

E. M. Chilcote Recals Early Business In Klamath Falls



THESE FOUR MEMBERS of the firm of Chilcote and Smith, keep that real estate and loan company functioning smoothly. Seated, left to right, E. M. (Ed) Chilcote, founder of the business 46 years ago, Mrs. Thomas R. Skiens, secretary and bookkeeper and Bob Chilcote, owner. Standing is Bill Chilcote, real estate salesman. Bob and Bill are sons of E. M. Chilcote. Two other members of the firm, not present for the picture were Homer Stiles and Curley Wilson, salesmen.

By RUTH KING

Since 1909 when Edmund Monroe "Ed" Chilcote, came to the Klamath country in a round-about way from his birthplace, Ground Hog Valley in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Pennsylvania, the name Chilcote has been linked with the progress of the developing Klamath Basin. With his two sons, Bob and Bill, he now operates the real estate and loan firm of Chilcote and Smith.

Ed Chilcote in his boyhood days played along the banks of Roaring Run, a small stream with water falls. He drank from Sawmill Springs where they bubbled up cold and clear from white sand and clambered up Eagle Rock to a great pine tree where eagle fledglings waited for their food.

He taught school in Minnesota for two terms when he was 19 but the pointer and the chalk eraser had no charms. Back in Ohio for a 10 year stint he was employed by a large coal, ore and mining machinery company in Akron and in Cleveland.

Wanderlust took him to Denver in 1906, the year of the great San Francisco fire. He was still interested in the field of mining equipment. Later he landed in Salt Lake City where he was with the Utah Copper Company and the Utah Fuel Company.

The Panhandle of Idaho, close against the Canadian line at Wallace, was a mecca. Ed Chilcote was with the Federal Mining and Smelting Company, at Wallace and

became secretary of the chamber of commerce in that city.

During the summer of 1909 he represented the state of Idaho with a mining exhibit at the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition. He was ready to find a spot and settle down. Klamath Falls, after a stint of searching, became his home.

Joe Pierce had a small real estate business at that time in the old American Hotel on the corner of Seventh and Main streets. Ed Chilcote bought the business, "lock, stock and barrel," for \$25 with a roll top desk, a typewriter, chair and typewriter stand for office furniture.

Farm land was beginning to be noticed in the scheme of the Basin's progress and the first automobile owned by a Klamath Falls realtor was bought by Chilcote to get his customers to the site of a buy, "before they could change their minds."

In 1914 he was married in the Methodist parsonage to Sue E. Burnett. Three children, a daughter, Ruth, now Mrs. Hale G. Thompson, wife of a Portland attorney, and two sons, Bob and Bill, of Klamath Falls were born. All three

were graduated from the University of Oregon. He and Mrs. Chilcote have 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Following the death of Mrs. Chilcote he married a second time. The present Mrs. Chilcote is the former Louella M. Hough. The family home is at 3015 Shasta Way.

In 1914 D. M. Smith joined the firm and that is how the firm got its present name, Chilcote and Smith. Mr. Smith retired from the firm and is still living at the age of 90 years at Amity, Oregon.

World War II ended and the two Chilcote sons, Bob and Bill, returned to become associated with their father in the real estate and insurance business. The firm is now owned by Bob, a broker, assisted by his father, Ed. Employed as salesmen are Bill Chilcote, who sold an insurance business in 1954 and joined the firm; Homer Stiles, Klamath Falls; and Curley Wilson of Merrill. Mrs. Thomas R. Skiens has been with the firm as secretary and bookkeeper for the last 10 years.

His greatest satisfaction in the development of the business Ed Chilcote says, is the return of his

sons to Klamath Falls and their interest in the business, oldest of its kind in the Klamath area.

He has been a member of the First Methodist Church of this city for 45 years; he is a member of Klamath Falls Lodge No. 77 AF & AM, all York bodies and Hillah Shrine. He received his 50-year pin from Klamath Lodge, AF & AM and has a life membership, presented by the Grand Lodge of Oregon. He is a 30-year member of the Kiwanis Club.

For 13 years Ed Chilcote has been a member of the Oregon Real Estate Board, appointed first by

Governor Charles A. Sprague of Oregon, later by Governor Earl Snell, Governor Douglas McKay and by Governor Paul Patterson.

He has trolled the lakes and followed the mountain streams to fish with a blue upright and a brown hackle. He has bagged his full share of pheasants and mallards and geese and has stalked deer in the bitterbrush. His sons share his enthusiasm for the outdoors, but "mostly," members of the firm of Chilcote and Smith, at 111 North Ninth Street, value the goodwill of the thousands of clients they have served.

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