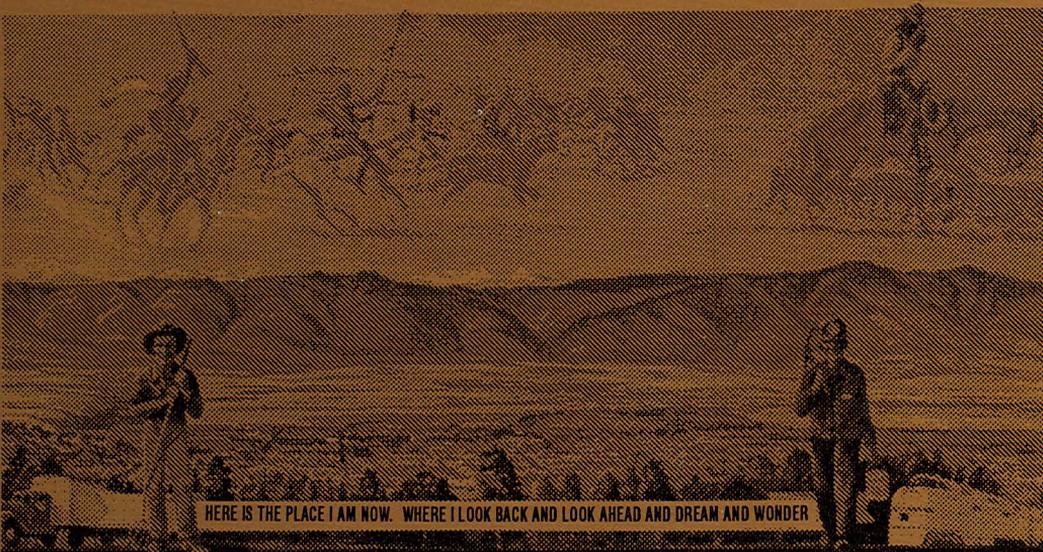


BENJAMIN F.  
and  
ROSE H. PERKINS  
FOUNDATION



Ann Gorzalka

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*by*  
*Ann Gorzalka*

*Appreciation is given to those photographers who furnished the portraits of the Perkins Foundation Trustees and staff, and to those who gave permission for their work to be presented in this volume.*

*Alice M. Rochford, Camera West, Vacationland Studio, Magic Box Studio, Don C. Diers and Anita Nichols.*

**THE PERKINS FOUNDATION TRUSTEES**

William D. Redle, President  
Victor Garber, Vice-President  
Donald R. Carroll, Treasurer  
Walter J. Pilch, Trustee  
Paddy Bard, Trustee



Benjamin F. Perkins purchased a business lot in California in the 1920's at the corner of Hollywood and Vine in Hollywood, Los Angeles County. This piece of property is the only one still owned by the Perkins Foundation.

During Perkins' lifetime he gave a ninety-nine year lease to Hollywood Central Building Corporation. This lease expires in the year 2022. At that time, according to the terms of the lease, the improvements placed upon the property will revert to the Foundation. Currently the \$1575 a month rental money is paid to the Perkins Foundation.

# PERKINS FOUNDATION OFFICE



Reception Area - Front Office



Meeting Room

**BENJAMIN F. and ROSE H. PERKINS  
FOUNDATION TRUSTEES**

1940-1993

SHERIDAN COUNTY, WYOMING

Bentley, John J.	1940-1945
Bentley, James S.	1945-1953
Early, John J.	1940-1951
Wright, Wilber L.	1940-1953
Marshall, D.P.B.	1940-1961
Lewis, Eugene S.	1940-1966
Sampson, James	1952-1959
Davis, Leciester N.	1953-1968
Marshall, Willard H.	1954-1975
Rogers, Curtis L.	1959-1964
Redle, William D.	1961-
Booth, Louis G.	1964-1987
Carroll, Donald R.	1966-
Croff, John P.	1968-1974
Garber, Victor	1974-
Pilch, Walter J.	1975-
Bard, Paddy	1987-



## **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PERKINS**

Perkins came to the Sheridan area in 1882 from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was instrumental in forming the Bank of Commerce, and had extensive real estate holdings in Sheridan County, several of which are historical landmarks today, including the famous Wrench Ranch, and the Meade Creek Ranch.



## **ROSE HANN PERKINS**

Rose H. Perkins was an early day school teacher in Sheridan County. At one time she was President of the Wyoming State Federated Woman's Clubs. Mrs. Perkins was active in civic affairs in Sheridan County.

BENJAMIN F. AND ROSE H. PERKINS FOUNDATION  
BY  
Ann Gorzalka

*"Days, Dreams, Deeds, Departure. Magic words indeed to guide one through the cycle of this life to a triumphant entrance to the great beyond"*

These words were penned by Rose H. Perkins in a letter to the Reverend Ewing S. Hudson in regard to her husband, Benjamin Franklin Perkins, after his death in 1933. For fifty years the dream and deeds of this man have lived on through the young people of Sheridan County, Wyoming, providing medical attention and higher education to many of those who would otherwise have fallen through the cracks in today's society.

Sixty years ago Perkins died at his home in Long Beach, California. Since there were no children surviving him, he and his second wife, Rose, of 40 years, implemented his dream by leaving his accumulated wealth for those youth, in the form of the Benjamin F. and Rose H. Perkins Foundation.

Perkins was an early pioneer in Sheridan County, coming to Cheyenne by way of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1882. He was born in Chestertown, Maryland in 1858 and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in law. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar, but due to poor health Perkins left that state and traveled West.

Shortly after reaching Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory he found work on the cattle ranch belonging to Joseph M. Carey, then Governor of the Territory.

Events regarding his first years in the Sheridan area, then Johnson County, comes from Floyd C. Bard's book entitled, "HORSE WRANGLER". Bard says, "While in Cheyenne, Dad got acquainted with a young man named B.F. Perkins who had come West for his health."

The Bards were on their way to Johnson County, Wyoming Territory, near the town of Big Horn City. Bard asked Perkins to accompany them as relief team driver for Mrs. Bard.

After reaching their destination in Northern Wyoming,

Perkins lived with the Bards in their dugout until the spring of 1883. That spring, while on a trip into Sheridan, Perkins sought employment in the town and was hired to work for J. D. Loucks General Store as well as for the Post Office.

The following year, Perkins, feeling that he was imposing on the family in their small living quarters, told Mrs. Bard he was returning to his old home in Philadelphia. When Bard came home and inquired as to Perkins whereabouts Mrs. Bard said he had gone to book passage home.

Immediately, Bard rode his horse to the stage station near Big Horn City some five miles distant. Upon reaching his destination he found Perkins on the stage. When asked what he was doing, Perkins answered, " I feel I'm in your way. I'm crowding your home. With winter coming it's best I go back to Philadelphia where my father is a doctor. I'll tell you, Charlie, it's no go. I am on my way back to my old home to die." Bard convinced Perkins to stay and file on a homestead not far from his on Meade Creek. He even loaned him the sixteen dollar required filing fee. Perkins stayed, according to Bard, but he returned to Sheridan and worked at a number of different jobs. And Bard states, "This is the same B.F. Perkins who built up the Bank of Commerce and later became one of Sheridan's wealthiest men."

Perkins, according to another document, had studied law in Philadelphia and was admitted to the bar in Wyoming, but never practiced this profession, even though he did, at one time, serve as Sheridan's Justice of the Peace. Interested in banking, Perkins, along with several other area pioneers who were friends, used eastern capital and opened a loan agency in Sheridan. Later he decided to invest his capital, thirty-thousand dollars, in a bank. The Bank of Commerce opened its doors on May 16, 1893.

Perkins is remembered for several things in Sheridan, beginning with his honesty. Even though it is recorded that he liked to gamble, and that he lost his entire purse at the hands of Cheyenne gamblers just before coming to Big Horn City, Wyoming, his friends, the depositors in the Bank trusted him with their money and he lived up to that trust.

The Bank of Commerce opened at 159 North Main Street, in 1893 with Perkins as cashier. Later he became President of the Bank and held that position for many years. The following year this past

Clerk of District Court was drafted for candidate for Mayor of Sheridan and was elected. When his term expired, Perkins devoted his full time to his many business affairs, and buying real estate, including California property.

In Sheridan County, in 1912, he purchased the famous Wrench Ranch from G.W. Holdredge who was manager of the Burlington West of Omaha, paying \$190,000 for it, the Meade Creek Ranch, Sears Building, and the Wyo theater along with other well known buildings in that block, as well as properties both on and off Main Street. He invested in many diversified ventures, the foundation for his vast fortune.

The growth of the Bank of Commerce was rapid and in just a few years it had outgrown its limited space in the old Oscar Thielen building, which was located on Main Street, and required larger quarters. A new building was erected at 12 North Main Street, there the bank was housed for the next ten years. It later became the office of the Benjamin F. and Rose H. Perkins Foundation.

During the early 1900's the Bank of Commerce was consolidated with the State Bank of Sheridan and moved into the ground floor of the Masonic Temple where it remained doing business until the erection of the Whitney Trust Building. The Bank of Commerce moved there after buying out the Sheridan Banking Company and the Sheridan County Savings Bank.

Described as a man of meager means when he came to Wyoming Perkins soon began investing his money in stocks with companies such as Centrifugal Pipe Company, Gillette Safety Razor, Texas Oil Corporation, American Cyanamid, Consolidated Oil, Electric Bond and Share, Pierce Petroleum, Ford Motor of France, Sunset Pacific Oil, Mexico Oil Corporation, and the list continues. However, little or no monies were made from these stocks and the majority of them were liquidated after Perkins death. The twelve-thousand dollars received from their sale was reinvested in a "few good companies" by the Foundation's first Board of Trustees.

Perkins liquidated his Bank of Commerce stock in October, 1927. But he continued to keep a finger in the banking business in Sheridan as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sheridan Trust and Savings Bank.

Records indicate Perkins and his second wife Rose Hann Perkins, a former Sheridan school teacher, moved to Los Angeles, California in 1927. Perkins' first wife, Clara Cotton was the sister of Tom Cotton, pioneer newspaper publisher who founded the Sheridan Post in 1887. She died in 1898, there were no children born to either marriage.

While living in the Los Angeles area Perkins accidentally fell, severely injuring himself. The fall left him an invalid and soon there after he and Mrs. Perkins moved to Long Beach, California to be near the ocean. They lived in that city until his death in January, 1933.

Perkins had named his good friends John J. Bentley, John J. Early, W.S. Metz, L.H. Brooks and A.T. Yonkee Executors and Trustees of his will. Brooks and Yonkee died before Perkins, leaving only three men to carry out his wishes. At that time the board elected Bentley as permanent Chairman of the organization, and Metz as the attorney. Metz was also authorized to serve as first secretary of the Board of Executors.

The Executors of Perkins' will, Bentley, Metz, and Early were given the power to administer his estate without bond or security of any kind. His trust and love of these men was so great that he gave them absolute power to carry out his last wishes.

Almost immediately the three Executors, heeding the advice of New York stock brokers bought shares in four well known and fast growing companies. Westinghouse Electric, International Nickel, American Telephone and Pennsylvania Railroad. Thus began the money making ventures that over the past fifty years has funded the Foundation.

During that first meeting after Perkins death it was decided by the board that Bentley and Metz should travel to California. Perkins owned valuable property in that state requiring immediate attention. While there the two men inventoried the estate properties and began probate proceedings and arrangements for inheritance and federal estate tax examination and appraisal, assuring that Mrs. Perkins received her share of the income according to the will. The California property appraised at \$427,885.51.

A year later, in 1934, Executor W.S. Metz died at Basin, Wyoming while visiting his son. Judge Metz was a well known pioneer in the Sheridan area and had been an attorney, District

Judge, and legislator since the early days of the Territory.

William Summerfield Metz was born in Pennsylvania in 1860. While practicing law in Odell, Illinois he met and married Jenny Gammon. Two years later, 1884, the young couple heeded the call of the west and soon thereafter Metz traveled to Sundance, Wyoming. Mrs. Metz and their young son followed a short time later.

When the railroad pushed farther into Wyoming in 1892, Metz and his family moved on to Sheridan, Wyoming where they lived and raised their three sons.

Even though the Foundation existed in Perkins' will it was not to be activated until after the death of his wife, Rose H. Perkins. Mrs. Perkins died in Los Angeles, California in 1940.

She and Benjamin F. Perkins were married on January 13, 1902. Rose Hann came to Sheridan as an early day school teacher and taught in the original school which was located at the present site of the Episcopal Church. One of her first grade pupils was Will G. Metz, son of Judge Metz, who later became attorney for the Perkins' estate.

While living in Wyoming Mrs. Perkins was prominent in Women's Club affairs. At one time she was president of the Wyoming State Federation of Women's Clubs.

On April 5, 1940 the organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees of the B.F. and Rose H. Perkins Foundation was held in Sheridan, Wyoming. Those attending were John J. Bentley, John J. Early, D.P.B.(Barry) Marshall, Eugene S. Lewis, Wilber L. Wright, Will G. Metz, attorney, and James S. Bentley, Secretary to the Board.

In July of that year the by-laws for the Foundation were drawn up. It was agreed upon by vote that each Trustee would serve five year terms, his term ending on the anniversary of the organizational date. And a Trustee whose term had expired could succeed himself if nominated by another Trustee.

John J. Bentley was appointed president of the Foundation that July, 1940. John J. Early, vice-president, D.P.B. Marshall, treasurer and Eugene Lewis and Wilber Wright, Trustees.

During October, 1940 final settlement and distribution of the estate of B.F. and Rose H. Perkins was filed in the office of Sheridan Clerk of Court. At that time it was authorized and directed that the Executors of the estate would transfer, convey and assign all real

and personal property of said estate to the Board of Trustees of the B.F. and Rose H. Perkins Foundation.

Due to the length of time it took to settle the estate the Foundation didn't officially begin to award grants, loans, and medical payments until July of 1943.

In February, 1943 Early and Wright drafted application forms for surgical and medical aid. One month later 200 of the forms were printed for use.

At the April meeting applications for glasses, medical, and surgical assistance were submitted and approved for fourteen children. In order for one to qualify for a medical grant the applicant must be a Sheridan County resident for one year, be over one year old and under twenty one years old. From 1943 through 1992 the cost of medical and dental grants totaled \$915,021.92 for 3,806 children.

April was the anniversary meeting and since Early's term had expired it was necessary to vote for a Trustee. He was nominated to succeed himself and reelected by unanimous vote for another five year term.

In May of 1943 Wright presented forms for applications for educational assistance. They were approved and two hundred were ordered. That month the Foundation approved their first two student applicants, one for a \$200 educational loan and one for a \$250 grant. Thirty years later, 1973, loans totaling \$48,553 had been approved for seventy-five students, as well as \$11,800 in grants to forty-eight individuals.

The student grants started in 1943 reached a high in 1949 and were discontinued in 1955. They were started again in 1963 and were again discontinued in 1987. The high for student grants was \$26,850 to sixty-nine individuals in 1976.

Eligibility requirements for student loans and grants were a one year Sheridan County residency, Sheridan County High School graduate, 2.5 grade average or better, and age twenty or under. The Board looks at every aspect, case by case according to need. From 1943 through 1992, 2,924 educational loans were approved in the amount of \$3,938,737.54. Student education grants were made to 958 students for a total of \$287,421.38 through 1986. Grants were also made to Sheridan College in the amount of \$160,000 for updating equipment, and to Northern Wyoming Mental Health for \$8,650.



## **JOHN J. BENTLEY**

Bentley, one of the Executors of Perkins will and first Board member, served the Foundation for five years, from 1940 until death in 1945. Bentley worked as assistant cashier at the Bank of Commerce during the time Perkins was cashier.

President John J. Bentley died in May of 1945. This twelve year member of the Board and Executor of the Estate, served from 1933 until his death. Bentley was born February 2, 1873 on a farm in Nodaway County, Missouri.

He attended schools in Missouri before coming to Wyoming in 1891. He and his brother-in-law, Lance Halbert drove their team of mules through Douglas and Sheridan and on to Billings, Montana. Later, after returning to Sheridan, eighteen year old Bentley worked at several different jobs for seven years before he and May Stuby were married in November, 1898 in the church where the Episcopal church now stands. Mrs. Bentley died in 1941.

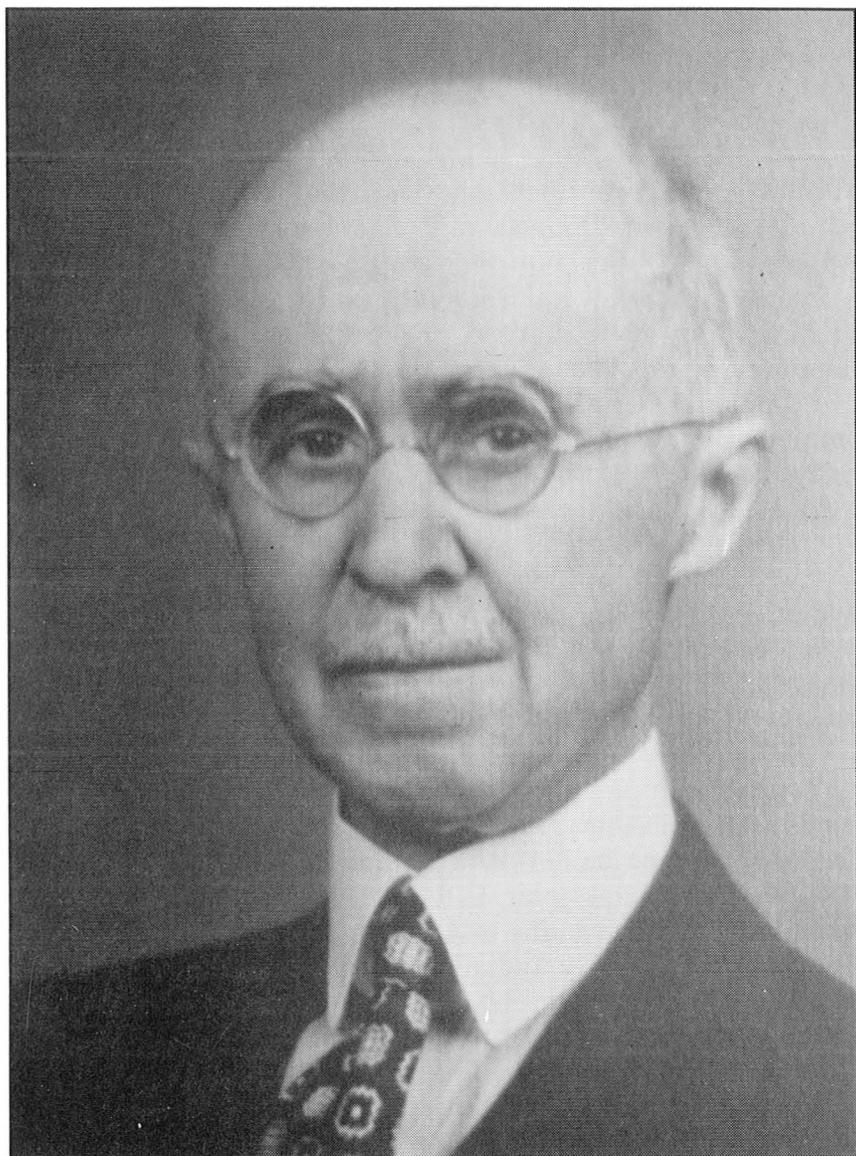
In November of 1895 Bentley was employed by the Bank of Commerce as assistant cashier, Perkins was cashier at the time. This was the beginning of the long friendship that earned Bentley a seat on the Board of Trustees of the Perkins Foundation.

During the September, 1945 meeting of the Board, James S. Bentley was nominated and voted in as successor Trustee to serve the unexpired portion of the term of J.J.Bentley. At this meeting election of officers was held. Early was elected President, Lewis, vice-president, Marshall was re-elected treasurer of the board, and J.S.Bentley was elected to continue his position as secretary.

In January, 1946 the Board sold the Wrench Ranch to John E. Rice for the sum of \$109,000. The ranch until this time had been rented to several different ranchers, the proceeds of the rent money being deposited in the Perkins Foundation Trust.

Six years later John J. Early, President of the Board of Trustees, died while visiting in Arizona. Early was born January 15, 1878 near North Liberty, Indiana. He grew up on his parents farm and attended elementary school in that area. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Indiana and master of arts from Columbia University. He also studied at the University of Chicago several summer vacations and after coming to Wyoming was an instructor at the University of Wyoming summer sessions three years. He was best known as Superintendent of Sheridan schools from 1908 until his retirement in 1945.

Early was the last of the five men selected by Perkins as Executor of his will and one of the first members of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation. He served on that Board for eleven years from 1940 until his death in December, 1951.



## JOHN J. EARLY

Past Superintendent of Sheridan County schools, Early was active in community affairs, he served as Chairman of the Sheridan County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Council of Defense, during World War I. For many years he was instrumental in the passage of legislative benefits for education through his work on legislative committees of the Wyoming Education Association. He served as president of that group two years. Early, one of the first board members, served the Perkins Foundation eleven years, from 1940 until his death in 1951.



## **JAMES S. BENTLEY**

James S. Bentley was the Foundations' first Secretary to the Board of Trustees, beginning his thirteen year service to the Board in 1940. In 1945 he was voted in as successor Trustee, filling the unexpired term of John J. Bentley. He continued his position as Secretary, as well, retiring from that position in 1953. Bentley, past State Legislator, realtor, and writer died in Sheridan, December 26, 1978

After Early's death Eugene S. Lewis was appointed to serve the Foundation as President and Wilber L. Wright Vice-President.

During the March, 1952 meeting President Lewis called for nominations for a successor trustee. Dr. James W. Sampson was nominated and since no other nominees were presented the Trustees interviewed Sampson. He took office in April to serve the remaining year of Early's term.

March 10, 1953 James S. Bentley resigned from the Board of Trustees and from his position as secretary of the Foundation. His resignation was accepted in July of that year. Wright was appointed acting secretary by the Board for the remaining months of 1953.

By then the Foundation had been active for ten years, and during that meeting the matter of bond for Trustees was discussed but no action was taken due to specifics in Perkins will that neither his Executors nor his Trustees be bonded.

Other changes were made at the same meeting. "To improve the administration of the affairs of the Foundation" the following recommendations were adopted and approved.

1. That the Trustees establish an office devoted to the business of the Foundation, and that it be located in the Lotus Office Building, that being Foundation property.

2. That the office and the Board meeting room be suitably equipped with proper furniture and equipment and necessary personnel.

3. That the Foundation obtain a safe deposit box at one of the banks and also a post office box.

4. That a complete audit and inventory of all Perkins Foundation property be made by a public accountant. The audit and inventory to include all records, bonds, etc..

5. That all payments due the Foundation be paid directly to the Foundation and that all disbursements of the Foundation be made by Foundation checks.

6. That the Board of Trustees make periodic inventories of the securities and other properties of the Foundation at intervals of six months or one year.

7. That all delinquent rents be reported monthly and that the loans of the Foundation be reviewed at least once a year.

Four months later, July, 1953 the Perkins Foundation office moved its location from the Bentley Building at 122 North Main



## **GRACE BABCOCK**

Babcock was the first office manager of the Foundation. Her full time position enabled the Foundation office to remain open five days a week. Babcock was a member of the team for twenty-five years, from 1953 until she retired in 1975.

Street to 36 North Main Street. The new headquarters of the Foundation was in a building owned by the Foundation and was known as the Lotus Building.

The first non-trustee secretary was hired that month enabling the new office to remain open five days a week in order to advise applicants and take their applications for medical and educational grants and loans. This secretary was a lady named Grace Babcock, who served the Foundation twenty-two years before retiring in 1975. That same month in 1953, Wilber L. Wright was elected secretary of the Board to fill Bentley's unexpired term.

At the October meeting President Eugene Lewis called for nominations for a successor trustee to replace Bentley. Leicester N. Davis was nominated and he accepted.

Seven months later, February, 1954 Wilber L. Wright died suddenly, unexpectedly in his office in the Lotus building. Wright came to Sheridan in 1916 from West Virginia and was employed as a bookkeeper for the Sheridan Lumber Company. In 1918 he was appointed coach and physical education director of Sheridan schools a job which lasted some twenty-seven years.

This fourteen year member of the Board was born in Bellington, West Virginia May 28, 1891. He attended public schools there and in 1910 enrolled at Davis-Elkins College. Additional college training was taken at Mount St. Joseph's College, the American College of Physical Education, and special work at the University of Illinois.

After Wright's death Ned Pilley was employed by the Foundation as secretary of the Board of Trustees.

In April, 1954 Willard Marshall was nominated and elected to fill the unexpired term of Wright which would expire in 1956. At that time the Foundation officers were President Eugene Lewis, Vice-President James W. Sampson, Treasurer D.P.B.(Barry) Marshall, Trustees Davis and Willard Marshall and Ned Pilley, Secretary.

Even though Perkins spent the last years of his life in California he made clear in his will "I am a citizen of the state of Wyoming and a resident of the city of Sheridan, therein. Now temporarily sojourning in the state of California." It was his often expressed desire that Sheridan, city and county of Wyoming should receive the full benefit of his estate.

" The estate will last indefinitely, as only the proceeds from



## **WILBER WRIGHT**

Wright was a long time athletic director in Sheridan County schools. In 1918, he was appointed coach and physical education director, working with the school's young people for over a quarter century. Wright was a member of the Perkins Foundation Board fourteen years, serving from 1940 until his death in 1954.

the Foundation can be used, the Foundation itself remaining untouched."

A great responsibility was given to the members of the Perkins Foundation Board of Trustees. The man who founded it drew from a vast wealth of friends, men who had backgrounds in finance, real estate, the law, teachers, and doctors. Their top priority then, and today, other than reviewing and approving applicants for loans and grants, is making money to support the Foundation's programs according to the will.

The officers, trustees, and employees, Lewis, Sampson, D.P.B. Marshall, Davis, Willard Marshall, Pilley, and Grace Babcock remained the same from 1954 until 1959 when Vice-President James W. Sampson handed in his resignation after serving seven years on the Board. From March, 1952 until April, 1959.

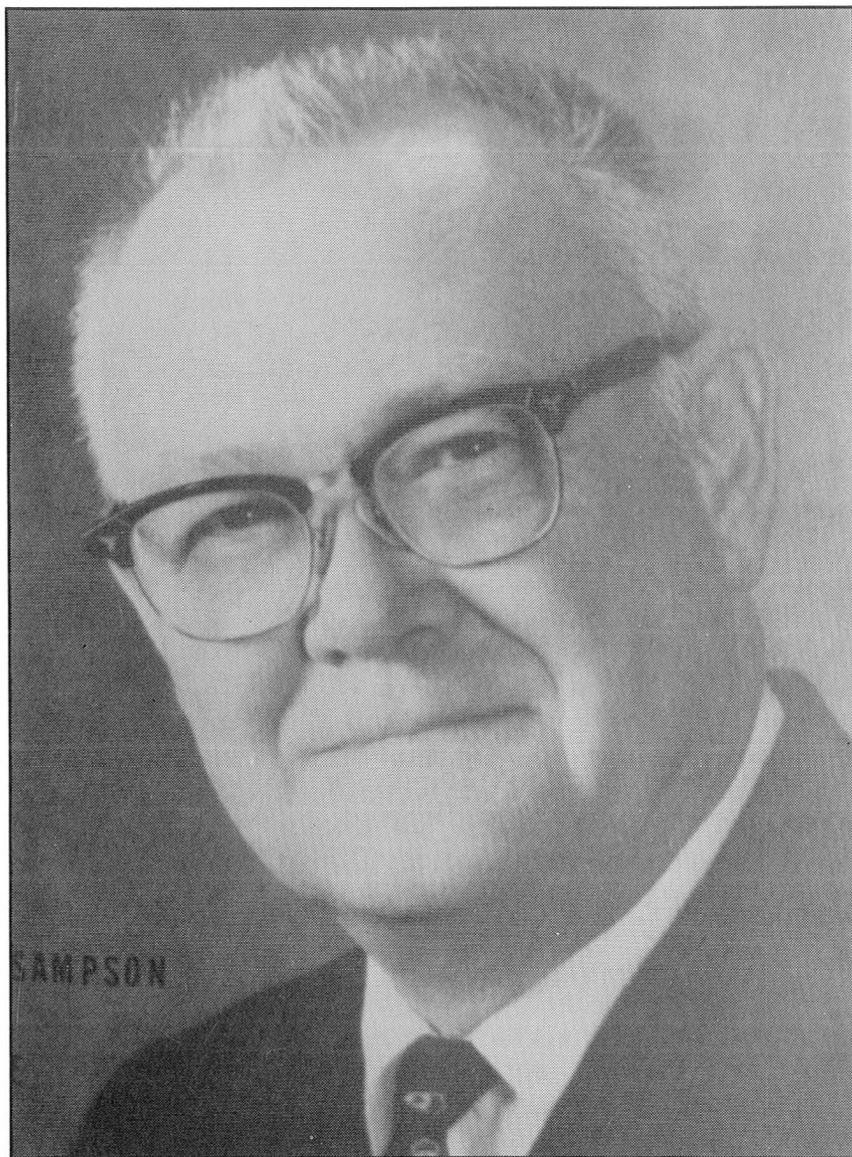
Sampson was born November 29, 1908 in Acme, Wyoming. He graduated from Sheridan High School in 1926 and worked in the mines around Rock Springs, Wyoming until 1930.

He attended the University of Wyoming, graduated from Nebraska College of Medicine in 1936 and interned at St. Luke's Hospital in Denver, Colorado. He served in the Army Medical Corps from 1942 to 1946 then returned to Sheridan where he was associated with several other Sheridan doctors. His career in medicine took him to different locations in Wyoming and California as well as to the Pacific. Sampson died in Sheridan in May, 1991 at the age of 82.

At the June, 1959 meeting Dr. Curtis L. Rogers was nominated and elected as Trustee to fill the vacancy made by Sampson's resignation. Willard Marshall advanced to the office of vice-president under President Eugene Lewis.

In February, 1961 D.P.B.(Barry) Marshall died. This twenty-one year member of the Perkins Foundation Board was born September 14, 1882 in New York City. Marshall was graduated from the New York Law school in 1903 and was admitted to the bar of New York in November of the same year. He remained in practice in that area until 1910 when he traveled to Sheridan. He was admitted to the Wyoming bar in 1911. This fifty year resident of Sheridan served as a Trustee from the Foundation's inception in 1940 until his death in 1961.

Not until July, 1961 was a new Trustee nominated to fill



## **JAMES SAMPSON**

Sampson was a well known physician in the Sheridan area for many years. He began his medical practice in the city shortly after serving a four year hitch in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. Sampson resigned his position as Trustee on the Perkins Foundation Board after serving seven years, from 1952 until 1959.

Marshall's unexpired term. William D. Redle was chosen and elected Trustee by unanimous vote.

Redle, a well known attorney in the Sheridan area since he began practice in Wyoming in September, 1938, was born in Sheridan May 12, 1914. He attended Holy Name School and graduated from Sheridan High school. He is a graduate of Creighton University School of Law, receiving his degree June 2, 1938 and was admitted to practice law in Nebraska on June 5, that same year.

Always interested in working with young people and promoting their programs, Redle has served as Scoutmaster, leader in the Y.M.C.A.'s Friendly Indian Program, and assisted in the HI-Y program.

He was a member of the board of Community Boy's Work that is now known as Youth, Incorporated. This organization sponsors the Harriet St. Clair Thorne-Rider Youth Camp at Story, Wyoming, and Poulson-Griffith Youth Camp on Big Goose, West of Sheridan. Redle has been continuously involved with this program since 1938, and was recently re-elected to another three year term.

Redle serves as Assistant Secretary of the Thorne-Rider Foundation, and President of the Dodd and Dorothy L. Bryan Foundation. He has been Secretary and Manager of the Vernon S. and Rowena W. Griffith Foundation since 1976, and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Whitney Benefits, Inc. from January, 1943 through December, 1959.

Redle has served on a number of other Boards including, the Salvation Army, Junior and Senior Chamber of Commerce, County Welfare Board, Wyoming Heart Fund Drive, and the Sheridan Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Redle has been and continues to be involved with many other community and state organizations and projects helping Sheridan County youth. He has received many Distinguished Service Awards for the time he has devoted to these many projects.

In 1990 Redle was honored by the Wyoming State Bar Association. "In Recognition For Outstanding Legal Service To Charitable Organizations In Wyoming. For Demonstrating The Personal Qualities That Characterize Those Who Best Exemplify The Legal Profession's High Ideals And Commitment To The Welfare Of The Public."

Eugene Lewis continued as president, Willard Marshall, vice-



## **D.P.B. MARSHALL**

Barry Marshall was active in church and civic organizations in Sheridan, and was a charter member of Sheridan Lion's Club. He was Chairman of the Board when the late Edward S. Moore owned and operated the Sheridan Press, and took an active interest in the paper for several years. Marshall was a twenty-one year Trustee of the Perkins Foundation.



## WILLIAM D. REDLE

Bill Redle's name is synonymous with youth organizations of Sheridan County. This prominent Sheridan attorney has spent many hours each year promoting, sponsoring, encouraging and helping organize programs for young people. He helped create and establish the Webb Wright Baseball Foundation of the Sheridan Quarterback Club, and he has been supportive of the American Legion Baseball program from 1950 to present. He received the First Distinguished Service Award issued by Sheridan Recreation District for forty years of Outstanding Contributions to Parks and Recreation in Sheridan. Redle was elected to the Board of the Perkins Foundation in 1961. He currently serves as the Foundation's President.

president, Leicester N. Davis, treasurer, Curtis L. Rogers, and William D. Redle trustees.

In May, 1962 Secretary Ned Pilley resigned due to ill health and that October Robert Mulholland was nominated and elected to replace him as secretary to the Board.

Two years later Curtis L. Rogers resigned his trusteeship as he was leaving Sheridan. Rogers, a long time Sheridan physician, was born in Chadron, Nebraska December 19,1902. He died in Sheridan in 1972.

The resignation was accepted with regret at the May, 1964 meeting of the Board. President Lewis suggested his replacement be a medical man, a long time member of the community and one whose interest in the work of the Foundation be uppermost because his attendance at the meetings of the Trustees was of prime importance.

At the June meeting Louis G. Booth M.D. was sworn in as Trustee of the B.F. and Rose H. Perkins Foundation to replace Rogers .

Two years later in May, 1966 President Lewis died suddenly. He was a resident of Sheridan since 1908 and at the time of his death was president and manager of the Sheridan Credit Bureau. Lewis was born in Iowa and came to Sheridan in 1902. He attended Sheridan schools and enlisted in the Army during World War I, serving two years in the medical corps. He was discharged in 1918. After that he lived and worked in Sheridan.

Eugene S. (Gene) Lewis was a twenty-six year member of the Board of Trustees, beginning in 1940.

After Lewis' death Vice-President Willard H. Marshall suggested that an election be held soon, since he didn't want to be president of the Foundation, and that Davis was the next senior member of the Trustees.

Immediately, Redle nominated Davis for president. Davis submitted his resignation as treasurer to accept the nomination for that office. Redle was nominated for treasurer and he accepted. Motion was made that nominations be closed and Secretary Mulholland was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of Leicester N. Davis for president and William D. Redle for treasurer of the Board. Both men were elected and Willard Marshall remained vice-president.



## **CURTIS L. ROGERS**

Rogers was an early day physician in Sheridan. He was a member of the International College of Surgeons, and the Wyoming Medical Society. Rogers served as Trustee two years, resigning from the Board in 1964.



## **NED PILLEY**

Ned Pilley was elected Secretary to the Board of Trustees after Wilber Wright's death in 1954. Pilley was a public accountant and life member of the Kalif-Shrine Temple. He resigned his position as Secretary in 1962. Pilley died in January 1990.



## **ROBERT MULHOLLAND**

After Ned Pilley resigned in 1962 Mulholland was elected to replace him as Secretary to the Board, a position Mulholland held for nineteen years, resigning in 1981.

Redle suggested the Trustees think of persons who might be eligible for trustee. The others felt there should be no hurry selecting a new member.

At the June meeting a member of the Board suggested that each of them compile a list of persons they thought would make a good trustee, or those who had contacted them in regard to the opening. It was expressed that the final selection be made by preferential ballot to be taken at a later date.

That September Donald R. Carroll was nominated and elected to fill the vacancy left by Lewis. This 1968 Wyoming Realtor of the Year, joined Carroll Realty with his father in 1947. He purchased the firm ten years later and during that time he and his company developed seven subdivisions in and around Sheridan. Carroll sold his business in 1990 after forty-three years as one of Sheridan County's best known realtors.

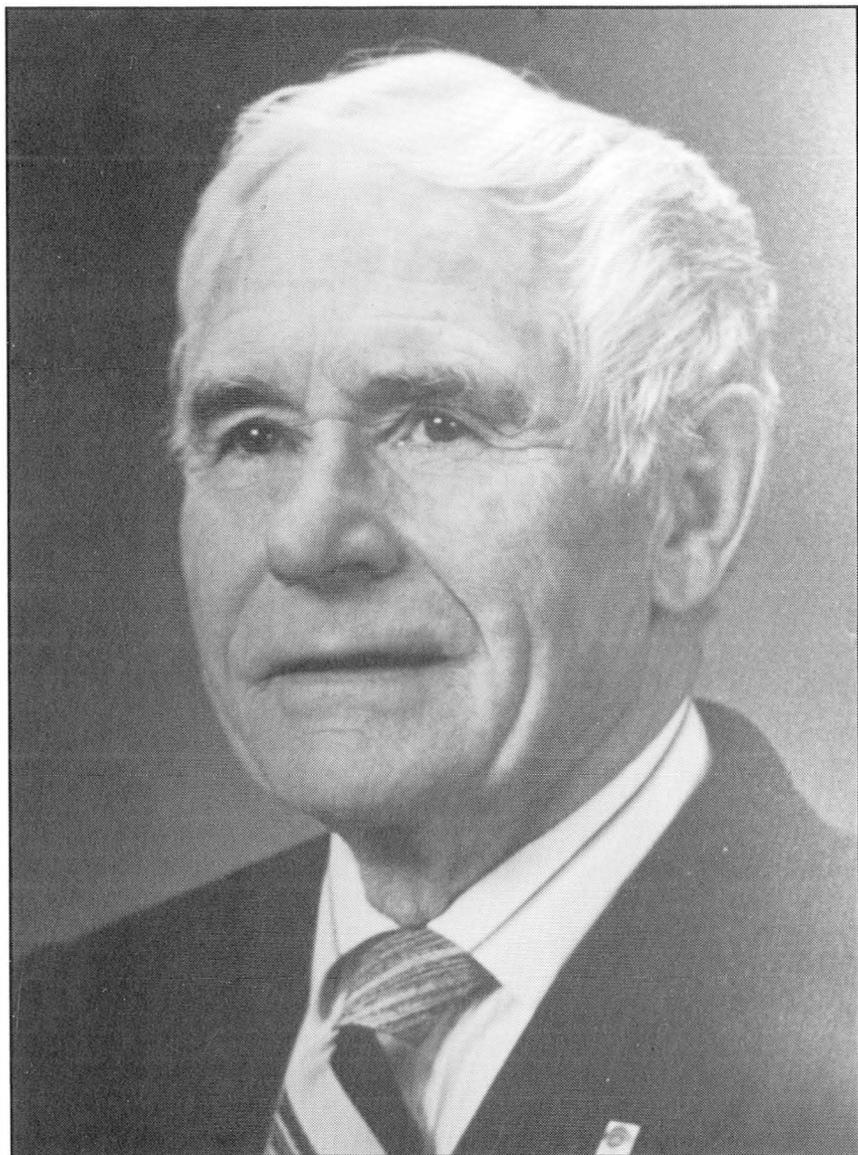
Carroll served two years on the Sheridan County Mental Health Board when it was founded and expanded to Johnson and Campbell Counties. He was Director of the Chamber of Commerce for three years, Sheridan College Trustee six years, Chairman one year. Carroll served on the Wyoming Real Estate Commission six years, one year as Chairman.

