

NOLIE MUMEY

Dr. Nolie Mumey, noted physician, Western historian, author, and collector died January 22, 1984, in Denver at the age of ninety-two. Born February 8, 1891, of French parents in Shreveport, Louisiana, Mumey grew up in Jenny Lind, Arkansas. His father was a veterinarian. Mumey graduated from the University of Arkansas Medical School in 1916. He later earned a master of science degree at the University of Pennsylvania and bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Denver. He was a member of the U.S. Army Medical Corps in France during World War I. He moved to Grenville, New Mexico, after the war to set up private practice, and, in 1924, moved to Denver. He was a flier in the Colorado National Guard. Mumey gave up surgery in 1967 but continued his practice, maintaining regular office hours, until three months before his death. In 1976, he received a special Centennial Award from the Colorado Medical Society.

Mumey was also a silversmith, aviator, carpenter, wood-carver, artist, and inventor. He developed an interest in Western history which resulted in an extensive private collection of books and artifacts of the West. The collection included early photographs of Denver and Colorado, paintings, Indian artifacts, rare books, and *santos*, which are crudely carved statues created by Penitentes, a religious sect in the Southwest. In addition, he wrote more than 100 volumes on Western history, poetry, and medical history. His first book was on the famous scout Jim Baker; his bestseller was a book entitled *Teton Mountains*.

Mumey was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in October 1970. He had long maintained a correspondence with the Society from Denver regarding the history of the American West. He consulted the Society's directors for information on the editions of several guidebooks he owned and on diaries held at the Society.

His first wife, Viola Lee, died in 1942, and his second wife, Ruth Hanrahan, in 1979. He married Norma L. Flynn, his literary secretary for thirty-five years, in 1980. He is survived by his widow and a sister, Marie Milligan.

MICHAEL JOSEPH WALSH

Michael Joseph Walsh, a member of the Society since 1959, died at his home in Hyde Park, Massachusetts on May 27, 1984, in his ninety-first year. He was a native of Skibbereen, County Cork, and came to this country as a boy of eight. He was educated at St. Raphael's School in the parish where he lived for the rest of his life.

On leaving school at the age of fifteen, he went to work for C. E. Goodspeed at his basement book shop on Park Street in Boston. On December 31, 1917, he married Elizabeth McMahon, and four days later enlisted in the United States Navy. On retirement from active duty after Armistice Day, he returned to work at Goodspeed's, but not long thereafter came down with tuberculosis and was hospitalized for a year and a half. He liked to say that he was given six months to live! After discharge from the hospital he returned once more to the book shop where, a quick learner and hard worker, he soon became an important part of what was becoming a substantial operation.

He was an instinctive trader and a born salesman. Since Walsh's specialty was historical Americana, Matt Jones, T. W. Streeter, Frank Deering, and Edna Little (later Greenwood) were among his friends and admirers. He loved to swap stories with customers and competitors at such gatherings as the late evening parties that used to follow the annual meeting of the John Carter Brown Associates. He was, as Dick Wormser used to say, 'a damn good bookman.' His reputation as such had been enhanced early on in his career by the fortuitous appearance on the market of a great library of Americana which had lain

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