

ALLAN BRASTED GRAY

Born: September 18, 1892
Indianola, Warren Co., Iowa

Parents: Rev. William F. Gray and
Annie Electra (Brasted) Gray

Brother: Fred Edwin, 1/2 Robert William
Sisters: Bessie Amelia, Luisa Adaline

Married: Dorothy Scott Davidson, October 12, 1920
in Dorothy's parents' home, Fierro, New Mexico

Died: April 12, 1974 (Good Friday)
Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, New Mexico

Allan was born during the time his father was a preacher at the First Baptist Church of Indianola, Iowa. When Allan was one year old the family left their home and William accepted a position as a missionary in China.

Annie and the children stayed in China until 1899. They returned to Ida Grove, Iowa where they stayed with Annie's brother Fred. Allan ice skated and rode horseback whenever he could. After William rejoined the family about a year later the family moved into a home of their own. At this point Annie knew she had cancer.

The family moved to Carnegie, Oklahoma where Annie's folks lived. William and Annie celebrated their 20th anniversary; she died shortly thereafter. Allan was 15 years old. Another in move (1909) took the family to Norman, Oklahoma. Allan and his sister Adaline graduated from high school there. In 1910 the family moved once more this time to Pecos, Texas.

During the money panic of 1911-1913 William lost his farm. Allan and his brother Fred went to work to earn money to attend college. Allan attended the University of Texas to study law but did not complete the degree. During this time Allan worked at several jobs such as he drove a mail truck, worked in a dairy, did farm labor and mining.

In 1916 when Pancho Villa crossed from Mexico to the United States Allan and other civilians became mechanics to the Pershing Campaign. The following year after the U. S. entered World War I Allan and Dorothy's brother Dave joined the 319th army engineers. He was stationed at LeHarve, France. During his tour of duty the spelling of his name was changed from Allen to Allan; he kept the spelling. Prior to discharge Allan went to Bristol University, England compliments of the army. He studied geology. He returned to the U. S. in 1919 and to Fierro after spending some time in Kansas using his geology training.