

## Doyle Russell O'Rear & Myrtle Marie Boyd O'Rear Family History

Doyle Russell O'Rear was born February 13, 1914, on a farm near Foster, Missouri, to Robert 'Dick' Sumner O'Rear and Mary Edna Kinion O'Rear and died on July 11, 2001, in Iowa City, Iowa, where his grave is in Memorial Gardens Cemetery. He was the fourth of their eight children (Velma, Delores, Floyd, Mildred, Doyle, Cecil, Virgil, and Francis 'Bill', in order). Their family doctor drove a horse and buggy through a snowstorm to the farm to assist with his birth.

His father, Dick (born June 5, 1887 in Johnstown, Missouri; died in September 1965), was one of eight children born to his parents: Elias (Elijah) and Luticia (Lutissa or Lutia) Branack (or Brannock) O'Rear. Dick's mother Luticia was his father's second wife and was very short, less than 5 feet tall according to Doyle. Doyle's mother, Edna (born August 23, 1889 in Bethany, Missouri; died in 1961), was one of five children (Oval, Mary 'Edna', Vera, Claude, and Bessie) born to Samuel N. (Nelson) and Sarah Ann Fail Kinion (also spelled Kenyon in some documents). Dick and Edna married on November 24, 1905.

Nelson Kinion was about 80 when he died, circa 1940. Although he owned several farms and made a lot of money by buying rundown farms, fixing them up, and selling them, the Depression left him nearly penniless. He lost most of his money when the banks closed and lost his farms when he did not have the money to pay the taxes on them. When he died, \$383 was all that he left for his wife Sarah. His ancestors came from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Sarah's father, Mr. Fail, died when he was 99. Doyle remembers him playing football with the boys when he was 98, saying that Mr. Fail could really kick the football. His ambition had been to live to be 100, but he didn't quite make it.

Doyle attended Old Walnut School, a one-room country school, for grades 1 through 8. At the time, 54 students attended that school, sitting as many as three at each desk. He always liked school and was at the top of his class, along with two girls. His favorite subjects were mathematics and English. The school was about half a mile from their house. At school and whenever he and his brothers got together with neighbors, they always played baseball. He never heard of football until he was grown. He, Cecil, and a friend once played hooky from school, hopped the train to Pleasanton, Kansas, to go to the fair, and hopped the train back that evening. His father insisted that he work on the farm and not attend high school when he discovered that one of the reasons Doyle wanted to attend was because of a pretty girl.

He got spanked mostly for teasing and fighting with his younger brother, Cecil. Their favorite games were hide-and-seek, black man, and ante over. They ice skated with their brothers and neighbor boys on a creek—where they also swam in the summer—near their house. Although he had few toys that belonged to just him, he had a hoop (an iron ring from a wagon wheel) that he guided with a thin board, with another tacked across the end. While he said that no fuss was made over an individual's birthday in his family, he did remember getting birthday spankings from his older siblings. His family had no radio, but he remembers going to a neighbor's who had one of the first radios in the area. Since it required headphones to hear, they put the headphones in a wash basin to amplify the sounds so that more people could hear it.

They occasionally made their own ice cream, but Doyle remembered that they could buy candy for a penny and an ice cream cone in town for a nickel. Although they did not have sodas to drink, they sometimes had lemonade. Mostly, they drank water from their well. Since they had no electricity, they used kerosene lamps with a glass chimney to keep the flame from being blown out. He remembered having to turn the washing machine by hand and bringing in wood and kindling for their wood-burning stoves. Having no electricity also meant that they had no fans to cool them in the summer, so they slept in the yard when the house became too hot. Although they had no attic or basement, they had a cellar whose double purpose was to store potatoes and his mother's canned vegetables, and to provide shelter from storms—particularly tornadoes. Since their house burned down when he was a boy, they lost all their family pictures, as well as an organ.

Their family, typical of farmers at that time, never took a vacation. (His first vacation was after he was married and not living on the farm. The company provided one week vacation a year.) He remembered going by train with his brother Cecil and sister Mildred to visit their Grandma and Grandpa Kinion, 18 miles away. Their fare was 24 cents each. He said that they had fun! He also remembered going to Kansas City, 70 miles away, with his cousin Wesley Martin in his car. Although they had six flat tires on the trip, Doyle thought that the trip was wonderful. His family never had a car. They usually went to the fairs in Butler, Missouri, and Pleasanton, Kansas, each fall.

