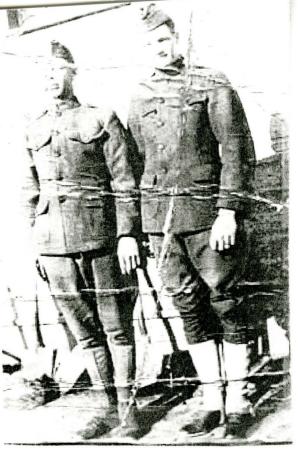


WALTER CARR(L)) OLIVE CAUDILL (BOOKKEFFER), AND DADDY CARRIN THE LUMBER COMPANY OFFICE 1960. WALTER LUTER BECKNIZ OWHER AND MANHER CO.F THE COMPANY



VETERAN OF WWI SETTLED IN ROWAN COUNTY IN 1928.

CK1

Zcols



Baseball was the major 3008 sport and entertain early 1900 R otto carr
early 1900 R otto carr
was the south paw pitcher
(stending and from Left)
on the Egel team in 1910.



MEMBERS OF THE MORENEHO CROSLET CLUB 64 WEST MAIN ST (SITE OF THI GUM INCLUDE: LR XCOL LUCY SPARKS, MATTIE TOMINSON, BOB DA ELBERT CASSITY PAUL J REYHOLDS LORENE DAY OTTO CHER WILL IMM TOMLINSON 1952



JOE REYHOLDS GRANDFATHER -"DADDY" CARD STAND MMID LO WAITING TO BE Shwap AT THE SHWMILL. aculs





DADDY CARR AND
MAMA CHRIR DURING
THEIR RETIREMENT
YEARS AT THE DIXIE
GRAND HOTEL IN
BRADENTO H FLA

Acols

Businesses he organized with partners of the Courtery motor Co Dealership Chysler Sunder Co. J. Chysler Sunder Co. 1938 Cawdle Munifactioning- (Influentinin getty of) 1950 Carr Bigant Construction Co Lex conjung CP + bear Honer Gregory Co Inc. St. Claire Med Genter Board Member 43my fragen Food Socker w Bie Johnson Enjoyed Dunch of Eagles net with fellow become men Ripleys Deliene it or Mot. Ollo Carr Sells auto I cars in morteal ty. Masone's Godgein West Scharty Mountain Clerk in Deposytor Kewanis Club. Democrato Duch at Sunnyfront Told Course Kenlucky Home Bulden association City Council of Machead Deacond Chauran g Board Ferst Christin Church Gentucky Comme (triseformed) He and his brotherstere Weny musical & Dang in the Church-Oth plage pears & Organ - by ear - hum it he could play it. flaged bace very y low accross sheet at The US Spacks - Wilt matte Tonling, But Day. Lorene Sporks Day ther mather I Mr Carrity bro of This HC Heives -

One ting while listing to amost lendy dadly said to me - someday your will be able to lift in your living room and watch programs like that.

Dadly was known to be the king person who got along will with his engling east was able to get late girals from them

With out Complaints. The was very generous With is less Inturate sisters

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white shirt + sesually a small ties

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after WWI Otto Carr returned to Enel, where his wife Sara was livery with her father the former Judge Som Dennies who was parlayed. He accomprese him to West Beherty when OHO took a job with the Telephone Company as Manager. They frented a large hause a short distance. from where they were building a heurgalow that they occupied centil 1928 when that mored to marchael. telephone Company - the office was lo cated upstress over what is now (Thorresons anliques) May Day this next oppeater and would just even leave her pert when her home caught on fire - Clocated on lot that lake become the fine Cocating the larr home.) Attowns and and Checker player. Le friend in West Frheity.

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Best McKenney and Bory Wade Cline Mamme Caker logon to a jone in the Coal Shale of the survey evenings other Neighbors Improved the Court -When Sunny brook I tref Course vas built- Otto leaved to play gref- & what a time he had with for Treer half being lexues" both being lexies" many an evening was spent weth Mintle & Bendsey Cardille playin aution bridge when Makel & Jones Ruth were little gul. yes Ottowasa Sports for very often Token his son Walter to Centing to ball a young man in Eyel, he had worked for aimed, in Meddle foun The splayed for their from while Charley Bout was on their team. During the Winters as a young mon in Eyel OHoward cutiese pen Blackwater store it in a sawdiest insulated building he had constructed & sees it in the summer The also leavest pegs & fattener them & sold the hoop- Cleaved land for people in Eyel to have field to farm on. When he got to the 8th grade his school west no he god so he just took 8th grad again to lear more. He went Illahm to workfor an eencle who has honeshales but dedit stay long; come back to

In Curs Lervier Ceropany was a victore leember steadely over the year by addry new equipment, machinery or construction of new builings. The company seventically green to mor been 50 employees, and live Companie four dreeks were kept a enerow Constactly delivery buildery motions to their distorners throughout Kenwery, Ours, West Verginia as Indiava.