Donald R. Carroll was born in Spokane, Washington, November 20, 1921. His family returned to Sheridan in 1924 where he attended Sheridan schools, graduating from Sheridan High School in 1941.

In March of 1968 the Meade Creek Ranch was sold to Ed and Darleen Barbula. This property was part of Perkins' original homestead. It had been leased to several different renters throughout the years and the Board felt it was profitable to sell the property at that time.

Three months later Leicester N. Davis died. He was born June 8, 1907 in Parkman, Wyoming. Davis graduated from Sheridan high school in 1925. He began in the banking business in Sheridan in 1927 and became president of the First National Bank in 1958. He served in a variety of different offices for a number of organizations as well as president of the Board of the Perkins Foundation. Davis served as Trustee for fifteen years before his death in June, 1968.

Vice-President Marshall announced it was necessary to elect a new president to replace Davis and to elect a new trustee. It was



## **DONALD R. CARROLL**

Carroll, a prominent realtor in the Sheridan area for some fifty years, served three years in the United States Marine Corps, in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Carroll was elected a Trustee of the Foundation in 1966 and presently serves the Board as their Treasurer.



## **LEICESTER N. DAVIS**

Davis, a native Wyomingite born at Parkman, Wyoming was a Past President of the First National Bank of Sheridan. He began in the banking business in 1927. Davis served on the Perkins Board fifteen years before his death in 1968.

a unanimous decision that Marshall serve as president until the next annual meeting, but Trustee Redle at a special meeting held on June 24, 1968, nominated John P. Croff to fill the unexpired term of Davis. Croff was sworn in on July 15, 1968.

A trustees' term continues to be five years each, as provided in the by-laws by the first board members. Should a member resign or die before his term expired a new trustee was nominated and elected to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. Nominations were accepted and voted upon with seniority usually taking precedent in filling the offices of president, vice-president and treasurer.

In September, 1971 a broader interpretation of Perkins' will was given to the Trustees as follows.

1. Grants or interest free loans to boys and girls who are under twenty-one years of age, and who have been bona-fide residents of Sheridan County, Wyoming at least one year at the time of filing application. Said grants or loans to be made to needy and worthy applicants subject to rules and regulations to be adopted by the Trustees.

2. Grants to all Sheridan County schools for special purposes to be determined and approved by the Board of Trustees.

3. To make grants to needy boys and girls between the ages of one and twenty-one years, residents of Sheridan County for one year prior to application for the following purposes.

- A. medical and hospital care.
- B. dental care, including orthodontic procedures.
- C. eye care including glasses.
- D. transportation when necessary.
- E. drug bills.
- F. surgery and post operative care.
- G. Pediatric and diagnostic care.

All subject to rules and regulations to be adopted by the Board of Trustees.

4. To make grants to Memorial Hospital of Sheridan County and to special clinics sponsored by doctors and dentists of Sheridan County, Wyoming. To furnish equipment, vaccines, and related items for the diagnosis, treatment and care of boys and girls over one year and under twenty-one years of age. Such grants to be in the absolute discretion of the Board of Trustees, and to be made



## **JOHN P. CROFF**

Croff was nominated and elected to fill the unexpired term of L.N. Davis in 1968. He was active in several Sheridan organizations including Elks and Lions Clubs. Croff was a Trustee six years, before his death in 1974.

subject to such conditions as may be imposed by the Board of Trustees.

5. The payment of reasonable compensation to the Secretary, secretaries, and other assistants whose services are required to promote and effect the purposes of the Foundation.

6. To make grants or interest free loans to boys and girls of Sheridan County, Wyoming who have been residents of Sheridan County for at least one year and who are over twelve years and under twenty-one years of age at the time of filing application, to enable applicant to attend vocational, or trade school, said grants or loans to be made on the basis of need and worthiness, all under rules and regulations to be adopted by the Board of Trustees.

In the spring of 1972 officers and trustees of the Perkins Foundation were, Willard Marshall, president, William D. Redle, vice-president, Louis Booth, treasurer, John P. Croff and Donald Carroll, trustees.

The population in the county was growing and more applications were submitted, prompting the Board to make some new rules regarding educational loans from the Foundation. It was felt life insurance must be purchased by each educational loan student in the amount of the loan with the Perkins Foundation the beneficiary. And evidence of satisfactory grades were to be presented to the office of the Foundation periodically. Later, in 1975 a two year residency was required for applicants for medical and dental applications for the same reason.

Trustee John P. Croff died in August, 1974. A six year member of the Board of the Perkins Foundation, Croff was born October 11, 1922 in Sheridan. Three months later, November, 1974 Victor Garber was nominated and elected to replace him on the Board.

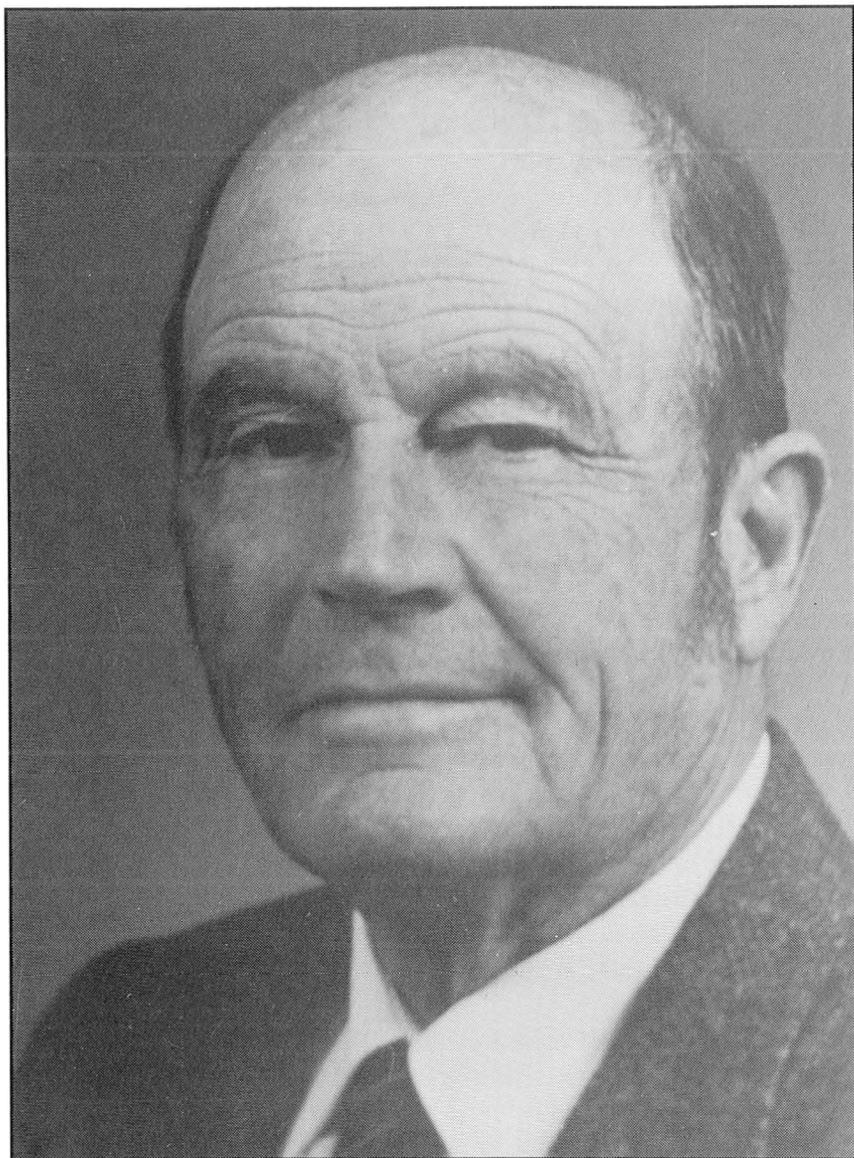
Garber, a Big Horn, Wyoming rancher, is a past Wyoming State Legislator having served four terms in that capacity. He was appointed by two different governors to serve on the Employment Security Commission for two terms. Governor Hansen appointed Garber to serve on the Committee of Reorganization of School Finance. He also served seven years on the Sheridan College Board.

