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Orley Glenn Stapley (1:4)

O. Glenn Stapley was born to manage Arizona's O S Stapley Company. He and the state's largest hardware firm began life the same year---1895---and it was Glenn Stapley's managerial genius that brought it to prominence among Arizona's great business firms.

Glenn was only 9 when he started working in his father's small Mesa store. He became secretary-treasurer at 18, and was elected general manager at 20. From then until his death in 1949, Glenn Stapley was the guiding force behind the O S Stapley Company and its wholesale affiliate, the Arizona Hardware Company.

Tall (6'-1 1/2"), handsome and personable, Glenn Stapley was a natural leader. His extraordinary capacity for hard work and his calm, reasoned approach to difficult problems earned him the respect of his colleagues in business, in his church, and in civic activity. He cared for his parents during their long years of illness, and he had few peers as a family man.

Born in Mesa on June 6, 1895, Orley Glenn Stapley was the oldest son of Orley S and Polly M Hunsaker Stapley. He attended Mesa Grammar School, spending most of his after-school and vacation hours working in his father's hardware store and bicycle repair shop.

During his junior year in high school, he cut his ankle while chopping wood. Blood poisoning set in, and he was forced to leave school. After his recovery, he went to work full time in the store in 1910. His mechanical and sales abilities made him an outstanding serviceman and salesman for the company's infant International farm equipment and truck business.

After completing a general business course at Lamson Business College in Phoenix in 1912, Glenn went into the bookkeeping department of the firm. Later that year, O S Stapley and his partners divided the business, and Mr Stapley's share---hardware and farm implements---was incorporated as O S Stapley Company.

It was in 1915 that Glenn Stapley moved up from secretary-treasurer to become general manager of the company. Ably assisted by his five younger brothers and other capable men, he directed the firm in a quarter-century of expansion that saw the opening of the Glendale store in 1919, the Chandler store in 1920, the Wholesale Division in

Phoenix in 1926, and the Buckeye store in 1929.

The Arizona Hardware Company was organized in 1940, the same year O S Stapley became chairman of the board and Glenn Stapley was elected president. The Casa Grande and Coolidge stores were added to the hardware chain in 1943.

During this period the O S Stapley Company expanded its International Harvester truck and farm implement divisions, carried on extensive operations in Tuscon, and became one of Arizona's most influential business firms.

Glenn Stapley's business interests extended well beyond his own company. One of his principal directorships was in the Vance Bros. Baking Company. After the death of its founders, Glenn was called on to manage the company and was instrumental in merging it with the Rainbo Baking Company.

He maintained his residence in Mesa in Mesa for five years after the general offices of the O S Stapley Company were moved to Phoenix in 1926. In Mesa he was a leader in Chamber of Commerce activity and served six years on the Mesa City Council. In addition, he served many years as Superintendent of the Sunday School in the Latter-Day Saints Church in Mesa.

When he and his family moved to Phoenix in 1931, Stapley became a member of the Phoenix Rotary Club, advancing to the Board of Directors and then the presidency in 1936-37. He gave years of service as a member of the LDS Stake High Council in Phoenix.

Glenn Stapley was 15 when he met pretty Estella Vance. Miss Vance and several girl friends were leaving Sunday School and were pondering how to cross a mud puddle in the street when Glenn appeared and, in a display of gallantry, laid a plank across the mud.

The daughter of pioneer Mesa ranchers John Thomas and Sarah Young Vance, Estella was born in Mesa only a day after Glenn's birth.

"We were born a mile apart, and a day and an hour apart, in fact I'm just enough older to be boss," her husband was fond of relating after their July 7, 1914, marriage in Vance Auditorium (later the Mezona) in Mesa.