Local Trivia

Coming Next Week:

Otto Carr sells
automobiles and operates
many other businesses



About the Author



Dr. Jack
Ellis is a
retired
Morehead
State
University
Library
director and
a retired
minister.

Morehead Memories:

People & Places

"Mama" Carr and
"Daddy" Carr
"Builders for tomorrow"

By Jack D. Ellis
Special to The Morehead News

"Through wisdom is a house built, and by understanding it is established" (Proverbs 24:3).

Carr is an old pioneer family name in Eastern Kentucky. James J. Carr migrated from Virginia over the Appalachian Mountains into Eastern Kentucky. He was accompanied by his wife and young son Thomas Floyd, and, lured by cheap land and timber, they settled in the Ezel community of Morgan County.

Otto Carr was born on October 2, 1891, at the family home at Ezel in Morgan County, Kentucky. He was the son of Thomas Floyd and Mary Ellen (Haven) Carr. Floyd Carr was a prominent farmer, hotel owner and business man. He established a primitive phone company in Ezel around 1914. That was where young Otto got his first experience climbing telephone poles and stringing wire, sometimes on trees. It was a task he would perform many times in the future.

Began business early

Otto Carr graduated from the public schools of Morgan County. He completed the eighth grade twice at Ezel because he wanted to learn more and there was no high school at that time. He later went to Oklahoma to work for an uncle but became homesick and soon returned to Ezel. As a young man in Morgan County, Otto was always busy building farming or helping



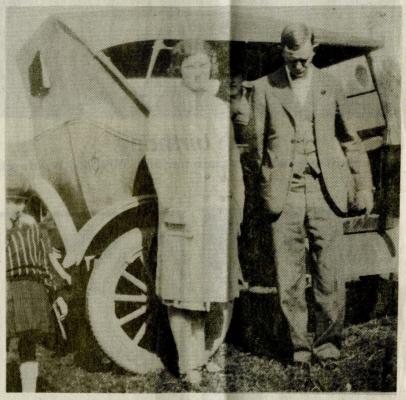
"Daddy Carr," early entrepreneur, owned many businesses in Eastern Kentucky, 1920s-1960s.

ceiling and floor. In the winter time when the Blackwater Creek froze over, they would saw out large blocks of ice, haul them in a wagon and store them in the ice house. Most of the time the ice would last all summer.

As a young teenager, Otto Carr moved north to Middletown, Ohio, and worked in the Armco Steel Mills. While in Ohio, he also played baseball. He was a left handed pitcher with a blazing baseball. However, he was homesick for Kentucky so he returned to Ezel to the family farm and played baseball for the Ezel team.

Baseball was Eastern Kentucky entertainment

Baseball was the major sport in Eastern Kentucky



Otto Carr stands with neighbor Lillian Blair beside the 1926 Model T Ford that brought the family from Morgan County to Morehead in 1928. Daughter Mabel is at lower left.

on the nine man squad. Later he wrote, "The years 1910-1912 were the best years for our baseball team". The players worked hard all week at their farms, jobs or businesses. But the weekends were filled with baseball. They scheduled such teams as Morehead, Campton, Frenchburg, Mt. Sterling and West Liberty.

Traveling to those towns meant rising hours before sunrise, doing their farm chores, then riding horseback or in a jolt wagon for five or six hours. Many days they

would not get home until after midnight. But they loved the game and the people flocked to support the Ezel White Sox. Umpires donated their services- none of the team was paid. Admission to the game was free but the home team passed a hat and collected donations that were greatly appreciated. The players furnished all of their own equipment and uniforms. As a result of his baseball experience, Mr. Carr was a lifelong sports fan. He was a strong Morehead College Eagle supporter

Cincinnati Reds fan. In his retirement years, he spent his winters in Bradenton, Flat, watching the Reds during spring training.

