

George Andrew Velie.

George Andrew Velie, was born Aug. 31, 1891. The first child of Alvin and Anna Olson Velie. He was born at Stevens Point, Wi.

Since 1894 I remember most of the happenings quite clearly. Of father having a second hand store at Winona, Minn. and many things that happened there. Of his bicycle having the peddles fastened to the rear wheel. I remember the big chisel, or slick that I cut my foot with and have the scar to show it. Also the gold watch Pa gave me, how another little boy and I wanted to see what made the hands go around, so I hit it on the brick wall, and broke the glass. About that time someone saw us, and I lost possession. and playing house with Cousin Ella.

In the spring of 1895 Father built a house boat by the high bridge near the water tower. After moving in the house boat, a number of things happened. How a drunk tramp came one night while Pa was away and tried to get in. Mother tried to scare him away by showing him the bone handled revolver. There was a large glass in the door, but he did not scare being full of liquor. She opened the door and shot in the air, then he finally left. He was looking for the Daton's house boat. I remember Jack Fay, he also had a house boat, and a big dog named Coxey. They said he was a great rat killer, so they caught some live rats and put them in a big barrel with Coxey. The dog nearly went crazy trying to get away from the rats. But our little rat terrier Gyppie was trying to get at them. So we let Coxey out and Gyppie in and she snapped their necks as fast as I can tell it.

Then we floated down the river 16 miles to Lamoile, near where Schaffner lived on the big Barber ranch. I remember Pa's live box, and the big fish that he caught in the seine or net. After some months we floated on down to Lacross, Wi. We moved into a house, and brother Oscar was born that night. We moved off August 24, 1895. Pa traded the house boat for a fish market and all the equipment, also a horse and sleigh.

In the spring of 1896 Pa took our furniture in the sleigh on the ice of the Mississippi River, and started for Winona, Minn. Mother took us boys on the train. How Mother worried about Pa on the ice. First we lived near the river. One night we were down town, and I took a notion to race the street car, and ran in front of it. God saved me by inches. We moved by the railroad tracks, near lake and Circus ground, and could see sugar loaf mountain, or rock real plain.

Pa had a lemonade stand and sold red lemonade and home made pies. We had a team of young horses, and one day as Pa was hitching up the horses the train came along and as Pa held the bridles the whistle blew and the horses ran right over him, breaking the wagon tongue in pieces right beside his body. God kept him from harm even before he knew the Lord. The horses split apart on Pat Eagens porch posts. Pat was the blacksmith.

Then we had a pet owl and it bit Mr. Macklimeir's finger till it really bled bad. We got a pair of white rats from him, after awhile Pa put them in the cellar and they mixed with the wild rats, till we had lots of rats. That spring we had a big flood and the water came three quarters of an inch from our floor, so we got rid of the rats. Pa had a bunch of decoy ducks, and we put them out in the front yard, just for fun. That was in Grover Cleveland's time. And I remember about Jacob S. Coxey and his army. They marched to the White House in 1894.

In 1897 we moved to Cobbtown between two big Norway pine trees, not far from the little red school house, where my father went to school.

In 1898 I began going to the little red school house, Roy Morey would come by and I would go with him. Lucy Jones was my first teacher. She married Ernie Winkler. My Bro. Lewis was born while living here. Then we moved the house about a mile to the little farm across the river from Grandmothers.

In 1900 brother Willie was born here. We moved to Waupaca where I attended school for about a year. Then back to the little farm by Grandma Nelsons. In 1905 we sold the little farm. We went back to Bloomington, Ind. in 1905. There I attended school, going to three different schools that winter. Pa had meetings at Panetown, and Moss Creek. He also had a mission in Bloomington. There we met Bro. Adam Thompson, and Mc, Pl. 1906 was the year of the San Francisco earthquake. In 1906 we came back to Waupaca, Then to Cobbtown in 1907. We moved to Grand Rapids, Wis. Then to Necedah, Camp Douglas, and then to La Cross. There I worked in the Smith wagon factory. In 1908 we moved to Winona, Minn. There I drove a milk wagon for John Jinks. Then we moved to White Hall, Wis. Then to Merillian Junction, where Pa had a mission and baptized some. Then we moved to Stevens Point the town of my birth. Pa had a mission there also. In 1909 I went to Mason city Iowa. I stayed with the Frank Cornell family. My first job was in a brick and tile yard, where I worked with Will Kemp, and Harley Root. I took a trip to Davenport, Rock Island, and Moline, and back to Mason City. Then I worked for the Jacob E. Decker packing Co. Then I got a job from Charlie Newel. They were grain elevator builders at Hurley. Then to Marshall town where I got blood poisoning in my finger. I worked with Oliver Brathoude, Jack Nagle, and some more nice boys. I took a trip to Boone, Iowa, by mistake. I just stopped at Mason City. Then went on to Minneapolis, then to Colfax where I found My folks. Then they moved to Milwaukee, where I worked for Allis Chalmers Co. in shop four, hitching on a large crane. In the spring of 1910 I stopped at Oshkosh, to see Oliver, then on to Chippewa Falls. There I got Merl Cornell, and we went to Minneapolis, where by accident we met John and Roy Moore, and two Applebeck brothers from Abotsford. We all shipped to Glendive, Mont. to work on the railroad. About 300 men shipped at the same time. About a dozen went out to look at the job, the rest kept on going. Then to Billings, Mont. We left the boys and shipped to Great Falls, as bridge builders.

We worked a short while on the prairie, and drank alkali water. We then went to Helena and over the divide to Missoula, Mont. There we shipped to Falcon, Idaho. to work on the telegraph line. We worked a few days, and Merl got sick so we quit. And a few days later we went to work with a sluice gang. We were doing the carpenter work. They would catch the water up in the mountains and having tremendous pressure would wash the soil down and bury the trestle, this was at East Portal, Mont. We quit and walked to Taft, and to Wallace, Idaho. We took the train to Lake Couer D Alene, then a beautiful boat ride, then electric train to Spokane, Washington. From here to the Dells, Org. Here we took a boat to Portland. We got tatooded June 15-1910. From here we went to Marshland, and built a house for old Fussie Supertendant of the O.K. Logging Co. Then to Astoria, and saw the big Salmon canning factories, and the big fish wheels. Then June 10-1910. to Seaside resort where we swam in the Pacific Ocean. We saw how they dug Clams and caught large crabs. We went back to Portland on the 19 and got a job finishing at Kelso, Wash. also worked in a saw mill. Then back to Portland and shipped to Weed, Calif. Then to San Francisco on the 22 where we went up 2200 feet in a balloon. Then to Mojave, and Los Angeles, and shipped to Williams Ariz.

Where we gladly bought a ticket to Flagstaff, Then on Sept. 1-1910 we went to Gallup where we saw a cloud burst, and a Mexican mother and two or three children were drown in a dry river, the house went into the river. We got a job pumping out a house basement, then to the post office, where we pumped all night. Then we unloaded a Gondola of coal. While unloading the coal we saw some soldiers fight, not with guns but with fists. Then on the third we went to Albuquerque, N.M. I got a hair cut, visited some employment bureaus, lots of R.R. work.

We walked toward the next town, which we thought was only seven or eight miles, but there was only a sign post with the name on it. So we kept on walking. The Coyotes were so thick, it sounded like thousands. It was kind of hard on the nerves. At last we came to a little depot with a light, (About 2 A.M.) so we walked in and asked for water. The poor old depot man was so scared he could not talk for some minutes. We got a drink and continued on, as the old man did not ask us to stay. And we did not want to scare him anymore. We heard many more Coyotes but we kept on walking till we came to some box cars, on a side track. Then we climbed on top and went to sleep. Next day on our way we went to a Mexican house, about a block from the tracks and asked for water. They had lots of children and many dogs. They gave us a drink and as soon as we were leaving the children let the dogs go. We had a narrow escape from getting chewed up. We walked across the prairie some miles where a new R.R. was being built. We got a job (skinning) driving three mules on a dump wagon. We slept on the bailed hay near the mules. We worked half a day and had enough. We started back for the old R.R. and civilization. We saw some big Jack Rabbits at a distance. Merl said they were Antelopes. Next we arrived at Pueblo.