While growing up, Doyle worked on the family farm, as well as on neighbors' farms, generally plowing, disking, cultivating, harrowing, milking, cutting wood, and whatever else needed doing. His first paying job was working on a farm for Mr. Andy Tickle. He received 25 cents a day for his work. He would often stay at the farm where he was working away from home for three to four days at a time. When he was 10 or 11, he worked and stayed at his sister Velma's sister-in-law's farm near Kansas City all summer. He and two others milked 105 cows by hand twice a day, as well as feeding them, getting them to and from the pasture, and generally caring for them. His hands would get so stiff that he had to pour milk on them and massage them before each milking. He was paid \$25 each month.

After graduating from Old Walnut School, Doyle generally worked on the family farm, later renting land from and turning over all profits to his father. The summer that he was 17 or 18, he and Cecil also cut hedge trees for fence posts to earn enough money to jointly buy a used 1929 or 1930 Ford Touring car that he said was in really good condition. He couldn't recall whether they paid \$75 or \$175 for that car. Unfortunately, friends ran into the car and totally demolished it after they had owned it only about 60 days. That's when they discovered that these people were not really very good friends since they never paid a cent to either Doyle or Cecil for that car.

He, Cecil, and Floyd all worked in the coal fields, with the latter two using picks and shovels along the high walls that the steam shovel could not reach to recover the coal there. In later years, their father, Dick, leased the coal rights to his farm for several thousand dollars and later sold the farm and moved to Butler (probably around 1950).

In 1934, Doyle bought a 3.5 ton, single axle Indiana dump truck and used it to haul gravel and coal to, in, and around Little Rock, Arkansas, and Harrisonville, Missouri, in addition to farming, to earn money. The only work available for trucking

was from the WPA (Work Project Agency), which paid \$1.10 an hour for the driver and truck. Doyle said that this money was just enough to keep half a step ahead of starvation.

Six months later (11:30, November 8<sup>th</sup>), he married Myrtle Marie Boyd, and they began their married life living with his parents in their home. Doyle recalled that they had met when she was helping Doyle's married sister Mildred's family after Mildred had given birth to their first son, Carl Ross Mullies west of Foster, Missouri. Marie recalled that they met at her sister's house while Doyle was visiting his sister (Marie's sister's neighbor). She was then 22 and said that she forgot about all other guys when she met him. Her parents liked Doyle the first time they met him. Doyle and Marie attended church together at the Old Walnut school house, sometimes went to movies, and often just stayed at Marie's house while they were courting. Later, when he went to Arkansas to work for a short while, he wrote her a letter, and he didn't often write letters. After his return, he went to see her one evening, they went for a ride, and he asked her to marry him. Marie taught in a nearby one-room country school (Greenview, she thought). She walked to the school, except that when it rained, Dick O'Rear would take her in a wagon pulled by his team of horses. After finishing that school year, she became a stay-at-home wife at Doyle's request.

Marie was born on a farm near Metz, Missouri, on January 25, 1911, to John Franklin Boyd (November 16, 1877 - March 22, 1949) and Magdalena 'Lena' Elizabeth Bingel Boyd (October 12, 1882 - May 18, 1970). (Metz is about 21 miles by road south of Foster, Missouri.) She was the fourth of their nine children (Clarence, Edward Alva, Ethel May, Myrtle Marie, Karl Franklin, Lena Elizabeth, Robert Julius 'Dick', Lucille Pearl, and Lola Alene, in order). Myrtle Marie was named after an uncle's girlfriend because he liked the name. Although she always used her middle name, friends sometimes also called her Mertie. Her father was from Indiana. He, the son of John Henry Boyd and Sarah Elizabeth Haycock Boyd (married to each other on August 2, 1860, in Switzerland County, Indiana), was born in Switzerland County, Indiana, moved at the age of 15 with his parents to Seneca, Missouri, from Indiana, and worked for the railroad for many years. (Interestingly, Daniel Haycock married Mary Ann Boyd on November 18, 1858, in Switzerland County, Indiana, which probably means that a brother from each family married a sister from the other.) Marie's father is buried in the Independence Cemetery, near Hume, Missouri. He had a brother Lon who was within visiting distance. Her mother immigrated with her family from Germany when she was 9 years old (1891), landing at Baltimore, Maryland, and going to Missouri because they had heard they could get work there. Her grandparents, Philip and Julia Ann Tuero Bingel (she was born in Mamorack, Austria-Hungary, in 1856), married in 1874 and later lived in Metz, Missouri. Julia Bingel died in 1924, at the age of 68, and is buried in Pryor Creek Cemetery in Missouri. Marie said that her mother was one of eight children [Kate, Phillip, Nicholas 'Nick', Augustus 'Gus', Julie (died at age 15), Lena, and Sedonia], with only Sedonia born in the US. (Julia Bingel's obituary also listed three other children, who predeceased her.) Nick worked for the railroad, and the others being immigrants had menial jobs on local farms. Lena married John on July 31, 1898, when she was 15. His pet name for her was Susie.

