



# McMinnville 100 Years Ago

**Reflections On A Changing Way Of Life**



## Civic Life in McMinnville 1912-2012 Wortman Family

The Wortman family has impacted the McMinnville community economically, politically and socially throughout the years...

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Linfield College 2012

# Wortman Family Background

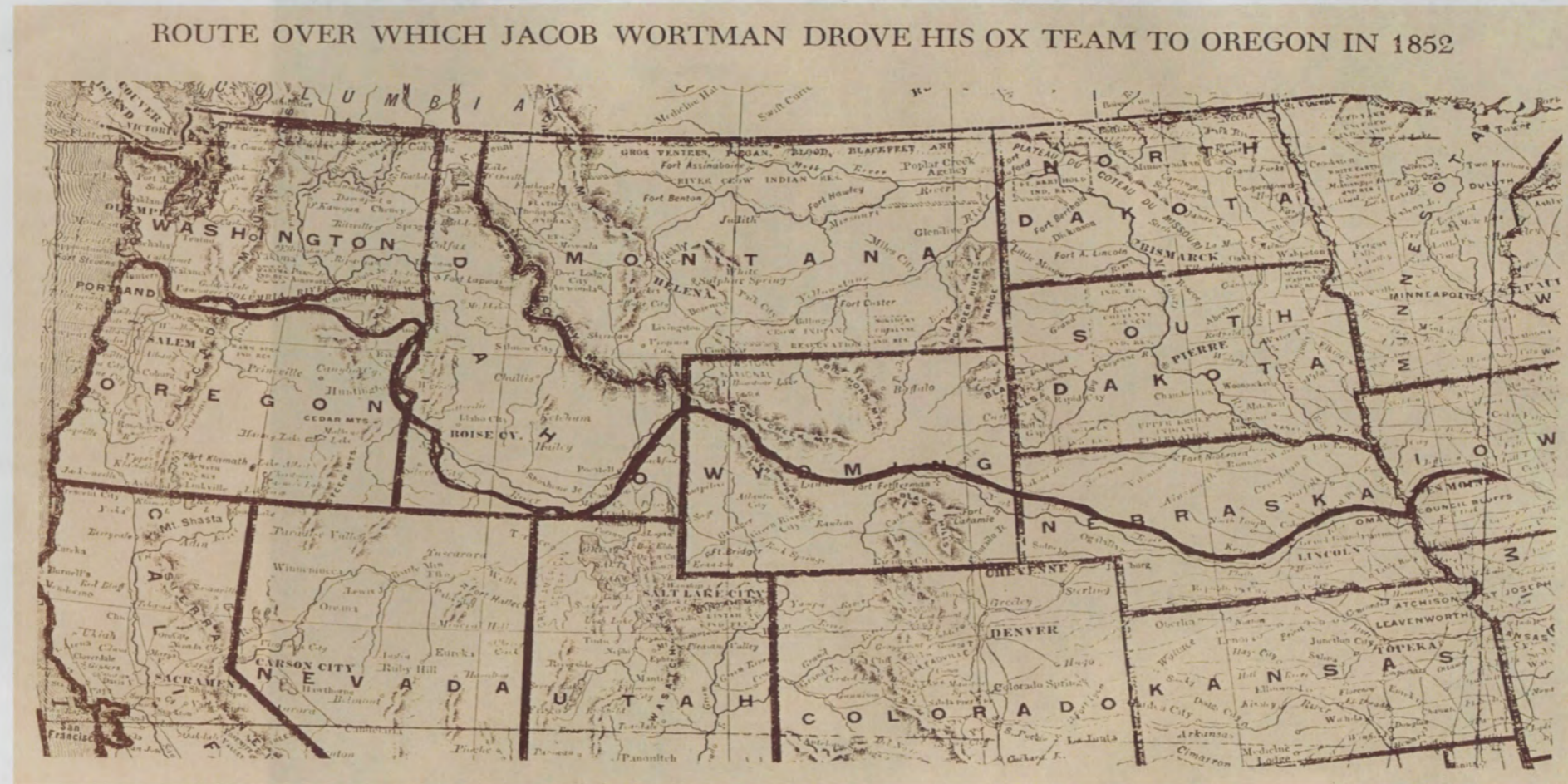


Photo Credits: *History of the Wortman Family in Oregon*



“Buy Local, Build Local, Bank Local.”

