

# A Step Back in Time

By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

Just imagine a group of Eagleville citizens sitting around in one of the local businesses discussing the world events sometime in 1913. The big news in the area was about the Franklin Interurban, an electric rail car that was carrying passengers between Nashville and Franklin. It had been in operation since 1909 and by this time had been expected to have a route through Eagleville.

According to the Review-Appeal dated October 13, 1910, "One of the



Brother Jesse Sullivan

projectors of the proposed Franklin and Lewisburg and Shelbyville interurban railroad gives the following review of the status of the enterprise. Without any presentation or display, the much talked of Franklin & Lewisburg line of railway has assumed definite shape. During the summer months careful and

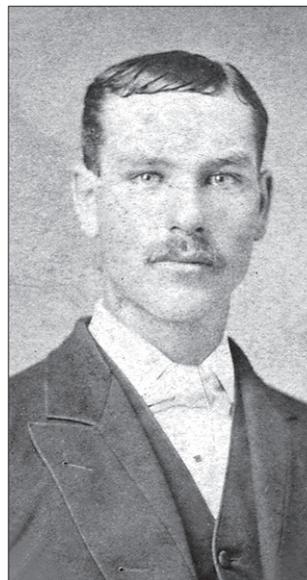
quiet investigation have been made with respect to the construction of an Interurban line between the towns of Franklin, Lewisburg and Shelbyville and data have been procured, surveys made and estimates furnished.

The purpose is to construct the line from Franklin in an easterly direction up the Valley of Harpeth River so as to give the service to Arrington, College Grove, Eagleville, Chapel Hill, Unionville, Shelbyville and Lewisburg.

Nicholas N. Cox, a former state representative from 1891 to 1901 from Franklin, had been very influential of getting the Interurban to Franklin from Nashville. After serving as an representative, he resumed the practice of law and engaged in the practice of banking in Franklin. It is believed that he withdrew his support for the plans to run the rail-lines to the other purposed communities.

The topic of conversation among these citizens at this time was probably about the Interurban that never materialized for their community, so Mr. J. S. Ogilvie wrote a song. Sam Edmonds and several other men in the commu-

nity had a "Brass Band" and it is believed he wrote the words and the band may have added their own music to it. The title "Eagleville Swan Song" was probably considered a very appropriate title among this group of citizens. Swan Song, is a reference to an ancient belief that has become an idiom referring to any final work or accomplishment. These Eagleville citizens, probably considered the canceling of plans of the Interurban coming through Eagleville, was the final work of Mr. Nicholas Cox who died in 1912. (Information on the Franklin-Nashville Interurban will continue in the December Eagleville Times)



Henning Hughes

## EAGLEVILLE SWAN SONG

Written By James Smith Ogilvie Jr. (1913)

Henning Hughes said before he died,  
There's one more road he wants to ride.  
Said Jessie Sullivan, "Which can it be."  
Why Cox's Interurban to Franklin Tennessee.

Tom Russell said, "It ain't no use,  
That darned old Cox has turned it loose."  
Said Edd McCord, "I told you so,  
More than a year and a half ago."

Will Kelley said, "Old Cox is a honey,  
He got our work and a lot of our money."  
Urban Owen said, "What shall we do?"  
Dump Edmonds said, "Run an auto through."

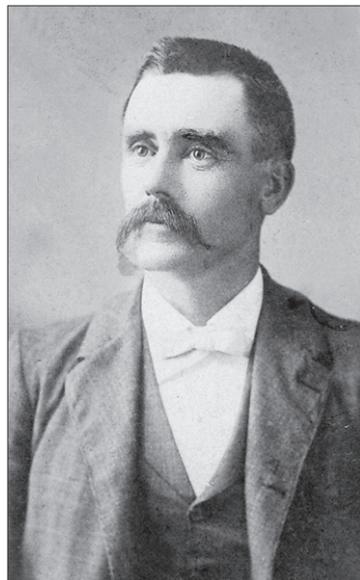
Matt Red Hughes said, "Boy's don't grieve,  
Cox will come again I believe."  
Sam Edmond's said, "Eagleville is dead.  
The L & N has knocked her in the head."

