

Nickless Family



he Nickless name came to this area through Allen Edward Nickless. Allen was born September 4, 1907 on a farm on Curtis Road in Birch Run, Michigan. His parents were Charles Samuel and Celia J. nee Letterman Nickless. He attended Birch Run

schools and graduated from high school on June 9, 1925. Allen attended General Motors Institute of Technology in Flint, graduating in 1928. He came to Frankenmuth in 1928 and started employment at Universal Engineering Company. He became vice-president and plant manager until retiring in 1970.

Until his marriage to Marie Alma Hubinger on May 23, 1936, Allen lived upstairs at Zehnder's Hotel and Restaurant. Allen and Marie had one son, Charles Allen. Allen Edward Nickless died May 30, 1982 and is buried at St. Lorenz Cemetery.

Active in both civic and political areas in Frankenmuth, Allen Nickless was elected to what was then the Frankenmuth Village Council in 1957, and served until 1977 – nearly 20 years after Frankenmuth had incorporated as a city. He was an original member of the Wickson Library Board and oversaw the construction of the Wickson Library Building. He served for a number of years as a city representative on City/Township Commission.

Allen was also a member of the original City Hall Study Committee and was building coordinator for the City Hall Building Project in the late 1970's. In addition, he commissioned two oil paintings for the entryway of Frankenmuth City Hall. The lower level of the building houses the Allen E. Nickless Community Room designed for civic group meetings.

Allen was past president of the Frankenmuth United Way, the Frankenmuth Civic Events Council in 1971, and the Frankenmuth Rotary Club.

He was a past director of the Frankenmuth Bank and Trust and an honorary member of the Frankenmuth Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he was a member of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Laymen's League, and a member of the Germania Club of Saginaw.

From 1979 until the time of his death, Allen had been involved as a general and limited partner and president of the Nickless-Hubinger Mill building project which was built where the original Star of the West Milling Company stood until 1956. Allen and Marie donated the sundial in the Frankenmuth Memorial Park to the City of Frankenmuth for the purpose of beautification, as well as six acres of property to help develop Heritage Park.

Allen was awarded the Rotary Club's prestigious and distinguished "Paul Harris Fellowship Award". The Frankenmuth Jaycees gave him the "Herbert Keinath Award". To mark the end of his career as city councilman, the city council passed a "Resolution of Recognition and Gratitude". At the time of his death, the mayor issued a "Proclamation in the Honor and Memory of Allen E. Nickless".

The Nickless' son, Charles, was born March 16, 1942. He attended the Frankenmuth schools and graduated from Valparaiso University in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in business. He was vice-president of Michigan National Bank for 20 years, established and owned the Wash Haus (car wash and laundromat) in Frankenmuth and was also a private investor. Charles married Sharon Lamski, daughter of Paul and Beverly Lamski, on April 23, 1976. They had one daughter, Darcy Lynne, born September 12, 1978.

The Nickless family can be traced to Mortimer Berkshire, England, where Christopher Nickless emigrated in 1854. One of the children of Christopher and his wife, Eliza Foster Nickless, was Charles Samuel Nickless, the father of Allen Edward Nickless.



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