

The  
McBrayer  
Family  
Newsletter

IN

OF - BY - FOR -  
THE FAMILY MACBRAIR

# DEFIANCE

1 Sept 1981

Privately printed by Carl McBrayer, 412 Char Lane, Midwest City, Ok., 73110

WITH THIS ISSUE OF "IN DEFIANCE" WE CELEBRATE OUR 2nd YEAR OF PUBLICATION. The family newsletter has grown from just a few pages and a total of 30 subscribers to what you see in this publication and almost 300 subscribers.

The primary mainstay to the success of this paper has been the support rendered by each of you. Without your cooperation, contributions of material, and moral support, we might not have been able to come this far. And now as the readership grows, so does the family interest and, as a direct result, our publication's future looks bright. I personally offer my sincere thanks to each of you and urge your continued cooperation in the months ahead. Let's all strive to make OUR family newsletter even more attractive and interesting.

In fact it might be time to begin thinking of an expansion program. If anyone knows of some printing equipment that might be obtained very reasonably, let us know. It would certainly be nice to be able to run pictures, etc., with our stories. Keep it in mind.

For all good news, however, there is the bad. It shouldn't be such, but..... It seems that it is that time of the year for annual subscription renewals. Some good news this year, though, is that we are going to try to maintain our current rates. Hopefully, we won't be faced with a near-future postage hike or a drastic increase in material costs, and as a result the savings will be passed along to you.

This years' rates are the same as last - \$4 for four issues - a full year.

Within this issue is a subscription renewal form. Be sure it is completed and returned along with the appropriate amount before 1 Nov 1981 to insure uninterrupted receipt of ID. SOME HAVE ALREADY PAID THEIR RENEWAL FEES AND NEED NOT COMPLETE OR RETURN THE FORM. These individuals are recognized by an (\*) by their names on the envelope address. If your name is NOT followed by an (\*) your subscription IS DUE RENEWAL.

Don't forget the gift subscriptions. They make wonderful Christmas gifts and those receiving them will be notified that it is a gift from you. Just think! A \$4 gift!

(The following story is from a Kentucky newspaper and was written by G. Sam Piatt. The newspaper nor the date of publication is not known at this time. It was submitted by James Earl McBrayer of Morehead, Ky.)

FLATWOODS - Ten railroad coal cars and a flood on the Levisa Fork of Big Sandy River radically changed the life style of James McBrayer (the son of Hiram Edward and Mecia Robinson McBrayer), bringing him from Shelby in Pike County to Flatwoods and a new-found woodworking hobby

carried out in the workshop behind his home at 1113 Federal Way.

He can't get about without crutches, but he's got no time to mourn the loss of his right leg. He's too busy drilling, sanding and hammering into shape whatever his mind's eye puts his hands to building.

His latest creation is a six-foot ship standing in the front yard. He got the idea for it when he heard the speed boats racing on the Ohio as a part of recent Tri-State Fair and Regatta activities. But it wasn't the speed boat he wanted to build. He wanted to build one of those big warships he could still see in his mind from the days when he worked in a San Francisco shipyard during World War II.

"I guess it's a cross between a battleship and a destroyer," the 58-year-old McBrayer said of the gray, plywood ship. "It's got three gun turrets in front and two behind."

The ship may not win a prize for beauty, but it's certainly unique. The materials that went into it include "anything that came handy". Sardine cans serve as life boats, light socket chains as anchor chains, the guard from a weedcutter as a cover over the weatherdeck in front of the bridge, empty adhesive tape spools as gun housings and part of a burned-out fireworks rocket as the screw, or propeller.

"I have to watch him close to see what he carries out of the house for his projects," said his mother, the former Mecie Robinson of Pike County.

McBrayer and his mother bought their home in Flatwoods after the 1977 flood washed their mobile home off its foundation at Shelby, located about seven miles south of Pikesville. ....

After working in the West Coast shipyards, McBrayer hired in with the C & O Railroad on Dec. 15, 1945. The accident that ended his 30 years and 30 days employment with the railroad happened Jan. 13, 1976.

McBrayer, a car conductor, was helping to shuffle coal cars into a tipple at Shelby that night. It was raining and he was anxious to get in out of the cold. He hurried as he jotted down the numbers on cars his engine was picking up.