Said Tip McCord, "I don't ker,  
Just so I get my loger beer."  
Uncle Josh Johnson said, "I've got my fill,  
Wish I didn't have that darned old mill."

Watt Clark to Watt Hay did say,  
"Call on Brother Sullivan to pray."  
Brother Sullivan, he knelt down,  
And all the others gathered round.  
This is what they heard him say,  
"Now, Lord hear us pray,  
And send an interurban around this way."



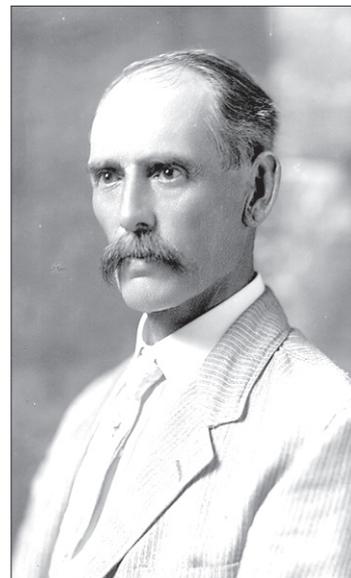
Watt Hay



Tom Russell



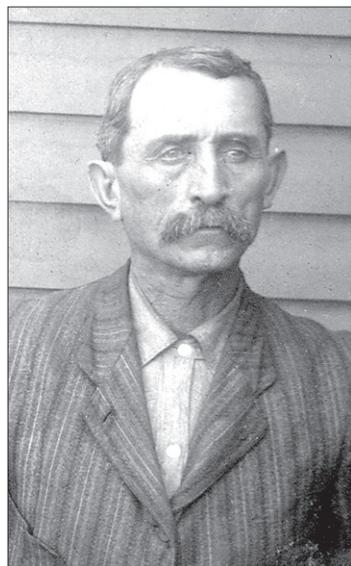
Edd McCord



Urban Owen



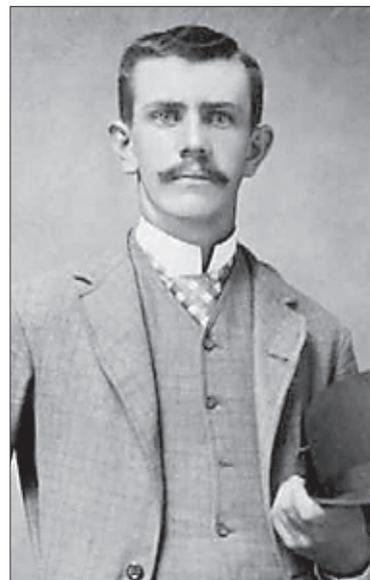
Tip McCord



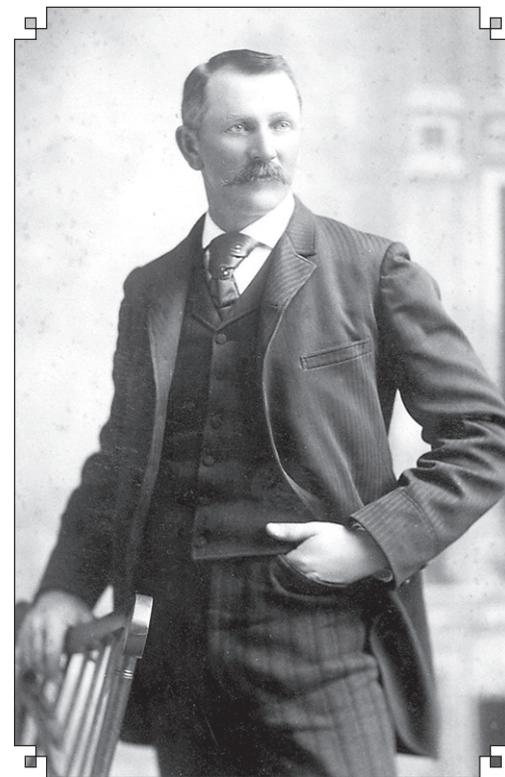
Matt Red Hughes



Dump Edmonds



Sam Edmonds



J. S. Ogilvie Jr., Author of Song