

Written by Roscoe Sheller, 1935, for the occasion of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Harvey M. and Ida Belle Lichty at Sunnyside, Washington.

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In the very early history of the United States, four brothers by the name of Lichti settled along the Swautaura Creek, in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. Little is known of these early settlers save that they were German-Swiss. Lichti (meaning light) is a Swiss name and was a quite common one, as was discovered by a Dr. John Lichty several generations later on visits to Switzerland tracing his ancestry.

From this American beginning of the Lichti Family sprang three other pronunciations and spellings of the family name - Leighty, Lights and Lichty. It is from the last named group that Jonas Lichty came.

We find him located in a little valley near the roof of the state in what is now Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Just six miles distant, and in full view of his home, stood a giant flag pole, marking that spot. To the east lay three low ranges of mountains, The Little Savage, The Big Savage, and the Alleghenys, and to the west, two others, Negro Mountain and Laurel Hill. Between these two groups of hills flowed the Castleman River whose valley widened at this point to create some eighty acres of rich bottom land, the largest to be found within many miles. It was here that Jonas Lichty was born, and years later, bought his father's farm, enlarged the home, acquired some adjoining land, raised his large family, and later became the leader of the community that was to follow.

In those days, families produced practically all they used and the Jonas Lichty family was no exception. They raised their own wool, clipped it from their sheep, carded, spun, wove and made it into clothing. They grew flax, pulled it by hand, laid it in the sun and rain to cure, roasted it over an open fire, broke it with a hand flax-break, and spun it into linen. The coarsest fiber, known as tow, was made into bed sheets and being hard and stiff, naturally needed some breaking in before they could be pronounced comfortable. These new sheets could always be found on the bed loaned cattle drovers as they stopped for the night on their way to Philadelphia with their herds. Being located but a short distance from the only east and west highway across the mountains, this opportunity presented itself most frequently.

At this time, the eastern railroad reached no farther west than Cumberland, Maryland, while the western railroad had its eastern terminal at Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All shipping between east and west was handled by six and eight-horse freight wagon outfits across the mountains between these two terminals over a toll road, the National Pike.

Along this road at intervals marking a day's travel by freight wagon stood Inns or Taverns where lodging, food and drink might be had for both horses and driver. These were also the stopping places for the large numbers of stage coach passengers of the day, and their stables afforded points at which fresh horses were supplied.



It is significant to note that this toll-road, known as the National Pike, reaching from Baltimore to St. Louis, was built by hand with sandstone rocks as its foundation and surfaced with limestone broken to bits by hand. It was designed and located by George Washington just one hundred years prior to our subject's birth, and yet, in spite of our seemingly advanced engineering knowledge of today, the present transcontinental highway uses those same grades, curves, stone bridges and road-bed, being unable to improve upon them. So the 1935 traveler will find it just as it was more than one hundred and eighty years ago with the exception, of course, of its paved surface.

It was not until 1859 or 1860 that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad started to connect east and west by rail. In 1861 the building of the mile-long tunnel as well as unfinished parts of the road-bed was interrupted by the Civil War. This work was also done by hand. Irish workmen with wheelbarrows - still called Irish Buggies - moved all rock and earth from cut to fill, while horses and rails removed it from the tunnel. Work was not resumed on its construction until a number of years later.

Jonas Lichty's farm, due to its favorable location and the enterprise of its owner, was able to market produce with the construction crews, as well as the Inns along the toll-road. His chief source of cash income, however, was from butter production, churned at home and packed in wooden ferkins, salted and covered with linen, and stored on the farm awaiting the buyer who came once each fall to collect the season's production from the neighborhood. For twenty one consecutive years, Jonas Lichty sold his butter to the same buyer, a merchant by the name of George W. Oyster, from Washington, D. C. Each year he made his headquarters at the Lichty farm and was accompanied by Mr. Lichty on his buying tour of the district. Presents, including "store clothes", were always left as a mark of his appreciation for the accommodations and hospitality he had received at their hands.