We talked of building a raft and floating down the Rio Grand, but I thank God we did not try it. We hired out to a section boss, at fourteen cents an hour and board ourselves. We worked at Eden, Colo. just a little depot and a green spot on the desert. I watched a bridge at night and worked on the section during the day. When the bridge was finished, we quit, as the sun was really hot. We went to Denver to wait for our pay. We had a lot of experience in a few days while we were there. We got so hungry waiting, we had our checks sent to Cheyenne Wells Colo. and we beat it, we had a lot of experiences before we got there. We finally arrived at Mrs. John (Inez) Velie operating a hotel there. We had a very good time while we were there, riding their broncos, and seeing the country. We also met Mr. Pinnon who owned a ranch a few miles north of town. We went next to Hayse, Kansas. and took in threshing. Visited some of my old school mates, and hunted Jack Rabbits. Then I went to Kansas City, and shipped to Iowa, and then on to Chicago.

We met Mr. Bielstien on the streetcar. He was my boss in Mason City. He wanted to give me a good job with a big Packing Co.. From Chicago I shipped to Necedah, Wis. to work at bridge building. Having no tools I went to Waupaca to dig potatoes. Then to Eau Claire in the fall of 1910 as my folks were living in Grandma Eastings house on Market Street. I went to Ruby and tail sawed at Ed Hahns saw mill, also made some ties with Veau and Dell Luke, for Mr. Adelsee. Boarded with Wm. Horton, and then to Wm. Crowford. They were brother in laws. Also Bill Henderson. I hunted later with Clyde Henderson. In 1911 I worked at John Drummand, packing Co. And to Shaws saw mill. Oliver Brathovde worked with me. I also worked at John Kaisers saw mill. I was married June 19-1912, while working on the Baptist Church. June 20-1913 I joined the union, while working for Heppner-Bartlett Co.

I worked for E.M.Fish Co. and built a house for Thorpe Wilcox, and the first T.B.Sanatorium. In 1914 I worked for W.W.Bartlett, also for E.P.Dagenhardt. In Sept. of 1917 I went to Superior, Wis. to work on the R.R.Shops. That winter Herbert Aistin and I went to Fairbanks, Minn. We went to work in the woods for Smith Brothers, and while there I worked in the portable saw mill, I loaded pulp wood and ties, and drove the tote team on the swingdangler. I got sick and came back to Superior and gave the smallpox to my family, also Austins, family as they lived down stairs. I then got a job in the R.R.Shops as a sweeper for a few weeks.

My Bro. Oscar also worked there. In 1918 Herb and I got a store to build for Mrs.Mattison, and many other jobs. In 1919 I went back to Eau Claire, and to Dagenhardt. In 1923 I went to Chicago finishing and in the summers I would contract for my self. In 1927 I worked on the Chipewa dam and power house for the Northern States Power Co. In 1927 God saved me from a life of sin, to live a clean and holy life for Him. Praise His Dear Name. In 1928 I went back to Dagenhardt, until 1937 when he died of a heart attack. Then I went to Walker Bros. In Oct. 1947 the three younger brothers took over the contracting and called their Co. The Home Builders. Then in 1950 they changed their name to Walker Construction Co. I left them in April 21-1954. May 17-1954 I started work for Lisle Harrison till Aug. 31, 1956 I retired...

On Jan. 5, 1970 We left for my seventh trip to Fla. and it was 20 below zero. My brother Bill and I started for Fla. We bypassed Chicago and took U.S. 41 most of the way. We drove in a snow storm all day the second day. Bill had his 1967 Polaris, a dandy car. We arrived in Melbourne, Jan. 8th the third night. Praise God he kept us all the way. We stayed with Lewis and Rose. I got a bad cold so I took the bus home. Arrived home April 9th, Bill stayed one month more. He arrived home on May 9th. Thank God..

My First Trip To Florida.

On January 17th 1949. Oscar, Lewis, and I left Eau Claire bound for Miami, Fla. We had brother Lewis's 12 foot trailer. We drove My 1939 Plymouth. We spent the first night at King, Wis. with Bill and Violetta Pryce. On Jan. 18th we took Uncle Charlie to Neenah, where we stayed with Roy Rieben, and family. Jan. 19-20-21. we spent with Cousin Cyril. Jan. 22-23. We spent at New London with Uncle Albert Velie. (this was A.E. Velie's only Brother.) It was 20 below and we had to get pulled to start. Spent next night with Cyril Velie, and the 24th with Roy Rieben. We went to Menasha, and saw Harley Root, an old school mate. We had planned to take Uncle Charlie with us, But He was waiting for his divorce from Effie. We told him we could not wait any longer, so we started south.

On Jan. 25 that night we got into a sleet storm, We parked by a little country school house, some miles north of Kankakee, Ill. We had 3/8th of an inch of ice all over the trailer and car. On Jan. 26 We had a flat tire on the trailer. Lucky, Thank God, we were right by a country filling station. and we also filled up on cheap gas, and got a knock in the motor. It disappeared as soon as we got some Hi-Test gas. We spent the night in Vincennes, Ind. at a trailer park. On Jan. 27th I drained out the radiator at Nashville, Tenn. we stayed at a filling station, with some nice boys. I bought a small ax from them. On Jan. 28th we stayed by an old house and store, not far from Kenisaw, Ga. Where My Brothers met Brother Post a Holiness preacher. On Jan. 29th we arrived at Hance Cribbs, near Fargo, Ga. On Jan. 31st we got to Cocoa, Fla. and camped in a lovely spot on the Indian River, near McNaughts. We went wading before dark, and I got something on My feet that made them burn like fire. I first thought it was mosquitos, my feet were all right in the morning. On Feb. 1st we got to Melbourne, and stayed at Bro. Thomas's place. Feb. 2nd we arrived in Miami, and stayed at the Brother Hood Home.

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The Founder of the Brother Hood Home was Adam Thompson, whom we met in Bloomington, Ind. in 1905. Sister Olive Hildebrand is the supervisor. We took in seven nights of Brother Wm. Branham's, healing campaign. He also stayed at the Brother Hood Home. We also met his younger brother. We got back to Bro. Thomas on Feb. 10th where we spent 17 days in Melbourne. On Feb. 14th Oscar got bit by a shark. Feb. 19th We fished the inlet again. Oscar got 12 fish, Bro. Lewis and I got six. Feb. 27th we went to the Colored Church to a song fest, boy did they get happy. Feb. 28th we got back to Hance Cribbs. We worked a few days on his new house. I was sick so we had to leave March 3rd We had a meeting at Bro. Post's mother's house. March 4th we camped by a store and gas station in Kentucky. We got home 1:45 A.M. on March 6th. 1949. Gone 46 days..

My Second Trip To Melbourne Fla.

My second trip south in 1950 I took the local buss to Melbourne, Fla. Bro. Garrett had meetings in the little church. Bro. Mayer Leikness, and Harry Moen were camped by the church in their trailer. We had some good fishing trips. I think twenty of us all from Eau Claire, went to Fort Pierce for a deep sea fishing trip, Jeanette Velie got two fish weighing 26 pounds. The rest of us did not do so well. I sure got sea sick. I rode home with Bro. Leikness, and the trailer. We first went to St. Petersburg and took in 8 or 9 nights of Oral Roberts tent meetings. WE met some very nice people. I bought an Airways Vacuum Cleaner from Bro. Lee Esserine of Danville, New York. We had a little engine trouble on our way home. I left home Jan. 28th and got back March 3rd 1950....

My Third Trip To Melbourne, Fla.

My third trip.. Willie, Olga, and I left Eau Claire about Jan. 24th 1953. We were driving our 1949 Dodge. We stopped in St. Augustine, Fla. and saw the Oceanarium, also the worlds largest alligator farm, and the old fort that changed hands so many times. Called Castillo De San Marcos. We had a wonderful trip to Miami, and the Tamiami Trail, the Everglades and saw the largest shell factory, so they said. We came back through Ft. Myers, and Lakeland and back to Melbourne. Thank God for a good trip. We stayed about ten weeks and were busy all the time, fishing and picking up shells and seeing the beautiful sights. Sister Oelke rode home with us. We got home April 1st. 1953...

My fourth Trip To Melbourne, Fla.