Marie attended White Rock School, a one-room country school for grades 1 through 6, about two and a half miles from their farm with approximately 20 other children. Since her father was a tenant farmer, she lived in six different houses growing

up. Because her family moved, she completed grades 7 and 8 at Rocky Point, another one-room country school. She walked the two and a half miles both ways each day in all kinds of weather. Her favorite subjects were reading, spelling, and mathematics. She loved school and was third in her class. Neither she nor Doyle had homework assigned since they had chores to do on the farm and went to bed early. Their parents objected to night-time study since it would interfere with their chores. For sports, Marie played basketball at school but it had no organized teams to compete with other schools.

Although they generally lived in a big house with a second floor, she shared a bedroom with three sisters, sleeping two to a bed. During winters, they used wood-burning stoves in the rooms to keep warm, and they got cold at night when the fire burned low. The houses did not have indoor bathrooms, and they bathed in a metal tub in the kitchen. Her mother also used the tub to wash their clothes. Since they had no electricity, they used oil-burning lamps at night, and the light was rather dim. They had a big screened porch on their house where they ate when it was warm. They also sat there on warm evenings, and she sometimes slept there on the floor. Her jobs around the house while growing up included washing and drying the dinner dishes with her sister Ethel. They also gathered eggs from their henhouse and carried wood in for the stove. Marie helped a lot in the kitchen when she was quite young. She also set the table, cleared it, swept the floor, and took out the trash. Her mother patiently taught her how to cook. She cooked her first meal when she was 10, while her mother was sewing her a dress. Although the first thing she remembers making is gravy, her favorite was making apple pie. Her family's favorite dessert was pie. (After they were married, Marie said that although Doyle liked to eat almost everything that she cooked, his favorites were steak, a baked potato, vegetable, and a salad—finishing with apple pie.) Since her family always raised a large garden, they canned beans, beets, corn, cucumbers, and tomatoes, and made sauerkraut. She helped in all of this, as well as with canning two bushels of peaches. Sometimes, they swapped work with their neighbors to help each other out and just keep company.

They played hide and seek, tag, and marbles while growing up. She and her sister Ethel liked playing dolls. Later, she also liked skipping rope. Marie recalled that they occasionally skated on the icy ponds near their house, but that got them in trouble because it was hard on their shoes. They had no ice skates. She recalls spankings, mostly for disobeying her parents. She didn't even know that sodas to drink existed until she was grown.

For Christmas each year, in their family, each child got an orange and a piece of candy in her stocking, as well as one present under the tree. Marie always got a doll. They decorated their tree with strings of popcorn and cranberries, as well as paper chains. Their big Christmas dinner always included a goose. Since they lived in the country and their neighbors were not near, they did not trick or treat during Halloween. Instead, they popped corn and drank apple cider at home after having a party at school. No one wore masks or costumes. On the Fourth of July, their family took the children in a wagon drawn by two horses to Rich Hill for a celebration. There were games and rides, and lots of friends to see. Each child got a dime to spend. Their mother always took a picnic lunch for the family to eat.

While their family never took a family vacation, they periodically had fish fries—which the children really enjoyed—on the river banks with three neighboring families.

