

FLYNN

Submitted by Vera Flynn

Patrick (Pat) Flynn, the son of Thomas and Bridget Flynn, at the age of sixteen came to America from Ireland in 1898, with his cousin, John Cosgrove. He was the oldest child in a family of twenty-one children, which included three sets of twins. Patrick's family in Ireland had subsisted on the proceeds from a one-acre farm, so America seemed to be the land of plenty.

His journey led from a small farm in Derrygellia, County Fermanagh, Ireland to Cheyenne, Wyoming. A McClusky cousin from Ireland had preceded Pat to Cheyenne. McClusky worked for the Union Pacific Railroad and was able to get Pat a job in the machine shop of the railroad in Cheyenne.

When Pat arrived in Cheyenne, Margaret (Maggie) Bracket was living in Cheyenne working as a housekeeper for the parish priest. She had emigrated from Port Loise, County Loise, Ireland, where she as an orphan had lived with the Daley family. While Pat and Maggie both came from Ireland, they met for the first time while residing in Cheyenne.

Pat and Maggie were married in Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1903. Three children were born to Pat and Maggie: Agnes, Edward, little Pat later to be known as Pat, and Helen. Having preceded the family to Milliken, the May 8, 1913 issue of the Milliken Mail reported that Pat was wearing a smile that wouldn't come off, as on May 4, his wife and children arrived from Cheyenne.

After their arrival in Milliken Pat purchased and operated a saloon in town. During this same period he purchased a farm northeast of town. Pat was active in affairs of Milliken as evidenced by frequent articles about him in the *Milliken Mail*.

The Flynns moved to 118 South Frances Avenue and at the death of Maggie in 1915, Pat and the children moved to the previously purchased farm northeast of Milliken. The Flynns lived on the farm until Little Pat and Helen finished high school in Milliken. After his mother passed away in 1915

Agnes saw that that Pat and Helen finished school. Pat graduated in 1926 from Milliken High School. The children went their own way and Pat senior moved to Ault, Colorado, where he operated a service station. Patrick Flynn was born in 1872 and died in 1947.

"Little" Pat moved to Milliken in 1913 and spent his entire life there. In 1934 Pat and Alex Rotharmel, in partnership, rented the gas service station on east Broad Street from Ben Kaiser. Ben had erected the station a few years earlier. Alex was badly burned when



Flynn Saloon – Vera Flynn

he lit a torch in the pit of the station, and it exploded. After his recovery he moved to California and sold his part of the business to Pat. After renting for several years, Pat erected a new service station east of the old one, on Broad Street. Pat was in the service station business in Milliken fifty-three years.

Agnes married Walter Nesom, and they lived in the Gilcrest area. Agnes and Walter had one daughter, Patricia. Agnes died in 1998. Patricia has five children and still lives in the Gilcrest area. Helen married Joe Bihain, and they lived in Boulder and Greeley while he worked for the State Highway Department. They had no children. Helen died in 1995.

Pat Flynn and Vera Garrett were married in 1937 and lived all of their married life in Milliken, the majority at 100 South Frances Avenue. Vera was born in Brush, Colorado and grew up in Johnstown. She graduated from Johnstown High School in 1934. Vera was a housewife and raised their two children.

Pat and Vera had two children, Michael (Mick) and Karen. Mick graduated from Milliken High School in 1958 and from Colorado State University in 1962. He was in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) in college and upon graduation entered the Air Force and was on active duty until 1966. Mick now works for the Government, in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He and his wife Sherlyn (Sherry Bechard) live in Maryland.



"Little" Pat Flynn and his Exxon Service Station – Vera Flynn

Karen graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1966 and from the University of Northern Colorado in 1970. She married Russell (Jack) Farmer in 1969. They have four children, Ryan, Cody, Erin and Beau. Upon completion of Karen and Jack's education, they moved to Broomfield, Colorado in 1972.

Vera remains in Milliken at the family home at 100 South Frances Avenue. She stays active at the senior center, playing cards, taking family trips and keeping up with the grandchildren.

After working most of his adult life Pat passed away at the age of 89 years and 11 months. Friends will remember his sense of humor and fair treatment of his customers. His service station was a meeting place for friends who had a few moments and others who stayed for hours. He personified the hardworking, easygoing immigrants from Ireland.