Otto and Sara wedding followed by ice cream supper In 1917, young Mr. Carr began to notice a lovely, petite and charming young lady by the name of Sara Dennis. She was the daughter of the former County Judge Sam and Georgeanne (Prater) Dennis.

See CARR on A-9

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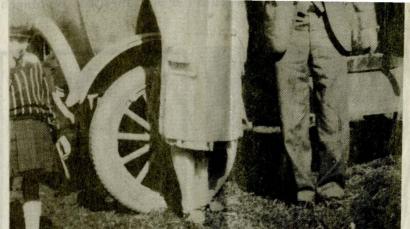
Carr." "Daddy early entrepreneur, owned many businesses in Eastern Kentucky, 1920s-1960s.

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Baseball was Eastern Kentucky entertainment

Baseball was the major sport in Eastern Kentucky during the early 1900s. Most towns had their own team, and games were scheduled on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. (Therefore, the sport was not very popular with the churches in the area). Otto Carr was the only pitcher



Otto Carr stands with neighbor Lillian Blair beside the 1926 Model T Ford that brought the family from Morgan County to Morehead in 1928. Daughter Mabel is at lower

he wrote, "The years 1910-1912 were the best years for our baseball team". The players worked hard all week at their farms, jobs or businesses. But the weekends were filled with baseball. They scheduled such teams as Morehead, Campton, Frenchburg, Mt. Sterling and West Liberty.

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Front grocery store section of W.T. Johnson's Frozen Food Locker on Morehead's Main Street opposite the old courthouse. Otto Carr was one of the owners. 1946.



ocated on West Main Street and Spoke Factory Lane, the Carr Lumber Company was major building supply company in Morehead from 1938 - 1995.

However, the couple were determined to be wed and they made their plans.

On Sunday afternoon July 6, 1918, following the morning church services at the Christian Church, Otto and Sara climbed in their buggy and drove to Pekin. They were married at the home of their minister, Brother Harlan Murphy. Most of the young people in the congregation formed a wagon train behind them and accompanied them to the wedding in buggies and on horseback. Sara's sister, Stella, and Otto's sister, Lexie, served as witness. Mr. Carr, in preparation for the wedding reception, had previously gone to Mt. Sterling and rented the largest hand cranked ice cream freezer he could find for Polytechnical Telephone

The couple soon fell in love the gala event. Therefore, and planned to be married, following the wedding tut Judge Dennis would not everyone in Ezel enjoyed approve of the marriage. delicious home-made ice cream. It was a major social event in that small community

Entered Army during WW

When WW II was raging in Europe, Mr. Carr felt a duty to his country and enlisted in the Army and was called to report for duty in August, 1918. When Otto enlisted in the Army during WW II, he was the only man from the Ezel community to enter the military during that conflict. One reason he joined the Army was to learn more about the telephone technology. He was assigned to the Signal Corps at Camp Meade, Maryland, where he learned the basics of a telephone system at the Fort Meade

School. There he learned how to build and maintain a telephone system. The young soldier was in on the ground floor of a new technology that would revolutionize communications throughout the world.

Building a phone company

Following his discharge in 1918, Mr. Carr was offered a job at the Technology Institute in Maryland at \$200 per month. As his bride was preparing to join him in Maryland at his new job, a terrible winter storm struck Morgan County devastating the primitive telephone system. So Mr. Carr was offered a job repairing the West Liberty primitive telephone system at \$50 per month. He and Sara decided to remain in Morgan County so he returned to West Liberty and succeeded in restoring telephone service to the county. Shortly thereafter, he became one of the principle owners of the primitive phone system.

Mr. and Mrs. Carr rented a house in West Liberty. It served as both a residence and phone switchboard service center. Mr. Carr made their own telephone cable at their residence. He would take insulated wires, spread the wires apart, and label each strand. He would then splice the cables together until he had a length of cable needed for a particular job. It was slow, painstaking work, but it was effective and Mr. Carr soon had the Morgan County phone system functioning again.

In the early 1920s, Mr. Carr purchased an interest in the Salversville Phone Company from Charlie Patrick. But he soon sold out to a group of Chicago Investment Bankers. In addition to the Carr Telephone Company, Mr. and Mrs. Carr owned a jewelry store and watch repair shop in West Liberty. But in 1928, Mr. Otto Carr sold his business interests in Morgan County and moved to Morehead. He believed there was a better business climate in Rowan County and better educational opportunity for his two children, Walter and Mabel.

