

# **THE RENICK HATCHERY**

Garden City, Finney County, Kansas

Written by Bernice Grooms

*\* Additional information added about Christeen (Frederikson) Renick*



*Christeen (Frederikson) Renick and her nephew, Freddie Frederikson, in front of the Renick Hatchery in Garden City, Kansas*

*About 1935*

The Renick Hatchery was first established in Garden City ten years ago with an egg capacity of 7,000. Mrs. Charles (*Christeen*) Renick owns and operates the hatchery. As business demands, Mrs. Renick has gradually increased the ability until the hatchery now has a capacity of 62,000. It has always been the Renick policy to move forward. For eight years, the Renick hatchery has been under the Kansas Accredited Hatchery Association.

Last year a new improvement plan was worked out by the Agricultural Department of the United States and was adopted by several states, including Kansas. All members of the Kansas Accredited Hatchery Association automatically became members of the new Kansas Poultry Improvement Association. With this new U.S. plan, poultry grading will be more uniform all over the United States. The hatcheries operating under this plan are inspected during the season by authorized inspectors. Chick buyers have more assurance of getting good chicks from a hatchery with this sort of official supervision.

All eggs contracted by the Renick Hatchery are from flocks in the Garden City vicinity and must be inspected, passed, and bonded by all authorized inspectors from the State Agricultural College in Manhattan, Kansas. This process has been a big step forward in the poultry industry. The Renick Hatchery has been one of the outstanding hatcheries in Kansas in going forward with flock improvement.

Mrs. Renick formerly operated the hatchery in the basement of the Renick home at 302 North Tenth Street. The over-increasing business has made it necessary for Mrs. Renick to seek a location in the business district. Today, Renick Hatchery is located at the corner of Ninth and Fulton in Garden City, in a new Spanish-type building of tile and brick trim. This hatchery is one of the most modern in Kansas.

The hatchery has the newest typesetting machines and separate hatchers. The eggs are left in the setting machine until eighteen days are over, and then they are transferred to the hatcher. Next, the eggs are not moved or disturbed until completed.

This year the Renick's have installed a machine to hatch turkey eggs. Until just recently, turkey eggs could not be hatched successfully in incubators. The new device gives excellent hatches running as high as eighty-five percent.

Some say the hatchery business is just a "hobby," but with Mrs. Renick, this is not true. It was and is her ambition to make a success of something worthwhile. She feels well repaid for her efforts.

#### Additional Information

CHRISTEEN (FREDERIKSON) RENICK



CHRISTEEN (FREDERIKSON) RENICK

*Photograph and additional information provided by Sandra (Renick) Stark, granddaughter of Christeen Renick.*

**CHRISTEEN FREDERIKSON**, daughter of Christian Frederikson (1839-1935) and Martha Ericksen (1851-1940) was born on 17 Oct 1882 in Whiting, Jackson County, Kansas. She married **CHARLES EDMISTON RENICK** on 24 Jul 1912. Charles, the son of William Strother Renick (1834-1921) and Lydia Jordin (1840-1918), was born on 10 Mar 1875 in Walker, Vernon County, Missouri.

Christeen (Frederikson) Renick came to Garden City from the Bancroft, Kansas area, when she was a young woman, and worked as a milliner. Later on, she opened her own little store, across from the Windsor Hotel, where she sold "ladies' hats" that she made.

When her son, **WILLIAM "MERRILL" RENICK**, was very young, he remembers her having a little dressmaking business in their house on 10th Street. She hired six women who helped make the dresses. Christeen went door to door selling her dresses in Garden City and the little surrounding towns. When the 'Nelly Dawn' dress stores went nationwide, it put Christeen out of business because their dresses were similar to what she made. After that, she started the hatchery business.

When she died of pneumonia, she was the president of the Woman's Democratic Party in Finney County. Not terribly long before she died, she ran for public office but did not win. She ran for Commissioner of Finance. Her son, Merrill, says she was a person who could talk to anyone.

Christeen's parents were both Danish immigrants and she first learned to speak English when attending school. She was the 2nd oldest of 6 children. Christeen and her older sister came home one day from school and informed their parents they were only going to speak English. The two of them taught the younger children English.

Christeen passed away on 6 Feb 1938 in Garden City, Kansas. Charles Renick died there on 10 Feb 1950. Burial for both was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas.

## NEWSPAPER OBITUARY

*The Garden City (Kansas) Telegram, 7 Feb 1938*

Mrs. Christeen F. Renick, 55, proprietor of the Renick Hatchery and wife of C. E. Renick, druggist, died at St. Catherine's Hospital at 7 a.m. on Sunday of pneumonia after a week's illness.

Funeral services will be conducted on Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 at the Presbyterian Church, with Rev. David B. Tallman officiating. Burial will be in the Valley View cemetery.

Although Mrs. Renick became ill a week ago Sunday, her condition was not considered critical until Wednesday. Since Wednesday, her strength gradually failed her until her death.

Since coming to Garden City with her husband 27 years ago, Mrs. Renick has been active in

business and politics. She was the Renick Hatchery proprietor at Ninth and Fulton and was the chairman of Finney County's Democratic organization.

Shortly after coming to Garden City, Mrs. Renick started a small dress-making company, employing several assistants to work with her in her home. She started the hatchery in her home twelve years ago and, several years ago, moved her business into its present location. Recently she purchased three pairs of foxes and planned to start a fox farm.

A Candidate for Commissioner and always active in the Democratic Party, Mrs. Renick sought public office on one occasion. She ran for city commissioner several years ago.

Included among her immediate survivors are her husband, a son, and five brothers and sisters. Her son Merrill, 21, has been attending the Kansas City School of Pharmacy in Kansas City, Missouri. Her surviving brothers and sister are; Mrs. M. J. McNichols of Kansas City, Missouri; Mrs. W. E. Geren of Bancroft, Kansas; Jim Frederikson of Beloit, Kansas; Fred Frederikson of Corning, Kansas; and Mrs. Ellis Jones of Mankato, Kansas. Also surviving is a nephew Linn Frederikson, who has lived with the Renicks here, and a niece, Mrs. E. E. Bowen of Wichita, formerly of Garden City.