"I was standing in the middle of an empty track, taking down the numbers on the cars on another track. I didn't know another train had cut loose 10 empties on the track I was standing on. I didn't hear them coming because of the noise my train was making."

The lead car struck McBrayer in the back and knocked him several feet. His right leg was severed at the thigh, but he had landed in a depression between the crossties and the 10 cars passed over him without touching the rest of his body.

"I had just stepped off a crossing when it hit me. If the cars had hit me while I was standing on the crossing I would have been mangled beneath them."

But the accident and the flood are behind him, and McBrayer is enjoying life in Flatwoods. "It's the handiest place I've ever lived in," He said he had found fulfillment in his carpentry work, something he had never done before the accident. ....

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TARTAN TIES AVAILABLE - Word has just been received from May Roberts, via Charles McBrayer of Houston, Tx., that she can now have the ties made. However, the minimum amount that she can have manufactured is 80 and the order must be accompanied by the appropriate monies. May also informs that it will take 2 months from date she receives the order for shipment.

These ties, mentioned in a previous issue of ID, are made in the colors of the Ancient McBrayer Family tartan. Many of you expressed the wish to order some of these before, so if you still want them and, hope-

fully, receive them by Christmas, you need to:

1. Place your order to Carl McBrayer BEFORE 30 Sept 1981. (The consolidated order, if we can get a minimum order of 80, will be placed to May Roberts on 1 Oct 1981.) \$43
2. Insure that the appropriate amount, \$13 per tie ordered, IS INCLOSED WITH YOUR ORDER. (This does include airmail postage direct from Scotland.)
3. Send only check or money order (make payable to Carl McBrayer.) (No check or money order will be cashed until the total order reaches 80 ties. At that time they will be cashed and one money order for the total amount will be purchased to send to May.)
4. Be sure to inclose one 18¢ postage stamp with which to return the check/m.o. should a large enough order not be met by the dead line.

These ties are very beautiful and make a fantastic Christmas or any-time gift, but, REMEMBER.... Your order MUST be received by me no later than Sept. 30, 1981. My order to May will not be made unless we have a minimum order of 80.

I have had several inquiries recently as to the availability of back issues of IN DEFIANCE. In checking my files I find that only a few are available. These are listed below. Should anyone want one of these copies...they are \$1 each, postage included and will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. They can be ordered from Carl McBrayer.

Dec 1979 - 4 copies each	If these are sold out by the
Jun 1980 - 14 copies	time your order is received
Sept 1980 - 38 copies	your money will be refunded.
Dec 1980 - 35 copies	
Mar 1981 - 12 copies	
Jun 1981 - 34 copies	

HUGH DONALD MCBRAYER is the Chairman of the Rutherford County, North Carolina County Commissioners for 1980-1981. He is the son of George Coster McBrayer.

CHARLES W. MCBRAYER and his wife have just returned from a trip to Scotland and the following is an account of that trip as described by Chuck.

My wife, Philelle, and I arrived in Lochmaben, Scotland, via car from London Gatwick on June 19. Lochmaben is a royal burgh, granted this status since Robert Bruce in 1305. The Bruces (de Bruce) had a castle in Lochmaben since his grandfather's time.

Dumfries is about seven miles from Lochmaben and we had a chance to visit the seats of the McBrayer family, Netherwood and Almagill. Netherwood is in a lovely setting and changed hands from the McBrayer family in the 18th century. It borders on the shore of the River Nith. The site of Almagill is on a hill between Nithsdale and Annandale. The view is almost unbelievable! You can see for miles in each direction. It is not difficult to see why the family chose this site!

South of Dumfries is an area called Castledykes, which at one time belonged to the McBrayer family. It is now a park. Richard the Lion, great grandfather of Robert the Bruce, had his castle on this site -- now only

the mound remains. It was here that Robert the Bruce proclaimed himself the King of Scotland in 1306.

North of Dumfries is a church called Kirkpatrick-Irongray which also was a family property. Kirkpatrick was the Knight that dispatched the Red Comyn after Robert Bruce had his argument with him in Greyfriars Church in Dumfries. (The site of Greyfriars is now occupied by a super-market.)