Top: Jacob Wortman (1827-1904)

Bottom: Eliza Wortman (1830-1914)

# Wortman Family Facts

- The Wortman family established the First National Bank of McMinnville, 1883.
- Jacob was elected mayor on March 1, 1887, and was reelected in 1901. In office he authorized the use of alcohol, cigars and cigarettes in McMinnville.
- In 1902 they purchased the first vehicle “The Locomobile” on the West Coast.
- The Locomobile was the first vehicle to drive along the Oregon Coast.
- First family to own a motorcycle, car and airplane in McMinnville.
- First family to sign the charter of society.
- Their Locomobile was the first vehicle to deliver mail.

Below: Main Street in McMinnville



Below: New Carnegie Library in McMinnville



Below: Wortman Family Gathering  
Photo Credit: Tami Spears Collection



# The Wortman Family Impact



Above: Frank, Fred and Ralph Wortman.  
Photo Credit: Yamhill County Historical Society

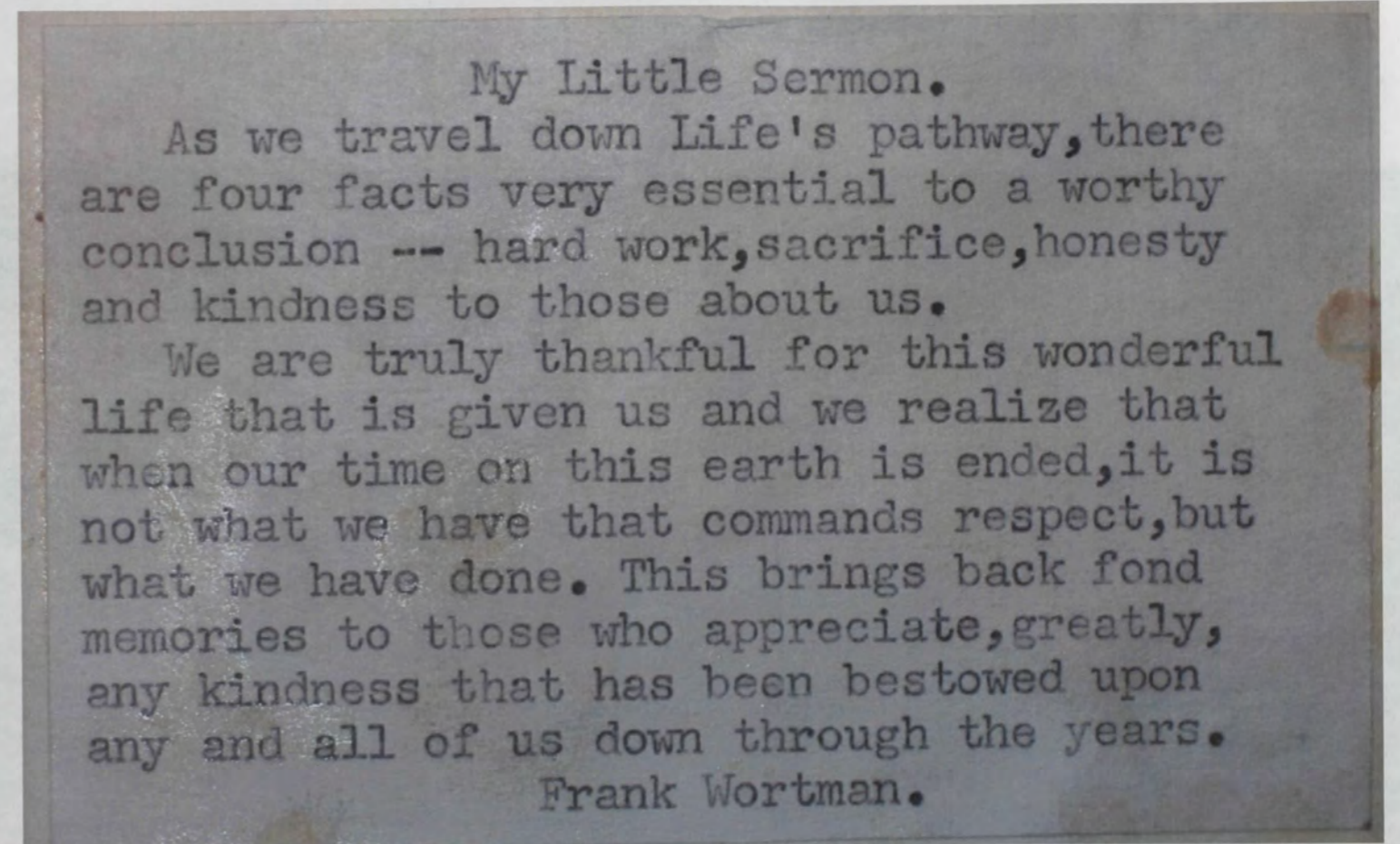


