

OVID D. HARMAN

Project Consultant – Finney County



OVID & LOIS (STRINGFIELD) HARMAN

OVID DEWITT HARMAN, son of Oscar Harman (1867-1933) and Della Craft (1871-1957) was born on 3 Jan 1898 in Afton, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. Ovid moved to Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, in 1924. There he married **LOIS D. STRINGFIELD** on 4 Oct 1921. Lois, the daughter of Leveston B. Stringfield* (1855-1937) and Mary B. West (1866-1937), was born on 28 May 1900 in Finney County, Kansas. For five years (*before their marriage*), Lois worked for the Garden City Telegram. She graduated from Garden City's High School and attended its Community College for two years. Lois was the author of a book titled "Castle on the Prairie" about her life in the Finney County area.

In 1930, Ovid was working for one of the Automobile Dealerships as their bookkeeper. By 1940, he was the Finney County, Kansas "Assistant City Clerk". In 1950, he continued with a government job, working as the "City Clerk". In 1956, Ovid and Lois were the owners of the Kansas Mutual Credit Association and the owner of the Culligan soft water service, both in Garden City. He was also the City Commissioner of Garden City and later worked in the Real Estate business.

Ovid and Lois had three children: daughter **MARY CONSTANCE "CONNIE" (HARMAN) LANDON-FOSTER** (1927-2004), who lived in Garden City and two sons **WILLIAM D. HARMAN** (1928-2002) and **EARL BURTON HARMAN** (1931-1983). Both sons lived in California.

Ovid passed away on 1 Apr 1982 in Garden City, Kansas and Lois died there on 10 Oct 1991. Burial for both was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas.

**For more information on Leveston B. Stringfield, see Leveston B. Stringfield, Project Consultant - Finney County.*

Newspaper Obituaries

OVID DEWITT HARMAN

The Garden City (Kansas) Telegram, 2 Apr 1982

RETIRED CITY CLERK BUSINESSMAN DIES

OVID DEWITT HARMAN, 84, retired Garden City businessman and former city clerk died Thursday, April 1, at St. Catherine's Hospital.

Mr. Harman, born in Afton, Oklahoma, on 3 Jan 1898, had been a resident of Garden City since 1924. His parents operated a dairy farm in Guymon, Oklahoma, where Ovid graduated from High School. There he played football and participated in track. In 1920, he took a position with the First National Bank of Guymon, and in the fall of 1924, he joined the First National Bank of Garden City. On 4 Oct 1925, he married Lois Stringfield. His wife is a native of Finney County.

In 1933, Mr. Harman became the assistant city clerk and in 1943 was named city clerk. In 1952, he resigned from the city position and purchased the Culligan Soft Water Service. He operated the service for five years. During that same time, he served two terms with the city commission. After selling the water service, he was in the home-building business for about 10 Years. After a brief retirement, he joined J. H. Keller in the real estate business. He retired several years ago because of failing health.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church, had served as Chairman of the official Church Board, and served on the church finance committee for several years. He was a member of the Blue Lodge, AF & AM, and a charter member of the local Lions Club, where he served many years as secretary and two terms as president.

Surviving is his wife, Lois; a daughter, Mrs. Bill (*Connie*) Foster, of Garden City; two sons, Bill Harman of Grass Valley California, and Earl Harman of San Jose, California; two sisters, Mrs. Martha Sherman of Garden City, and Mrs. Alta Johnson of Amarillo, Texas. There are eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The Funeral will be at the Methodist Church on Monday at 10 a.m., with the Rev. Calvin Hartman officiating. Friends may call at the Garnand Funeral Chapel all day Saturday and Sunday, and burial will be at the Valley View Cemetery with Masonic rites.

LOIS STRINGFIELD HARMAN

Garden City (Kansas) Telegram, 12 Oct 1991

Funeral for LOIS STRINGFIELD HARMAN, 91, author and community leader, is set for 10:30

a.m. on Monday at the First United Methodist Church. The Revs. Jerold Vogt and Don Heinrich will officiate. Burial will be at the Valley View Cemetery.

Lois Harman died 10 Oct 1991, at the Garden Valley Retirement Village. She was born on 28 May 1900 in Finney County. A 1919 graduate of Garden City High School and a charter student at Garden City Community College for two years, she lived in Garden City most of life except for a few years in her youth when she worked in other places. For five years before her marriage, she was a writer for the Garden City Telegram. On 4 Oct 1925, she married Ovid Harman at Garden City. He died on 1 Apr 1982.

A homemaker, Mrs. Harman was active in community and civic affairs throughout her life. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church and the American Association of Retired Persons, past president of United Methodist Women, past president of the Girl Scout Council and a leader in the Finney County Women's Republican Club. For 35 years, she was a member of the 20th Century Book Club. She was author of a number of plays and, in the latter part of her life, she wrote a popular book, "Castle on the Prairie," about her early life in Finney County, centered on a well-known rural residence built by her uncle who came here from the east.

Survivors are one daughter, Connie Foster, Garden City; one son William D. Harman, Folsom, California; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband and parents, a son, Earl Burton Harman, two sisters and two brothers preceded her in death.

Friends may call until 9 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. tomorrow at Garnand Funeral Home. Memorials are to the Methodist Church Scholarship Fund, in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery Headstone

OID HARMAN & HIS WIFE, LOIS (STRINGFIELD) HARMAN



VALLEY VIEW CEMETERY
Garden City, Finney County, Kansas
Photograph provided by Deb (Mari) Pittillo