Jonas Lichty was one of a large family. Although of limited education, he was a natural leader and was chosen by members of his religious belief, The Dunkers, as their Minister and later a Bishop. (The Dunkers were so called because of their method of baptism, that of dipping. "Dunk" is the German word for "Dip". Later the name, in derision, was changed to "Dunkard", by which that sect is known today. It is also interesting, in passing, to know that the Baptists derived their name from the Greek word meaning "To Dip", and that the Methodists were so called because of their certain methodical traits. Both of those names stuck, but the "Dunkers", considering that name a slam, changed it to "Dunkard".) Jonas Lichty was a man of unusual emotions and possessed the ability to express them, as was indicated by the fact that, on many occasions, both he and his entire congregation would be found in tears.



His leadership was not confined to the church, but extended to all matters arising within the community. His counsel was sought in the settlement of controversies and his advice solicited on decisions of importance, both public and private. He was a believer in Divine Healing and service to his people, and in its regard, required much of his time and attention.

He met Mary Miller as a young man attending the country church. As was the custom in those days, riding horses afforded the means of transportation for young people of their ages. On one occasion, in company with a number of other riders in the party, their horses became excited and Jonas and Mary were thrown together, an incident that to Miss Miller determined whose wife she would some day become, a dream that later became a reality.

To this marriage were born nine children. Harvey Miller Lichty, the oldest, was born October 9, 1853, and of whom this story deals principally.

Two generations previous a gentleman, by the name of Cook, a friend of William Penn, had accompanied Mr. Penn to America on the same ship. He had settled in Pennsylvania and later members of the Cook Family had built an outstanding estate some five miles west of Cumberland. A large brick house and numerous surrounding buildings had made it a landmark along this Continental highway. At the time of Mr. Harvey Lichty's birth it was owned by Henry Cook, a grandson of William Penn's friend. This place always attracted Harvey's admiration as he passed it numerous times in company with his father on their way to Cumberland. The fact that it bordered the Mason Dixon Line later added to its interest, through contrast with the adjoining slave owning farm.

Henry Cook had married a Miss Devore of a very wealthy family, who had died three years later leaving two children. Mr. Cook then married a Miss Welch, an intimate friend of the Devore family, who died two years later, also leaving two children, one of whom, Ida Belle Cook who was to become Mrs. Harvey Lichty. Henry Cook's third wife lived but six months after the wedding. Again he married, this time a college woman of about his own age - a Miss Myria Miller, who raised Ida Belle to womanhood. Upon his marriage to Miss Miller, Henry Cook sold the Pennsylvania farm and moved to Mount Union, Ohio. Ida Belle was then five years old.

Harvey Lichty's boyhood was spent on his father's farm in which he displayed unusual interest. His early schooling was attained in the Little Red School House in Elk Lick Township near his home. At the age of 15, after attending the Normal School at Myersdale, Pennsylvania, he passed the County Superintendent's examination and secured a first class Teacher's Certificate. Thus early in life he demonstrated his desire to learn. He returned to the Elk Lick school for further study. One day a few weeks after receiving his certificate, he was called from the class room by an acquaintance of the family, Mr. Jonas Miller, a director of the neighboring school.

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Jonas Miller had come to secure the fifteen year old Harvey to teach their school, while the regular instructor, Mr. W. B. Cook, was ill with Typhoid Fever. Their school house was located on a farm owned by the father of a Mr. Albert Saylor. Little did Harvey then realize what these three men were to play in his future life. It developed that he brought Jonas Miller's son, Samuel, all the way across the continent to become a substantial part in the colony he later formed at Sunnyside Washington, and to so establish himself in the better life of that community as to be, lovingly called, by all who knew him as "Uncle Sammy Miller". W. B. Cook was the cousin of the lady who was destined to become Mrs. Harvey Lichty and Albert Saylor, sixteen years later, became Harvey Lichty's first business partner and influence in establishing his main life work, and a life-long friend.

How happy he must have been then - a fifteen year old school teacher with his first assignment; and how proud today to look at such an unusual accomplishment!

At the age of eighteen, Harvey became the teacher in that same Little Red School House at Elk Lick where he had spent most of his boyhood school days. He had, at one time, as many as sixty-four pupils ranging in ages from five to twenty one, many of them being older than he, their instructor. He retained this position for the ensuing three years.

Among his school-teacher acquaintances was another cousin of the future Mrs. Lichty, a Mr. Cal B. Cook, who had previously attended Mount Union College at Mount Union, Ohio, a suburb of Alliance. It was through Cal Cook's influence that Harvey was persuaded to give up his Elk Lick teaching position and return with Cal to Mount Union College, which he did in 1874 at the age of twenty one.