The fathers caught the fish, the mothers cooked them over an open fire, and the children played. When Marie was three, her father and mother took her and Ethel to Kansas City to visit their Aunt Sedonia. It was Marie's first trip to a city, and she was thrilled. She saw her first street car there. When Marie was six, she remembers her mother taking her with Ethel, Karl, and Dick by train to visit her mother's parents in Hollister, Missouri, for a week. All the children thought it was a great treat.

Marie was the first child in her family to attend high school. (Lucille and Lola were the only others from her family who also graduated from high school.) While attendance is common-place today, it was rather uncommon for children living on farms then because most high schools were in towns and routinely traveling more than a few miles was prohibitive with the transportation means then available—few cars or paved roads. She lived in Metz, a town about 5 miles from the farm with two different families, working for them while she attended high school. She later lived in Warrensburg, Missouri, to attend Missouri State Teachers College (now Central Missouri State University) for two summers so that she could teach. She stayed there with an elderly couple whom her teacher friend Miss Blake recommended. A bank near her home loaned her \$500—something not normally done then—to attend college. Miss Blake drove her to Warrensburg. Marie was the only one of the Boyd children to attend college. After her second summer at college, she taught four terms in a one-room country school, Standish School, near her home. Her family had their first radio after she got a job and bought it.

Doyle and Marie went to their minister's (Pete Spears) house in Johnstown, Missouri, to get married. The Spears' neighbor came down to witness the wedding. Afterwards, Mrs. Spears insisted that they stay for dinner, so they did. Mrs. Spears was also feeding hired men and introduced them as Mr. and Mrs. O'Rear. Marie was thrilled at hearing that. Although the meal was very good, she ate very little. Their first home, after having lived with Doyle's parents, was a small three-room house on a hill in the southwest part of Foster, Missouri. They thought it was great. They didn't have money for a honeymoon after their wedding and couldn't afford to miss work until 1949 when they took Nelson and Lyda with them on a week-long trip to New York, including a ferry ride to Staten Island to see the Statue of Liberty, and Niagara Falls on the way home.

Al Star in Rich Hill, Missouri, had a couple of trailers and hauled corn from Iowa to Neosho, Missouri. Doyle took the bed off his dump truck, replaced it with a fifth wheel, and hauled corn for two winters. He said he's not sure why he didn't have an accident since he drove through so much snow and ice then. Marie accompanied Doyle on these trips, almost freezing her feet on several occasions. The truck's heater did not work, and Doyle did not have enough money to get it fixed. Later, Doyle also drove to Denver and Chicago without a heater. Marie went on some of these trips. He said that what he remembers most from the trips is how cold it got in the truck. At one point, he thought that he might literally freeze. Doyle said that they didn't make much money on these trips and felt that they got cheated out of some that they should have received. Those paying sometimes claimed that the mileage for the trip was much less than that actually driven.

In 1937, they went to Sledge, Mississippi, to use his dump truck for a road building project. Earl Nelson O'Rear was born there at a hospital in Marks at a cost of

\$50. Nelson's first name was the name of the banker who loaned Marie the money necessary to attend college. His middle name was for his great-grandfather Kinion.

Heavy rains caused the river to get so high that work had to be suspended for six weeks. With no income, they had to rely on the good graces of a local grocer to extend them credit for food. When the construction project was to be moved to a distant site because of the extended delay, Doyle got an advance so that he could awaken the grocer at 11:00 p.m. to pay him before they left. It took them two years to have enough money to pay the \$50 hospital bill. Later, when those running the construction project realized that it couldn't break even financially, everyone left. Doyle, Marie, and Nelson returned to Missouri.

In Missouri, Doyle again hauled coal and gravel. Lyda Arlene O'Rear was born on March 3, 1939, in the Butler, Missouri, hospital. Total cost for her delivery was \$35. Lyda was named after a young woman who had lived with Doyle's Grandmother Sarah Kinion. He thought that she was one of the nicest women he had ever known.

Doyle drove to Omaha with Troy Harbison with prospects to drive for Watson Brothers (which years later became Yellow Line), Omaha to Chicago; however, the runs proved not to be regular, so Troy did not stay. Doyle moved his family to Omaha, where they initially lived above a tavern while awaiting an apartment. They later moved to half a duplex, and Lucille Boyd joined them.