Photo Credit: Tami Spears Collection

*“Seldom is the life of any man so thoroughly woven into entire fabric of a community over such an extended period of time as has been that of Frank Wortman. His death last Friday morning marked the end of an era of two brothers...”*



Photo Credit: Tami Spears Collection

## Resources Consulted

Linfield College Library  
McMinnville Parks and Recreation  
The News-Register  
Wortman Descendant-Tami Spears  
Yamhill County Historical Society

# First National Bank of McMinnville

Today Key Bank occupies 3<sup>rd</sup> and Davis, where the First National Bank of McMinnville once stood, in 1883. The bank was taken over by Key Bank in 1986 and no longer wanted any of the Wortman family linked to it. Frank Wortman was the last Wortman to work at the bank.



Above: First National Bank of McMinnville  
Photo Credit: Tami Spears Collection



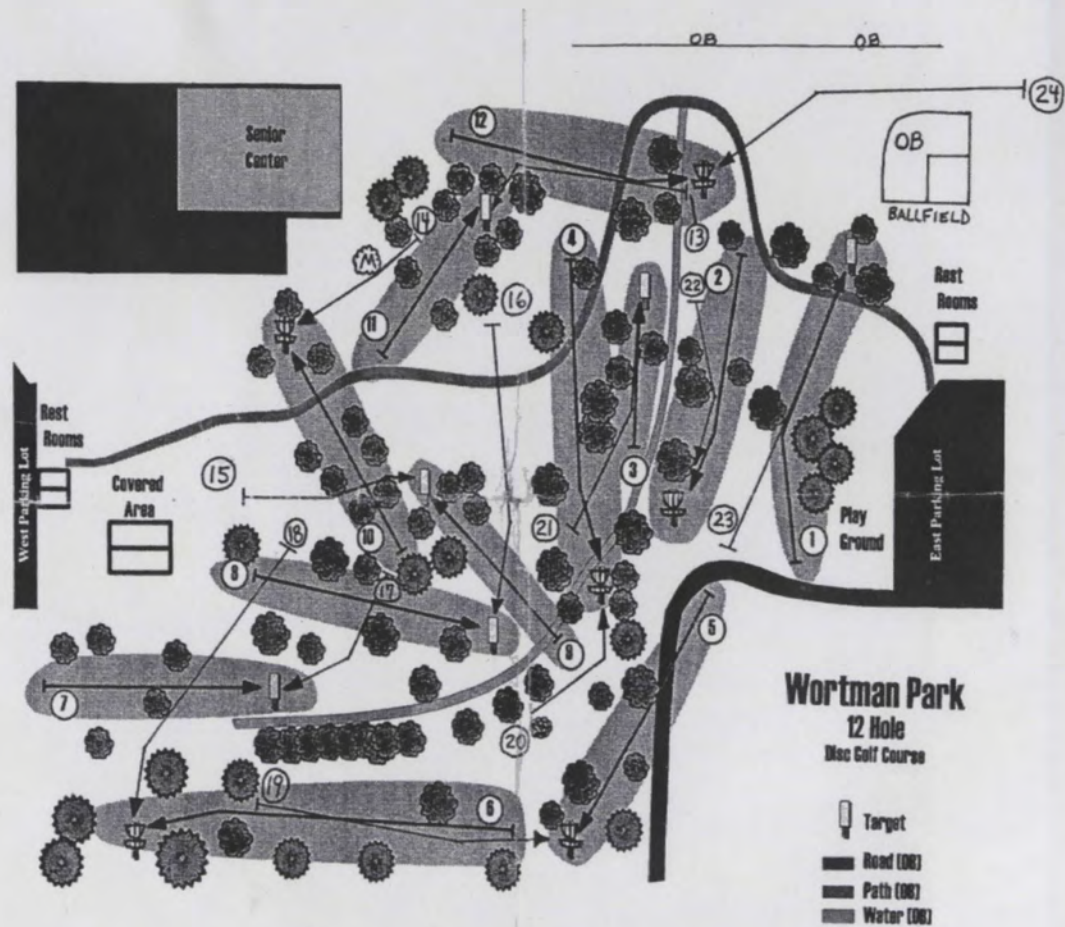
Above: Key Bank, 2012  
Photo Credit: Jordan Mixsell