South about seven miles from Dumfries is Caerlaverock Castle, the seat of the Earls of Maxwell. This was taken several times by the English forces during the time of Edward I (Longshanks). Caerlaverock is located at the point where the River Nith flows into the Solway Firth. It is a triangular shaped castle that is now in ruins with some of the walls and the double moat remaining.

Sweetheart Abbey is just across the Solway Firth from Caerlaverock and was established by Dervorgilla, the grandmother of John Balliol, a future king of Scotland. She buried her husband's heart in a casket which is located in these ruins; hence the abbey name. Near Sweetheart Abbey is Loch Arthur that is supposed to be the loch where the hand and arm caught the sword Excalibur after being thrown by King Arthur!

In Lochmaben was located the castle of Robert the Bruce. It is in an unbelievable state of disrepair, but in a beautiful setting on Castle Loch.

We drove all over Scotland including the islands of Mull and Iona, north as far as Inverness, and then wound our way back to Dumfries. It was a great trip, but I'm only elaborating on the things around Dumfries which will be among the things to be seen during McBrayer week should a trip materialize for June 1982. -Charles W. McBrayer-

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DRAKETOWN, GEORGIA, REUNION - 1981 -- The temperature was hot; the humidity high, but the turn-out for the 92nd annual McBrayer-Leathers family reunion was one of the largest in recent memory.

Approxiamately 150 were on hand for the gathering Sunday, July 19, 1981, at the Draketown Baptist Church, Draketown, Georgia. In addition to the huge turn-out of descendents of Nancy Leathers McBrayer, there were many visitors from other lines of the McBrayer family. A total of 8 states were represented: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Mass.

After the morning services in the church building everyone gathered outside under the shade trees and around the enormous outdoor table which had been piled high with food. Anticipation of "digging into" that delightful southern cooking shown on each face and none was disappointed at its deliciousness. It was reported there was so much food prepared and brought that not enough room was available on the table for it all.

After a most filling meal everyone retired to the airconditioned comfort of the church building where the annual meeting and election was held. Standing room only was left once everyone was inside. A discussion was held and suggestions made to hold next years reunion in a larger church building in order to accommodate every one attending.

Election of officers for 1981-1982 found Dr. R.T. (Terrell) McBrayer of Canton, Georgia, chosen as the presiding chairman for the coming year, replacing Leonard Bryan McBrayer, who has stepped down from the office after many years.

Entertainment was provided by C.D. McBrayer and sons: Dennis, Duane, and Durrell, and by the still-full voice of Leonard B.

An enjoyable reunion and visitation was experienced by all.

NOTE: A special note of gratitude to Bess McBrayer, wife of Leonard B.,

and to all the others who worked so hard in the kitchens preparing the fantastic meal for the reunion. Enough praise cannot be bestowed upon them for their unselfish deed, and we all who attended the reunion, owe them a deep vote of thanks. TO ALL YOU LADIES - THANKS SO MUCH!

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We reported on page 2 of the June issue of ID on the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. Ben and Helene McBrayer of Dunnellon, Fla. They had spent a quite day at home by themselves: their children, living far from home, could not help them celebrate. Un-beknowing to Ben and Helene, though, was the fact that their friends, neighbors, and the children were preparing and planning a surprise celebration for them at a later date. The following is a story of that surprise as reported in the RIVERLAND REVIEW, Thursday, July 9, 1981, Dunnellon, Florida, by Hugh D. Kempter.

THE USUAL QUIET and tranquility at the home of Dr. Ben McBrayer and his wife, Helene, on Pony Ridge Road in Rainbow Lakes, was suddenly interrupted on Tuesday, June 30, with the arrival of daughter Sandy, son-in-law, David Wetmore, and their children, Lori and Larry of Marshfield, Mass. Also, David's parents, Les and Harriet Wetmore of North Hanover, Mass.

Within an hour, son Bob and wife Betty McBrayer, drove up with their six children, Deb, Steve, Natalie, Ann, Patty and Becky, from Lincoln Park, Michigan.

On Wednesday a trip was made to the Ocala Fronton where several of the group was introduced to Jai-Alia. Upon returning home it was found that Jim and June McBrayer and their children, Ken, Tim and Tammy, had arrived from Worthington, Ohio. All these visitors arriving at the same time surprised Ben and Helene, although she had some warning of impending events.

