

# Charles McCarthy (1889 – 1939)

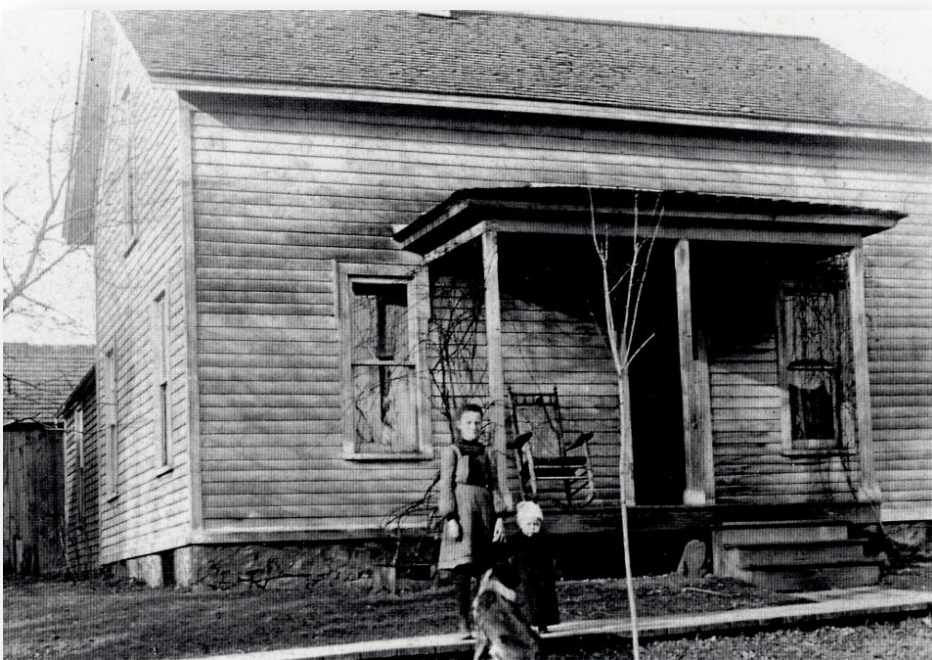


Charles Patrick “Mac” McCarthy was born on March 17, 1889 (*St. Patrick's Day!*) in Fenton, MI. He moved to Birmingham to become a barber. He needed a place to live, and learned that Louise Reynolds, who had been widowed in 1911, was taking in roomers to earn extra money. Mac rented a room from Louise. In 1913, he married Louise. So, Mac acquired a wife and three young children. Later, they had a daughter.



***Charles McCarthy c. 1925***

Mac had a barber shop on the north side of West Maple, about two doors west of Woodward Ave. It became a gathering place for men in the community. In addition to getting a shave and a haircut, they often stopped in, just to chat (or gossip!). As youngsters, some of his grandchildren would stop in, also. The shop had a high bench along one entire wall. Men sat there, waiting their turn. Often, a grandchild would climb up on the high bench and "eavesdrop" on their conversations.



***The Merrill St. home where Mac and Louise lived for much of their marriage.***

Sadly, Mac died of a heart attack in 1939, at the age of 50, making Louise a widow for the second time. Early in their marriage, Louise and Mac lived in the Reynold's family home at 422 Merrill St., but later moved to a house at 315 Park St. That house was moved to make room for a parking garage.

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*Why I was inspired: Charles McCarthy was a very loving man. Even though he only had one daughter of his own, he showered everyone with warmth and devotion.*

*--Submitted by Jackie Mallinson*