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William E. McGuire. If "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches" and if a purposeful life, conforming to high ideals, impresses one's personality upon the society in which he lives to its lasting betterment, then one of Oklahoma's most useful citizens is William E. McGuire of Pawhuska. Mr. McGuire is postmaster at Pawhuska, and his seventeen years of continuous service in that office makes him the oldest postmaster in the state from point of continuity. However, his most important service has been as a teacher. He is not unjustly referred to as "the children's friend," since his greatest enthusiasm and interest have always been in behalf of the younger and growing generation. He taught school for a great many years, was superintendent of schools, has served on school boards and helped to found educational facilities in different parts of Oklahoma, and has also been an almost constant worker in church and Sunday school. Mr. McGuire is one of the old timers in Oklahoma, having first become identified with this section as a teacher in the government Indian schools many years ago and later moving into the Cherokee Strip when it was opened.

A native of Missouri, he was born at Macon, November 28, 1858. He is a brother of former Congressman B.S. McGuire, who for twelve years represented the First Oklahoma District in Congress and is now practicing law at Tulsa. Their parents were Joel and Rachel (Harriman) McGuire. His father was born in St. Clair County, Illinois in 1832 and his mother in Washington County, Illinois in 1834. They grew up and were married in their native state. and in 1857 removed to Missouri. During the war, Joel McGuire enlisted in a Missouri regiment of the Union army, and served the last three years of the conflict. In 1881 he removed from Missouri to Chautauqua County, Kansas, and died there in 1894. The mother died at the home of her son William in Ponca City, Oklahoma, June 3, 1896. Joel McGuire was a successful farmer and stock raiser, and for a number of years bought, fed and shipped stock, mainly to the St. Louis market. He was active in Grand Army circles, was a member of the Baptist Church, and politically was in the main a republican, though at one time he affiliated with the greenback party and was also active in the Granger movement in Kansas. In the family were ten children, three daughters and seven sons, two of the sons being now deceased.

William E. McGuire lived with his father until the latter removed to Kansas. While at home he attended common schools and also was a student for two years in the State Normal at Kirksville, Missouri. Steadily for fifteen years he gave practically all his time to his work as a teacher. His first

two terms were in Missouri, and he also taught in Kansas. In 1884 he was appointed a teacher in the Government Indian school at Pawhuska, and lived in this city when hardly any permanent buildings marked the site, and when wild deer frequently ran across the prairie now intersected by numerous streets and built up with business blocks and homes. After one year Mr. McGuire resigned owing to the incoming Cleveland administration, since at that time the schools were not under the civil service rules. Returning to Kansas he continued teaching there until 1893 and then participated in the opening of the Cherokee Strip, locating at Ponca City. During his first two years there he served as city clerk, but was chiefly active in organizing the local school districts. he was chairman of the board, and by his prompt and energetic work had the first permanent school house built and dedicated on the sixtieth day, after the opening. Several years later Mr. McGuire resumed his work as a teacher and was superintendent of the schools at Ponca City, and also conducted teachers' normal during the summer seasons. In 1898 he was appointed postmaster at Pawhuska, and has held that office continuously since April 1st of that year, his present term expiring February 1, 1916. During all this seventeen years of service, which is unique in the records of the post office department as affecting Oklahoma, he has conducted the office with a regularity and efficiency like clockwork, has never been the object of any formal complaint from the authorities and has in fact made his administration one of model thoroughness. He has helped introduce all the many improvements in the postal service inaugurated since he became postmaster, including rural delivery, parcel post, and other changes. When he took charge at Pawhuska he found a fourth class office, and it is now an office of the second class, employing nine clerks, with up to date equipment, and with everything in perfect running order.

Ever since he attained his majority Mr. McGuire has been a republican in politics, though his chief concern has been service rather than political honors. he is active in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and since moving to Pawhuska has been continuously superintendent of the local Sunday school, and is also chairman of the board of trustees of the church. In masonry he is affiliated with the Lodge and with the Royal Arch Chapter, and also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. Mr. McGuire claims all children as his friends, and there are hundreds of young men and young women all over the Southwest who remember with gratefulness his kindly influence while he was their teacher. He assisted in organizing the schools of Pawhuska and was president two years and a member five years of the local board of education, and held that office until the constitution legislated him off the board on account of his relation as a federal official.

While he was superintendent of a school in Chautauqua, Kansas, Mr.

McGuire married one of his teachers. July 23 1888, he married Miss Jennie Slater. She was born at Quincy, Illinois, December 6, 1868. Four children comprise their happy home at Pawhuska. Naomi is a student in the music and fine arts department of the State University at Norman. Joseph, the second child, is now in high school. The two youngest are twin brothers, Robert and Rolland, both in high school. These twin boys are so much alike that their teachers have much difficulty in distinguishing them. Along with his many other talents as a useful worker Mr. McGuire combines a taste and training in music and has identified himself with local choirs for twenty-five years.