For the first time since their children had grown up, the parents found themselves surrounded by all three of their children accompanied by their spouses and a total of 11 grandchildren. Needless to say, there was a grand reunion with some of the cousins meeting for the first time.

Thursday was occupied by a trip to Disney World for a majority of the group accompanied by Grandfather Ben. The Ladies remained at home and it developed that there was some devious planning going on. Friday was spent in various activities with swimming, local excursions, visiting and recalling events of the past years. Also a birthday party was celebrated for Becky who was 11 on the third and to remind Jim that he had on coming July 7.

Saturday morning swimming was the main activity for the younger generation. Ben and Helene were informed that the family was taking them out, but wanted to do some sightseeing first, including the Rainbow Lakes United Methodist Church which many of them had not visited.

This was the first stop where much to Ben's surprise there were a number of friends and relatives gathered for a belated 50th wedding anniversary reception, complete with a beautiful wedding cake.

After recovering from the shock a wonderful afternoon was had with gifts from each family to the parents as well as a special gift from all the grandchildren. Cards and gifts were received from all over the country including a card from President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy.

Needless to say Ben and Helene were overwhelmed, but immensely pleased and for once Ben found himself virtually speechless.

Other out of town guests included Blanche McBrayer and Dorothy Woods from Salt Springs, Fla.; Grant and Barbara Bartels from West Palm Beach and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Phillipott from Clearwater. Mrs Phillipott attended nursing school with Helene.

On Sunday the family attended services at the Rainbow Lakes United Methodist Church and later enjoyed Brunch at the Rainbow Springs Golf and Country Club. In the afternoon a group of the younger McBrayers, including Bob, Jim and June, enjoyed tubing down the Rainbow River. Monday morning the first contingent left when the Wetmore family started home, but the others will stay a little longer.

Ben and Helene feel they are amply repaid for all their years together and owe thanks to many people for the surprise visit all at one time. Planning had been going on by the children for a year, correlating vacation times for all the families, including the working grandchildren. Arrangements were made by long distance and the cooperation of local friends made it possible.

Reception planning was done by Herschel and Charlotte Moudy and Rev. Wilbur Williams and his wife, Eleanor. Refreshments at the reception were served by members of the Rainbow Lakes Ambulance Corps. Neighbors and friends helped to house the visitors and in doing all this they managed to keep it a complete surprise for Ben and partially for Helene.

Ben tried to put their thanks into words but found it difficult. It was probably best summed up when he said, "All I can say is that there has been a lot of love around our house these past few days."

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**EAGLE SCOUT AWARDED** - Tim McBrayer, son of Dr. and Mrs. James McBrayer, and grandson of Dr. Ben and Helene McBrayer, received the Eagle Scout Award at a Court of Honor held by Troop 333 on April 21, 1981, at the Worthington United Presbyterian Church, Ohio. Tim is an eighth grade student at Worthingway Middle School where he is an honor student, is a member of the track team, and plays trumpet in the symphonic band. He has been in Scouts for six years and is a member of the Order of the Arrow.

His Eagle project was renovating a raised garden and seating area at Franklin University. The project involved tearing down and rebuilding a damaged brick wall, cleaning and tuckpointing bricks in the other walls, relaying loosened stone caps on dividers in the garden, and pruning the various plantings of the garden.

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**NURSE GRADUATES** - The McBrayer family has added a new member to the medical field. Teresa, 8th generation daughter of George Howard McBrayer, completed her nursing training last Oct and is now currently employed at the Tri-County Hospital in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. -George H. McBrayer-

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**BIRTHS** ---

We are proud to announce the birth of Mary Elizabeth McBrayer, 9th gen. grand daughter of George Howard McBrayer. She was born Friday, July 17, 1981, in Huntsville, Alabama, to Mr. and Mrs. George H. McBrayer, Jr. -Geo H.-

**JOSHUA THOMAS BEAL**, the son of David Loyd and Stephanie Guy Thomson Beal, was born 8 Apr 1981 in Albuquerque, N.M. Stephanie is the daughter of Lt. Col (ret) Harry G. and June Marie Harlow Thomson of Hamilton, Mo. Joshua is the 10th generation in the line from Samuel McBrayer, Jr., thru Carlton McB., to Emily McB who married Tilghman Reed, to Wilda Susan Reed who married Charles Francis England, to Esther Orpah England who married George Willard Harlow, to June Harlow Thomson. -June Thomson-

