

Emory Buell Jones Family

Emory Buell Jones was the son of Wisconsin frontiersmen, and the grandson of puritans. He grew up on a settlement with not only his parents, Frederick Rossiter Jones and Sarah Elizabeth (Buell), but with his grandparents who were the actual purchasers of the land. Frederick Horatio Jones and his wife purchased the Wisconsin parcel for their son, and lived their with them after retiring. Also living at the early Jones settlement were Emory's maternal grandparents, Jeremiah Griffin Buell and Sarah (Grunendike).

Emory could build anything, but he was mainly a blacksmith. That is how he ended up owning and running one of the first Ford dealerships. He could build auto parts for his customers if he didn't have them. In fact, they had a forge running all the time and it was smoky in the shop. For power in the garage they had an engine of some sort. It would run one pulley that would send power throughout the entire garage using shafts and pulleys to run lathes.

His wife Minnie (Hankins) was the towns midwife, and helped in the birth of most towns children.

Emory was very ticklish and very eccentric. He was under a car one time fixing something when a salesman friend came through town on the train. Everyone knew that EB was ticklish, so they guy tickled him and ran. EB threw a stick of dynamite at him.

Because he was so handy with machines, Emory was asked to help drain some nearby marshes. In order to handle the task, Emory bought an old hand pumper engine used in the great Chicago fire. It was horse-drawn and took two men on each side to pump. He mechanized with an engine and took it up to the Babcock area to drain the Buena Vista marsh. When they were finished with the project, they left it behind. Later, someone from a Chicago historical society got word of this and they came up to enquire about it. Emory put it all back together and it is now in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago Illinois.

He was a sailor as a young man. We don't know exactly where, but we do know that he was sent back in a full body cast from England because of arthritis. He came back and then got married and went sailing again. He bought a three-masted schooner. The Lucia A Simpson, a great lakes schooner. He started sailing on it with a friend of his Doc Jesse, a dentist. They would Crew on the LA Simpson and then he finally bought it.

When they bought it, he and his son Russell would go out and find anything they could from old wrecks. That's how Russell became a hard hat diver and eventually got a job working for the Panama Canal project. When the Great Depression occurred, garage business was bad. So Russell went down and came back six weeks later. He talked his brother Clifford into it and they went down as welders and divers. They ended up managing each of them on end of the locks. The story was that if you didn't take care of the Jones boys, you wouldn't get through. They worked at the canal until their retirement. Clifford retired to Roanoke, VA and Russell to St. Petersburg, Florida. Russell then became the president of the Panama Canal Society of Florida and President of the Retired Canal Workers in Florida.

In EB Jones' later years, he was laying in his bed in the living room ill. There was a shelf plate all around the room full of everything he had collected on his journeys. The old inventor had developed a pole with a grabber on the end so he could reach up and bring things down to show and tell stories with.