

Clyde O. Laughner Story

Part II

On May 15, 1951 Clyde celebrated the 50th anniversary of ownership of the drug store. An Open House was held on that day. Fifty years of efficient service had been rendered to the community of Whitestown by Clyde and Gertrude Laughner in the management of the business. Gifts were presented to visitors.



The 50th Anniversary of the Drug Store. Pictured are Gertrude and Clyde Laughner. Photo taken in 1951.

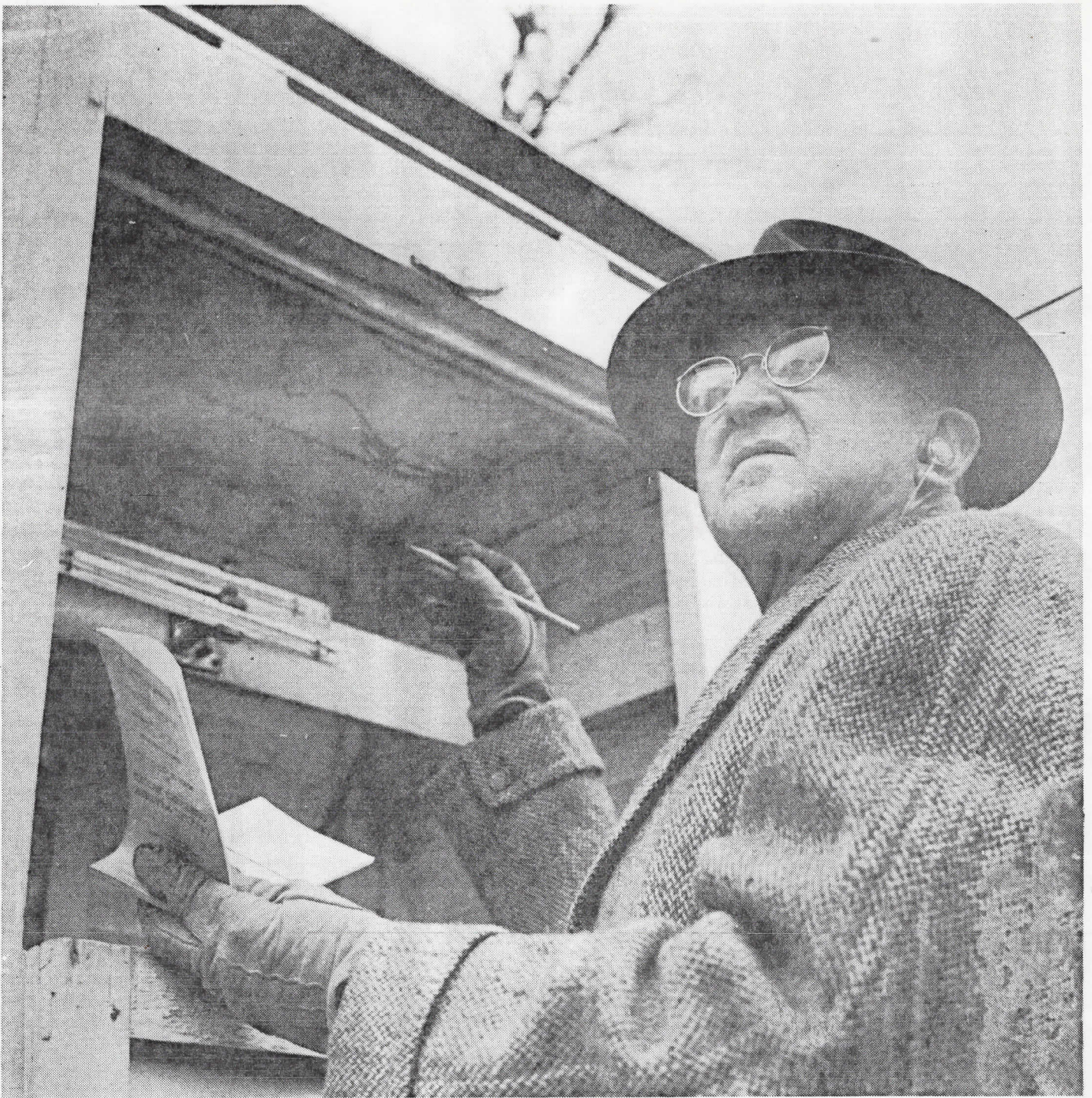
Photo courtesy of Esther Dulin.

The following Sunday, May 21, 1951, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

After 52 successful years in business, he sold out to Charles Hine.

Although he served as druggist and pharmacist he was occupied with many other responsibilities. He collected rent for the Whitestown Citizens Telephone Company for many years. He was a 50-year member of the local Masonic lodge, serving as its secretary and was a member of St. Marks Lutheran Church, Whitestown, serving on its council board and active in all its activities. He was the secretary for the Red Men, also, for many years, and headed the committee for the Red Men's Picnic, which was held in Johnnie Stark's Park. When Whitestown became an incorporated town he was its first Mayor. He worked for years with the American Red Cross chapter in Lebanon.

