

Golden Wedding Observed by Prominent Ionia Couple

Justice and Mrs. J. C. Beattie
Have Been Happily Married
for 50 Years; Wedding
Supper Held.

Nov. 24-1932

Thanksgiving day found Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Beattie quietly celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. The weather this year was quite unlike that of 50 years ago on the same date. This year it was so warm that one could ride in their automobiles in comfort without heaters, while 50 years ago it snowed hard all day.

Mrs. Beattie was formerly Edith Allured, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Allured, and born in Ionia 65 years ago. She became a bride at the age of 15, and the groom was 22. Mr. Beattie is a native of Ireland, and came at the age of 10 years to this country with his father, John Beattie, locating at the time at Joliet, Ill.

At the age of 17 Mr. Beattie came to Ionia in the employ of the C. H. Fargo & Co., of Chicago, who was starting a manufacturing plant at the prison, which was to engage in the manufacture of boots and shoes. He was there and on the job when the company received its first contract. It was while there that he learned the trade of making boots and shoes, which naturally shaped his business life.

After living for a time in Ionia he went to Missouri to be employed by Geisicke Boot & Shoe company, returning later to Ionia, and bought the E. E. Gates shoe store, which was located in the old Regent theater building. Afterwards he moved the stock to the old Cutler store, and before he sold his business to Arthur Johnson had been in the boot and shoe business for 23 years.

The wedding ceremony of Mr. and Mrs. Beattie 50 years ago was performed by Dr. Donnelly, of Battle Creek, who had been a former minister of the Ionia Baptist church. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's parents, who were living in the house now belonging to M. Dee Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. Beattie began housekeeping

in a home across the road from the home of her parents.

Among the guests who came to extend their felicitations personally Thursday were Mr. and Mrs. Lon Smith, of Greenville, who will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary March 26, 1933. Other guests who were present either for dinner or supper were Mrs. Rose Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Walker and children, Mrs. Ralph Walker and children, Mrs. Glenn Hatch and children, cousins of Mrs. Beattie, all of Greenville; Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Powers, Saginaw; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Bixby, Robert Powers, Saginaw; Nelson Austin, Bay City; Mrs. McMuth, Saginaw. Irving Walker is the Greenville postmaster. Robert Powers and Mrs. Dan Bixby are grandchildren of the hosts.

Lavish touches about the home Thursday in yellow and white was a constant reminder of the 50 years of companionship, years of activities centered about the rearing of eight children, seven of whom are living, and of the adjustments to business and social life. The dining table was centered with a bowl of 50 pink rosebuds, each bud representing a year of their homekeeping. Several gold coins were among the day's happy reminders, and Friday's mail brought more of the gold pieces.

Their eldest son, George, died on his twenty-first birthday following a long illness. Their children are Robert S. Beattie, of Athens, Ala.; Mrs. J. H. Powers, Saginaw; Mrs. Herman Deitz, Boise, Idaho; Mrs. James Elliott, John Beattie, Jr., of Ionia; Miss Alice Beattie, Jersey City, N. J.; Mrs. D. L. Sperry, of Chicago.

Mrs. Beattie is the last of her immediate family. Mr. Beattie has a brother, Edward, of California, and a brother, Hugh, of Philadelphia. They have 13 grandchildren.

Mrs. Beattie has always been of the Baptist faith, having affiliated with the church while still very young. In Ireland, Mr. Beattie belonged to the Episcopal church, but the greater part of his life he has held membership in the Ionia Baptist church, where both work untiringly for its interests. Six years ago he was appointed the justice of the peace to fill the vacancy left by the death of John Nichol. He has retained the office since.

Wedding Anniversaries
Nov. 24-1932

Celebrating their wedding anniversary on Thanksgiving Day as they have done for 55 years will be Mr. and Mrs. John C. Beattie of 134 Lafayette street who will mark their 56th year of wedded life on Thursday.

The lives of Mr. and Mrs. Beattie have been linked with Ionia for many years. Ionia has been their home for all except 15 years since their marriage on Thanksgiving Day, 1882, at the home of the bride's parents in Ionia. Mrs. Beattie who is the former Edith Allured has spent nearly all of her life here.

Mrs. Beattie was born on October 25, 1864, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Allured. For 43 years her father was the only undertaker in Ionia. Mr. Beattie was born in County Antrim, Ireland and came to the United States at the age of 12. He is a naturalized citizen of this county. In 1879 he came to Ionia from Chicago when the C. H. Fargo company received the first contract to manufacture shoes at the reformatory.

Of the party which attended their wedding 56 years ago, only the bride and groom remain in Ionia. Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Beattie moved into the old Smith home on East Washington street. Mr. Beattie was seven years at the reformatory, three years at Jackson and 10 years at Jefferson City, Missouri, following the company contracts for shoe manufacture.

Returning to Ionia, Mr. Beattie bought out the Gates shoe store, and went into business for himself. After 23 years of business he sold out to Johnson's shoe store, and for three years was assistant superintendent when Alex Groesbeck, then governor, started a prison shoe factory at Ionia for the manufacture of shoes for state penal institutions.

The list of public offices which Mr. Beattie has held includes city alderman for three years, city treasurer for two terms, register of deeds for two terms, and justice of the peace for 10 years. Mr. Beattie's only return trip to Ireland was in 1907 when he was called there by his father-in-law, George H. Allured, who was taken sick while vacationing in Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Beattie are the parents of eight children: the late George Beattie, Robert of Athens, Alabama; Lenore of Alhambra, California; Grace of Ionia; Edith of Los Angeles, California; John of Clarksville; Alice of Saginaw, and Nancy of Kansas City, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Austin and baby of Saginaw will accompany Mr. and Mrs. Beattie to the home of their son John at Clarksville for a Thanksgiving dinner and wedding anniversary celebration, Thursday