

Keywords

HiSpeed Gas Station
Hale Park
County Treasurer
Bailey Family

Darlene was born in Gaylord in 1924. Her father was Joe Hale who ran and owned the HiSpeed Gas Station on US 27 South. This is where the Hale Park is now. Joe was also a distributor of this gas. Joe Hale's house sat by the gas station. It was a 12 room building and only two blocks from the old high school. Darlene graduated from GHS. When her parents married they located in Gaylord and opened the gas station with her dad's brother. Later her dad operated the gas station by himself.

Her mother was a Bailey whose family lived west of town. She died when Darlene was 5 yrs. Old. Darlene had 2 older sisters and 3 older brothers.

The reason her grandfather came to the area was that he wanted his children to attend school. They were living in Kentucky where many of the farmers wanted their sons to farm, not to go to school. Someone burned down the schoolhouse so her grandfather moved to Michigan, to Alba and worked in the logging business.

She married Pardee Olund in 1943 in Detroit when he had a leave from the Army. They returned to Gaylord after the war. Pardee worked as a salesman at Audrain Hardware and Darlene ran for City Treasurer. She was treasurer for the next 33 ½ years and never had anyone run against her.

As treasurer Darlene collected city taxes, counted parking meter revenue and made deposits at GSB. She started in the old courthouse, then moved to the old auditorium, then moved to the City-County Bldg. after it was built. The old auditorium was torn down to make a parking lot.

Prior to her taking the job it was held by Mr. Hutchins. The clerk was Gladys Beckett, Chief of Police, Mr. Tibbets, Sheriff Ralph Holewinski, Deputy, Bruno Muzyl. Originally Holewinski lived at the old courthouse and later the city bought him a home where the Albert's now live.

The jail and the library were located in the old courthouse.