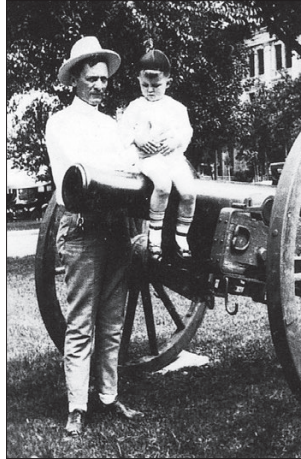


# Lot 13, Block 1 Plan of Rayne

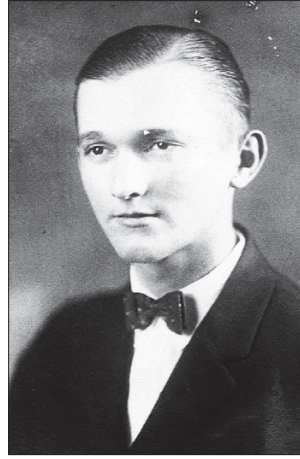
*"That fellow that owns his own home is always  
just coming out of the hardware store." — Barbed Wire*



Shown in her youth, Miss Ella McBride became an institution at McBride's Pharmacy, serving as well as the Greyhound Bus Line ticket operator at the Devil's Alley entrance.



Henry McBride dispensed medicines briefly in Rayne before moving to the San Antonio area to be in the employ of a large drug store chain. He is pictured with one of his sons, Charles.



Lynn McBride (son of Henry and Gertrude McBride) forsook the blacksmith and pharmacy professions for a lucrative business career in oil and ranching in South Texas.

**By Sidney Stutes  
Special to the Tribune**

A modern on-line, financial analysis company offers a "life expectancy calculator" requiring answers to a series of specific questions ranging in topic from gender, genetics, social, and cultural factors — even personal behavioral and biomedical facts. And, of course, in the current political atmosphere, the survey also demands answers to "environmental tastes."

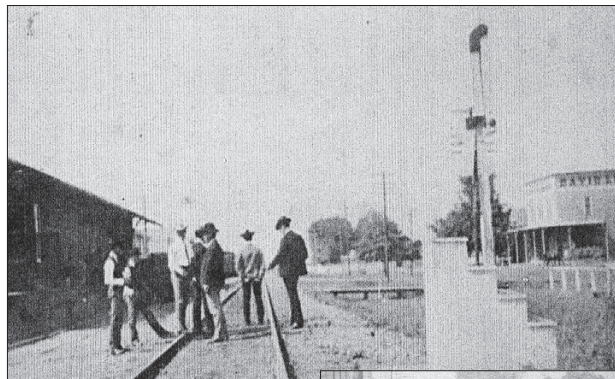
None of this had even been dreamed of at the time Aurelia Perres McBride was born in 1854. And until 1880-1881, when the Louisiana Western Railroad first surveyed, then built its tracks a mile or so north of Pouppeville, life expectancy in the United States remained at about 40 years.

Aurelia Perres McBride would do her best to "up" that average, being a full 82 years, so that at the time of her death in 1936, U. S. government statisticians rated life expectancy for men at 56.6 years and 60.6 for women.

To be sure, the Tribune had "touted" her 82 years in its reverent obituary of March 27, 1936. But while acknowledging her longevity, the paper had chosen to emphasize the fact that "... with her, went a wealth of history ... a source of unusual and accurate facts ... for she had the customs and history of the community at her fingertips."

In today's modern society -- with the deterioration of the "American family" in full display -- in this, our "throw away society," the greatest waste is the tendency to squander the experiences, knowledge, and "lessons of a long life, well spent."

The enlightenment about the past that a child gathered at the knee of a grandpar-



At the turn of the 20th Century, Rayne businessmen await the arrival of a Southern Pacific train. At left is the freight depot with its elevated platform. At the right is the business house of David Levy, later to become the home of McNeill-Hunter Motors (Worthmore's). At deep center is the white picket fence that surrounded the SP Section Square before the Stamm-Scheele Company was established there. In the second depot scene, you can see a group gathered around bales of cotton ready for shipment.

ent has largely been diminished, if not extinguished by our new-world society, to its great misfortune -- to be left wandering and meandering, as if lost in a darkness, without direction.

In 1936, in a world apart from today, the Tribune took the time to acknowledge the worth of the past, as a path to the future.

