

# DILLEY BROTHERS

Baking Company



Mr. Randall Stivers and his wife Harriet (Dilley) Stivers came from Meggs County, Ohio about 1869 and opened a small general store, "R. Stivers & Co." in what would eventually become the town of Parkerville, KS. The store sold dry goods, farm implements, and it bought and sold grain. Randall Stivers became ill of peritonitis (an abdominal inflammation) and died in 1880 at the age of 53 years old. Upon his death, Randall Stivers' wife and her brother Alva Newton "Newt" Dilley, Sr. continued to expand and operate the Parkerville store under the name "H. Stivers". On August 15, 1903 Harriet and Newt's father Abner Dilley also died leaving a huge monetary estate. Abner Dilley had been a very successful farmer and shrewd investor in Ohio and had left an estate of over \$150,000 upon his death in 1903. The estate was divided among his children but apparently it was not an equal distribution. Newt Dilley Sr., the only remaining male heir, received the largest portion of the estate. By 1906, (possibly as early as 1903) Newt Dilley Sr. had purchased the store from Harriet Stivers and re-named the business "N. Dilley & Co." The business flourished and, as later described by the Council Grove Republican, "...Frequently a line of wagons nearly a mile long would be waiting to unload wheat at the Dilley warehouse or directly into MK&T freight cars."

While living in Parkerville, Newt Dilley Sr. had two sons, Donald Cameron Dilley (born August 4, 1891) and A. Newton Dilley Jr. (born: March 2, 1893).



Don Cameron Dilley

Donald C. Dilley was born in Parkerville, KS on August 4, 1891 and grew up in Council Grove, KS. He went to Kansas University and played football for the University of Kansas. Around 1909, while Don was in College, the Dilley Brothers started a baking business in Council Grove. In 1915 they opened the "Dilley Bros. Baking Co." at 220 West Main in Council Grove, KS. In the fall of 1920, the brothers expanded their business to Herington by purchasing the former "Foster Bakery" or "Sanitary Bakery" business in Herington. Their staple product was Dilley's "American Beauty" Pullman bread. Don Dilley served in the US Navy during World War 1. His wife, Carol, was born in Emporia and went to college in Emporia and Iowa State University. Don and Carol were married in 1925 and lived in Herington where they managed the Dilley Bros. Baking Co. on East Main Street and where Don was active in the Herington Lions Club. In the spring of 1926, upon reading much about the oil field area in the panhandle of Texas in Kansas City, MO newspapers, Don and his brother Newt Dilley went to Texas to investigate possible sites to build another Dilley

Brother Baking site. They originally thought Amarillo, TX would be the site, but later decided on Borger, TX. Don and Carol Dilley moved to Borger and opened a Dilley Bros bakery operation there while Newt Dilley, Jr. remained in Council Grove and managed the Herington operation from there. Newt Dilley eventually moved to Pampa, Texas and Walter J. Rogers became manager of the Herington Dilley Bros. bakery in 1922.

Newt Dilley moved to Pampa, Texas and started a Dilley Bakery there. He purchased patent rights from A. C. Hill to produce "Butereg" bread at the Dilley Bakery which boasted liberal use of butter and eggs in the recipe. In March of 1933, Newt Dilley entered a business partnership with A.C. Hill and the Butereg Co. Around 1935, due to declining health, Hill sold his interest in "Butereg" to Newt Dilley who continued to operate the baking

business under the "Butereg" name with bakeries in Pampa, Texas and Kansas City. Newt Dilley died in Kansas City, KS on January 18, 1963. Don Dilley continued to operate the Dilley Bros. bakery in Borger, TX and he died in Amarillo, TX on November 1, 1966.



Dilley Building on Main Street, Borger