

MODERN MUSIC

Gray County, Kansas

Written by Juanita Trebilcock

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** Additional information added about certain people mentioned in this story*

Music has not had a considerable place in Gray County as far as achievements are concerned. Some of the church choirs are quite outstanding. The choir at the Catholic Church of Ingalls is excellent. This choir began in a small way, but as the years have passed, it now consists of some lovely voices. Another outstanding church choir is the Mennonite Church Choir of Ingalls. The folks singing in this choir began training their voices when they were small. The choir instructor is excellent, and the singing is so good that they are often asked to sing at other churches, especially during revivals. They sometimes broadcast over the radio.

High school glee clubs in Gray County give operettas at different times during the school year. The instructors of the glee clubs are well-trained, and musical productions are usually outstanding.

There are no music clubs in Gray County, but a Woman's Club in Cimarron sponsored a boy in this area to "Music Meets" held throughout the state last year. The boy was Douglas Luther* of Cimarron, and he brought home several first and second place awards.

Literary and Musical events are still held at different places in the county, usually the schools. Home talent is always used, and there is quite often excellent music. Sometimes the school children take part, and at other times, older people help.

All musical talent was much appreciated in the early days, and everyone was welcome to take part in any of the entertainment.

Additional Information DOUGLAS LUTHER

DOUGLAS COOK LUTHER was the son of Lester Luther (1888-1965) and Mae Belle Cook (1888-1956). He was born on 22 Oct 1918 in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas. He never married.

His parents lived in Cimarron, Kansas, for many years but moved to Dodge City during their later years. His father was at one time the United States District Attorney. About 1935, Douglas moved to Topeka, Kansas, where he worked as a Library Assistant. He joined the service on 24 May 1942 and was released on 5 Jan 1945.



DOUGLAS COOK LUTHER

Photograph and list of Broadway productions provided by
Ellis "Skip" Cave (*Douglas Luther's nephew*)

Douglas sang and performed in several Broadway productions in the late 1940s and early 1950s while living in New York. Here is a list of the known productions he participated in:

TOP BANANA, (1 Nov 1951 – 4 Oct 1952)

MAKE A WISH, (18 Apr 1951 – 14 Jul 1951)

AS THE GIRLS GO, (13 Nov 1948 – 14 Jan 1950)

HEAVEN ON EARTH, (16 Sep 1948 – 25 Sep 1948)

LOOK, MA, I'M DANCIN', (29 Jan 1948 – 10 Jul 1948)

In 1956, Douglas was living in Dodge City. In 1989, he was living in Columbus, Colorado County, Texas, located in the Southeastern part of Texas. He died in Columbus on 2 Apr 1996 and was buried there at the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery.