terre Haute, Inc., where he became editor and publisher of the *Terre Haute Post*. While in Indiana, he developed the readers' service insurance feature for newspapers. From 1922 to 1929 he resided in Chicago, Ill., where he established a national agency for his insurance service.

"A philanthropist, Gore moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1929 and purchased the *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*. In 1960 he founded the Pompano Beach (Fla.) *Sun Sentinel*. He sold both newspapers to the Chicago Tribune Co. in 1963. He was also a land developer and hotel owner in Florida.

"Gore was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's national finance chairman in 1933 and shortly thereafter was appointed governor of Puerto Rico. As governor of the island, he pushed through the Puerto Rican legislature a bill requiring that English be taught in public schools.

"Among the companies he helped found were R. H. Gore Co. of Chicago, North American Co., and Gore-Milkon Mortgage Co. of Fort Lauderdale.

"He was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Lorena Gore.
Surviving are nine children and several grandchildren.



Robert Hayes Gore, Sr.



Past The Edge of Poverty: A Biography of Robert Hayes Gore, Senior,
by Paul A. Gore (Chicago, IL: R. H. Gore Co., 1990, 351 pages.



Robert Hayes Gore, Sr.

In this biography, Paul A. Gore provides a candid and dynamic portrait of his grandfather, Robert Hayes Gore, Senior, one of Florida's most noteworthy, yet misunderstood entrepreneurs. Here is the life story of a man who, by his own forceful personality and energy, rose from boyhood poverty on a small tobacco farm in Kentucky to become a wealthy insurance, newspaper, hotel and real estate magnate. Along the way, he played an important part in local, state and national government. Past The Edge of Poverty chronicles Gore's role in the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt, his short and turbulent term as Governor of Puerto Rico, and his influence in the development of Broward County and Fort Lauderdale, Florida for over 40 years.

Loved by his friends, reviled by his enemies, but respected and feared by all, Gore's life was a compulsive crusade to amass enough wealth to forever remove the ragged cloak of poverty from his family. At the same time, he gained enough independence and power to boldly champion local, state and national affairs. A man of both mythic accomplishments and exasperating contrasts, Gore gloried in being called "independent," "stubborn," and "eccentric." He just as proudly deprecated his achievements of being a millionaire and philanthropist. In this comprehensive, critical and above all candid biography, his grandson finally draws aside the veil of legend and fiction from the man whom noted historian Dr. Cooper Kirk called "the object of the most awe and hatred in Broward County history."

Paul A. Gore, president of R.H. Gore Orchids, Inc., is a practicing attorney in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and resides in Coral Springs, Florida. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, holds a J. D. degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School, a Master of Tax Law from the University of Miami School of Law and is a candidate for a Masters in Theology at the St. Vincent de Paul Major Seminary. He is married to Colleen Gore and has three children.

[Note: Book upon publication sold for \$22.95 plus postage \$5.00. The book could be ordered from Paul A. Gore, of Fort Lauderdale, FL.]



SUITE 528
800 WEST CYPRESS CREEK ROAD
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33309
TELEPHONE: (305) 491-2244

May 15, 1990
Miss Bettie Spratt
Kentucky Room
Owensboro Public Library
450 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

Dear Miss Spratt:

Six years ago, you were nice enough to send me information relating to the census for Daviess County and other information relating to the early settlers in Owensboro, Kentucky.

This information was used in writing "Past The Edge of Poverty."

I am sending you an advertising brochure relating to that biography.

R. H. Gore, Sr. was my grandfather and was one of the prime developers of Broward County. He was a publisher of the Fort Lauderdale News, owner of the Governors' Club Hotel, Governor of Puerto Rico under Franklin D. Roosevelt, member of the Finance Committee for the Roosevelt campaign in 1932 and a remarkable and colorful individual in early Florida history.

Distribution is being handled direct from this office and also from the University of Notre Dame Press at Notre Dame, Indiana. You can reach the Notre Dame Press at:

University of Notre Dame Press
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

If you wish to order copies for this book for the library, you may write to them or to this office. You will find my mailing address and other appropriate information at the bottom of the advertising brochure.

Sincerely,
Paul A. Gore



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 17 August 2000, pp.1A & 2A:

**Knottsville school finds tie
to Gore weaker than hoped**

By Karen Owen, Messenger-Inquirer

Mary Carrico Memorial School may have missed out on its 15 minutes of national fame. The Knottsville parochial school is named after a former schoolteacher who married a Gore.

Some local Democrats and Knottsville residents thought that was Gore as in Al Gore Jr.'s family.

It turns out the family connection is a lot more distant than they realized.

The school receives about \$20,000 a year from the Gore Family Memorial Foundation Trust, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., charity, which also helped finance construction of the school back in 1963.

This week, area residents at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles hoped to use information about the foundation and the Gore family tree to convince the vice president to campaign in Kentucky.