It was during his Freshman year at college that he first met Miss Cook, through her cousin, Cal, and was immediately attracted to her, as anyone who has had the privilege of knowing this beautiful character might well understand. Miss Cook was then about fifteen years of age and was attending high school in the same town, Mount Union.

Very early in life, perhaps at fourteen or fifteen, Harvey had felt the responsibility of choosing the right wife. He had met and cultivated the acquaintance of a great number of girls with this one idea uppermost in his mind. Of this number, and perhaps the one most cherished of his Pennsylvania girls friends was a Miss Livengood. Their differences arose through Harvey's desire for further schooling and his ultimate decision to attend Mount Union College. Meeting Miss Cook ended his search definitely and permanently.

Harvey's vacations were spent back on his father's farm where he devoted himself to its improvement by relocating roads and draining and tilling the low ground. In sight of his home, half way up the timbered Allegheney Range, Jonas Lichty owned another tract of land. To the small acreage cleared others were added and the logs, thus secured, were drawn to the saw mill at the



foot of the mountain, where they were sawed into lumber for other farm buildings. This tract still holds Mr. Lichty's fondest memories, as it was while working there during his first trip home from Mount Union that he received his first letter from Miss Cook.

His Grandfather, who had been bitterly opposed to higher education, pointing out other young men who had been attending college with unsatisfactory results, now acquiesced, saying, "Jonas' boys are different, they can still work."

Harvey's work at college was so outstanding that, even before graduation, he was approached by trustees of Ashland (Ohio) College to accept a position on their teaching staff, which he later did.

He graduated from Mount Union College with the highest honors ever accorded to any graduate, again demonstrating his desire to learn and his ability to lead; another prominent mile-stone along his life's path, so full of achievements.

Before graduating, however, some of his vacations were spent back in Pennsylvania where, associated with another classmate, a Mr. John Meese, he organized and taught Subscription Normal School in the public school building, unoccupied during that time of year.

The day following his graduation from Mount Union College, Harvey Miller Lichty and Ida Belle Cook were united in marriage by Mr. Lichty's best loved professor, Dr. Joseph Shunk. Incidentally, Dr. Shunk is living today in Wilmot, Ohio. He is 91 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Lichty then moved to Ashland where Mr. Lichty had accepted the chair in mathematics, a position he held for the ensuing three years. Ashland was crowded and house-keeping accommodations were scarce. They finally found quarters in two separate houses, where they prepared their meals and ate them in one and adjourned to the other to study and sleep. Yes, Mrs. Lichty studied also, for she attended Ashland College for a time and was a member of her husband's classes.

Roy Cook Lichty, their first son, was born in Ashland. The additional expense of a family, together with the impending financial demands for their future, brought to Mr. Lichty's attention for the first time the necessity of an occupation that would produce sufficient income to discharge that responsibility, and so another momentous question must be decided. Upon its correct solution rested the future of his family to be. He had spent some eleven years of his life searching for a life partner and had found his ideal. He had also spent a like number of years preparing for his much-loved profession - and now he awoke with a start to find the financial remuneration for that profession inadequate.



To sacrifice his family's future, financially, and follow the line of work he loved, and for which he had spent so many years preparing himself, and in which he had become so thoroughly distinguished, or to seek a more remunerative field, was the question. To know Mr. Lichty would be to know the answer.

In the early seventy's a Mr. Schaff, representing himself to be a Federal Land Agent, sold thousands of acres of Nebraska prairie land to Pennsylvania farmers, neighbors and friends of Jonas Lichty's. Both because of Mr. Schaff's glowing accounts of its future possibilities, and of the very low price of four dollars an acre asked, the transactions were consummated without the purchasers taking the time or the expense of looking at the land they were buying. It so happened that all these lands were located near what is now Carleton, Thater County, Nebraska. Among the buyers were the families of Kelso, Keim, Garey and Meese, the father of John Meese, who had been Harvey Lichty's class-mate in college and his associate in their Normal School Teaching.

It was not until some ten years later that these people discovered that the land they had purchased, sight unseen, really had considerably more value than they in their most enthusiastic moments had dared hope, and all but one of original purchasers migrated to Carleton. They found an exceptionally fine section of plains country, where the finest of prairie grass grew in abundance, awaiting only the harvesting, to make excellent hay. They found also that by simply breaking the sod and seeding, all kinds of grain could be produced in quantities unheard of before.

