

Ellen Margaret “Nellie” Healy and John Koehler
1878-1967 **1890-1944**

Chapter 18

NELLIE was the last child of Patrick and Mary to leave home. She was about twenty-nine years of age in 1907 living with her brothers, James, John and Dennis at 1688 Marshall Avenue in St. Paul. She became a clerk at the Emporium Department Store in St. Paul in 1908 and lived at 613 Olive Street. She also lived at 162 Forbes with her niece, Anna Healy, and a nephew, Eugene Healy.¹



NELLIE married John Koehler in June 1912 in St. Paul. At that time he was working as a retail clerk in Page, North Dakota. The following year he worked at the C. P. Peterson Store in Dawson, North Dakota. In 1916, when the Peterson Company opened a store in Tappen, North Dakota, John became the manager. In 1918 he went into business for himself in Tappen running a general store. In 1921 he sold out and he and Nellie moved to California where they operated a grocery store in Long Beach.²

IN 1926, a John A. Koehler and wife Nellie lived at 795 Gaviota Avenue in Long Beach. He was listed as an insurance salesman for the American National Insurance Company so, if this is the same John Koehler, he must have had a second job selling insurance.³

JOHN left Long Beach in 1927 to become the manager of a grocery store in Pettibone, North Dakota. In 1935 he took over the store on his own. According to Nellie's brother Ed, John and Nellie “had a fine store, selling everything but machinery.”⁴

¹ For occupations, residences and employment, see Appendix E.

² *Pettibone, North Dakota, 1910-1960*, compiled by the residents of Pettibone. Steele, North Dakota: Ozone Print, 1960. Information on John Koehler was provided for this book by his brother, Erick of Moorhead, Minnesota.

³ *Long Beach City Directory, 1926*.

⁴ Letter from Ed Healy to Gerald Cummings, October 29, 1933.

NELLIE made wonderful pies and cakes for their store. She often visited the relatives and would bring presents from her store. Her sister, Kate, remarked that Nellie was very attractive with red hair, a good sense of humor, and that she could play the piano. William Edward "Bill," Healy Sr., her nephew, stated that John and Nellie paid \$15 rent for their home and that it was the only house in Pettibone with indoor plumbing.

NANCY MORLOCK, who is a lifelong resident of Pettibone, says her parents have good memories of the Koehlers and "remember them as being very fond and good to children, often arranging sledding parties for them or baking fancy cakes." Nancy says that her "uncle used to drive Nellie to church in Tappen since John did not drive."⁵



JOHN kept his store until April 1944 when he died suddenly. Nancy Morlock's father remembers "that the funeral for John was very big since he was such a well liked man."⁶ John was buried in Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul.⁷

NELLIE sold the store in 1946 and moved back to California, living in Anaheim and Long Beach. She was 89 years old when she died in Anaheim in July 1967, the last of the brothers and sisters to die.⁸

James Henry Healy, Nellie, his sister, and, right: Mamie Gallagher, their cousin.

⁵ Email from Nancy Morlock to Anne Healy Field, June 11, 2000.

⁶ Email from Nancy Morlock to Anne Healy Field, June 11, 2000.

⁷ Letter from Nellie Koehler to her brother, Jim Healy, June 29, 1954.

⁸ Letter from Mrs. James H. Healy to Mrs. Gerald Cummings, July 27, 1967.