

Remembering Glencoe Citizen, Frank Kadlec

Perhaps there are still some *Glencoe Enterprise* readers who still remember the Frank Kadlec drug store in Glencoe?

František Joseph Kadlec, otherwise known as Frank, was the third-born of fifteen children born to Josef and Frances (Kutina) Kadlec in a log home that once stood just to the North across the road (now State Highway 7) from what is now the Bohemian National Cemetery of Silver Lake (<http://bohemian-cemetery.org>).

Frank was an older brother (twelve years senior) to my great grandfather Albin Kadlec. Frank left the life on the farm to become a druggist, studying at Professor Drew's School of Pharmacy in Minneapolis, which would later become the Minnesota *Institute of Pharmacy*.

The year 1902 was a personally tragic year of loss for Frank. On March 20th of that year, he lost his twenty-eight year old wife Anna (Flynn) Kadlec as she died while giving birth to their baby girl, the latter of whom survived another three months before dying on the 23rd of June. Less than two months later his beloved father Josef died, on the 4th of August.

He would carry forward to establish the Frank Kadlec drug store in Glencoe, which was variously located at 23 West Franklin Street, 705 West Franklin Street [1940] and 707 Eleventh Street East [1981]. Frank bought the site in 1903, in 1913 tore down the building standing on the site and then erected the building seen in this view.



In December of 1910 Hale Township and greater McLeod County was stunned by the murder of Františka Fajmon committed by Joseph Herzan, who eventually confessed to the murder. Newspaper accounts reported that Frank Kadlec was present to verify the written confession, perhaps to translate the Czech into English for the authorities. Frank Kadlec must have had pity for the incarcerated Mr. Herzan, bringing him cigars during his time in the McLeod County jail.

Other biographical accounts of Frank indicate that he was a well-respected business man of high standing in the community. In cooperation with his second wife, (Anna McLaughlin) Kadlec, Frank was instrumental in the development and establishment of the Glencoe Public Library.

Here is Frank's obituary from an August 1949 edition of *The Glencoe Enterprise*:

“FRANK KADLEC CALLED BEYOND LAST TUESDAY

Frank Kadlec, who entered the Municipal Hospital on Monday, August 15, passed away at 3:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, at the age of 80 years, 1 month and 7 days. The cause of his death was cerebral hemorrhage.

The late Frank Kadlec in point of years was the oldest businessman in this city. In 1898 he purchased a drug store from Henry L. Simons which he conducted until two years ago when ill health forced him to give over the management to his pharmacist, Leon Adcock, who had been in his employ for many years.

Frank Kadlec was born in Hale Township, McLeod County, the son of Joseph and Frances (Kutina) Kadlec on July 9, 1869. On September 14, 1903 he married in Minneapolis Miss Anna McLaughlin who died August 21, 1935. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. James R. Eckman of Rochester, Minn. He also leaves three sisters and three brothers namely, Mrs. Bohumil Tmey of Minneapolis, Mrs. Phillip Sheridan Pendergast of Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Charles. Hawlish of Silver Lake, John of Silver Lake, Albin of Hutchinson, and Henry Kadlec of Minneapolis.

Funeral services will be held this (Thursday) afternoon at the Fitch Chapel at 2:00 o'clock under the auspices of Hope Lodge, A.F. of A.M. The pallbearers will be Henry A. Thoeny, Jos. Kobe, Heston Benson, Frank Reimers, William Hopps, and Alfred Karstens. Interment will be in the Glencoe Cemetery.

As a means of respect to the departed life, business in Glencoe will be suspended during the funeral hour”



I found the above photo taken of Frank Kadlec tucked away in an envelope at the bottom of a cigar box filled with my great grandfather Albin's keepsakes, up in the spare closet of my parent's attic. Set in a wooded area at someone's house or cabin, this old photo hints at the good nature of Frank and might even say more about the odd sense of humor that has been passed down from generation to generation through my Kadlec family. I hope Frank gets a chuckle out his reintroduction to the readers of *The Glencoe Enterprise*!

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Děkuji! Tony Kadlec