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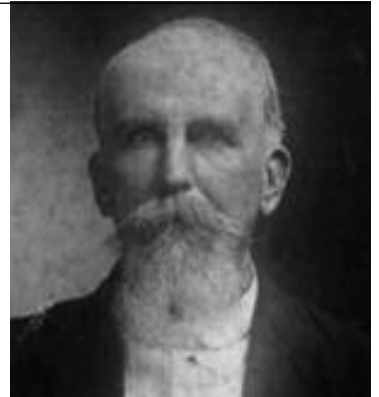
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION
SHAW
AND RACHEL MOORE ALLEN



T H E G R A N D C H I L D R E N

Volume 22 Number 2
September 2015

The Family of Francis Marion Shaw is a non-profit newsletter published semi-annually, or more frequently, for the benefit of the descendants of Francis Marion Shaw and his wife, Rachel Moore Allen Shaw.

*Historical contributions are requested. Your family histories including character traits, religious affiliations, professional pursuits and vital information such as birth dates and places, marriage dates and places, and death dates and places, are all welcome. Photographs help make the newsletter come alive. If you have some special photos of your ancestors which you would like to share with all of the family, please make a copy print of it and send it on to the address below. If original photos are sent, they will be carefully handled and returned, but editor cannot be responsible for loss or damage. Send your manuscripts and photo submissions to:
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**CLYDE CHESTER
SHAW**
Life of a Salesman



There is something inside the character of a man that compels him

to be independent and self-reliant. That quality often manifests itself more noticeably in the life of an entrepreneur and salesman. Such seemed to be the driving force in the life of Clyde Shaw.

Clyde Chester Shaw was born August 3, 1902 in a log cabin on the bank of Possum Branch in the Lois Community near Ray City, Georgia. He was the fourth-born of Lacy Lester Shaw and Tula Albritton Shaw's five boys. Lacy ran a commissary at a turpentine operation owned by Lacy and his brother, Chester and George P. Griffin, about three miles west of Nashville.

In 1905 the brothers sold their operation and Lacy decided he wish to return to the

farming occupation, and built a fine home near his parents, Francis Marion and Rachel Moore Allen Shaw in the Lois Community.

Clyde began his schooling at the Pine Grove two-room school until it closed and then continued his education at King's Chapel school near the crossroads of the Old Valdosta Road and highway 122.

About 1915, Lacy was clearing some woods and fell a large tree

which caught his leg under it. From that time forth, Lacy walked with a noticeable limp. The accident limited Lacy's ability to do the strenuous farm work, so Clyde quit school to help out on the farm.

However, with the failure of the long-staple cotton crop decimated by the boll weevil, like so many other farmers, Lacy gave up his farming aspirations and



The Lacy Shaw farm home in the Lois Community (top, as seen in 1992) was the home of Clyde Shaw from 1905 to about 1917. The family then moved to Ray City where Lacy built the home on North Street (above). It was there that young Clyde Shaw, upper right grew to adulthood.

The Clyde and Golie Shaw home at 904 Oak Street in Valdosta, lower right as it appears today, was also the residence of Clyde's parents, Lacy and Tula Shaw.

returned to the commissary business in Ray City. Thus, Clyde got his early start in the business of grocery sales.

By 1920, Clyde, 17, was working for the local phone company as a billing collector. He had a good head for figures, and gained employment with a bank, and with the Nix Lumber Company as bookkeeper.

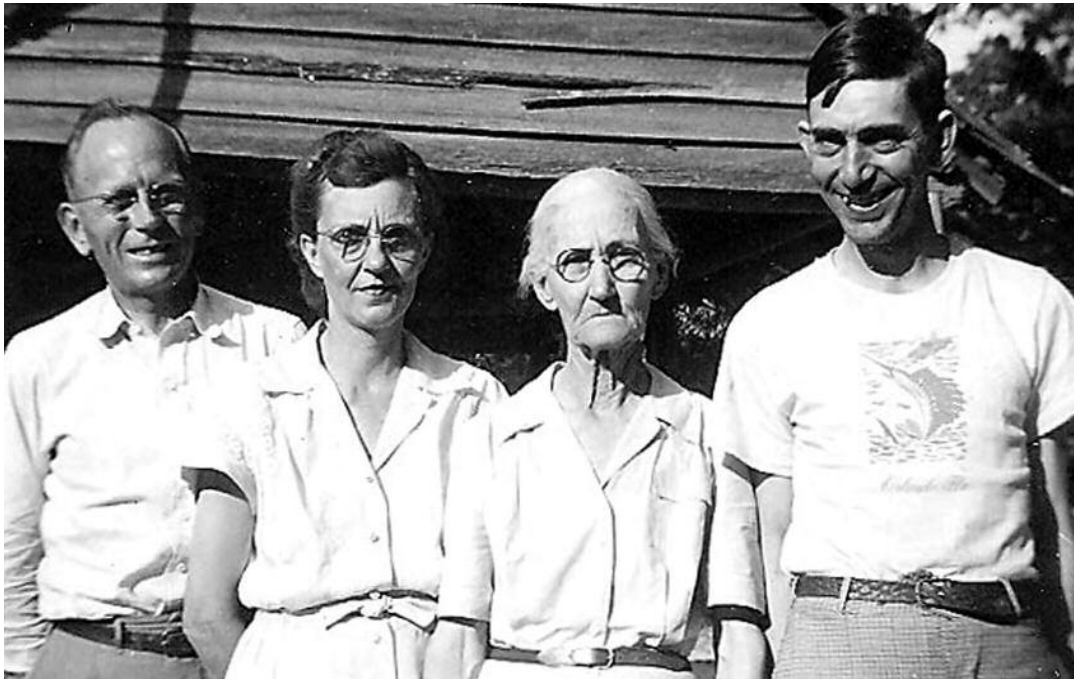
Now a young school girl, Golie Gaskins, daughter of Thomas and Vinie Hall Gaskins, was attending her last year of high school in Ray City in 1922. This sharp business-type guy, Clyde Shaw, caught her eye. A brief courtship ensued and on November 25, 1923, the couple were married at the home of Rev. N. C. Wilkes in Milltown, Lanier County, Georgia. A few family and friends from Ray City and Milltown were in attendance.

The couple set up house in Ray City, where they started their family with the birth of their son, William Howell on January 28, 1925. Their only daughter, Grace Aneal was born just 21 months later, on October 2, 1926.

Lacy Shaw and several of Clyde's brothers had moved Valdosta about this time, and with the impact from the loss by fire of one of the major employers in Ray City, the Clements Lumber Company, Clyde felt it was time for his move there as well.

On April 15, 1928, at the Griffin Hospital in Valdosta, Clyde and Golie completed their family with the birth of their son, Clyde Thomas, and brought him home to their apartment at 801 North Ashley Street in Valdosta.

By 1930, both Lacy and Clyde were salesmen driving bread trucks for the Model Bakery Company. Clyde purchased a home at 904 Oak Street, and Lacy and Tula moved in with Clyde, Golie and the children. But Clyde wanted to work for himself, and in 1934 he purchased a



panel truck and began a distributorship with the Schlitz and Jacks beer brands. In conjunction with the sales and delivery of the brew, Clyde operated a small tavern on Patterson Street, about two blocks south of the railroad yards.

In 1937, Clyde gave up the beer distributorship and purchased the Model Bakery at 102 North Ashley from his former employer. For the next two years both he and Golie put their hearts and souls into the bakery. Breads, cakes, pies, and pastries were baked upstairs and the shop was located downstairs.

They purchased four trucks and hauled baked goods from Valdosta to Adel, and from Homerville to Stockton. Golie and Clyde both drove trucks and operated the bakery. However, possibly their expansion of the business and increased debt loomed over the operation, and in 1939 they finally resolved that they could no longer continue their bakery venture.

It was at this juncture that Clyde and Golie took the route of so many other South Georgia families and sought their fortune in the Sunshine State, moving their family and belongings in their 1936 Chevy.

They first moved in with a cousin Ivey B. Moore and his wife Clara. Ivey was a driver and salesman for the Steam Laundry Company, and he helped Golie get a job in the front office. Clyde got his first test as an insurance salesman when he became an agent for the Gulf Life Insurance Company. This introduction would result in his life-long pursuit in the occupation.

