

Boyd-Bennett-Henry Home
606 North Maple Street
Lightbulb # 5

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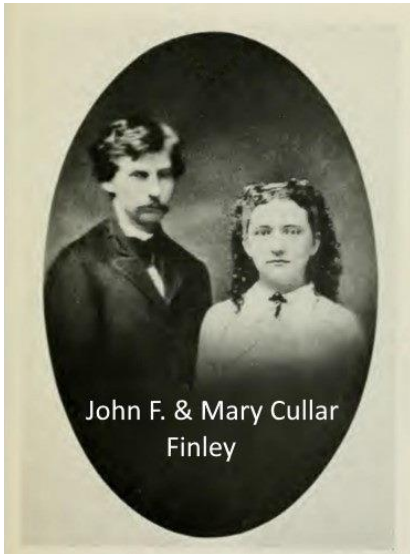
The original grand home, befitting a lumber baron, was built in 1880 by John F. Boyd. He owned many lumber yards in the five counties around Bates County. He retired from business and moved to California.

In 1917, the old Boyd home was purchased by Edgar A. Bennett & wife, Minnie. Bennett was one of the organizers of the Bennett-Wheeler Mercantile Company of Butler. He had the Boyd house torn down and a modern 5 bedroom home, complete with a stunning stained glass window built to please his new wife.

Mr. Bennett died in 1926. The home passed to his daughter, Mabel Bennett Zey, wife of Dr. E. Gordon Zey. She remained in the home until 1938 when Robert Henry purchased the property. Henry became world-wide known for Henry Radio, specializing in amateur radio equipment.

After Henry's death, the house passed to his children, then to Harold & Lacey Alkire and to the current owners, David and Mildred Chenault.

More on John Finley Boyd

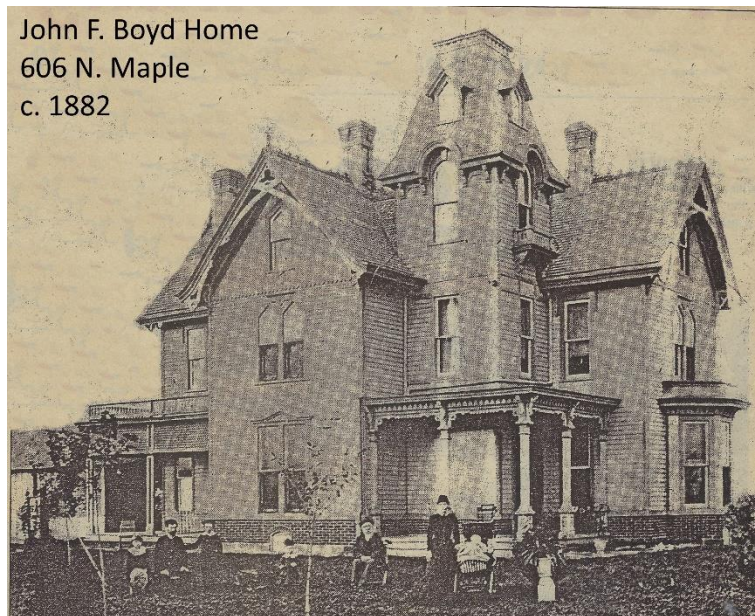


John Finley Boyd was born in 1842 in Ohio. After the Civil War he worked as a clerk in a mercantile store in Illinois. His family moved to Bates County and he joined then in 1870, working in John Cullar's general store, whose daughter, Mary Jane Cullar, he married in 1872. He then began working as a clerk in H.C. Watt's lumber yard and in 1874 became a partner with the company now named Wyatt & Boyd. (see also Lightbulb 4)

In 1879, when the M.K. & T railway came through Appleton City, Boyd established a lumber yard there with his brother, Hiram, in charge. They also started a lumber business in Rich Hill and later in Clinton.

In 1880, he built the grand home at 606 North Maple in Butler where the last of his four children were born. His wife, Mary, died suddenly in 1890. He then sold his interest in Wyatt & Boyd lumber to Wyatt and set up a new company, J.F. Boyd Lumber Company. This new company established a line of retail lumber yards in Rich Hill, Butler, Osceola, Collins, Foster, Clinton, Harwood, Shell City, Appleton City, Lowery City, Eldorado Springs, Nine Wonders, Walker, Montrose, Passaic, and Rockville.

In 1899, he consolidated his lumber business with the Logan-Moore Lumber Company and formed the Logan-Moore-Boyd Company. He then retired from active management and moved to California where he purchased an 80 acre

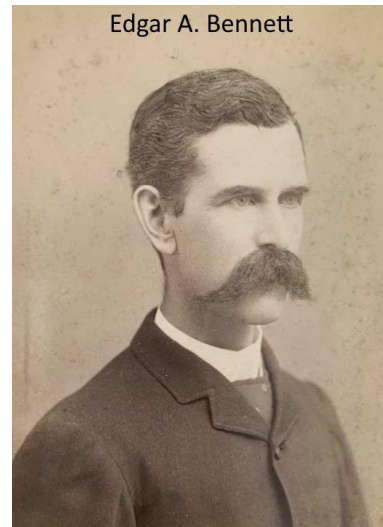


orange ranch near Redlands. In 1902 he established the J.F. Boyd Lumber Company with locations in Imperial and Holtville, California.

