

Personalities in Our History...

1899-1943

The strength and durability of a business a hundred years old are the combined wisdom and capable leadership of those who have served it through the years. Mr. George L. Marsteller succeeded Mr. William M. Strother in 1899, and Mr. R. O. Horton succeeded Mr. Marsteller in 1901. Following Mr. Horton's presidency, there are three men still fresh in the memory of many of us to whom we pay special tribute here.

MR. D. M. PENICK was associated with Strother for forty-four years, and at the time of his retirement in 1932 had been president of the company for twenty-eight years. It was during his administration that we really became of age, and the business expanded to such an extent that it was necessary to move to larger facilities on two occasions, first in 1909, and then to our present location in 1926. As evidence of his sound judgment and foresight, we continue to operate in this same building, although the business is four times what it was in his day, and there is yet room for further expansion.

MR. W. M. STOKES through his long years of service, carried over the traditions of the founders of the company into the present. He began his career with Strother in 1885, and for sixty-two years gave himself fully and completely to building this business. He was "on the road" for fifty years, during which time he was also a director and vice-president of the company, and his wise counsel was invaluable in charting the course of action in important decisions. He had many friends throughout our entire territory, and at the time of his death in 1947 it was said of him "The contacts and friendships he has established are in fact the basis of the larger part of our drug customer accounts today."

MR. H. H. HORTON came to work for Strother in 1899, and was secretary and treasurer for thirty-three years. He served as president from 1932 until his death in 1943. It was during his term of office that we and the country suffered the terrible depression of the 1930's. He was particularly well qualified to meet the financial problems of this period. His judgment was often sought and highly respected, but he was regarded most as a personal friend and kind and sympathetic counselor to employees and customers alike.