BENJAMIN GAINES MARTIN, 10th gen, the son of William Jo and Donna Marie Brown Martin, was born 22 Jan 1981 in Okmulgee, Okla. He is the grandson of Henry Gaines and Sarah Kathryn McBrayer Martin and the great grandson of the late Thomas Humphrey McBrayer. -A.N. McBrayer-

Gary Vern and Marilyn Kay Martin announce the arrival of their daughter, MELANIE ANN MOORE. She was born 5 Apr 1981 in Plano, Tx. Marilyn is the daughter of Henry Gaines and Sarah Kathryn McBrayer Martin and the grand daughter of the late Thomas Humphrey McBrayer. -A.N. McBrayer-

Ellarie Skaggs White - daughter of Carrie Elizabeth McBrayer Skaggs and granddaughter of Edward Pleasant McBrayer, announces the birth of another grandson - PHILIP GABRIEL WHITE, son of Wendell Haden and Dawn Wynnelle Emmons White. He was born 30 Apr 1981 at San Diego, Calif. Philip is 10th gen. Another daughter, Gwen White Boyd and husband, Tim Boyd, have another new arrival. Ellarie Eileen Boyd was born 23 Feb 1981 at Rockford, Ill.

Our congratulations and best wishes to our new 'little' cousins and all the proud parents and grandparents.

ALBERT/EUGENE REYNOLDS, husband of Mary Elizabeth Utt - the daughter of Brunette McBrayer (6th gen) and granddaughter of Henry Freeland Buckner McBrayer, died 24 May 1981. Albert was born 4 Aug 1907 and was married to Mary 23 Dec 1933. He is survived by his widow; 2 children: Kathleen Lewis and Charles Reynolds; and three grandchildren.

#### MARRIAGES

Philip Lee Boerstler, son of J. Philip and Mary Louise McBrayer Boerstler was married in Wichita, Kansas, on Saturday, May 30, 1981, to Bernice Ann Schmidt of Wichita. Philip is the grandson of the late Thomas Humphrey McBrayer of Okmulgee, Okla.

John Robert Stanley, 9th gen, the son of James Bruce and Rosemary Childers Stanley, and the great grandson of Elizabeth "Lizzie" McBrayer and John Nelson Burgroff (Burgraff-Burgrof), was married 13 Jun 1981 in Memphis, Tn., to Harriett Elizabeth McCann. She was born 30 Jul 1960 in Memphis, the daughter of Robert Earl and Harriett Long McCann. (Lizzie was the daughter of Hartwell E. McBrayer.)

FOREST CITY, NORTH CAROLINA - William Paul McBrayer, 8th gen, a lifetime member of the Forest City, N.C., Jaycees, was recently presented the organization's award as the 1980 Boss of the Year. Paul is the manager of the Western Auto store in Forest City, where he has been employed for 32 1/2 years. He was also named the Young Man of the Year in 1961. -Susan McBrayer-

Dr. Duffy McBrayer, his wife, Claudia, and his mother, Martha Turner McBrayer, just recently returned from a trip to Scotland. He describes it as thus: "...let me say it was an incredible trip, one we shall never forget and it would not have been possible without May Roberts. She is not only a lovely person and now dear friend, but is also an excellent organizer." Duffy made prior arrangements with Mrs Roberts for "bed and breakfast" accommodations while in Scotland. Staying with May, she acted as a tour guide and led them to many of the sites of the country. "I'm sure each of us brought back very special memories and we probably

wouldn't agree on "the most significant event", but would agree the trip was well worth the time, effort, and money."

Sherman McBrayer of Raceland, Ky., reports that his wife, Mildred, has suffered three strokes recently and is now recovering at home. We all hope and pray for her speedy recovery. Sherman is an engineer for the C and O Railroad. In 1981 he held rights for the runs between Russell, Ky. and Columbus, Ohio, and between Russell and Cincinnati. He presently stands for the Amtrack run between Huntington, West Virginia, and Cincinnati, plus other choice runs to Columbus. Due to Mildred's illness, he is presently working a yard job at Raceland in order to be close to home to help care for her.

