

RALPH ANGUS STEADMAN, (known as Angus) was born in Velisca, Iowa on November 9, 1894, the son of Joe Steadman and Grace Crocker Steadman. At that time, his father, Joe, was an engineer on the Union Pacific Railroad. When they left Iowa, they moved to Moncton, New Brunswick, then to Kearney, Nebraska, where Joe was an insurance salesman and Grace became Dean of Music at Kearney Teacher's College.

While his folks lived in Kearney, Angus worked for the Diamond Match Company in California, but with the start of World War I, he returned to the Midwest, and enlisted in the Calvary. He went to OCS and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant. He taught equitation in the Calvary until transferring to the 10th Field Artillery, 3rd Division, where he was sent to Douglas, Arizona before being sent overseas.

While in Kearney, he met Margaret Dick, daughter of the President of Kearney Teachers College. They were married in Douglas Arizona just two months before Angus was shipped overseas, to be gone for two years.

The 10th Field Artillery, 3rd Division was in five major engagements in France and Germany. During that time, Angus was awarded the Silver Star for bravery in action. At the end of the hostilities, he was stationed in the Army of Occupation in Germany, before finally being sent home.

When he returned home, he and Margaret homesteaded in Wyoming, and proved up on a homestead there. They returned to Madison, Wisconsin, where Margaret's parents were living and while Angus took a degree in Rural Engineering in the Agricultural School, Margaret taught music in an elementary school. Following his graduation, they moved to Wauwatosa, where Angus taught Agriculture in the high school.

Following Angus' father's stroke, Grace Steadman was asked to move from Kearney, Nebraska to Mansfield, Pennsylvania to head up the music department at the Teacher's College. When Angus and Margaret moved to Pennsylvania to be with his folks, they bought a farm (known as the Sanitarium Farm, 10 miles outside Mansfield) where Joe raised chickens and Angus farmed.

With the depression, Angus returned to teaching and taught in the high school in Hershey, Pennsylvania for two years, moved back to Madison, Wisconsin for refresher courses, before moving back to Mansfield to return to the farm.

While back at the farm, Angus took an associate degree in Civil Engineering from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. This led to his being hired by the REA to design and build the electric lines thru the counties in Pennsylvania. He, in turn, hired two graduating engineers from Cornell University – Don Chaffee and Don Gordon – to work on the project with him. At that time, the "headquarters" were in a small wooden building located where the present REA building now stands.

In 1939, when the project was completed in Pennsylvania, he was interviewed in New York City for two different jobs, and after being told to "name his own salary", accepted one which would take him to North Carolina to install REA lines there. Just before he was to leave for North Carolina, he had a major heart attack, but insisted on going anyway. He was there for 6 months, and with the help of Don Gordon, was able to finish the project.

When he returned home, he realized that he could not continue to work, and spent the remainder of his time tied to his bed. He passed away in February 1941 and is buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C.,