Good neighbors they recall from Omaha were Homer and Hazel Riggs, as well as Marvel Henry with her two little boys, from the apartment house. Also, their duplex neighbors were Willard and Minnie Mann.

Doyle and Marie moved their family to Iowa City in the spring of 1943 since that location was better situated for Doyle for his truck run. He drove each night from Rock Island, Illinois, to Des Moines, Iowa, roundtrip and stopped in Iowa City each way. Although the roundtrip distance is about 310 miles, the speed limit for trucks was initially 25 mph and later was raised to 35 mph on the 2-lane highways.

Doyle later drove out of Chicago for a year to Sioux City and Des Moines, 319 miles each way, staying overnight in the destination city. He began buying additional trucks, which he hired other drivers to drive for Watson Brothers. In 1945 or 1946, he owned five or six K-7 International trucks. Unfortunately, each time things began looking good financially, one of the drivers would have an accident. Although he had insurance to repair the trucks, the lost income during the down time kept their finances on the edge, until he decided to get rid of the other trucks and just to keep his. Occasionally, he tried again, but usually with only one additional truck.

The American Trucking Associations, Inc recognized Doyle as the National Driver of the Year for 1948. This award followed his pulling three people from a burning car, following a wreck near Grinnell, Iowa. He had by then driven more than one million miles, accident-free.

In 1949, Doyle worked as a mechanic for Watson Brothers in Iowa City so that he could be at home more. That lasted about a year and ended after they realized that this employment could not provide sufficient money to support them. Subsequently, he drove from Iowa City to St. Paul, Minnesota, each night and stayed in the terminating city at the end of each night's drive. This was a relay trip between Peoria, Illinois, and St. Paul.

Doyle later, as an independent trucker, hauled eggs to Florida and fruit back to the Midwest. During at least part of this time, he owned a second truck, which his brother

Bill drove. This lasted approximately two and a half years. During the summer of 1958, Nelson accompanied him on a portion of one of these trips to load eggs. After they had loaded the entire trailer with eggs, in spite of being in very good physical shape, Nelson was embarrassed that he could hardly straighten up. Doyle was accustomed to this activity and felt no such ill effects.

Independent trucking proved to be barely profitable, so Doyle was quite happy to begin hauling for CRST (Cedar Rapids Steel) with two trucks, Omaha to Chicago, one-way each night in 1958. He then paid \$50 monthly—including rent, heat, and lighting—to use an empty building (formerly used by Eldon Miller Transportation) on Riverside Drive in Iowa City to service his trucks. He had always religiously practiced scheduled preventive maintenance to avoid expensive breakdowns and establish and keep his hallmark of dependable on-time deliveries. That is how he obtained the regular CRST runs, which proved instrumental in his later financial success. His attention to details and knowledge of all his expenses were also key factors.

When told that he would no longer be able to use these facilities for his vehicle maintenance, Doyle decided to put up a steel Butler building. He bought the land through Don Williams and put up the building for a total of \$33,360 in the Coralville Industrial Park, conveniently just off I-80. Two and a half years later, he put up a second building for a frame shop, which he rented to Bill O’Rear, followed by a third building to use for his expanding fleet of trucks and trailers. After completing the third building, he leased the first to UPS (United Parcel Service), rented half of the second building to Bekins Transfer and Storage, and rented part of the third building to a sign builder, Bob Gaskill. Eventually, he put up five buildings—the last one costing \$99,000 in 1970 or 1971, and after collecting considerable rent, sold them all, one at a time. Nelson bought the first, and Lyda bought the second. After UPS ended their lease in 1999, Nelson sold that building to Bud Good. Lyda sold the frame shop building in 2003 to the City of Coralville after they decided to make that area into a park by the river.

As mentioned earlier, Doyle and Marie’s financial fortunes improved considerably, beginning with the regular runs provided by CRST. Their fleet grew to 16 trucks (four Diamond Ts and 12 Kenworths) and 20 trailers. Five ran between Chicago, Peoria, Galesburg, and Danville; one ran between Chicago and Waterloo; five ran between Joliet and Grand Island; and five ran for Arrow Freightlines. Doyle also employed a full-time truck engine mechanic, who additionally worked on others’ trucks when time allowed. When Doyle and Marie retired in 1976, they sold their trucks and trailers to their drivers with no money down, as well as the building that they used to maintain their trucks to a driver, Ted Kline.