"They asked me to fax information out there," said the Rev. Marty Hayes, pastor at St. William Catholic Church, who wouldn't mind if the vice president showed up at the annual picnic to raise money for the school Sept. 17.

"His policies haven't really endorsed or acknowledged Catholic schools or private schools," said Hayes, referring to Gore's opposition to educational vouchers. A visit, though, "would give us 15 to 20 minutes of passing fame."

But the Knottsville residents are mistaken, said George Gore, a 77-year-old, Fort Lauderdale tax attorney and chairman of the Gore Trust, created from his father's estate. He is Mary Carrico Gore's grandson, Gore said.

Although he's frequently asked if he's related to Al Jr., "My standard reply is, 'Distantly, but I don't claim him.'"

He's a Republican, George Gore said.

Members of Al Gore's staff said Wednesday they hadn't been able to speak to the vice president directly because of convention activities, but they were sure that R.H. "Gov" Gore, the Florida man who was once governor of Puerto Rico, was not the vice president's grandfather.

"That is a wrinkle, and quite interesting," Hayes said.

"We really don't need to be that famous anyway," he said after a pause.

What St. Williams members do know is this: Parish records show Mary Carrico and Joseph Henry Gore, who was not a Catholic, married at nearby St. Lawrence Church in 1885.

Carrico was a schoolteacher somewhere in the community, but state law at the time forced teachers to quit when they married, Hayes said.

The new couple had three sons baptized as Catholics at St. Lawrence or St. William by the end of 1890.

One of them was Robert Hayes Gore.

Hayes said his information – and he wasn't sure where it came from – showed Robert Hayes Gore as the father of the late Albert Gore Sr., who was the father of the vice president.

Nope, says George Gore. That was his father.

His ancestors and the presidential candidate's ancestors came to America at the same time, but George Gore's family settled in Kentucky and Al Gore's went to Tennessee, George Gore said. They are about seventh cousins, he said.

The Gore connection still makes an interesting story, however.

Joseph Henry Gore died when his father was about 14, said George Gore. Robert Gore worked as a delivery boy, married local girl Lorena Haury, had nine children and ended up working for the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain in Colorado, Evansville and Terre Haute, Ind.

In the 1920s, he went into the insurance business, eventually bought the Fort Lauderdale Daily News and rose to national Democratic Party chairman, George Gore said.

According to a Fort Lauderdale history, Robert Gore was Franklin D. Roosevelt's national finance chairman during his first campaign.

After his election, FDR appointed Gore governor of Puerto Rico, but Gore and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt banged heads over a law Gore pushed through the Puerto Rican legislature requiring schools there to teach English.

Gore resigned after only a year in office, according to "Fort Lauderdale and Broward County: An Illustrated History," by Stuart B. McIver. He complained to the president, "If Mrs. Roosevelt is going to be President, or the Governor of Puerto Rico, she ought to be officially appointed."

His father also changed his party affiliation to Republican, George Gore said.

When Robert Gore died in 1972 at age 86, the family created the foundation that still donates money to Mary Carrico School, named after his grandmother.

Her old school bell still hangs in the school, said Hayes.

The school has 146 students in kindergarten through the eighth-grade and has a budget of \$440,000.

The Gore Foundation helps "the people who fall through the cracks," said George Gore.

The charity distributed \$1.6 million last year in scholarships and in assistance to the disabled and poor, he said.

Half of the \$20,000 or so Mary Carrico School gets from the foundation each year is used to cover the tuition costs of students who couldn't otherwise attend there, Hayes said. Tuition is \$650 for one child, or \$1,200 for two or more, so the donation could help 10 families or more, Hayes said.

The rest of the Gore donation is used in other ways to benefit such students, such as paying for vision testing so students could get glasses from the Lions Club, the priest said.



Robert H. Gore Collection
Broward County Library, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

https://digitalarchives.broward.org/digital/collection/GORE_BCHA



About Collection:

The Robert H. Gore papers contain the political, personal, and business papers of Robert Hayes Gore (b.1886–d.1972). The collection, which dates from 1929–1976, consists of correspondence, scrapbooks, newspapers and newspaper clippings, books, pamphlets, catalogs, photographs, memorabilia, framed items, certificates, business papers, legal documents, and interview transcripts, evidencing Robert H. Gore’s political, civic, entrepreneurial, and personal connections and activities. The collection documents Gore’s political involvement in national politics from the 1920s through the 1940s, including his involvement in the Democratic National Convention, appointment as Governor of Puerto Rico during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and his interest in South Florida’s politics and development through the 1960s. Letters and newspaper clippings in the collection contain information about R.H. Gore’s many professional careers, including information about his newspaper businesses and real estate ventures. Additionally, the collection contains documents and correspondence concerning R.H. Gore’s semi-professional hobby of growing and promoting orchids. Included are clippings of the many editorials which Gore wrote during WWII.



Mary Carrico Memorial School, Highway 144, Knottsville, KY