Garber, his wife Phyllis, and their three sons own and operate Agri-Business Incorporated. This consists of three businesses, construction, farm and ranch operation, and a commercial feed lot.



## **WILLARD MARSHALL**

Marshall was a well known and respected law officer in Sheridan County for twenty-four years. He was a United States Army officer in the Second Division of Engineers during World War I. He was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, French Croix de Juerre, and the Purple Heart among others. Marshall resigned his position as President of the Perkins Foundation Board in 1975, his reason being ill health. He was a trustee twenty two years.



## **VICTOR GARBER**

Garber has been a Trustee of the Perkins Foundation since 1974. He was elected to the Board that year and has served continuously since. His present office is that of Vice-President. Garber is a Big Horn, Wyoming rancher, is co-owner, along with his wife Phyllis and their three sons, in Agri-Business, Inc. This consists of three business, construction, farm and ranch operation and a commercial feed lot.

He was born September 14, 1919 at the family home near Big Horn, and continues to live in the area, on ranch land that he purchased in 1944.

January, 1975 saw two of the Foundation's long time workers leave. Willard Marshall, president of the Board of Trustees resigned due to ill health. Marshall served on the Board from 1953 making a total of twenty-two years.

Marshall was born October 24, 1893 in Nora, Illinois. He came to Sheridan in 1919 when he was twenty-five years old. Prior to that Marshall worked for the Illinois Central railroad. He also worked for the Burlington railroad in Sheridan previous to being elected sheriff, a position he held for twenty-four years.

After Marshall's resignation Redle was unanimously elected president. Booth was elected vice-president, and Carroll treasurer. Robert Mulholland remained as their secretary.

At that time the process of selecting a new board member to replace Marshall was begun. Each Trustee was asked to submit the names of two persons as possibilities for Trustees. A total of five were submitted.

Grace Babcock, a twenty-two year veteran of the Foundation, also submitted her resignation. Babcock began working in the Foundation's office in 1953. She was replaced by Thelma Shell.

Two months later, March, 1975, Walter J. Pilch was nominated and elected to the Board of Trustees of the B.F. and Rose H. Perkins Foundation to fill the unexpired term of Willard Marshall.

Pilch, a native of Wyoming was born in Monarch June 14, 1926. He graduated from Sheridan High school and attended Colorado State University, graduating from there with a degree in Civil Engineering.

Pilch has served on a number of boards as chairman as well as vice-chairman. They include Wyoming State Board of Examining Engineers, Wyoming Water Development Commission, First Wyoming Bank of Sheridan, Wyoming Board of Directors, Sheridan College Board of Directors, Northern Wyoming Community College Building Authority, Sheridan Urban Planning, and Key Bank of Sheridan.

Pilch, who was selected as Wyoming's Outstanding Engineer in 1984, served as town engineer for the town's of Clearmont, Dayton and Ranchester, Wyoming. And city engineer for Sheridan



## **THELMA SHELL**

Thelma Shell was employed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Grace Babcock. This office manager and secretary worked for the Perkins Foundation nine years, from 1975 until she retired in 1984.

in 1960-70's. He has been a member of the Perkins Foundation Board eighteen years.

In January of 1976 the Board decided to hold elections in January each year instead of April, beginning in February 1976 and in January there after. That month the Board of Trustees voted to grant Sheridan College, for the Vo-Tech Complex Building, \$10,000 a year for three years.

That fall the Perkins Foundation was asked to appoint a member to serve on The Northern Wyoming Community College Foundation. Trustee Don Carroll was asked to serve with this group.

1976 and 1977 saw both the Sears Building and the Perkins Building sold. And Don Carroll was re-elected to another five year term.

At the annual meeting in 1980 the Trustees voted to grant Sheridan College \$20,000 for acquisition of equipment and other needs of the Business Administration Department. This was done because of a surplus of funds upon which the Foundation would be taxed.

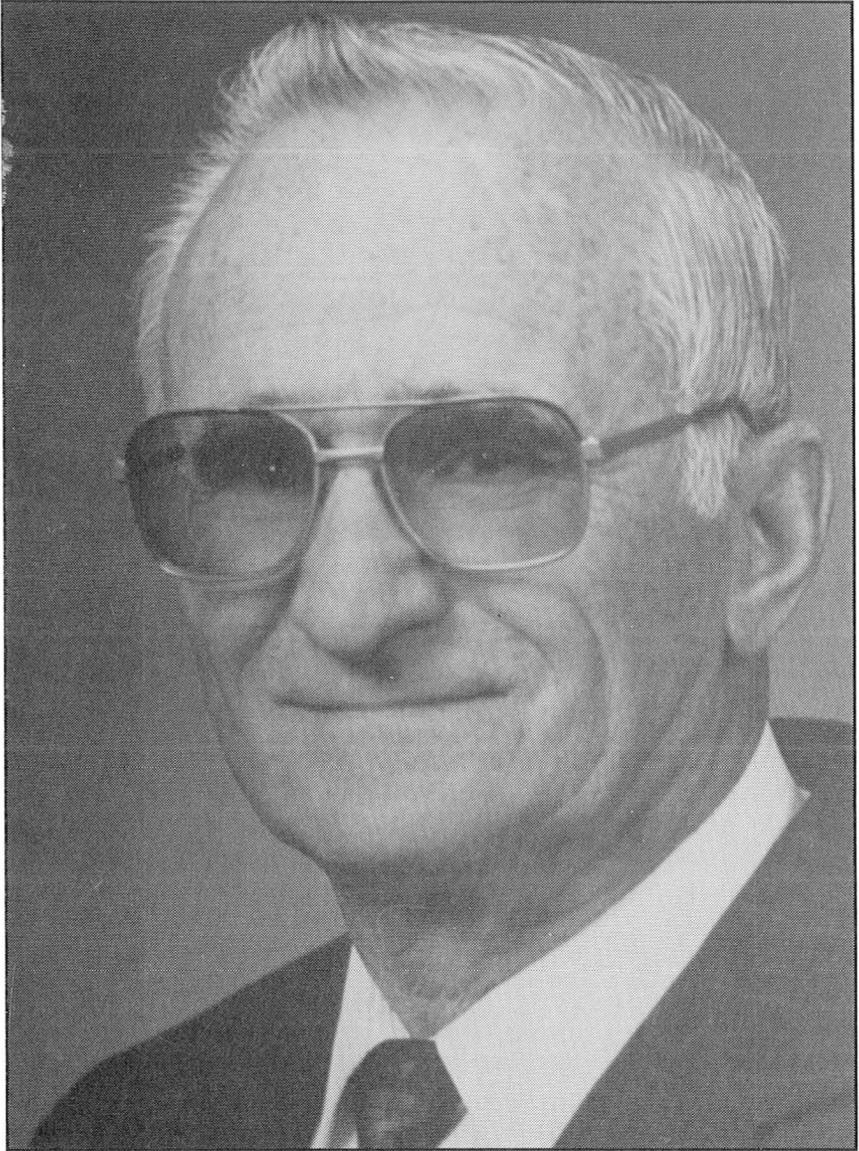
The following month the Board voted to increase the maximum amount of college loans from \$1,800 per school year to \$2,000 for a nine month year. Additional funding would be provided for summer school if the student was carrying a full academic course of credit hours.

In December, 1980 another \$20,000 grant was given to Sheridan College for continued improvements to the Business Administration Department.

Seven months later Robert Mulholland resigned. Robert D. Strauser was unanimously approved to replace him as secretary to the Board of the Perkins Foundation.

During June, 1981 the following grants and loans were approved by the Board. Fourth year applicant grants totaled \$2,400. Loans totaled \$25,350. Third year applicant grants were \$36,000 and loans \$17,950. Second year totals of grants were \$5,600, and loans were \$35,985. First year totals for grants and loans were \$6,400 and \$61,569. Medical and surgical grants totaled \$6,837.

July's total grants and loans amounted to \$400.00 and \$16,790. No grants were awarded in August or September, loans approved in August totaled \$15,925 and September loans totaled \$4,500. That



## **WALTER PILCH**

Pilch, who was born and raised in Sheridan County, spent two years in the United States Air Force, 1944 to 1946. He has excelled in his engineering career and was named Wyoming's Outstanding Engineer in 1984. Pilch has been a Trustee since 1975 and continues to serve on the Board.



