**Eugene L. Warner**

Eugene L. Warner grew up west of Waverly on a farm. Later, his family moved to Waverly. Gene, as he was known, worked with his father on woven wire fence and the machinery to manufacture it.

Gene went to Halls Summit in 1898. There he ran store and elevator successfully until 1901. He married Pearly J. Daily in Halls Summit in 1899.

He returned to Waverly in 1901, buying a machine shop with father, Charles. Gene and his father perfected the interlock tie fence and the machinery to manufacture it.

He went to Ottawa in 1904 with Charley, to serve as secretary of the corporation

Eugene Decatur Warner was born to E. L. and Pearl 12 Jul 1911 at Ottawa.

E. L. and Pearl were divorced in 1918. Ruth Warner observed: “Gene (E. L.) was personally pretty sharp. He was a great visitor – he loved being around people. Pearl was very nice, but quite reserved. Maybe that’s what the problem was.”

Gene became the general manager of the plant. Under his leadership, the plant expanded in both products and volume.

One story that is told about Gene is that he once was going east by train on a business trip. Early in the trip, he looked from the train window across a field. He saw two men struggling with a two-man saw to fell a large tree. Gene got off the train in Kansas City and holed up in a hotel room for two days. He emerged with complete plans for a gasoline powered saw that would soon become a Warner product.

Gene married (second) Grace Freeman, who was a secretary at the manufacturing plant, in 1933.

Gene died in 1951. The operations were sold and moved out of state.