In a recent telephone conversation Sherman recounted some interesting tales about the older generations of the Kentucky family. He was persuaded to share some of them with us and the following is one of the first. Others will appear in future issues of ID.

"I've been told that the McBrayers have a reputation for stubbornness, and, of course, my wife verifies this. Someone told me of my grandfather, John McBrayer, (the son of William P. and Elizabeth Blue (Belew) McBrayer) always kept a fine pair of mules that he had great pride in. While hauling a very heavy load of railroad crossties to Greenup, Kentucky, he came to the foot of a town hill where there is a bad muddy area at the approach to the hill. Each driver would unhook his team and assist another driver with his load up the hill. John sat and waited his turn, but would not assist another driver. When his turn came to go through the muddy area he cracked his whip and proceeded to attempt to show all the others that his fine team needed no help. The others waited at the top of the hill to see what happened."

"As the mules pulled the extra heavy load into the mud and the wheels buried to the hubs, and as they stalled, granddaddy, with the whip and his mule-skinning language, tried to force his fine pair of mules to do the impossible, and when he finally convinced himself that it was hopeless, and since he had not helped anyone else up the hill, he would not ask anyone for assistance."

"Now, granddaddy, being a big, strong, stubborn, Scotch-Irishman, took the heavy oak ties one at a time and carried them to the top of the hill on his shoulders, until the wagon was light enough for the team to proceed through the mud and up the hill."

"When he reached the top of the hill he proceeded to reload the ties on the wagon and headed to Greenup Town to sell them to the C&O Railway Co." -Sherman McBrayer-

A special "thanks" to a couple 'cousins'....Dr. Ben and Helene McBrayer and Bobby R. McBrayer of Fulndale, Ala., for their most generous contributions to our family research fund. Ben and Helene donated \$50 and Bob gave \$10. Our sincere appreciation to all. Thanks!

#### MCBRAYER FAMILY LEATHER WORK OFFERED...

RAYMOND MORRIS of EDDERGOLL is Scotland's leading leather carver. He has, based on a specific request from May Roberts, developed certain carvings for the family of McBrayer.

Cavalier Morris has developed special art treasures for the King of Spain and has been commissioned to do leather carvings by public officials and private individuals in the United States as well as in Europe. He is able to exactly duplicate the targets or shields of the Highland clans.

(I ordered one of Raymond's leather carvings of our family seal. It

is very beautifully done and is mounted on a piece of our family tartan. The size of the carving, accomplished on a very thick leather, measures 9" in diameter. I am proud of mine and it is prominently displayed in my home for all to see..Carl)

Listed below are some of the items he can make for the McBrayer family:

1. Leather coasters of the family seal, 6 each in a box  
(Beautiful - treated so liquids will not harm them)... \$34.00
2. 4" wall hanging of seal with motto... \$14.00
3. 9" wall hanging of seal with motto... \$34.00
4. 9" wall hanging of seal with motto - mounted on tartan..\$39.00
5. Table mat of seal with motto, treated, 8"x11".... @... \$21.00
6. Table mats, as above, packaged 4 per box... \$82.00
7. Table mats, as above, packaged 6 per box... \$114.00

The cost may seem high, but the super work that is involved with each makes the cost minimal. I hope the family will support Raymond Morris since I'm sure he's one of the great artists of our time. I wish it were possible to let you see the quality of this outstanding craftsman's work. Please send your orders and check for the amount noted and I will request Raymond to do the leatherwork for you personally. Send your orders to:

Charles W. McBrayer  
14815 Kimberly  
Houston, Texas  
77079

-Charles W. McBrayer

NEW BOOK REPORT...Work on the new book of the family has slowed at this time. There have been a few unforeseen delays in receiving much needed material...and new material, recently received, and deemed very important to the history, has resulted in considerable re-typing of some of the first portions. Unfortunately, I must place a deadline of future information and material. Nothing received after 14 Sept. 1981 will be added or included in this edition. If you have information you wish to be included, BE SURE THAT I RECEIVE IT NO LATER THAN THE DATE ABOVE. Because of these delays the expected release date, if nothing else prevents it, is expected sometime in March or April.