## **ROBERT D. STRAUSER**

Strauser was nominated and elected to serve the Perkins Foundation Board as their Secretary, after Robert Mulholland resigned in 1981. Strauser is a Sheridan businessman and C.P.A. with offices in that city.

month medical and surgical grants were awarded in the amount of \$1,187.40. By the end of 1981 total grants were \$18,000 and student loans were \$178,299, and medical and surgical grants totaled \$30,809. Ten years later, 1992, student loans had increased to some \$269,450. That same year medical and dental grants totaled \$61,433.50.

Office manager and secretary, Thelma Shell retired in January of 1984. Shell worked for the Perkins Foundation nine years, beginning in 1975. Her position was filled by Margaret Sweem, who faithfully served the Foundation until her retirement in March, 1992.

In April of 1992 Donna B. Rawlings was selected to replace Sweem by the Board of Trustees. Rawlings, the current Office Manager for the Foundation, was a former employee of the Bank of Commerce, having worked in that institution from 1959 to 1988.

That winter the Foundation donated \$10,000 to Sheridan College for the housing program. It is noted that no applications for loans or grants were filed during December, 1984.

Three years later, 1987 Louis G. Booth resigned due to health reasons. Booth moved with his parents to Sheridan in 1908. He attended Sheridan schools and he graduated from the University of Wyoming and the Northwestern Medical School. He served as a flight surgeon in the Army-Air Corps in World War II. Booth was born April 16, 1907 in St Louis, Missouri. He died in October, 1990 at the age of 83.

After Booth's resignation Paddy Bard was nominated and elected to serve as trustee in Booth's place.

Bard, a life long resident of Sheridan County and great grandson of Charles W. Bard, the man who brought Perkins to the area in 1883, was born August 12, 1941 in Sheridan. He attended area grade schools and graduated from Sheridan High school.

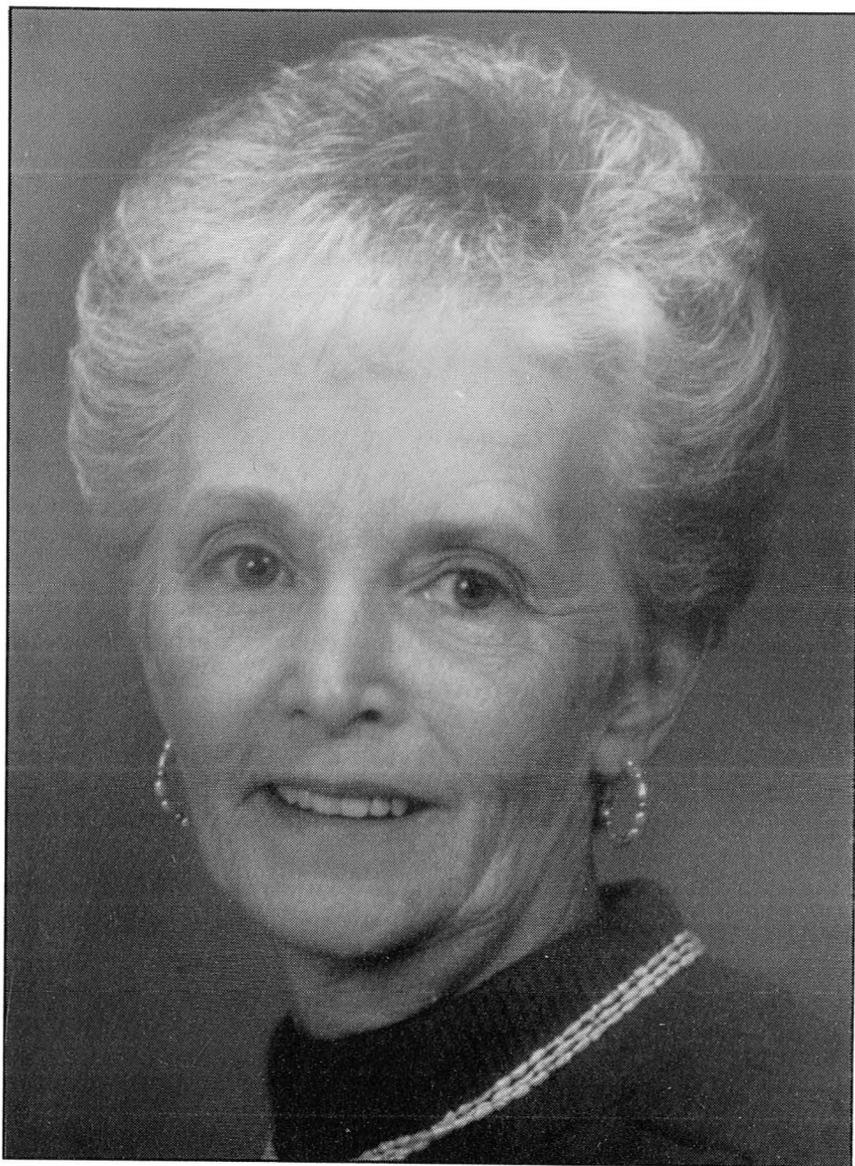
Bard, a ten year 4-H club leader, is past president of several boards including, The Sheridan County Sportsman Association, Wyoming Trap Shooters and of the Sheridan/Johnson REA. He was treasurer of the Wyarno, Wyoming Fire District for fifteen years.

Bard, who was raised on the family homestead on Meade Creek and now ranches on Dutch Creek, was past director of Tri-state G&T, headquartered in Denver five years. He was secretary for Tri-state G&T four years. He was also FmHa Advisory Board member from 1972 until 1975, the last year he served as Chairman.



## **MARGARET SWEEM ROSE**

Margaret Sweem was employed as Office Manager upon the retirement of Thelma Shell. Sweem ran the Foundation's business office eight years, retiring in 1992.



## **DONNA B. RAWLINGS**

Donna Rawlings is the current Perkins Foundation Office Manager. She is a native of Sheridan County, and in the past was employed by the First Interstate Bank of Commerce in Sheridan, retiring from her position in 1988 after working there twenty-nine years.



## **LOUIS G. BOOTH**

Booth practiced medicine in Sheridan, Wyoming many years. He was a well known and respected physician in the area. Booth served as a flight surgeon in the United States Army Air-Corps during World War II. He was elected to the Perkins Board of Trustees in 1964 and served the Foundation twenty-three years.



## **PADDY BARD**

Bard, a native of Sheridan County, Wyoming is the Great Grandson of Charles W. Bard, the man who was responsible for B.F. Perkins' decision to travel to and remain in the Sheridan area. Bard was elected to replace Booth on the Board in 1987, and continues to serve as a Trustee of the Foundation.

Bard owned and operated his own construction company for ten years and began working for the First Interstate Bank of Sheridan in August, 1985. He is presently serving as Vice-President in charge of the Agricultural Department, and is a board member of the Wyoming Banker's Association Ag Committee.

The other trustees remain the same, President William D. Redle, Vice-President Victor Garber, Treasurer Donald Carroll, Trustees Walter Pilch and Paddy Bard. And the purpose of the Foundation remained the same. It is, and has been guided these sixty years by men of trust, each a professional, an expert in his field bringing to the Foundation needed expertise to administer the Trust for the benefit of those young people who have, and will become doctors, lawyers, engineers, nurses, accountants, teachers, cosmetologists heavy equipment operators, etc.. Any and all vocations, trades, and degrees in the many fields open to those who have the determination and desire to succeed in higher education.

During the past fifty years the B.F. and Rose H. Perkins Foundation has helped several thousand qualified students realize their dreams, and in doing so have made Perkins' dreams and deeds live on through them.

This, along with countless numbers of children whose quality of life was and continues to be improved with obtainable medical care from a man and woman whose vision of the future was seen through eyes of their past.

From its small beginning fifty years ago the Perkins Trust has grown into a multimillion dollar Foundation, a ladder built by trusted and qualified men, whose work and dedication has and will continue to help all eligible Sheridan County youth reach their goals.