By 1907, his son, Scott, established his own lumber business, Boyd Lumber Co. in Monrovia, California. John Died in 1910 and is buried with his wife, Mary, on the family lot in Butler.

More on Edgar Alonzo Bennett –

Edgar Alonzo Bennett was born in 1849 in Ohio. He worked with his father at the John Pitts of Dayton company where he learned to make every piece of a threshing machine except the iron parts. He thoroughly learned the carpenters trade which was of great help later in life. At age 13, he enlisted in the Clark County Ohio Militia and served in the Civil War until its end in 1865.



Bennett moved to Missouri in 1869 where he worked for 9 years in a mercantile and then in 1878, he took a position as traveling salesman for Deere-Mansur & Company of Kansas (later the John Deere Plow Company).

In 1882 he came to Butler. Here, he partnered with C. S. Wheeler and J.B. Armstrong to form the Bennett-Wheeler Mercantile Company. He also engaged in the loan business. He was one of the original stockholders of the Farmers Bank becoming vice president and later president. He served two terms on the Butler City Council

In 1878, he married Hannah Roberts and they had four children: Mabel (married Dr. Zey), Hellen (Married Charles McFarland), Charles and Gordon. Hannah died in 1909 and he married

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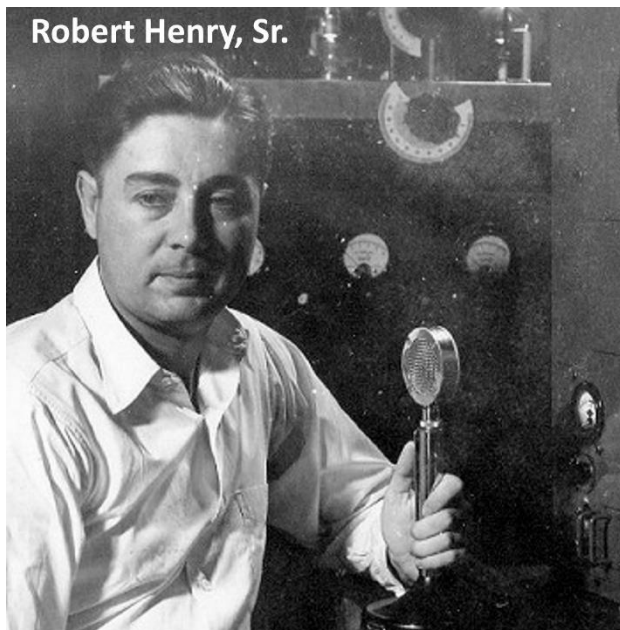


Minnie Allen Chandler in 1910. Initially they lived in his home at 108 W. Pine. Minnie was unhappy with the house and E.A. then bought the old Boyd home at 606 N. Maple, had it torn down and built her the current home.

In 1926, while visiting family in Pennsylvania, he was killed when struck by a train. The home passed to his daughter, Mabel

Bennett Zey, who lived there until 1938 when she sold the property to Robert Henry.

More on Robert Henry



Robert Edward Henry, Sr. was born in 1908 in Butler, the son of Walter W. and Jessie Stubblefield Henry. He was highly interested in radio and at the age of 16 established a small business in Butler dealing in shortwave amateur radio equipment. He maintained this business even while attending college full time graduating from the University of Missouri with honors. He was awarded a scholarship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he pursued graduate studies in electrical engineering. Henry, along

with his two brothers, James and Walter, began selling equipment parts for ham radios. His company, Henry Radio, introduced many innovations in amateur radio

and played a major role in the development of shortwave wireless communications.

He purchased the Bennett home at 606 N. Maple in 1938. In 1941 he married Willene McElwain and they had three children.

On December 7, 1941, the Pearl Harbor attack resulted in the suspension of the ham radio hobby. Henry Radio survived during the war by buying equipment from hams and reselling it to MARS stations around the world. At the request of Bill Halligan of Hallicrafters, Henry Radio opened a crystal manufacturing business to supply parts to Hallicrafters for their war production and had a busy crystal plant in Los Angeles and Butler. The Butler plant was located in what is now Butler's City Hall building.

After the War, Henry returned to Butler and Henry Radio became the world's largest distributor of shortwave radio receivers. In its heyday, Henry Radio employed more than a handful of

local folks who repaired units, did shipping/receiving and handled the day to day operations at the Butler store. Some included were George Ray, Mike McGrath, Shirley Umstattd, Bob Hawkins, Bobby Henry, Marge Rutledge, Helen DeArmond, Doris Hutchinson, Julie McGuire and Dorothy Linard. His shop in Butler at 211 N. Main, continued until 1985, closing shortly after he died.

As a side note: Robert Henry's father, Walter was also an innovator. He opened a garage in Butler on North Main (site of future Henry Radio). Main

Street in Butler became part of the Jefferson Highway – the first all-weather transcontinental highway in America stretching from Winnipeg Canada to New Orleans. Taking advantage of his location, Henry began selling for Dodge Brothers automobiles, selling out nearly as fast as he obtained new cars. His garage was noted for excellence in general car repairs.

