

**Wilbert Wellington Wiswall** was born July 18 or April 9, 1877 in Longmont, Colorado.

He went to school in Longmont.

1897 Wilbert (20) was living in Denver with his parents and brother and attending college and in

1898 he was working in the canning factory.

While attending college in Boulder Wilbert was a member of the Colorado College Glee club. He was a fine pianist as well as a good baritone singer. After a concert in Greeley, a large number of invited guests assembled at the residence of J. B. Thompson in Longmont.

The Colorado College Glee Club entertained at the Golden opera house and a piano solo was given by Mr. Wiswall.

In 1908, Wilbert and Henry (Bruce) of Denver came to Longmont to spend the summer out of doors in the mountains or around Longmont. They ran a fire cracker stand in Estes Park on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The newspaper reported that six new men including carpenters and laborers went to work on the Hotel Stanley - two of them were Wilbert & Henry Wiswall. After two weeks they quit at the Stanley to go into business for themselves.



Wiswall Brothers began a photography business in Denver at the age of 30 and 24.

Wiswall Photo Craft Shop, commercial photography, kodak finishing, enlarging, coloring, artistic framing, western landscapes and were living with their parents. In 1914 their father died and they operated the Denver Wiswall Photograph Company in the Century Building, WW was secretary and treasurer and Bruce was president and manager. They lived with their mother Harriet Wiswall. In 1915 a newspaper reported that the Wiswall brothers and their moving picture machine will commence operations in a few days on a film that will be shown during the fall at the Panama-Pacific Exposition and throughout the country. *Moving Picture of Mountain Parks*

Wilbert reported for Draft Registration WW I in 1918.

1918 Denver City directory Wiswall Scenic Manufacturing Company, WW secretary, Bruce president.

The Wiswall Brothers went to Grand Lake in 1918 and camped on school land and spent the summer. Bruce and Helen homesteaded on the North Fork of the Colorado river.

1919 Wilbert Wiswall came down from the North Fork in Grand Lake to organize his music class.

The Wiswall Brothers opened The Color Shop in 1921 on Grand Avenue in Grand Lake. WW Wiswall manager and artist. They advertised prints from photographic plates done in oil and water colors, kodaks, finishing, Indian blankets, baskets for sale. This shop remained in business through 1924.



**The Color Shop**

A Santa Fe, New Mexico paper reported that on March 6, 1923 Wilbert Wiswall of Bishops Lodge and Miss Isabella Antonides of Denver were married at the Methodist parsonage, Mr. and Mrs. Gray of Denver attended. The bride wore a gown of blue silk and carried a bridal bouquet of pink roses. Mr. and Mrs. Wiswall will remain for a time at the Bishop's Lodge.

In September of 1923 Wilbert returned from a business trip to Denver and was in Grand Lake adding a new entrance and large show window to the Color Shop and covered it with stucco

Wilbert married Etna West in 1925 and in 1928 they were in Santa Fe, New Mexico where Wilbert is listed as a proofreader. He soon returned to his musical talent and was a pianist at LaFonda during tea hour and local instructor of piano. In July of 1939 Wilbert had written a one act play "Papacity Look" based on native New Mexico folklore and was presented by the St. Francis Players as a benefit for building a new church.

In October of 1939 Wilbert Wiswall was seeking \$51,000 in damages from the New Mexico gas company for alleged negligence and carelessness in installing gas appliances in his home. Wiswall asserted that he had been made permanently ill by gas leaking from appliances. In March of 1940 he went to Baltimore, Maryland by train to undergo treatment for asthma.

Wilbert Wiswall was a musician, playwright, and writer, prominently known in the Santa Fe art colony for the past two years. He is the composer of a large number of musical compositions and author of several historical brochures. About eight years ago he conducted a small art gallery and photo shop in the Sena Plaza. He died February 16, 1941 following an extended illness at the age of 62. He was forced to give up his activities here in the arts several years ago and to seek a lower altitude in the interest of his health. After spending some time with his brother, Bruce Wiswall in West Los Angeles, California, he more recently had been living in Tucson, Arizona. He returned to Santa Fe two weeks ago. His wife Etna and one daughter, Harriet Jean survive him. His wife is known in the local educational field for having conducted a nursery school here for many years. She plans to remain in Santa Fe and will probably resume the school. The funeral was held at Memorial Chapel of the Episcopal church. Burial was in the Albuquerque crematory.