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Marlowe, Cyrus E. (1866 -)

Dean Nelson

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MARLOWE, CYRUS E.

File No. B-862

Cyrus E. Marlowe was born in Carradonia, Huston County, Minnesota February 18, 1866 son of Alexander and Elizabeth Marlowe. Alexander was born in Ohio and Elizabeth in Illinois. They were married in Illinois, and they came to Willmar, Minnesota. Later they moved to Huston County where Cyrus was born. After a short residence at Carradonia they again moved to Willmar where Cyrus attended school and there he became interested in railroad work. In 1886 he was hired by the Canadian Pacific Rail Road and worked in Canada one year. In 1887 he returned to Willmar and started with the Great Northern Rail Road. He has been employed steadily there as fireman until his retirement May 16, 1936.

In 1891 he married Thea Lee daughter of Johanna and Engabar Lee. Thea Lee's parents were natives of Norway and Miss Lee was born in Gurbensten Norway and came to America alone. She worked at Benson, Minnesota and there Mr. Marlowe met and married her.

They resided at Benson until June 1916 when they moved to St. Cloud. At present the address is 115 Ninth Avenue North.

There are six children, Neil E; Gaston E; Chester L; Gladys L; Clifford J; Howard W. There are four grandchildren.

Mr. Marlowe has seen the Rail Road Industry grow up and has had some very interesting experiences.

He states, "I've had plenty of trouble keeping my train running during snow storms and winter. In the winter of 1897 the snow was forty-six feet deep in South Dakota. Our run from Watertown to Benson was impossible to make from New Years until May 1. We left Huron, South Dakota New Years Eve and just barely got to Wilmar. After that the snow was so continual and so deep we were unable to go back until May 1."

MARLOWE, CYRUS E.

"One time I was stalled in a snowbank out of Viana about three and one-half miles. The passengers were getting hungry and so the conductor went to a farm house and got some sandwiches and called Viana. Some sleds came out after the passengers and took them in at the risk of their lives because a blizzard was blowing hard. I and the train crew stayed with the train. We were there three days and all we had to eat was a quarter of beef, toasted over the coals, and some beer that was in shipment. That was certainly a long vigil. It finally took two engines and a rotary plow to get us out."

"Also another experience at Viana, one year we were unable to cut through the snow drift for thirty-eight days. We took a mile and one-half run and hit the bank, after three tries the shock finally threw all the coal from the tender into the cab and we finally had to shovel ourselves out and give up. We had to wait thirty-eight days until this bank melted away before we could get through."

"The old engines were not so well equipped or as powerful as the modern ones. We had to crawl under and flush the ask pit. One time I was flushing the ask pit and an extra train hit us in the rear. The engine started backwards and there I was underneath. I grabbed the under carriage with my hands and hung on until the Engineer stopped the train. He thought I was certainly dead and looked like he was seeing a ghost when I crawled out from under."

"Due to an unfortunate accident I lost an eye and there by had to work hard firing all my life. If it hadn't been for this accident to my eye I could have had a better position as an engineer, but I'm really not complaining. I've enjoyed my work and it has always held a thrill for me."

MARLOWE, CYRUS E.

Mr. Marlowe still wants to work. He said that inactivity doesn't agree with him and although retired he contemplates looking for a job.

Interviewed: Marlowe, Cyrus E.
By: Dean Nelson
Date: May 27, 1936

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE CYRUS E. MARLOWE BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE