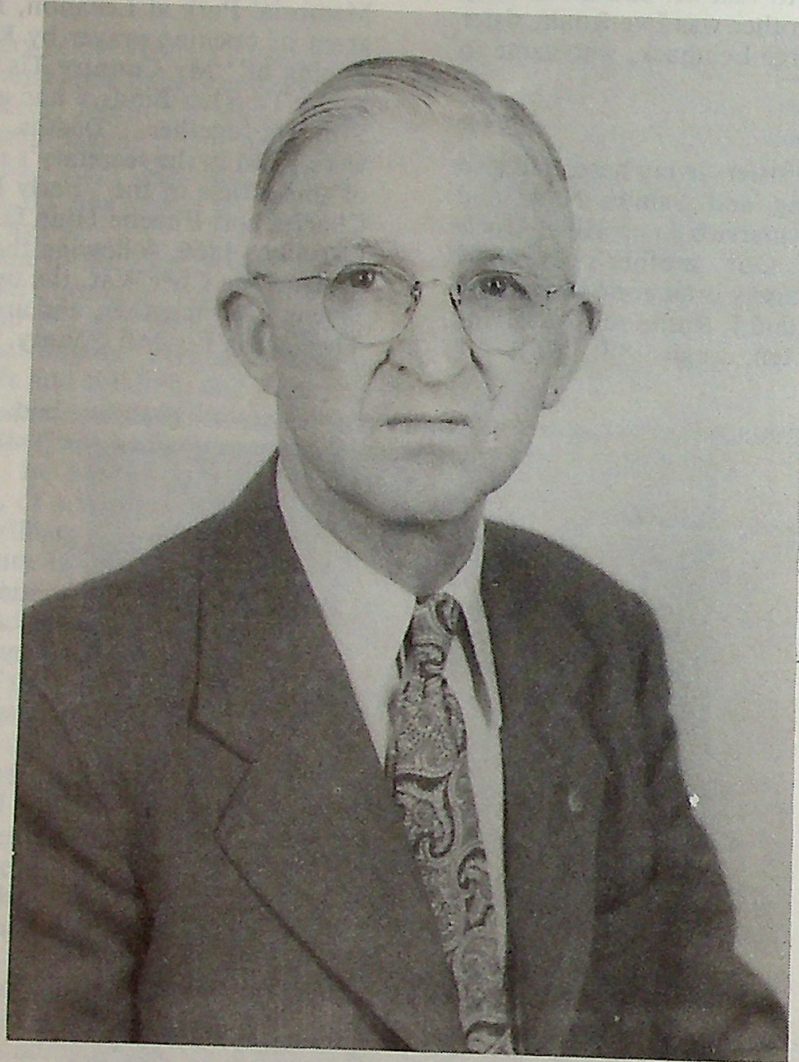


The Laughner Story

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.

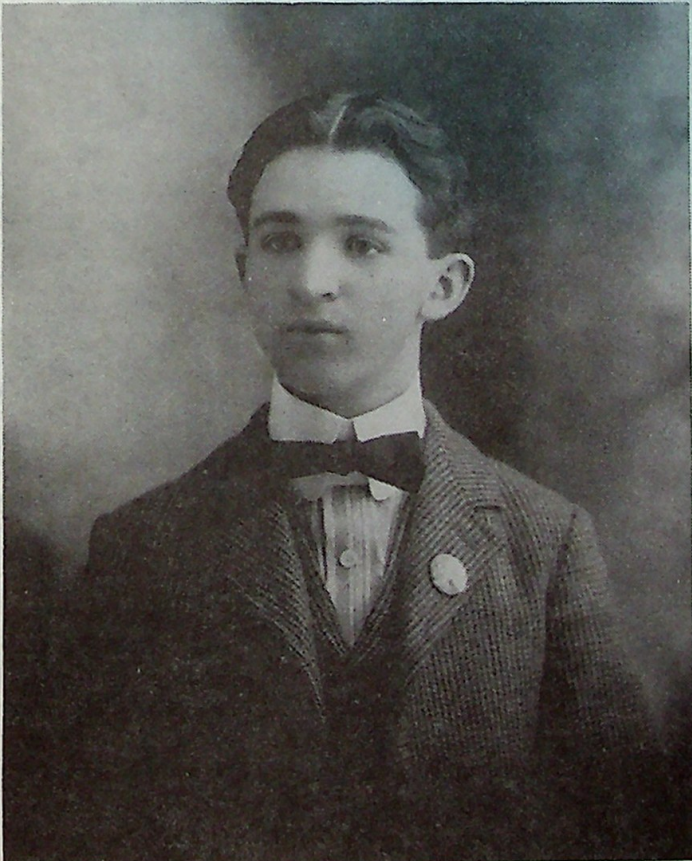
He attended and was graduated from the Whitestown schools.



Clyde O. Laughner at about 6 years of age, year 1886.



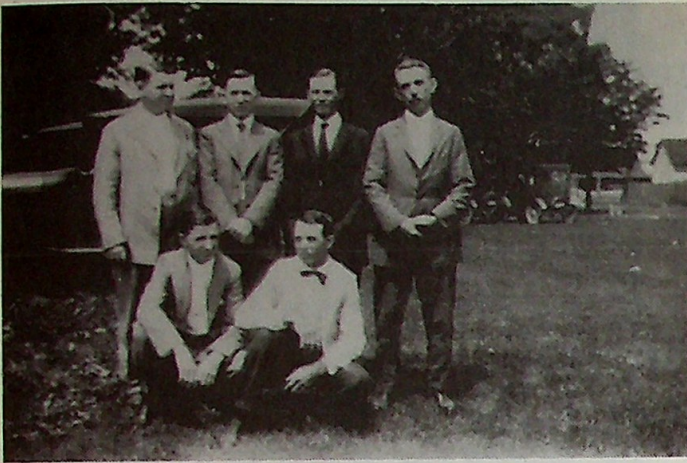
Gertrude Sholty Laughner about 4 or 5.



Clyde Laughner was married to Miss Gertrude Sholty May 21, 1901. They were the parents of three



children; Dorothy (Mrs. Russell) Schooler, Frank B. Laughner, and Esther (Mrs. Ardra B.) Dulin.



Laughner Brothers

Front row, Clyde, Luther. Second row, J.T. Frank, Bert, Riley O., and John W. Laughner.



Laughner Sisters

Left to right: Centrilla, Candacie, Sarah and Della Laughner.



Ambrose Laughner House

The Ambrose Laughner house, Clyde's father's, was located on the northwest corner of Turner and

Bowers streets in Whitestown. Later it was remodelled by Clyde Laughner.

This house is where my children Bobby Joe, John E. and Swamp will remember where Uncle Clyde and Aunt Gerie Laughner lived, when they were young.

Clyde first started working for his father as a druggist in 1898. As a druggist, he received a part of his early training under the instruction of his brother, J. T. Frank, and also at Indianapolis at the E.W. Stuckey drug store, which was located at the corner of Illinois and Ohio streets.

Clyde, as a young man of 20 years, purchased half interest in his father's drug store.

He was in partnership with his brother, Bert, for a short period. In 1902 Bert sold his interest in the store to another brother, J. T. Frank Laughner. Together Clyde and Frank worked as partners until 1903 when Clyde acquired full ownership, and continued to operate the business, and in every respect fulfilled the requisites of a successful, progressive druggist and pharmacist. Clyde was assisted by his cousin, Edward S. Laughner as clerk. His daughter, Esther, assisted her father in bookkeeping at the store before her marriage.

In 1907 the late A. M. Laughner purchased the store from John Donaldson, who in turn had purchased it from a Mr. Peters and C. W. Shoemaker.



The Laughner drugstore was located northwest of the Big Four railroad tracks in Whitestown, at the road intersection on Main Street. The building still stands and is presently occupied by Smith Candy Brokerage.

(To be continued)



The drugstore as it looked about 1902. Left to right are Ambrose Laughner, Cleve Isenhour, and

Clyde O. Laughner.

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. ☆