

# Wickson Family



he sixth child of Mary Ellen nee Kennedy and William Wickson was James Edward Wickson, born May 14, 1904 in Brantford Ontario, Canada. In 1924 he came to Detroit as a toolmaker at Wayne Tool and Burnside Tool. In 1928, Jim's brother Bill needed someone to watch his interests at Universal Engineering Company in Frankenmuth; he persuaded Jim to move to Frankenmuth and work at Universal. He arrived in Frankenmuth October 20, 1928 and boarded with Charles and Margaret Link. Jim was made chief inspector and foreman of the milling department in 1929. He advanced to vice president and assistant manager in 1941, general manager in 1946, and president in 1959. He served as chairman of the board from 1967 retirement in 1969.

In May of 1929, Jim married Meta E. Link, the daughter of Charles F. (1869-1957) and Margaret E. nee Freudenstein (1874-1950). Jim and Meta adopted their daughter Betty Lue when she was seven years old.

Jim was the first mayor of Frankenmuth and held that office for 14 years. In 1950, when he was president of the Frankenmuth Memorial Park Association, he donated a rose garden to the park. One of the rosebushes in the garden was named the "James E. Wickson" rosebush.

Meta and Jim set up the Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation, a registered charity, in 1967. This foundation donated almost all the necessary funds for the construction of the James E. Wickson Memorial Library and the Meta E. Wickson Children's Wing. The foundation also donated a large leaded window in St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in memory of Meta's parents. The Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation is still active as of the year 1994.

Jim died March 1970 and Meta died December 1983. Both are buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery. Their home in Frankenmuth was at 215 South Franklin, located on Frankenmuth's historical street.

Descendants of Jim and Meta are Betty (Reinhardt) and her children: Vera, James, Brenda, Cathy, Michael, Alan and Charles.

Gordon Charles Wickson, Jim's younger brother and the youngest of Mary Ellen and William Wickson's children, was born August 10, 1906 in Brantford Ontario, Canada. Gordon started working for various farmers at age 14. He later worked for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, did highway construction, worked in grain harvesting and did timber work in lumber camps.

In 1931 Gordon moved to Detroit and worked at the Dodge Motor Plant as an inspector. While in Detroit, he married Neva Moore on May 25, 1939. Gordon adopted Neva's two daughters, Alice and Doris, from a previous marriage. Gordon and his family moved to Frankenmuth November 1942 and, at that time, he returned to Universal as a plant supervisor.

Neva died November 29, 1988. Gordon maintained his home at 209 Beyerlein in Frankenmuth. In spite of being diabetic, partially deaf and legally blind, he continued to enjoy traveling, fixing things, gardening and keeping active.

Descendants of Gordon and Neva are Alice Progler and her daughter, Pamela Garrison, and grandchildren, Scott and Nicole; Doris Voorheis and her children, Nancy Simon, David and Nadine Voorheis, and grandchildren: Aaron, Rachel and Julie Simon; Andrew and Dana Voorheis.



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