Above: Frank Wortman.  
Photo Credit: Tami Spears Collection

Ralph Wortman, banker and author of “A Horseless Carriage Comes To Town” and accepts the first copy of the book from Phil Bladine, a newspaperman who edited the book on June 26, 1966.

Photo Credit: The News-Register



Above: Wortman Park  
Photo Credit: McMinnville Parks and Recreation

Ralph and Frank Wortman thought the city of McMinnville could use a new park so they purchased and donated land to the city. The park was known for its large child play areas. The park became a place for community activities and Wortman family outings.

# Transportation in McMinnville

- Jake and Eliza purchased the first horseless carriage in the county for their grandchildren.
- It was the first car to cross the coast range mountains to the ocean and get back under its own power.
- It was the cause of the first legislation enacted regulating the use of automobiles in Oregon after it ran over and killed a dog belonging to a city councilman in 1903.

Below: July 4, 1904 - Frank Wortman is in the driver's seat.



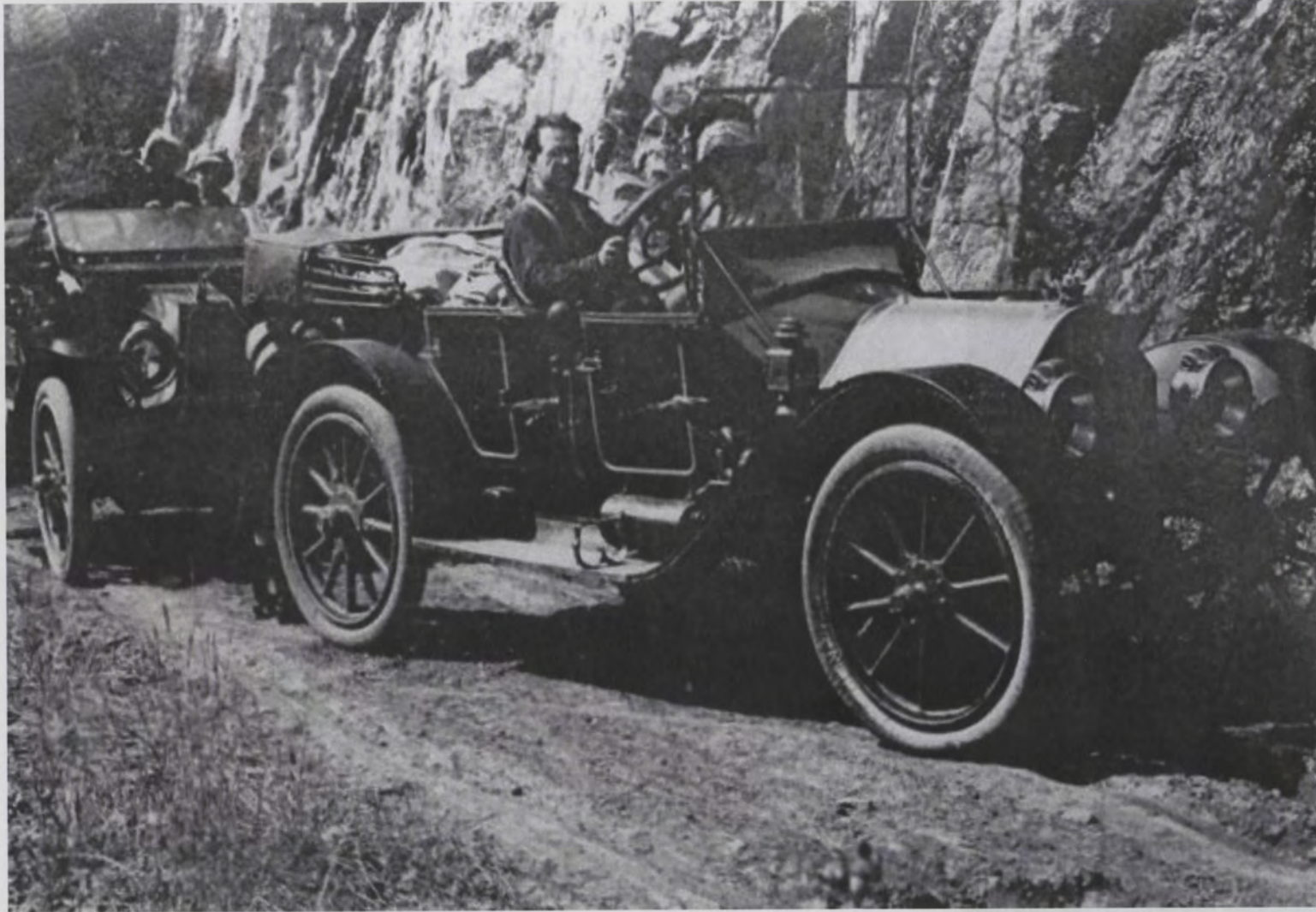
Photo Credit: *History of the Wortman Family in Oregon*

Below: Governor Dewey of New York and Ralph Wortman



Photo Credit: *History of the Wortman Family in Oregon*

Today in McMinnville people can still find lasting impressions that the Wortman family has left in the community. To begin with, there is Wortman Park, which spans around 20 acres. The Wortman's car can still be found, located at Key Bank, which was once known as the First National Bank in McMinnville, established by Jacob Wortman. Lastly, there are still Wortman relatives living in the area.



Above: Wortman family traveling on the Oregon Coast  
Photo Credit: Tami Spears Collection

240, 22nd St. S.E.  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
March 11, 1974

Dear Friends at First National Bank:

This is not a letter of sympathy because a member of your "banking" family has been called away by his Creator, after a long and fruitful life. Rether, it is a letter of congratulations.

My memories are brought back to some of the days spent at the First National Bank. I remember that Ralph, on numerous occasions, repeated the 103rd Psalm - for the benefit of June, Izzora and myself. He seemed to delight in Verses 15 and 16: "As for man, his days are like grass, as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more." In Ralph's case, the words do not apply. He was granted many more years than the three score and ten; and he will be long remembered.

We Selemites think of Salem as being the "Marion Hotel and Ladd and Bush Bank." What of McMinnville? McMinnville is the "Wortman Bank."

You younger generation at First National Bank can leave no better gift to posterity than to match the gift of services given by Ralph, Frank and Fred and their dad and grandfather.

My best wishes are with you.

Sincerely,

*Amy Seidler*

Above: A note of condolence after the passing of Ralph Wortman  
Document Credit: Yamhill County Historical Society