NATIONAL CONCLAVE AND MEETING on the drawing boards... A proposed national family gathering has been made and preliminary planning has begun. Hopefully, the 'reunion' will be held in Rutherford County, North Carolina, in June or July of 1983. The place is being selected because it is the center of our family culture in America and the point from which the family began to expand to the northwest, west, and south. Many family landmarks remain in the N.C. area. Also the site would be more-or-less centrally located for the largest congregation of the family - Ky., Mo., Tenn., N.C., Ga., Ala., Fla., Tex., and Miss. We need help with the preparations and planning. If you would like to volunteer with the arrangements, please, contact me at your earliest convenience. Be sure and pass the word, too. Let's make this a gathering to remember....

A LUCKY, SURPRISING DISCOVERY...Jo Burtis McBrayer Crews, Phoenix, Az., recently encouraged some antique bottle searching friends of hers to be on the watch for old McBrayer whiskey bottles for her when they were on their hunts. After a recent return from a trip into Colorado, they surprised Jo with a presentation of not the bottles she had wanted, but a magnificent specimen of an original, wooden, Old McBrayer shipping crate. They had located the box in an out-of-the-way 'junk store'. The lettering was reported to have been in perfect condition and even a picture of the old W.H. McBrayer distillery was still readable. Of course, Jo was jubilant and indicated that it would be prominently displayed in her home.

From time to time we receive splendid poems written by various members of the family. This issue we are fortunate to have two. The first was one written on January 12, 1927, by Rev. Charles Nelson McBrayer, and sent in by his daughter, Barbara J. McBrayer Bartels of Lake Worth, Fla. The second was written and submitted by Audrey Willoughby Herrell of Villa Rica, Ga., a descendent of Peter Paul McBrayer.

### My Neighbor

O, for grace in all my labor-  
Grace enough to be a neighbor.  
Time to stop with "how do you do",  
I hope all is well with you".  
Grace to give a cherry smile  
Time to talk with them awhile  
Sympathy when they are sad  
Happiness when they are glad.  
O, for grace in joy or labor  
To be at least a worthy neighbor.

Let me see their virtues only,  
Let me cheer those that are lonely,  
Let me have not self contentment,  
Let me harbor not resentment,  
Let me lend a helping hand  
What e'er it be that they command,  
Let me cheer and love and bless,  
Let me believe what they confess.  
O, for time from care and labor  
To be a humble, worthy neighbor.

He's my neighbor, black or white  
Let me love him - day or night,  
American born or foreign birth;  
Blood is blood through all the earth,  
Good is good and bad is bad  
And hearts are hearts wherever had!  
May we meet in heaven's land  
Clasping each a kindly hand  
All so free from cares and labors,  
Happy still that we are neighbors.

-C.N. McBrayer-

Charles Nelson McBrayer, a Methodist Minister, was born 24 May 1885 in Rockcastle Co., Ky., and died 1 Oct 1971 in Greencastle, Ind. He was a prolific writer in addition to his preaching duties and produced many beautiful poems and stories. Barbara has recently completed typing of

her father's hand-written, autobiographical notes of his early life in the coal mines and as a railroader. She has sent us a copy of this work along with permission to print it in In Defiance, so beginning with the next issue we will be running a serialized portion of this interesting story of the life of Charles Nelson McBrayer.

The next poem, by Audrey Herrell, truly defines our summer and reunion season just past.

#### Family Reunion

Summertime is reunion time  
In the dear old U.S.A.  
In parks or church or old homeplace  
They meet to have their say.

Grandma Jo and Uncle Ned,  
Aunt Het and Grandpa Ben,  
All top of the list in revered age  
Now hairline nil or thin.

The crowsfeet lines upon their brows  
Reflect years of service rendered,  
Their faltering steps resplendent still  
With the honor of their kindred.

The family tree, so many limbed,  
Earnest youth a new growth features:  
Measures of pride, merits of worth,  
Transcend posterity, continued speeches.  
-Audrey Willoughby Herrell-

Our sincere thanks for sharing these poems with us - Barbara and Audrey.