Called "Mama and Daddy" Carr

In Morgan County, Mr. and Mrs. Carr were lovingly referred to as Uncle Otto and Aunt Sara because of their many nieces and nephews. But upon their arrival in Morehead, they neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Johnson. (Ellis was the college football and basketball coach). His children began

calling Mr. andrs. Carr Daddy Carr." "Mama Carr" a "Daddy Carr". The naiquickly became seared inte psyche of most Rowan coians and forever after thate genial friendly couple wenown by one and all as "ma and

Next week: "Otto Carr sells auto cars," plus operating many other businesses in Morehead and Lexington.

Local Trivia

Lumber Business

Otto Carr partners with Homer Gregory in early venture at Brady Curve.



About the Author



Dr. Jack Ellis is a retired Morehead State University Library director and a retired minister.

Vorehead Vemories:

People & Places

Mama and Daddy Carr, Part II "Builders for tomorrow"

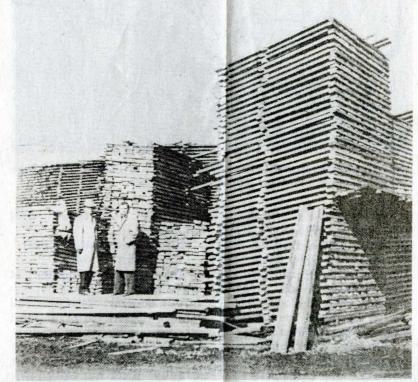
By Jack D. Ellis Special to The Morehead News

"Let every man take heed how he buildeth" (I Cor. 3:10). Mr. Carr sold his holdings in the Morgan County Phone Company and moved to Morehead as manager of the Kentucky State Telephone Company which had bought the first telephone company started by Ed Maggard in Morehead. The office was then located on Main Street above what is now Morrison's antiques. There were less than 100 subscribers to the service. Nora Purvis was the daytime switchboard operator and May Day was the night

reported, "Otto Carr sells auto cars in Morehead, Kentucky." In the mid-1930s, Mr. Carr traded his half of the auto business to Mr. Perry for the beautiful new 13 room brick house at the corner of Wilson Avenue and Fifth Street in Morehead (this property is still in the family today).

Carr Lumber Building and **Supplies**

Since Rowan County was known as the "Timber Garden of Kentucky," it was inevitable that entrepreneur Otto Carr became involved in some facet of the lumber and timber business. One of his first ventures into the lumber business was a partnership

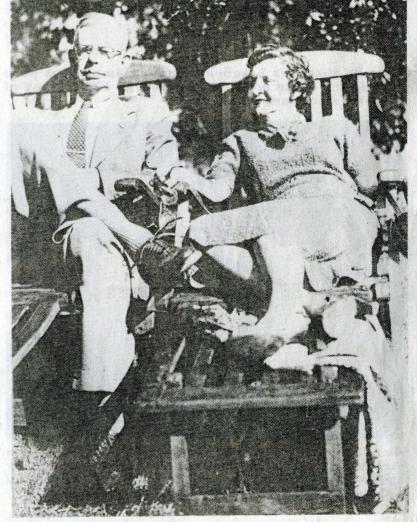


"Daddy" Carr (left) and son Walter amid stacks of sawed lumber being air-dried. Walter managed the company following the death of his father in 1967.

The Carr Lumber and Building Supply Company began adding new equipment, machinery, products and capital construction to keep pace with the demand. It continued to grow and prosper during the post-war years, and was one of Morehead's companies that helped Rowan County build and grow. Mr. Carr's son Walter continued to manage the lumber company during Mr. Carr's retirement and after his death.

Among those employed at the Carr Lumber Company were: Walter W. Carr, Paul J. Reynolds, Olive D. Caudill, Richmond Armstrong, Grover White, Wayne McKenzie, Sherman Trent, Wathan Armstrong, J.E. Reed, Hobart Ramey, Roy Switzer, Leslie Armstrong, Roy Collins, Clanmore Kizer Henry C.

families had not been perfected. Very few rural families had electricity and there were no freezers for home use. Most families butchered their own meat and preserved it with salt (oldfashioned way). However, there was some commercial refrigeration available, and, in 1944, Otto Carr and W.T. Johnson established the Morehead Frozen Food Lockers. The business was located at the rear of Mr. Johnson's Grocery Store across the street from the old Courthouse. Otto was the silent partner and Mr.