The Stapley's had four daughters before their first son was born. Velda E is now Mrs Dow Ostlund; Nathel is Mrs Rod Clelland of Atlanta, Georgia; Glenna Vee died at age 4; and Betty Jean is now the wife of Dr Rex P Hall of Twin Falls, Idaho. Their son Glenn O is a Phoenix developer and business, and Steven Laurence of Tempe, is associated with a Phoenix insurance firm. There are now 28 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

When the Stapleys moved to Phoenix from Mesa, they lived for six months in a rented house on West Latham Street, but then they built their own home at 902 West Palm Lane, and the O Glenn Stapley lived there until his death 18 years later.

It was during that period that Glenn Stapley met and solved some of the grimmest business problems of his career. Recent expansions and the onset of the Depression had left the company in desperate need of additional financing. When Arizona banks were unable to help, the company appeared headed for disaster. But Stapley never lost confidence in the ability of his company, or the state's economy. He succeeded in obtaining financing from the BANK of America in California, and that money and his own strong leadership brought the firm safely through the crises.

In the rare hours not devoted to his business, his family, his church, or his community, Glenn enjoyed supervising his citrus groves in Mesa, hunting and fishing, and playing golf. Friends recall that he sometimes played golf at a fast trot in order to keep a business appointment.

One of the "musts" in his life was Rotary attendance, and he maintained a perfect record until a coronary attack in 1939 forced him to slow his pace.

Death came to Glenn Stapley on July 11, 1949, ending a career that had enriched the lives of many thousands of his fellow Arizonas.

SOURCE: "American Biological Encyclopedia, Volume II," by Paul W Pollack (1969)

uclaosmondfanadded this on 20 May 2009

jeannette_maloneyoriginally submitted this to [MEECH FAMILY TREE](#) on 27 Sep 2008

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- **1895**

6 Jun

- [Birth](#)
[Mesa, Maricopa, AZ](#)
- [6 source citations](#)

- **1900**

Age: 5

- [Residence](#)
[Mesa Town, Maricopa, Arizona Territory](#)
- [1 source citation](#)

- **1910**

Age: 15

- [Residence](#)
[Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona](#)
- [1 source citation](#)

- **1914**

7 Jul
Age: 19

- [Marriage to Estella H Vance](#)
[Mesa, Maricopa, AZ](#)

- **1917**

5 Jun
Age: 21

- [Residence](#)
[Not Stated, Maricopa, Arizona](#)
- [1 source citation](#)

- **1930**

Age: 35

- [Residence](#)
[Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona](#)
- [1 source citation](#)

- **1949**

B-6

11 Jul
Age: 54

- [Death](#)
[Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT](#)
- [2 source citations](#)
- **1949**

17 Jul

- [Burial](#)
[City Cemetery in Mesa, AZ \(Sec 0476-1-6\)](#)
- [1 source citation](#)

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PARENTS

-
- [Orley Seymour Stapley](#)
1872 – 1942
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- [Polly May Hunsaker](#)
1874 – 1935

[Show siblings](#)

SPOUSE & CHILDREN

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- [Estella H Vance](#)
1895 – 1977
-
- [Living Stapley](#)
-
- [Living Stapley](#)
-
- [Velda Ellen Stapley](#)
1915 – 2001
-
- [Nathel Stapley](#)
1916 – 1996
-
- [Glenna Vee Stapley](#)
1919 – 1922
-
- [Glenn Orley Stapley](#)
1925 – 2009

Source Information

[view details](#)

- [1900 United States Federal Census](#)
3 citations provide evidence for Name, Birth, Residence
- [1910 AZ Census](#)
1 citation provides evidence for Name
- [1910 United States Federal Census](#)
3 citations provide evidence for Name, Birth, Residence
- [1930 AZ Census](#)

- 1 citation provides evidence for Name
 - [1930 United States Federal Census](#)
- 3 citations provide evidence for Name, Birth, Residence
 - [Mesa City Cemetery Records](#)
- 4 citations provide evidence for Name, Birth, Death, Burial
 - [Tombstone](#)
- 1 citation provides evidence for Name
 - [Utah Death Index, 1905-1951](#)
- 3 citations provide evidence for Name, Birth, Death
 - [World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918](#)
- 3 citations provide evidence for Name, Birth, Residence

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