The Lichty's heard of this migration and what had been found in Nebraska through Mr. Lichty's former classmates, John Meese and Albert Saylor, just at the time when he had determined to seek some occupation that would offer for his family the promise of a greater future. And so in 1884 in partnership with Albert Saylor, on whose father's farm in Pennsylvania he had taught his first school, he opened a second bank in Carleton, Nebraska--The Citizens State Bank.

Carleton then was a brand new town of but some twenty buildings, but gave promise, through the surrounding country and the productiveness of its soil, of soon growing into a prosperous community.

It was here that the colonization idea first came to Mr. Lichty, and consequently, with his partner, set about to stimulate the trek that had already started, and colonize it into a Dunkard Settlement. Albert Saylor had wide family connections throughout Iowa and eastern Nebraska, which had its advantages in finding homeseekers. Through the disposition of the Pennsylvania Dutch Dunkards to be clannish, it proved to be a comparatively easy matter to induce friends and neighbors of those original settlers from Pennsylvania to join those friends in this new country.



It soon developed that colonization was as much the business of Mr. Lichty and his partner as was the Citizen's State Bank. People who came to Carleton, in turn brought their friends and, in nearly every instance, the newcomers first stop was at the Lichty home.

It was here that Mrs. Lichty welcomed them and demonstrated the sincerity of that welcome, through the hospitality that only such as she knew how to administer. It was Mrs. Lichty who, in spite of the fact that she was supremely busy with her steadily growing family, prepared the extra meals and supplied the extra accommodations made necessary by the almost constant stream of homeseekers who were guests in her home. We speak of man's success, but it is a well determined fact that where we find a successful man, we find a successful wife - ever cooperating and supplying the incentive and inspiration for his work, adding whatever balance is found needed, and all too often to go unacclaimed, she being content to find her happiness in the plaudits heaped upon her husband.

The Citizens State Bank, small in its beginning, and in spite of powerful competition, soon became the leader and a few years later had the field alone, when the first bank closed its doors.

Mr. Lichty and his partner built the first brick block in Carleton, a two story building that housed other concerns as well as their own bank.

An interesting fact, worthy of note in 1935, is that on Mr. Lichty's first trip to Carleton in 1884 he noticed all the way from St. Joseph to Carleton that every corn crib was bulging with the last year's crop. The thought came to him then that there would be no need to plant corn the following year and he would question the judgment of the farmer who would. What actually did happen was more corn than ever that next year and he does not recall any change in its price.

Harry Real, Guy Carleton, and Ethel Marie were all born in Carleton during this period. They arrived in the order named between and years of 1884 and 1894.

In 1885, Albert Saylor sold his interest in the Citizens State Bank to his brother, who was also a brother-in-law of Mr. Lichty's, and a former Pennsylvania farmer. He soon tired of the banking business and in turn sold to Jr. J. F. Whipkey, who remained with Mr. Lichty throughout the remainder of his banking experience. It was Mr. Whipkey, who on a trip to California, invested heavily of both his own and Mr. Lichty's funds in real estate there, with the result that the entire amount was lost.

Upon Mr. Whipkey's return from California, it was decided that a branch bank would be profitably operated at Wray, Colorado a new town being built in what was referred to as the "Rain Belt". Consequently, Mr. Lichty loaded his household goods, the three boys, and the family cow into a freight car, and taking Mrs. Lichty and Ethel with him by passenger train, set out to esta-



blisn the proposed branch. This was in 1894.

The new bank was subsequently opened and operated successfully for three years. Despite the fact that it was known as "The Rain Belt", very little moisture was experienced during those three years. The drouth, so caused, made it advisable to liquidate the bank and seek a location with more promise.

Some idea may be gained, not only of his banking ability, but of the sterling character of this man, when it is known that notwithstanding the conditions brought on by the three years' drouth, he liquidated that bank without a single foreclosure of any kind and still paid every depositer in full, as well as his own regular salary for the full time at Wray.

It must also be remembered that during these same years we were experiencing a national depression. Milch cows sold at from eight to twelve dollars, while corn was twelve cents a bushel, facts which made his accomplishments more noteworthy.