Daddy Carr and Mama Carr during their retirement years at the Dixie Grand Hotel in Bradenton, Fla.

Johnson ran the successful it. It was not convenient but business. Mabel (Carr) Reynolds recalls going with her dad to Cincinnati to the freezer purchase equipment. People would butcher their own meat and rent their own private frozen food locker and come and get their own meat as they needed

was efficient.

Carr construction business in Lexington

In the 1950s, Otto Carr and his brother Glenn established the Carr Building Contracting Business in Lexington,

See CARR on C-2



Walter Carr (left), Olive Caudill (bookkeeper), and Daddy Carr in the lumber company office in 1960. Walter later

Touchstone Energy



Walter Carr (left), Olive Caudill (bookkeeper), and Daddy Carr in the lumber company office in 1960. Walter later became owner and manager of the company.

operator (everyone called them central). May Day was so faithful to her job that she would not leave her post even when her house caught fire.

All phones were hand cranked and everyone had a party line. You would have a number, eg. 71. But you would also have a specific number of rings for your own phone, (eg. 71 along with two long rings and one short ring and you know the call was for you). Everyone had the opportunity to listen to their neighbor's phone calls and there was no privacy at all.

Otto Carr sold auto cars

In the early 1930s, entrepreneur Otto Carr immediately began to branch out into other businesses. He and Ray Perry established a De Soto new car dealership in Morehead, known as the Carr-Perry Motor Company. During that time Mr. Carr became famous as the subject of Robert Ripley's "Believe It or Not" column. Ripley

with Homer Gregory. They had a sawmill located near Brady Curve. But soon Otto sold his interest in that business, and, in 1938, along with Arthur Caudill, opened the Carr-Caudill Lumber Company. The business was located at the corner of West Main and Spoke Factory Lane (now Norman Wells Lane).

In early 1941, Mr. Carr purchased Mr. Caudill's interests and the business became known as the Carr Lumber Company. During the years of WW II (1941-1945), there was an insatiable demand for wood products for America's war effort. The business prospered, and the 25 employees with four trucks, sawed and delivered lumber to factories and defense installations throughout Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and Indiana.

Following WW II as millions of veterans returned home, there was another surge in the demand for lumber.

manage the lumber company during Mr. Carr's retirement and after his death.

Among those employed at were: Walter W. Carr, Paul J. Reynolds, Olive D. Caudill, Richmond Armstrong, Grover White, Wayne McKenzie, Sherman Trent, Wathan Armstrong, J.E. Reed, Hobart Ramey, Roy Switzer, Leslie Armstrong, Roy Collins, Glenmore Kizer, Henry C. Brown, Payton Hall, Leroy Trent and Morrow Ramey.

WW During entrepreneur Carr recognized the demand for construction materials other than lumber. In 1944, Otto Carr and Clayton Lancaster founded the Carr-Lancaster Block Company. It was located on Raine Street, south of the C&O Railroad tracks. The manufactured company concrete blocks and was the first business in Morehead to deliver ready-mix concrete to the construction site. There were about 10 employees in that business during its peak

Frozen food locker business

Other evidence of Otto Carr's entrepreneur spirit came in 1944. During the years of WW II there was food rationing and meat shortages. One reason for the meat shortage was the problem of storing and preserving meat. Refrigeration was in its infancy and food freezers for



The Carr-Lancaster Block Company provided concrete blocks, sand, gravel, mortar and ready mix concrete for Rowan County builders from the 1940s-1960s. The company was owned by Otto Carr and Clayton Lancaster.

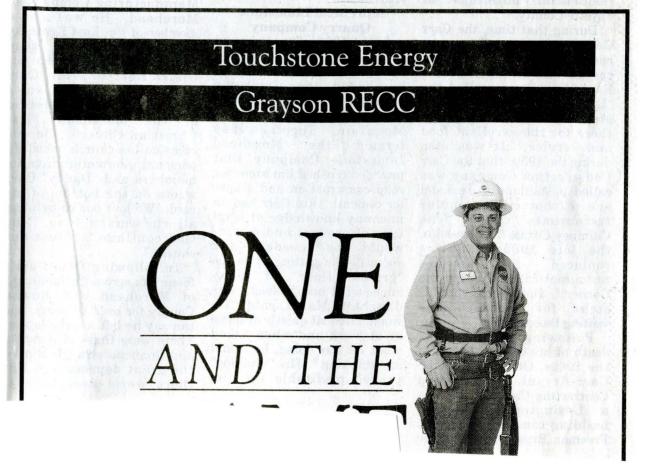
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in Lexington

In the 1950s, Otto Carr and his brother Glenn established the Carr Building Contracting Business in Lexington,

See CARR on C-2



Carr From A-8



Some of the Carr Lumber Company employees pose outside the office on W. Main Street in 1955. Many of these are mentioned in the article.



