

Ralph Henry Swope

Ralph H. Swope was raised on his father's farm in McCutchanville Indiana. He went to grade school and high school at McCutchanville School. He worked on his father's farm in his early years. In 1910 he went to Terre Haute Indiana and apprenticed at the Swope Nehf Jewelry store to be a jeweler. When he married in 1914 he moved back to his Fathers farm outside of Evansville for a few years. In December of 1919 he took his wife Margaret, two sons, Dwight and Ralph (Bub), and went back to Terre Haute and worked as a jeweler. During World War One he was in the Militia (Dec. 3, 1917 through April 21 1920) and spent some time in Gary Indiana because of the unrest in the coal mines. In 1924 the family left Terre Haute and came back to McCutchanville and Ralph went to work for B.K. Hardware Wholesalers in Evansville and traveled around the area selling hardware. When the family moved back to McCutchanville is when he bought the two and one half acres on Browning Road. Nancy and Paul was born in this house. Ralph dreamed of a store of his own. So it came about that in 1934 he leased the store, gas station and garage in McCutchanville. When Bub (Ralph L.) graduated from High School, he took over the garage. The store was on the north side of Highway 57 at the intersection with Whetstone Road. Highway 57 is now Petersburg Road. In 1938 the people that owned the store would not renew the lease when it ran out. Dad went across the road, leased land from Bailey France and built a store of his own. Ralph bought the land he built the store on in 1943. He ran this store until his death in 1948. Ralph Swope was instrumental in forming the McCutchanville Benefit Club and the McCutchanville Vol. Fire Department and was the first Fire Chief.