My fourth trip to Fla. Uncle Albert Velie, My Brother Willie, and I left Eau Claire, Feb. 26th 1954. We drove Bill's 1949 Dodge. We had a good visit with my father for the last time. He said nothing in all the world could make him so happy as our visit. He died August 4th 1954. We got home March 18th 1954.

My Fifth Trip To Melbourne, Fla.

We left Eau Claire at 6:A.M. Jan. 6-1958. We rode with Benny Velie in his Olds. We stayed in central Ind. the first night. The second night 57 miles north of Atlanta, Ga. Arrived in Melbourne at 2:30 P.M. Jan. 8-1958. Left for Wichita Jan. 30. Got there on Feb. 1. Left there on Feb. 6 and got home on Feb. 7 at 10:30.A.M.

My Sixth Trip To Melbourne, Fla.

We left Eau Claire at 11:30.P.M. Feb. 13th 1960. We had to race to the Union Depot, had five minutes to spare. Got the South Wind to Melbourne, Fla. Feb. 15th at 4.P.M. Left Melbourne, March 23rd at 4.P.M. on South Wind. Got back to Eau Claire at 6 P.M. March 25th. We spent 5 days in Miami Beginning March 7th. I had a nice trip up the St. Johns river, I got seven mud fish and one Jack. (Pickrel or Northern.)

My First Trip To Phoenix,Ar.

We left Eau Claire 5:45 A.M. for Minneapolis. We left Minneapolis 12:15.P.M. on Feb. 8-1959. Arrived on Feb. 11. at 1:30.A.M. We had many trips from Phoenix to Nogalis, Mexico. On Feb. 22 we went to Prescott Then on to Sedona--Jerome--Cotton and Oak Creek Canyon, Feb. 28Th. Canyon Lake on the Apache Trail. We left Phoenix Mar. 10. at 10:pm. We arrived in Wichita, 2:A.M. on March 12Th. Left Wichita, 8Am. March 26Th. Arrived in Eau Claire, March, 27Th. at 2:Am.

My Second Trip To Phoenix,Ar.

We left St. Paul Jan. 14, 1963 on the Rock Island R.R. Bro. Mike Dascher and wife were with us. They went to Los Angeles. They had some frost before we arrived, it didn't hurt the oranges very much. We made a trip to Prescott, while there we saw Bro. and Sis. Sheets former missionary to China. Lamoine and family took us to Clovis, N.M. to Ernest and Ruth. Ernest was in the hospital at Cannon Air Base. We visited with him twice each day while we were there. Dale and family took us home by car. leaving Feb. 22, 1963. We had a Motel in Kansas City, got home the next day about 4:30 P.M. Georgie, Wilfred Robert, and Doyle made the trip and visited Ernest, April 19Th, they stayed two days. Ernest died May 1, 1963, and he was buried at Spooner, Wis.

My Third Trip To Phoenix,Ar.

Left Eau Claire Oct. 24th. arrived in Phoenix. Oct. 28th. 1970. Took a trip to Pason, Oct. 31st. Had dinner and drove to the Magolium Rim. There was lots of nice timber on top, also a nice Lake, but it was cold. Went to Tombstone, Nov. 8th. Saw Bisbee Copper Mine, the largest open pit in the world. Went to Miracle Valley and had a two hour service, and God did bless my soul. Had a good dinner and pumpkin pie for a dollar. went on to Douglas stayed at Gadden Hotel, also visited Aqua Prieta in old Mexico, a couple of times. On Dec. 12th. and 13th. we visited the Grand Canyon, and had our Motel near Sedona, beneath a beautiful mountain. We visited Wickenburg, on Nov. 29th. We saw Willie and Cleo. Bill and Cleo visited us on Dec. 12th. They had supper with us. We visited Las Vegas on the 26th. and 27th. had a Motel there and saw many of the Casino's and Slot Machines, Ect. We also took pictures of Hoover Dam, it's 721 feet high. We visited Prescott for the third time on Jan. 23rd. Had a Motel in Tuson, Feb. 6th. 1971. We drove to the top of the Mountain near town. We then left for Melbourne, Fla. We stayed three and a half month's in Phoenix, and two month's in Fla. We arrived home in Eau Claire, April 9th. 1971.