Members of the Morehead Croquet Club on West Main Street (site of TNT Gym) include left to right, Lucy Sparks, Mattie Tomlinson, Bob Day, Elbert Cassity, Paul J. Reynolds, Lorene Day, Otto Carr, William Tomlinson.

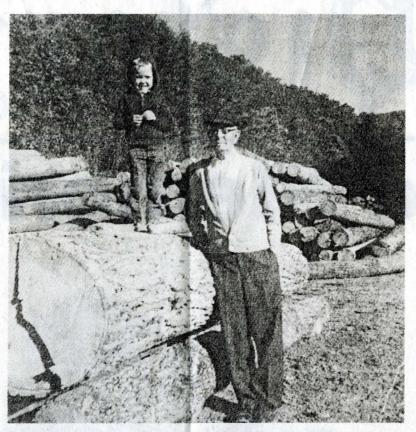
Kentucky. It was another partner. They were members successful Carr enterprise. of the Lexington Home Mr. Carr seemed to be at the Builders Association and were right place at the right time involved in building many for the post-war building boom. The lumber and building materials were furnished from his lumber company in Morehead. His brother Glenn hired the men supervised the and construction crews. They built residential buildings in retirement. Fayette County.

During that time, the Carr Construction Company

upscale homes (\$30,000-\$40,000 price range was upscale at that time). They built in some of the exclusive housing developments on Chenoie and Richmond Road sections of Lexington. It was a profitable business for Daddy commercial and Carr and continued until his

Morehead Limestone Quarry Company

In the 1960s, Otto Carr and remodeled a popular C.P. Caudill, president of the restaurant on Lexington's Peoples Bank of Morehead, East Main Street called the purchased the limestone



Joe Reynolds-grandfather-"Daddy" Carr stand amid logs waiting to be sawed at the sawmill. 1963.

throughout his many, many successful endeavors. His daughter Mabel recalled once during the 1930s, they were listening on the radio to the old "Amos and Andy" program and her dad said, "One day you'll be able to see that program in your own home."

"Daddy" Carr had many personal talents and a wide variety of interests too numerous to mention here. Eg., played the coronet in a band, sang in a barbershop quartet, played the piano, shuffleboard, croquet and checkers. He also was an avid golfer and a fierce competitor in every game he played. He also belonged to several clubs organization; Mountain Club of Lexington, Morehead Kiwanis Club and Masonic Lodge.

Carr a civic minded citizen

Mr. Carr was an active community minded citizen who devoted much time and energy to promoting the city and county as well as promoting Morehead College. He was a member of the City Council and Board of Trade that brought the Cowden Manufacturing Company to Morehead. He was also a member of the East Kentucky Hospital Foundation Group that helped establish St. Claire Hospital. Mr. Carr economic success and affluence.

Mama and Daddy Carr built a home

Mr. Carr was a builder. It is one of the basic occupations in our society. People need houses in which to live, and whomever helps to supply them renders and important service to our society. But "Daddy" Carr not only built and provided materials for houses, but he and "Mama" Carr built a home. A house does not necessarily make a

home, and a home is what goes into a house to give it comfort, warmth, strength, beauty, and a Godly purpose. His children, grandchildren, and neighbors children as well as the total community called them "Mama and Daddy Carr." This is evidence that their house was a friendly, hospitable home where others are welcomed. Sara (Dennis) Carr was Otto's faithful wife over 49 years before her dearly beloved "Daddy" Carr died of a heart attack. It happened while they were at their winter home in Bradenton, Fla., Feb. 6, 1967. That was during this writers "Florida

Life" and I drove their Cadillac back to Morehead after the body was returned home for burial.

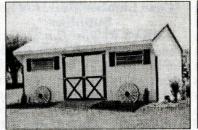
When Otto Carr married Sara Dennis in 1918, a local paper reported, "Sara Dennis was marrying and ingenious, ambitious, kind help mate who would stand with her and remain with her the rest of his life."