Upon the completion of his affairs in Wray, he again loaded his belongings and the three boys into a freight car and returned to Carleton. This trip there was another passenger for the Pullman Car for John Milton Max had been born in Wray.

Back in Carleton, although still connected with the original bank, Mr. Lichty entered the grain business, which he maintained for the ensuing two years.

Probably his experience in Carleton created in him a further desire to have a hand in the development of more new country. It is also quite likely that his experience in Wray bred in him a determination to have control over the moisture wherever he might go. At least such deductions might safely be made from events that followed.

About this time, a dream of colonizing some favorable spot in the west with those requirements was forming in his mind. His ideas met favor in those of his friends and kin, Mr. S. J. Harrison and Mr. Chris Rowland, both of Lanark, Illinois. These men had also envisioned a similar plan - each in search for the ideal location for such an undertaking. In fact, Mr. Rowland had made many trips to Galveston, Texas and was convinced that he had found the right place. Mr. Harrison had spent some time in California and had selected Ripon as his choice of sites, but had been unable to convince Mr. Lichty of its merits since the irrigation system was then little farther advanced than the drafting table.

At this stage in the formation of their plans, Mr. Lichty received a letter from his first banking partner, Albert Saylor, then living in North Yakima, Washington. He knew of Mr. Lichty's ambitions and suggested that he come to Yakima, where a position as Cashier in the Yakima Valley Bank during the absence of that officer awaited him if he could come immediately. Mr. Saylor



added that in accepting, he would be able to study the people, conditions and available territory for his proposed development. This of course was an opportunity not to be overlooked and was immediately accepted.

All available time away from his banking duties, Mr. Lichty spent in study and search of a possible site. One day in company with Mr. Saylor, he drove into the Sunnyside Valley and there saw a small plot of ground being irrigated. Here was concrete evidence of what could be grown through irrigation. Here was CONTROLLED moisture. There, stretched out before him, lay thousands of acres of similar possibilities awaiting the water, the home seeker and the colonizer. Here was the end of his rainbow.

A few miles farther down the Yakima River the town site of Sunnyside had been established, but now, all but abandoned. Here and there a small patch of clearing indicated where some former settler had been driven out by the then recent depression before even planting a crop.

Upon inquiry, he found that the Townsite of Sunnyside could be purchased and that water was immediately available at small cost. The fact that no railroad came within eight miles of the site, and that even then it was on the opposite side of the river, failed to dampen his enthusiasm in the least. He could bring that later.

He returned to Carleton and immediately communicated with Harrison and Rowland in Illinois, telling them of his discovery. Mr. Rowland, still favoring Galveston, urged Lichty to join an excursion that was then being formed to that place offering to pay his fare. The outcome of it was that both Mr. Lichty and Mr. Harrison accompanied that excursion. They made a careful, detailed study of its possibilities with open, unbiased minds. They talked with every traveler they could meet who was familiar with the district and returned to convince Mr. Rowland that Texas did not meet the requirements they sought. A decision was reached that, before any definite move was made, the three of them would visit and examine Mr. Lichty's discovery, The Sunnyside Country.

This they did, with the result that in 1898, Mr. Lichty moved his family to Sunnyside, purchased a farm a mile east of the townsite and began creating a home. Harrison and Rowland each bought forty acres of unimproved land, but for a time, remained in Illinois organizing emigrant parties and soon had homeseekers enroute. Mr. Lichty's part was to locate them upon arrival and as in Carleton, the Lichty home became the stopping place for practically all newcomers.

Here, Mrs. Lichty once more took up the task of welcoming emigrant families. Here again in another new country, in the midst of all of the inconveniences with which a new country is



beset, herself a newcomer, busy beyond words making a home for those five small children, she received those early settlers with her typical hospitality and entertained them while they were locating a home of their own.

A year or so later, both Harrison and Rowland moved their families to Sunnyside and began the development of their respective tracts of raw land. In 1900 these three men, along with Mr. Harrison's brother, Wm. Harrison, organized the CHRISTIAN COOPERATIVE COLONY and purchased the townsite of Sunnyside for the sum of twenty five thousand dollars.

In those days, Sunnyside could hardly be considered a town. It consisted of only a few frame buildings along what was later the main street - some seven or eight in number, and of these but three were occupied. Only five families of the original twenty five failed to be drawn away through the effects of the depression. But there was a general store that carried a few yards of calico, several pairs of overalls, a few nails and a very small stock of groceries, conducted by Mr. W. H. Cline, Sunnyside's first merchant. (Incidentally the Cline store later grew to be one of the outstanding department stores of the Valley). James Henderson conducted a drug business in the building adjoining the Cline store. Mr Henderson bears the distinction of being Sunnyside's first Mayor and today, 37 years later, still owns and operates a fine, modern and attractive drug store less than a block from that original site. It might also be of interest to know that the entire stocks of both the Cline and Henderson stores were of such size in those days that they might have loaded in their entirety on one small wagon. The Globe Hotel was the third building, occupied at that time. It was a two story, seven room affair with no guests until Mr. Lichty's party became active. Its proprietors and operators, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Stobie, Jr. still reside in Sunnyside and the building still stands, perhaps the only unoccupied one in the town.

There were no attempts at sidewalks, and the only street improvements consisted of the track horse drawn wagons had made through the very excellent sagebrush that grew there. But there were wide streets and trees planted on the principal ones - a section well platted for the real city of from five to ten thousand population. Coyotes furnished nightly concerts, and in the day time, sage rats, sage hens and jackrabbits supplied the only proof that life could exist in such a desert, while everywhere among the sagebrush lay skeletons of cattle mutely disputing that theory.

Indians were occasional visitors and would enter any settler's shack without warning of any sort. Range cattle and wild cayuses roamed the district, feeding on the bunch grass found there. An occasional rattlesnake would add a touch of excitement in season.

About a quarter of the townsite was made up of sand dunes of from ten to sixteen feet high that shifted with every wind. During the spring months, particularly, this was an almost daily occurrence.



It must have taken exceptional vision to picture any possible future for such a wilderness as the Sunnyside Valley presented at that time, and surely, nothing short of an iron constitution and a fearless, tireless, pioneer spirit would attempt such a gigantic undertaking.

Picture if you will a school teacher, a college professor, a banker, with a family of a wife and five children, ranging in ages from three to fifteen years, leaving a thickly populated well improved town with all of its attendant advantages, its schools, its churches and those hosts of close friends, to come to a sagebrush desert to make a home. Contrast the green lawns, the flowers and trees they had left to the drab sagebrush and the clouds of dust the wind would bring as it swept over those newly made clearings. Think of that wife and the courage she must have had to face such a spectacle. What confidence she must have placed in the judgment of her husband. But it is of such stuff that pioneers are made, and to them we owe the development of this great nation of ours. Let us forever pray that enough of that indomitable spirit can be retained in the generations to come to keep our nation American.

A small church, built by the first settlers, also served as a church where every Sunday morning found the entire populace gathered to worship, and afterwards, to exchange their experiences and news of the week. Here also, the first Sunnyside Commercial Club came into being. But two methods of transportation were in evidence, the saddle cayuse, and the farm team hitched to some old ramshackle wagon with boards placed across for seats. Buggies and carriages were luxuries not yet attained, and besides with their narrow tires, they would have been useless in the sand that was to be found everywhere. The wagons were of the wide tired variety, affording better footing. Irrigation water would escape from the sand banked ditches, and where it ran into the road, made that path impassable, either because of washes, or in making that place so soft that it would mire horse, wagon or man.

In a short time, patches of green began to dot the valley. The exceptional yield and quality of alfalfa, (the principal crop then grown) demonstrated better than words, the accuracy of Mr. Lichty's in the selection of his colony site. Each newcomer was instrumental in bringing others and new shacks became more and more numerous. Here and there, the first shacks gave way to better houses and the drab sagebrush changed into young orchards and green fields. Development was under way in earnest.

Mr. Lichty and his partners were responsible for the formation of the Sunnyside Federated Church, a religious organization made up of six denominations. Their original by-laws bound them together for five years. At the end of that time, The arrangement had proved so successful that a new agreement



was made, continuing the Federation for another three years. By this time, the additional population of the community and consequently the increased attendance at the church, made larger quarters necessary, and so an addition to the original building was erected, doubling its seating capacity. At the end of the three year period, the enlarged church was again overflowing.

The outcome of many conferences was that three denominations sold out to the remaining three and built churches of their own. In time, those remaining three finally dissolved, selling their interests to the First Brethern Church, who own the original building today.

