

Who's Who In Wisconsin Rapids

The Who's Who column will be run each Saturday in the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune. It will include a brief sketch of the life of citizens who have helped make history for Wisconsin Rapids.

Charles Edward Briere



CHARLES EDWARD BRIERE

Mayor Charles Edward Briere, son of Mrs. Louise (Peltier) Briere, was born in Wisconsin Rapids, February 2, 1884. He was graduated from the Howe High School with the class of 1902. The following year he taught in the country school in the Pagel district.

In the fall of 1903 he entered the State University at Madison as a law student from where he finished the course with the class of 1906, receiving the degree of LL. B. On August 1, 1906 he entered the profession of law, opening an office in the second story of the Bank of Grand Rapids, where he continued his practice until January 1, 1907, when he associated himself with the firm of Goggins and Brazeau. The firm was conducted for four years under the name of Goggins, Brazeau and Briere.

Elected Alderman

He was elected alderman from the third ward in which office he served during the years of 1908 and 1909. In the fall of 1909 he was elected to the office of district attorney at which time he severed connections with Goggins and Brazeau and opened up a law office in the second story of the Wood Coun-

ty Bank building where he still practices his profession. He was re-elected district attorney in the fall of 1911.

During his service as district attorney the records show seventy-five per cent of all criminal cases tried in circuit court. The most notorious case tried during his terms was the Beardsley murder case. Mr. Briere was instrumental in securing a written confession from the young criminal, Mortimer Wilson, which result-

ed in a plea of guilty, and sentence passed without a trial.

City Attorney

In the year 1915 and 1916 under J. A. Cohen's second administration, Briere was appointed city attorney, serving in that office for two years.

In the fall of 1918 he was elected to succeed E. W. Ellis as mayor and in 1920 was reelected to the same office without opposition. His second term will expire in April, 1922. Under his terms of office as mayor; the following improvements have been added to the city: The new East Side fire station; the establishment of a paid fire department; the purchase of the fire truck which has a pump attached with a capacity of 750 gallons of water per minute; a drain ditch to relieve the fifth and sixth wards from water which flooded basements of all buildings every spring.

Many Streets Paved

The following streets have been paved: Grand avenue, Third avenue, Fourth avenue, Oak street, Eighth street, Lincoln street, Fifth st., the latter being greatly appreciated by school children who must use it going and coming from schools. Work orders are already contracted to connect portions of the South Side road, First street with Biron road, Fourth avenue with Rudolph and Sigel roads, Baker

street to Apricot street. He has secured amendment to law by which the city of Wisconsin Rapids will receive \$140,000 from the state and county towards the building of the new bridge for which contract is let and work started, and also south side viaduct ordered.

On July 12, 1917 Mayor Briere was married to Miss Georgia Ridgman, daughter of the late Dr. A. L. Ridgman. They have two children, a son Charles R. born February 2, 1919, and a daughter, Dorothy, born August 12, 1920.