He was and he did! They were a team that loved and helped build Morehead into the modern cultural center in Eastern Kentucky it is today.

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supervised the construction crews. They built both commercial and residential buildings in

Fayette County.

During that time, the Carr Construction Company remodeled a popular restaurant on Lexington's East Main Street called the "Little Inn" and many Moreheadians would stop there for the excellent food and service. It was also restaurants called "The Chimney Corner." It closed in the late 1980s and was replaced another by restaurant called "Around the Corner." Both were popular stops for Moreheadians visiting those cities.

death of his brother Glenn in the 1960s, Otto founded the Building Carr-Bryant Contracting Company. It was a Lexington residential building company with Mr. Freeman Bryant as the active

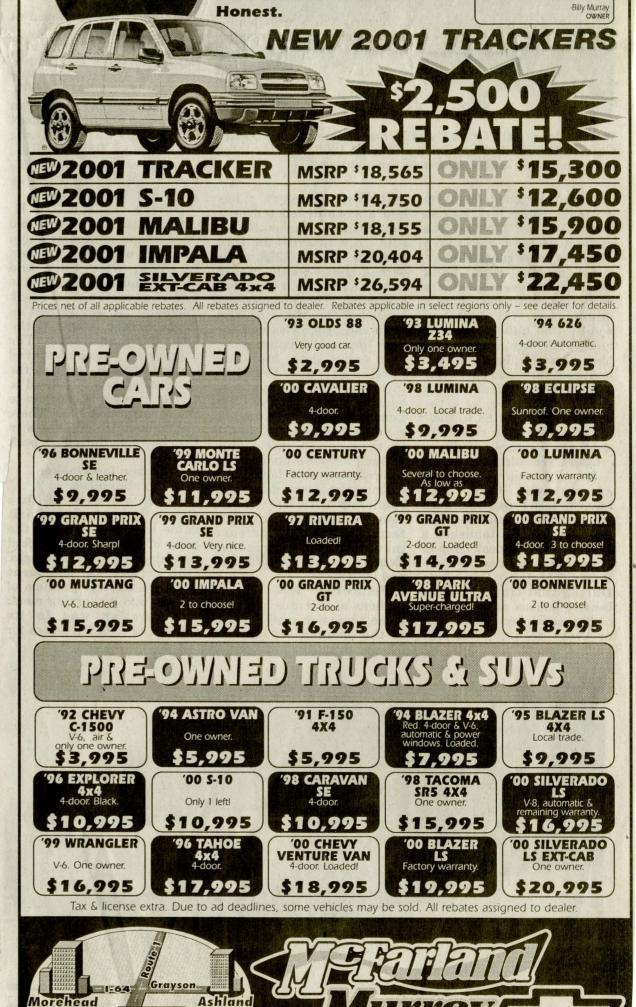
company in Moreneau. His housing developments on brother Glenn hired the men Chenoie and Richmond Road sections of Lexington. It was a profitable business for Daddy Carr and continued until his retirement.

Morehead Limestone Quarry Company

In the 1960s, Otto Carr and C.P. Caudill, president of the Peoples Bank of Morehead, purchased the limestone quarry and rock crusher at Pretty Ridge near Clack Mountain. Together they formed the Morehead during the 1950s that the Carr Limestone Company that Construction Company was provided crushed limestone for called to Ashland to remodel road construction and a base one of that city's popular for cement. Otto Carr had an uncanny knowledge of what type of product and service would be needed and succeeded in getting in on the "ground floor" of many successful businesses. His daughter, Mabel, said, "He would often sit quietly at home Following the untimely or at work and when asked what he was doing, he would say thinking." His "thinking" proved profitable for him

and county as well as promoting Morehead College. He was a member of the City Council and Board of Trade that brought the Cowden Manufacturing Company to Morehead. He was also a member of the East Kentucky Hospital Foundation Group that helped establish St. Claire Hospital. Mr. Carr loved his church and was a Deacon and an active member of the Morehead First Christian Church. On one occasion his church asked for personal information from its members and "Daddy" Carr wrote on the bottom of his card, "We love our church and all who worship here. May God continue to bless our church."

In following Otto Carr's footprints across the landscape of Morehead and Rowan County for over 40 years, one can say he left a large legacy. There were times of personal and financial struggle during the great depression. But there were also times of



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