Today, grandson Warren McBride would help clear up a family matter. In an earlier article, it was noted the Rayne "founder" Mattias Arenas's gravestone (a white marble slab, 3 inches in thickness and 30 inches in height) had, only after considerable search, been found "tucked" so tightly between two other tombs, that the inscription could hardly be read. But more, the cited location (Lot 25, Section 110) in the old St. Joseph Cemetery had a relatively modern tomb there, "for another person."

That other person's tomb was identified by Warren McBride as

that of his grandmother, Aurelia Perres McBride, granddaughter of Mattias Arenas. And, as so often happened years ago, family members were entombed above others, as in this case of grandfather and granddaughter in Lot 25, Section 110 of the old cemetery.

As noted, Mrs. Aurelia Perres McBride (wife of Water Scott McBride) was survived by six children:

1. **Henry McBride:** Born in 1875, Henry eschewed the blacksmith tradition of the family to become a pharmacist, briefly to dispense medicines at the McBride property on S. Adams. He married Gertrude Shoemaker on Wednesday, November 22, 1916. Moving to Texas, he mentored his brother Walter into his same profession. In the employ of a large drug store in San Antonio, Henry made his home away from Rayne for much of the time in later years, but returned frequently to visit family and friends.

Henry McBride died

at age 63 in 1938 "following an illness of only a few hours duration" in Port Arthur, Texas. His remains were returned to Rayne by Gossen funeral coach. Father L. C. Habetz, at St. Joseph's, officiated over the 5:00 P. M. services held on May 18, 1938. Henry was the first of the six children of Walter Scott and Aurelia Perres McBride to die. He was survived by a son, Lynn McBride, who forsook both the blacksmith and pharmacy professions -- in time, to establish a major gasoline transport company, then organize the McBride Oil Refinery in the Brownsville, Texas area in the early 1940's, not to mention his 6,000 acre "Ranch - Arrowhead" stock farm.

2. **Anderson McBride:** He began as a blacksmith in the family tradition and worked as a machinist at the Martin Pettit farm northwest of Rayne for years. He married Mary L. Swindler in April 1897 in a ceremony officiated by Jesuit Blaise Branche,

St. Joseph's second pastor.

3. **Ella McBride:** (Mary) Ella McBride, born on September 8, 1886, was educated in local schools and grew up helping her mother (Aurelia) make her "sweet preparations" of candy and preserves at the confectionary shop on S. Adams. That very location would become her brother Walter J. McBride's Drug Store in time -- and there Miss Ella, who never married, "became an institution -- an important part of the firm, serving the public faithfully over a long span of years, assisting ... in her quiet, sweet manner, making many friends for the drug store. For some time, this was also the offices of the Greyhound Bus Lines (at the rear entrance on Devil's Alley) and she handled the ticket office operation."

She retired when the pharmacy closed. Later, in ill health, she resided at the Rayne Guest Home for several years. (Mary) Ella McBride died on June 12,

1970 at age 84, having survived all her five brothers and sisters. Rev. Emery Labbe presided over her services at St. Joseph. Interment was at the south end of the old St. Joseph Cemetery, facing Bernard Street.

4. **Walter J. McBride:** Born on October 1, 1891, Walter was schooled in Rayne, later to be mentored by his older brother, Henry, into pharmacy, after he had been denied a navy career by his sister, Ella, who had hidden his appointment to the U. S. Navy Deep Sea Diving School.

Walter married Miss Eva Claire Lancaster in 1921, operated McBride's Drug Store at the family location on S. Adams for years -- with soda fountain and Greyhound bus station. He would, in addition, serve two terms on the Rayne City Council. The couple had two daughters, Jeraldine (Raymond) and Robin (Alvandian).

5. **Edward Scott McBride** (aka "Dude"): Born on March 13, 1894, "Dude" married Miss Zulma Plattsmier at St. Joseph's on November 17, 1920 -- just two weeks before her 20th birthday. That marriage would bring yet another pioneer family, the Plattsmiers, into the "marrying pool" of the Perres-McBride-Privat families immediately to Blocks No.1 and No. 13 in early Rayne. This McBride-Plattsmier connection is the subject of an ensuing sketch.

6. **Julia McBride:** Born in 1897, Julia married Joseph Privat on February 7, 1921 in a ceremony officiated by Rev. Amable Dautre at St. Joseph's. And, on Block 13 (Plan of Rayne), this part of the McBride - Privat family would remain for yet another 50 years -- first in a "bakery business house."

*NEXT: A digression!*