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The third annual reunion of the descendents of Thomas Humphrey McBrayer was held the weekend of 7-8-9 August at the Fin and Feather Resort on Lake Tenkiller, Okla. There were a total of 55 descendents attending for the three-day event. These included the surviving son and the four daughters of Thomas, and most all of their children and grandchildren. Carl McBrayer, his wife, Pat, and daughter, Evelyn, of Midwest City, Ok. visited with the family on Saturday. Typical McBrayer hospitality was displayed, with much family talk, and the customary abundance of food.

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JUDY MCBRAYER SPARKS reports slow participation in her attempts to put together an address book of the family. The book she is proposing was briefly mentioned in our last issue of ID. Judy is requesting that we all send her our names and current addresses for a directory of McBs in the U.S. Be sure to include your generation and linages. This is a big undertaking on Judy's part and we should support her in this project. When the publication is available, we will all be afforded the addresses of our cousins, distant, close, or lost, with whom we can communicate. Don't forget, too, to send the addresses of any others you might know. Duplication of addresses is no problem. They will be sorted out

Below is a rough line drawing of the MacBrair Family Seal. This is a copy of what is mentioned on page 8 and 9 about the leather works of Raymond Morris. This drawing is meant only to give you an idea of what it (the seal ) looks like.



Also, in the very near future, we hope to make available to you decals in various sizes of the above seal. Some samples have already been completed and those at the Ga., Ky., and Okla. reunions have seen them. For those of you who have not seen them, they are from 2 1/2 inches in dia. to 7 1/2 such as the one above, and are made of adhesive-back stock.

and recorded in a sequence of alphabetical order and by states. Judy's address is" JUDY MCBRAYER SPARKS, RT 11, MORGANTON RD., BOX 450, MARYVILLE, TN., 37801, (telephone (615) 983-7412).

ELLARIE SKAGGS WHITE, Rockford, Ill., informs us she is planning a McB-Skaggs cookbook of popular family recipes. "I would like to ask any one related to send me their favorite recipe with their name, city, and state attached. They may send them for themselves, husband, wife, or children. If I can get enough I will have them published and make them available for the family." Ellarie's address is: ELLARIE WHITE, 3325 COLLINS ST., ROCKFORD, ILL., 61109.

While attending some of the family reunions around the country lately, I have had the opportunity to talk with several who have ordered yards of our family tartan from May Roberts of Scotland, and all have remarked as to its beauty. Dr. Duffy McBrayer, in a recent letter about his trip to Scotland, had this to say about the material; "Just a word about our Tartan - its beautiful - and if you've priced wool, it's not expensive since the material is 56 inches wide. A yard goes a long way. May has plenty of the cloth and she is happy to take American Travelers Checks or money orders, etc.". May has taken it upon herself to have this material made and stockpiled just for the McBrayer family. She has been out a considerable amount in her preparations. You won't regret ordering the material, especially when you receive it and observe its beauty. It can be used to make trousers, vests, skirts, tams, jackets, kilts - any number of items. The material is \$30 per yard ( a yard is 36" by 54") plus \$5 surface postage or \$10 Airmail (I recommend Airmail.). If you send a money order add the equivalent of one English Pound for exchange charges. (about \$2 ). May's address is: MRS MAY ROBERTS, No. 6 Bruce St., Magdalene House, Lochmaben, Dumfries, Scotland, Dg11 1PD.

NORTH CAROLINA REUNION HELD....The descendents of John E. McBrayer (son of Robert and grandson of David-third generation) held their annual reunion on 19 July this year in High Point, N.C., where this year's hosts live. Some 29 relatives were in attendance. Hosting the reunion were Keith and Kathy Poole. Kathy is the daughter of David McBrayer. Four generations were represented.

The reunion is usually held in Cleveland County at a local restaurant and then the family gathers after lunch at the farm of E. Yates McBrayer which is considered "the old home place." The reunion will probably be held in Cleveland County next year. It is held in July each year.

-Susan McBrayer-

I want to point out to our Brier cousins that this is your newsletter, too, but , without your help and participation with newsitems, we cannot include anything on the Brier line in ID... Let's go....with the items. -Carl-

Audrey Herrell, in a recent letter, which accompanied her submission of the beautiful poem, "Family Reunion, informed us she was to shortly enter the hospital for surgery. Let's all send her our best wishes and our prayers for a speedy recovery.