During Doyle’s entire trucking career, Marie kept the financial books for their operations. In 1973, Lyda also became a mainstay in their operation, working in the office that they had built into the building that they used to maintain their trucks.

Marie was a Girl Scout Leader for 25 years in Iowa City, and for part of that time was the president of the Cardinal Council for the Girl Scouts. (The girls camped at Camp Cardinal each year.) Her involvement in Scouting began as a Den Leader for Cub Scouts for four or five years. While Nelson and Lyda were in school, she rarely missed a PTA (Parent Teachers’ Association) meeting so that she always knew what her children were doing in school.

After retiring, Doyle and Marie went to Florida one winter, to Texas for a couple of winters, and to Arizona for a couple of winters. After deciding that Arizona best suited them, they bought a house in Mesa where they wintered for the next 19 years. Several friends being there—Bill and Maxine Gray, and Herb and Dolores Goodenough—helped with the decision. Nothing pleased them more than having company there. They took visitors to see many sights. They also traveled to Hawaii, Ireland and the United Kingdom, toured Mexico, and took nice trips to Canada three times—taking Kevin O’Rear, Mike Brown, and Gary Panzer with them in a camper on one of those trips. In 1998, they decided for health reasons to sell the Mesa house and live in Iowa.

The O’Rears and Bingels (Marie’s mother’s family) began having annual family reunions in the 1950s. They were well attended but then almost stopped. A few kept them going, and they have become annual affairs in Butler, Missouri, since the 1970s. Marie and Doyle rarely missed a family reunion and attended several other national O’Rear family reunions in Alabama and Tennessee. Marie acted as the secretary for the Butler reunions for many years. They loved family.

They achieved good financial success and were generous to others, regularly contributing to an orphanage for more than 20 years and gave substantial amounts to the Church of Christ in Iowa City. Even when they had little, Doyle loaned money to others. When they bought a new 1949 Chevrolet, he said that he could have paid cash if those who owed him had repaid their loans. Many never did. They also gave considerable money to each of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren over the years, providing each of the grandchildren money to help buy a house when they married, in addition to other monies at different times. They never talked about any of these contributions. We often learned of them by chance.

In 2007, they had two children (Earl Nelson who married Theresa ‘Teri’ Joan Billick in 1961, and Lyda Arlene O’Rear Brown, who married William ‘Bill’ G. Brown in 1957) six grandchildren (Lori Brown Miller, Diane Marie Brown Hutt, and Michael Brown; and Kevin Doyle O’Rear, Brian Patrick O’Rear, and Maura Kathleen O’Rear Gates). They also had 21 great-grandchildren (Nicholas and Brandon Miller; Traci Marie Anderson Massey, Jessie Anderson Byrum, and Troy Anderson; Heidi, Sarah, and Max Brown; Patrick, Mary Cate, Connor Doyle, Margaret ‘Mollie’, Bridget, and Michael Nelson O’Rear; Megan Maura, Christopher, Collin, and Sydney O’Rear; and Michael, Sean, and Elizabeth Gates). Additionally, they had four great-great grandchildren (Bradley, Jackson, Ruby, and Lyda Mae).

Following Lucille Boyd VeDepo’s 1940s divorce from her husband Bill in Iowa, she and her three children (William Laverne, Robert Charles, and Karen Yvonne) lived with Doyle and Marie. So that her ex-husband would not be able to gain custody of these three children in the event anything happened to Lucille, Doyle and Marie legally adopted them. Therefore, although these children were born as nephews and a niece, they became adopted children. In reality, Lucille continued to be their mother. Lucille later married Bill Mackey, and they moved to Frankfort, Kentucky, after Karen graduated from high school in Iowa.

Marie died on January 5, 2008, in Iowa City, Iowa. Her grave is in Memorial Gardens Cemetery, next to Doyle’s.



## Vignettes

When he was about 6 or 7 years old, Doyle accidentally hit Cecil in the head with an ax as he drew back to swing it downwards while cutting wood. He bribed Cecil with an Indian-head penny to not tell; however, the blood told the story. Doyle and Cecil were best friends growing up.