In 1943, Golie's mother was struggling to keep up with the farm work after the loss



Clyde and Golie, top left, with Golie's mother and brother, Vina and Lonnie Gaskins at the Gaskins farm about 1943. One of the family's favorite pastime was gathering around the piano to sing gospel songs and play traditional country music.

of her husband in 1937, and to care for Golie's brother Lonnie who was mentally challenged. Seeing the need to help at the Gaskins homestead, Clyde and Golie packed up the family in the 1936 Chevy and headed back to Ray City.

The family was now three, with Howell being enlisted in the U.S. Army and Grace being married to her first husband, so Clyde, Golie, and Tom all moved in with Golie's mother at the Gaskins home place. This arrangement, however, soon brought contention between both the Shaws and the Gaskins, and within the year the Shaws moved into Ray City, where Tom could



*William Howell Shaw
1925-2003*



*Grace Aneal Shaw
1926-1996*



*Clyde Thomas Shaw
1928-2005*



Golie and her son Howell both acquired employment at the Orlando Steam Laundry Company, above top, in Orlando. Golie was office manager and Howell drove delivery trucks.

Clyde and Golie, pictured in their later years, above bottom, sometime after the debilitating injuries that Clyde acquired in Orlando when hit by a truck while crossing the street.

attend school and Clyde continue his insurance sales with the Gulf Company.

In 1945, Clyde and Golie thought they would give the insurance business a try once again in Orlando. But Tom had become settled in attending school at Ray City and desired to remain there. So after making living arrangements for Tom with Ruby and Ollie Moore, the Shaw couple returned to Orlando, Florida.

Golie was able to secure employment once again at the Steam Laundry Company, and Clyde became an Independent Insurance agent. At the close of the war, Howell returned to live with his parents in Orlando, also gaining employment at the Steam Laundry Company. In 1946 he married Betty Jean Garner.

In the meantime, Tom who had

remained in Ray City, graduated from Ray City High School in 1947. He returned to Orlando to live with his parents and went to work for the Armour Meat Company. He remained with that company the rest of his working life. While living with his parents, in 1948, Tom met and married Anne Leonora Babb, who was also a Georgia native.

In 1949, Clyde and Golie made their last move from Orlando, back to Ray City. They rented a home adjacent to the Pleamon Sirmans home that had been the childhood home of Clyde while he was growing up. Clyde remained with the Independent Insurance Company and Golie helped provide income by providing a dry cleaning delivery service from Ray City to Valdosta.

In 1957, Clyde made a visit to see Tom and Howell in Orlando. While there, he was crossing one of the streets at an intersection and was hit by a truck driven by an employee of the local Chevrolet dealership. Clyde was hospitalized for two weeks where his recovery was slow and less than complete. Though Clyde lived on more than 10 years, his health never seemed to be quite the same again.

There was a substantial insurance settlement from his injuries, so the Shaws bought a new home on Highway 129 in Ray City. Clyde was still able to do some small jobs around town and had a brief job at Moody Field doing light carpenter work and hanging doors.

In the early 1960s, during the time Vernon Conners was mayor of Ray City, Clyde was hired as a policeman in the community. One evening a few young men got pretty liquored up and went racing through town and did some spin-outs on the park lawn. Clyde arrested them and had the sheriff in Nashville come down and pick them up and place them in jail.

When the men were brought before the Ray City court, which was presided over by Mayor Conners, the mayor refused to hold the men responsible for their behavior, insisting they were just having a little fun. This was an insult to Clyde and upon the ruling of the court, Clyde handed the mayor his badge and resigned.

In addition to Clyde's health problems, Golie also was suffering from deteriorating health. On December 30, 1968, Golie passed away. Just two and a half months later, on March 14, 1969, Clyde Chester Shaw followed his wife to the grave.

Clyde spent most of his lifetime providing for his family, moving back and forth between Ray City and Orlando, Florida always with the dream that life may be just a little bit better with the next move, the next sale being the one that he had been dreaming of—a dream in the life of a salesman.—BLS