Mr. Lichty and his family were members of the First Brethern Church, and from the beginning, were prominent in all of Sunnyside's religious activities. Mr. Lichty occupied the position of Superintendent of the Federated Sunday School, taught classes and led singing. He could always be relied upon for aid, financial and otherwise. His prominence in the community activities was not confined to Church matters but was very much in evidence in the agricultural, social and business life of Sunnyside.

He cleared the sagebrush from many new farms and seeded them to alfalfa. During a large part of the time, he had land grading outfits at work in various parts of the valley. He was a strong booster for good roads and a staunch believer in the old fashioned split-log, road drag, as the cheapest and best available means in converting wagon ruts into passable roads. At his own expense, he built several of these drags and the standing orders to his men in charge of his land-grading outfits were to drop all work following every rain, and drag the roads. His pay for this public work was in the satisfaction of its doing, and in the demand it created for improved roads generally. It is probable that his fondest hopes did not picture the fine system of roads and highways that outline every quarter section in the Sunnyside Valley today; but to Mr. Lichty goes much credit for their beginning. In a pageant of Progress Parade, held in 1933, Mr. Lichty drove one of these split-log road-drags, demonstrating both his own and the community's regard for that implement, and honoring Mr. Lichty for the part he played in the origin of Sunnyside's present road system.

He was among the very first to prove that the Sunnyside country was adapted to dairying by establishing a herd of some twenty milch cows.

Sunnyside Valley was fast becoming an orchard district, not as a main industry; but many farms were adding an orchard as a part of their farming program. The first plantings were now in bearing and the quality, flavor and quantity of the fruits produced, together with the high financial returns of that crop, induced still further plantings.



W. S. McClain , who had conceived the idea of growing pedigreed trees, propagating them from only the highest producing stock and from those that had also proved their ability to produce fruit of the very highest quality, approached Mr. Lichty with a proposition to join him in such a venture. The result of it was that the Sunnyside Nursery Company was formed under their joint ownership.

The pedigreed fruit tree idea seemed to meet with instant favor among all fruit men, including Mr. H. M. Gilbert, perhaps at that time the most prominent and successful fruit authority in the entire valley. Livestock breeders had built up their herds to their present advanced state through that practice. Why not apply a proven method to the breeding and growing of trees? An article on that subject appeared in no less an authoritative magazine than the National Horticulturist.

At considerable expense, careful records were kept on the origin of those young trees, as well as of the production of the parent. A large crew of workmen were employed during fall and winter grafting those pedigreed scions into roots, planting them in the spring and caring for them throughout the summer. Then with their year's production ready for market, people suddenly stopped setting out orchards altogether. Here was Mr. Lichty and his partner with many thousands of the very best trees ever grown, ready for planting, and no buyers. Of the forty-two nurseries in the county, all but two ceased to exist, and Mr. Lichty's nursery was among the forty. Its failure, due only to conditions entirely beyond his control, left financial obligations that took his entire fortune to satisfy, including his home, livestock and personal property, without reservation. Some men might have employed means to retain a sizeable amount of property, but not H. M. Lichty.

At the age of sixty, this college professor, this banker, colonizer and developer, this man who had contributed so much to others, this man, whose tireless efforts had done so much to build the community he loved so dearly, found himself in its midst, penniless, a situation that finishes the active lives of most men, a condition that has made thousands before him, bitter, morose and cynical, but not Mr. Lichty. Refusing to retire, on an offer of financial aid from family and relatives, he found work by the day to supply his immediate needs in the hay field, and set his mind on plans of further service to his community.

He had always been an active worker in civic affairs, a regular attendant at Commercial Club meetings and a hard worker in every worthwhile community enterprise, and he refused to allow his misfortune to alter his course.

He became an ardent advocate of asparagus growing as a prominent crop in the district, making exhaustive studies of its culture, varieties and marketing problems and is largely responsible for its present high place in Sunnyside's agricultural pursuits. Today at the age of eighty two, he still operates one of the larger fields.



About 1909, due to increased irrigation and insufficient drainage, the rising water table began to reach the surface of the ground in the lower points of the valley. Before its seriousness was realized, alkali began to put in its appearance and in a few years, had spread over a wide area, rendering those once highly productive farms barren of vegetation. What a tremendous disappointment it must have been to those colonizers, with their goal in sight - with their development reaching its height, to see what appeared to be an uncontrollable monster eating away at the fine work they had accomplished.