From the time he was 9 years old, Doyle had to buy his own shoes. One day, his wet shoes ended up in the oven or on the stove, the fire got too hot, and his shoes were ruined.

Biscuits and gravy, as well as cornbread were common fare for meals. Doyle said that he remembers when some of them were so tired that they literally fell asleep at the table, with their heads falling into their plates of food. Naturally, they then went to bed.

Their normal childhood gift for Christmas was an orange—and it was considered a treat.

In the mid-1930s, Doyle was offered a job shocking wheat for \$1.25 a day, from sunrise to sunset. Since he knew that he would wear out a pair of gloves (costing him 75 cents to a dollar) each day, he declined. His brothers thought he was lazy for turning it down.

Doyle said that during the 1930s, you could tell how hard the times were by counting how many people were chasing each rabbit.

When he was about 10, Doyle used their Airedale dog, Bum, to catch 78 rabbits in three days. He cleaned them and hung them on the clothes line outside where they remained frozen until his mother fed them for lunch to those who worked in the coal fields. She prepared them lunch daily to earn money for the family—35 cents for each lunch. Doyle said that they really appreciated her cooking.

Marie said that their treat when it was their birthday was that their mother let them choose what kind of meat to have, and they always had a cake and home-made ice cream.

One of the first pies that Marie made after they were married turned out so bad that she buried it in the yard so that Doyle would not know about it.

Marie loved to stay up late reading, sometimes until 2:00 a.m.

Marie's granddaughter Lori Brown Miller recalled that when she was small, Marie took her to the church building to clean the windows. Afterwards, Marie told Lori, "If anyone says how nice the windows look, you simply agree. Don't tell anyone that we did them." This typified Marie's desire to serve the needs of others without recognition.

They were a devoted couple and never raised their voices to each other. In later years, each had his/her own recliner in which they spent most of their evenings; however, before going to bed for the night, they would sit together on their couch and hold hands.

Oft-heard sayings (from Doyle)

I don't think that I'm any better than anyone else, but I don't think I'm any worse either.

People who say that they want a helping hand only have to look at the end of their arms.

Dad gummit!

(From his family)

Sakes alive!

Dad blame it!

My land!

What in the Sam Hill?!!

Land o' Goshen!

My stars!

Well, I'll swan!

What in tarnation?!!

**End Notes**

John Boyd's marriage to Sarah Haycock is documented on pages 10 and 51 of Switzerland County, Indiana Marriages, 1814-1885 by Larry and Cynthia Scheurer, 1994, Scheuer Publications, 722 E. Center Street, Warsaw, Indiana 46580.

Daniel Haycock's marriage to Mary Ann Boyd on November 18, 1858, is documented on page 48 of that same document. That same document shows that Thomas M. Haycock married Elizabeth Sullivan on June 28, 1833, and Daniel N. Haycock married Sarah Cochran on February 3, 1840. One of these latter two unions undoubtedly produced Sarah Elizabeth Haycock, who married John Boyd in 1860 and was the mother in 1877 of John Franklin Boyd.

Elijah Boyd married Polly Haycock on August 9, 1829, in Switzerland County, Indiana, with David McCormack, Justice of the Peace of Jefferson Township, officiating. This information comes from page 74, record 783, of The Hoosier Journal of Ancestry: Switzerland County, 1989, by Naomi Keith Sexton at Little York, Indiana.

According to page 1194 of History of Switzerland County Indiana 1885, Chicago, Weakley, Harraman and Co., 1885, Elijah Boyd (son of James Boyd) at the age of 14 moved before 1820 from Kentucky to Switzerland County, Indiana, with his father James Boyd. Elijah Boyd married Polly Haycock (who later died), then Mrs. Green (nee Cole) who helped him raise six children, and then married Mary Ross. This same book lists biographies for Daniel (born in 1831 and still living in 1885) and Oliver (1833-1875) Boyd, children of Elijah Boyd. Daniel had nine children, with the youngest being John Boyd. This John Boyd may be the same who married Sarah E. Haycock in 1860 and fathered John Franklin Boyd in 1877. (Ages however seem to make this unlikely since

Daniel was probably at least 16 when he married and would not have had his ninth child until he was at least 23, but most likely 25-29. If at age 23, his son John would have been born in 1854, eliminating that son's likelihood of marriage in 1860.)