

Walter Silas

4. ~~Silas Walter Zorns:~~

**Birth:** May 13, 1891, ( Wed., 2:00 P.M.) at Keeter, Wise County, Texas  
**Death:** Feb. 22, 1935, ( 1:25 P.M.) at Taylor, Williamson County, Texas of acute lymphatic leukemia ( 44 yrs.)  
**Buried:** Cemetery at Lockhart, Caldwell County, Texas  
**Occupation:** School teacher, doctor of medicine  
**Description:** Walter had blue eyes and dark brown hair. He was strong, had a slender build, and was around 5 ft., 10 in. tall.  
**Married:** Willie "Billie" Ellison ( the daughter of a doctor ) of Lockhart, Texas on Oct. 8, 1915.  
**Resided:** Taylor, Texas  
**Children:** No children  
**Facts:** Walter started to school at Keeter at age 7. He was baptized by Rev. Skaggs in Aug., 1906. He received his first grade teaching certificate in May, 1908, at Decatur College at age 17. He went to Denton Normal College ( two terms and one summer term ) from 1908 to 1911. He graduated from Denton in 1911. He taught school at Roberts, Texas, in 1909; at Megargel, Texas, in 1911; at Fsletta, Texas, near El Paso in 1912; at Tucumcari, N. Mex., in 1912; and at Lockhart, Texas, from 1913 to 1915. He taught math and coached football. In Tucumari, he was accidently run over by the players at a game he was coaching, and his collar bone was broken. While teaching, he wrote and had published a math textbook. ( Dorothy White has a copy of the title page.) He met his wife while teaching at Lockhart. Willie was also a teacher in the Lockhart Schools. At one time in his life he worked as a court reporter.

Walter and Willie moved to Fort Worth in June, 1916. He entered medical school at Fort Worth in Sept., 1916. He attended two terms from 1916 to 1917. While there, he worked as a street car conductor, and Willie worked as a secretary at Terrel Labs for Dr. Owen. ( The newspaper clipping, at the time of his death, said that he had attended the University of New Mexico, but his mother did not mention it in her journal when she was writing about the various schools that he had attended.) Walter and Willie moved to Nashville, Tenn., on June 5, 1918. He entered Vanderbilt University in Sept., 1918, and received his medical diploma in May, 1920. He interned at the City Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Walter bought a pecan cracker while in Nashville and sent it to his mother.

Walter and Willie moved to Taylor, Texas, in July, 1920. He opened his medical practice there and was well loved and respected for 15 years. He was first associated with the physicians' staff of the Taylor Sanitarium ( as pathologist and bacteriologist ) and later withdrew from the hospital staff to begin private practice. Walter was a surgeon, but he did general practice at the same time. His specialty was working with expectant mothers and new born babies. He had one of the lowest mortality rates for newborn babies of any doctor in the state.

Walter was an avid fisherman and hunter and loved the out-of-doors. He was also a collector of rare guns, which he valued very highly. He collected hand guns, shotguns, and rifles. At the time of his death he had 52 guns in his collection. He had one unusual shotgun that had several barrels.

Walter loved to hunt deer. Once in south Texas, he tried to get a rancher to sell a deer lease to him and his hunting party. The rancher didn't like hunters

and refused. On his way out of the ranch, Walter happened to see the rancher's son lying by the road. He had been bitten by a snake and was trying to crawl home. Walter picked him up and carried him back to the ranch house. He stayed there doctoring him until he felt it was safe to leave him. He returned everyday or so to check on the boy. After the boy was well, Walter refused any payment saying that he was a doctor and that it was his duty to save lives. The rancher, in turn, gave Walter free hunting privileges on his ranch for the rest of Walter's life. (He also included Walter's dad for free, but would accept payment from the other members of the hunting party.) The year that Walter's dad died, Walter took Aster deer hunting on the lease, filling his dad's place. He had already asked his brother Ted to go, but Mary thought that Aster should go instead, since Ted had already killed a deer earlier that year in New Mexico.

Tom Allison had a tooth ache, and there were no dentists in Boyd. He came down and asked Ted to see if Walter, who was visiting Boyd at the time, would pull his tooth. Walter told Tom to meet him at the drugstore, and he would pull it there. Walter looked at his tooth and saw that it was abscessed. He said that he couldn't deaden it and asked him if he would drink some whiskey. Walter wrote a prescription for a pint of whiskey, and Mr. Wren filled it. Tom loved whiskey and drank it down. Walter was afraid that it would make him sick, but Mr. Wren and Ted knew that it probably wouldn't even phase him. This was a man whose favorite saying was, "I would like a little drink, about a finger deep in a wash tub." Walter then pulled his tooth.

Both Walter and his wife loved cats. He smoked a pipe. Walter could speak Spanish, Bohemian, and German. He and his wife lived at 1201 Lexington, Taylor, Texas.

Walter died of acute Lymphatic Leukemia brought on by the unprotected use of an X-ray machine. (He diagnosed his own disease before getting a second opinion from another doctor.) At the time of his death he was the City Health Officer for Taylor, Texas.

Willie had surgery for goiter on Jan. 31, 1936, and underwent radium treatment for a fibroid tumor in her womb at that time. Willie lived as a widow in Taylor for nearly fifty more years, working at Montgomery Wards, and later was in a rest home there. She moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, to be near a nephew. He died before Willie. Willie lived to be about 93. She is buried at Lockhart, Texas.

The newspaper write-up at the time of his death, says that he was a World War I veteran. His brother Ted says that he was called up and was prepared to go, but the Armistice was signed before he had to leave.

**5. Eddie Ethel Zorns Harrell:**

**Birth:** Dec. 4, 1893, ( Mon., 8:00 P.M.) at Keeter, Wise County, Texas  
**Death:** April 27, 1957 at Boyd, Wise County, Texas of congestive heart failure  
**Buried:** Cemetery at Boyd, Texas  
**Occupation:** School teacher and housewife  
**Description:** Ethel had brown eyes and medium-dark brown hair. She had a medium bone structure and was fairly tall ( around 5 ft., 8 in.). She wore glasses in later life.  
**Married:** a.) Howard Rike on April 3, 1918 - divorced