There was despair at every hand. Many settlers were forced to move to higher land. A few left the valley, giving up the fight, but not Mr. Lichty. He studied alkali control, experimented and worked for its eradication. Being convinced that all problems have their solution, he set about to find the answer to this one, and with his usual success, found it.

In a few years, the valley was drained and the water table lowered. Then came the problem of disposing of the alkali. It proved to be an even greater task than the original development of clearing, grading and seeding. Again it was Mr. Lichty who was prominently among the leaders. He selected one of the most affected tracts and began experiments which finally led to the reclamation of the major portion of the alkali land in the valley. Today he has a fine asparagus field on that identical tract.

By this time, Sunnyside had grown to be a modern little city and was known as such throughout the west. The United States Reclamation Service had purchased the irrigation system from its former owners, the Washington Irrigation Company, with headquarters at Zillah, Washington. They enlarged the canal, installed pumping plants to reach additional new and higher territory, and had extended the canal some thirty miles farther down the valley. Sunnyside was made headquarters for this work, where the operating offices and shops remain today.

What would be more natural, with the example set by their parents before them, that members of the Lichty Family continue prominently in the affairs of Sunnyside? Roy, the oldest, upon his return from the University of Washington, opened a real estate office in Sunnyside and became highly successful in its operation. Real, the second son, had much to do with the development of telephone service throughout the valley, after attending Washington State College, and is now the proprietor of an electrical business in Sunnyside. Guy opened a cafe, operated it successfully, and later became the proprietor of "The Planters", Sunnyside's leading hotel. Ethel, after attending the University of Washington for five years, became Mrs. Roy Scatchard, who came to Sunnyside and purchased the Pioneer Pharmacy, operating it in a most successful manner. Max, the youngest, was the only member of the family not identified



with Sunnyside business. He received his schooling in the east, graduating from his father's alma mater, and is now a prominent physician in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the state in which his illustrious parents were born. Can it be possible that his presence there can mean the beginning of a new cycle in the redevelopment of the country - politically and socially, as his forefathers developed early settlement? I wonder!

In 1921, Roy Lichty moved to California, where he was prominent in real estate development in Los Angeles, and later in San Diego, where he and his family now live. Guy followed several years later, and now is a realtor in San Diego, where he resides with his family. Ethel, with her husband Roy Scatchard, today own and operate one of the finest drug stores in Salinas California.

Of twelve grandchildren, two are married and have started a fourth living generation of the Lichty Family. Francis, Guy's eldest daughter, in 1931, married Mr. Edward Bernard, now manager of the U. S. Grant, San Diego's leading hotel. Their son, Baron Edward, became the first member of the new generation. The following year, Jean, Roy's eldest daughter, became the wife of Mr. Clifford May, a prominent architect and builder of Spanish type homes in San Diego. Their daughter, Marylin, is the second member of that group.

In every phase of his outstanding life, we find a close adherence to those Christian principles in which Mr. Lichty so ardently believed and so earnestly taught. From earliest boyhood, down to the present, his every action shows that his thoughts and ambitions were not of himself, but of his family and his possible service to mankind generally. As a teacher, a banker and a developer of homes and community, he demonstrated those traits so necessary to a successful, happy and a complete life.

He found and adopted those principals early, and recognized them as fundamental to the career he had visualized. Although those doctrines have been taught for many many centuries, and the results of their careful fulfillment demonstrated for almost as long, a surprisingly few accept them as the proven guide to a full and happy sojourn on this earth.

One cannot speak of H. M. Lichty without meaning Mrs. Lichty also, for such a life would be, of course, impossible without the whole-souled cooperation such a beautiful character as Mrs. Lichty, and the constant inspiration and encouragement she gave him in all of his work. As wife - as mother of their children - as comrade - partner and constant companion for more than fifty-five years, her achievements are those of Mr. Lichty's.



Today, as a fitting climax to such a glorious partnership that has produced so many praiseworthy attainments, in recognition, members of their family are sending them on a GOLDEN WEDDING HONEYMOON. They will visit Seattle, then by steamer to Los Angeles, where they will be guests at the Biltmore Hotel, then to San Diego and the Pacific International Exposition, and spend the summer at Honeymoon Cottage on the beach.

Two sublime and noble characters, lived as one gorgeous productive and rewarded life.