In addition to his many jobs Mr. Laughner found time to act as the official government weather observer, which he served for more than 55 years, starting October 1, 1910 to October 5, 1965. He didn't forecast the weather, but kept a record of it from day to day for the information of the Weather Bureau in Indianapolis. And he did it for free - as a hobby. He was known as a cooperative observer and every day he recorded the temperature, prevailing winds and the rain and snow fall. He didn't need a weather vane to check the direction of the wind. He just watched the smoke from the elevator across the railroad tracks from the store.



**Clyde O. Laughner taking readings of the weather. The photo was taken in 1957.
Photo courtesy of Esther Laughner Dulin**

He received a citation from the U.S. Weather Bureau for his efforts in 1960.

The congenial, veteran observer missed only a few days when sickness or a broken thermometer halted his activities. Helpers included his wife, Mrs. Lillie Jackson, and Mrs. Goldie Isenhour.

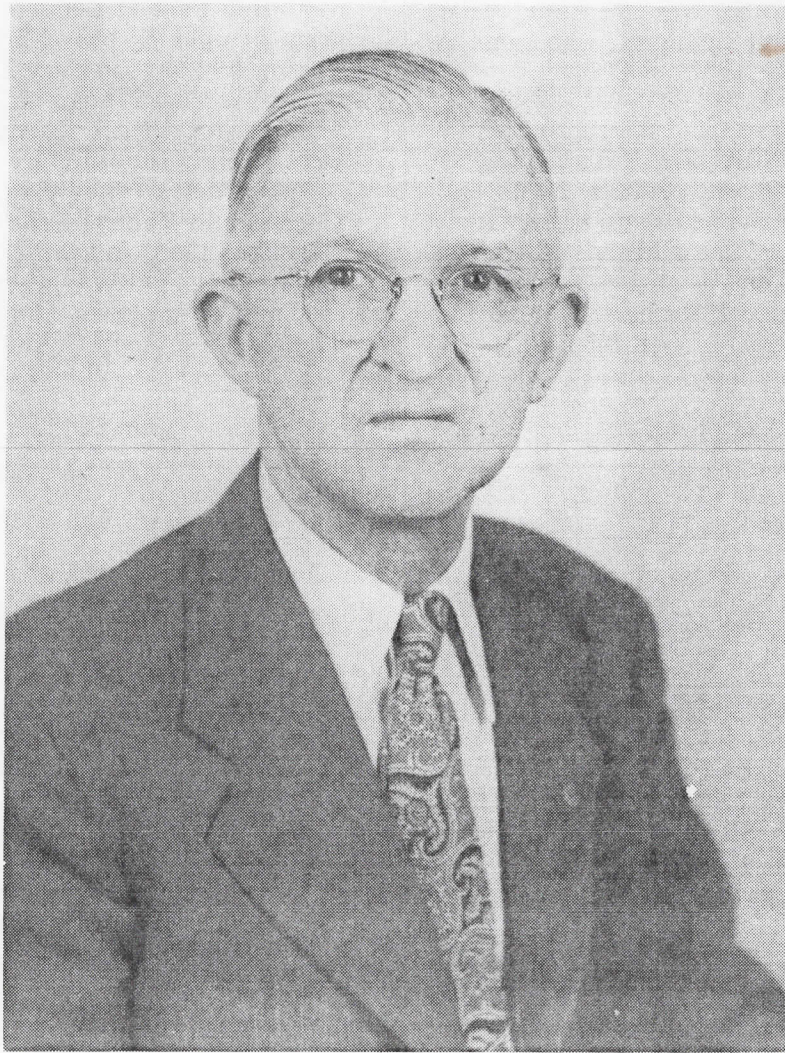
Laughner, in the 50 years of observing the weather, recorded 76.77 foot of snow, through 1,963 inches of rain, to 24 degrees below zero during 1930, and 112 degrees in July of 1936.

It is ironic that he passed away during one of the worst blizzards. He died February 3, 1966, at the age of 85. ✪

March 1982 - Boone Magazine - Page 7

The Laughner Story

Submitted by Esther (Laughner) Dulin



Clyde O. Laughner

Clyde O Laughner, son of Ambrose Miller and Rowanna (Neese) Laughner, was born July 9, 1880, on the Laughner homestead, Whitestown, Boone County, Indiana. Clyde was the youngest of eleven children; 4 sisters and six brothers - Riley O , Bert, J T Frank, Luther, John W , Centrilla, Candacie,

Sarah, and Della.

His father and grandfather ran a store in Whitestown, while the older brothers farmed the land.

He attended and was graduated from the Whitestown schools.