

[Harry R. Hannum]

Marie Carter

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Harry R. Hannum (Wife: Maud Allen Hannum)

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" I was in poor health," Harry R. Hannum of La Mesa said, "when my doctor told me to 'go west young man.' That was in 1903 and the only white people living here at the time were the Herrins, Shepards, Whites and [Meads?]. The Meads ran a broom factory. This house I occupy is their old homestead; I bought it from them in 1906. Ed. and Frank Harrin were farmers; also Forest White and Willard Shepard. At a later date Mr. and Mrs. [Volney?] Potter, who lived at Chamberino, move to La Mesa.

" I came here from Pennsylvania, born in Bucks County, April 10, 1873. We've had a Norris A. Hannum in the family for four generations. My grandfather was Norris the first; my father was Norris the second; my son is Norris the third, and his son is Norris the fourth. I don't know how they happened to stray from the beaten path and give me the name of 'Harry,' he chuckled."

Mr. Hannum, who was having his home remodeled, paused to speak to one of the workmen, then resumed: "My grandfather and father were farmers so when I came west I adopted the same occupation. In the latter years of my father's life, however, he became manager of a branch of the wall paper concern, Janeway [Manufacturers?]. Eventually,

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though, he followed me to New Mexico, spending his last days in La Mesa, where he died at the age of 2 sixty-seven, October 9, 1909. My mother was Lucy C. Engle, born at Chester, Pennsylvania. She was a grand old lady, lived to be eighty-two and died February, 1922. My mother's father, Isaac E. Engle, who was a sea captain and vessel owner, was engaged in commerce from New York to China and is buried at Shanghai, China. I am the youngest of four children and the only possessing descendants. I grew up in Pennsylvania--Pennsylvania County near Doylestown. When I was seven my parents moved to Camden, New Jersey. I had a public school education then left home to learn to be an electrician at Philadelphia. I followed the electric business for fourteen years. Part of that time I was employed by the General Electric Company in the construction plant. [C. 18 - A. ?]

" Funny, too," Mr. Hannum smiled reminiscently, " all the time I was working my feet were itching to be on the road. I wanted adventure, to see the world, and South Africa was my goal. I got tired waiting for old man opportunity to come around, and once I had made up my mind that's all there was to it. I just packed up and left. In 1895 my dream was realized. I landed at Cape Town and found employment at Johnnesburg in electrical work. I arrived there about the time of the Jamison Raid which was the primary cause of the South African War, ending in the subjugation of the four States of England.

" Some of my employment in South Africa took me to the different mines and the gold hills. I left there in 1897, sailing from Laurengo Marques and returning to Philadelphia. Then I became a travelling salesman for the Jersey and Pennsylvania. I was doing a very good business when my health failed and I was ordered to the Southwest."

" When I first came to New Mexico I was a tenant farmer, growing alfalfa, but in 1906 I bought two hundred acres of the Moreno property. I also engaged 3 in the real estate business. For several years I was a director of the Butte Water Users Association and am

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a member of the Dona Ana Farm Bureau and Alfalfa Growers Association. When I first came to La Mesa there wasn't any bridges across the Rio Grande. [Jean?] Moreno ran a ferry and there was always someone around to ferry us across. This same [Moreno?] was a Deputy Sheriff and two-gun man. Jean was a born dictator among his own people and his word was law. The Mexicans never crossed him because he was quick on the draw.

" He never gave us whites any trouble," Mr. Hannum said, "and we all considered him a pretty good friend. As a rule, when Jean went after a bad hombre, there was a gun fight, but he usually got his man. He killed four pretty bad ones in succession and every one of them bore the name of Tomas. The last mozo he trailed was a horse thief, who had been stealing horses, taking them across the border, and selling them. Jean was told that he could find the horse thief at Anthony, but when he got there the Mexican had gone on up to hatch. Jean caught up with him and they had a gun battle to the death, and when their dead bodies were found, the horse thief was clutching Jean's hair.

" My son, Norris H. Hannum III is a World War veteran," Mr. Hannum said, " He was born at [Delair?], New Jersey, March 16, 1899. He attended State College at Mesilla Park, New Mexico, and at the age of eighteen was a volunteer. He entered the regular service at Fort Bliss, El Paso, was attached to the first Aero Squadron, received his early training at Columbus, New Mexico and was with that part of the American Air Forces that went over seas. He saw duty on five fronts during the war, including the [Muse?], the Marne and the Argonne and subsequently was with the Army of occupation stationed at Weisenthurn, Germany, returning to the United States in 1919. He received his honorable 4 discharge at San Antonio, Texas. Within thirty days after his discharge from the army he became associated with my merchandise business."

Harry [Richard?] Hannum was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, April 10, 1873; His father was Norris H. Hannum II. Mr. Hannum's mother was Lucy C. Engle, who was born

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At Chester, Pennsylvania. Mr. Hannum came to New Mexico and located at La Mesa In 1903. For several years Mr. Hannum was director of the Butte Water Users Association and is a member of the Dona Ana County Farm Bureau and Alfalfa Growers Association. Mr. Hannum married at Dalair, New Jersey, June 1, 1898, Miss Maud [M?]. Allen. Mrs. Hannum was born near Washington Court House, Ohio, but was reared at [Burlington?], Iowa. One of her teachers was Governor Lowden, former governor of Illinois and a prominent candidate for the presidential nomination in 1920.

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Norris [H?]. Hannum III, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Hannum was born at Delair, New Jersey, March 16, 1899. He is associated with his father and is considered to be one of the active younger business men of La Mesa. He is married. His wife was the former Miss Rena Lewis daughter of John F. Lewis. They have two sons: Robert Ray and Norris H. Hannum --IV.