

## 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 Albert Normington



CHARLES ALBERT NORMINGTON

Charles Albert Normington, prominent Wisconsin Rapids business man and retiring president of the Chamber of Commerce, was born in the town of Lisbon, Waushara county, February 27, 1878. He is the youngest of five children of James and Charlotte Normington. He lived on a farm with his parents until he was ten years of age, when the family moved to Waukeshu, Wis., where they resided for two years, later moving to Milwaukee.

Mr. Normington received his early education in the country school near his father's farm and later in the graded schools in Waushara and Milwaukee. He dropped his educational work at an early age to engage in business, that of his chosen trade, the laundry and cleaners profession. His first place of business was in Milwaukee where he remained in business for seven years.

#### Came Here 13 Years Ago

After the seven years of thorough business training in the laundry and cleaning trade in Milwaukee, Mr. Normington went to Beaver Dam where he engaged in business for one year, selling his interests there to move to Wisconsin Rapids, when he and his brothers purchased the Geo. Richards laundry business on First avenue south, in the City of Wisconsin Rapids, the first of May, 1908. Mr. Normington has always been actively engaged in the laundry business for himself

and his firm.

When the Normington brothers bought out the Richards laundry in this city thirteen years ago, the business consisted largely of laundry work, a few shirts and other articles being washed at the local laundry. The Normington brothers set out to increase their business in a systematic way and through the efforts of C. A. Normington the firm has built its present business to the high state of efficiency and its large volume which makes it one of the leading smaller industries in the city of Wisconsin Rapids.

A statement a few days ago by Mr. Normington showed that his pay roll in the local laundry and cleaning plant amounted to nearly \$1500 a month, which, although not a large sum, is still a substantial contribution to the commercial growth in the community. Since coming here Mr. Normington has built his present plant, entirely re-equipped with the latest laundry and cleaning machinery and has trained a high class personnel in his business, to handle the needs of a city much larger than Wisconsin Rapids.

Mr. Normington is a believer in progress in business, having demonstrated his faith by a very substantial investment in this community.

#### Married in 1898

Although a hard worker in the business world and a keen student of business problems in the city, Mr. Normington is a strictly home man, in spite of his many business engagements and the time his varied interests require. Mr. Normington still finds a large share of his time to devote to his family.

He was married on June 14, 1898 at Milwaukee to Hattie Mabel Dettloff. They have two children, Carl and Joyce.

Mr. Normington, although not a member of any church is a fine Christian man, practicing his daily life with kindness and faithfulness, always willing and ready to serve for good causes.

Mr. Normington has surrounded himself in this community, with the members of his immediate family. At Marshfield, his brother, Frank, is proprietor and owner of the Normington Bros. Laundry. At Stevens Point, his brother Joshua, occupies the same

position in that industry, and Mr. Normington himself has charge of the local plant. His brother John holds a responsible position with the Consolidated Water Power & Paper Company in their local mill here. A sister, Mrs. Wm. Moore resides at Laona.

#### Prominent in Club Affairs

Mr. Normington is a member of the Elks and Masonic lodges, a member of the Wisconsin Rapids Rotary Club, the State and National Association of Dry Cleaners and state and national Association of Laundry Owners. He finds time in the course of his duties to attend as a loyal member, all the associations and lodges and has held responsible positions in many of them.

He was for four and one-half years Exalted Ruler of the local Elks lodge and it was during his administration that the new Elks home, which is a fine asset to this city, was built. He has since taken prominent committee work and other duties with the local lodge and is one of its most highly respected members.

#### His C. of C. Work

When the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association which preceded the present Chamber of Commerce, was elected their executive, they chose Mr. Normington as its president. He held that position for three years when the association was reorganized and the Chamber of Commerce instituted in its place, Mr. Normington was again elected president of the body and became the first president of the Chamber of Commerce, which position he held for three years also. Until a short time ago he was presiding officer when he was succeeded by C. F. Kellogg of this city.

At the last annual meeting of the local Chamber, the members gave Mr. Normington a splendid vote of confidence for the work he had performed here as head of the Chamber of Commerce during its most trying times. The success of the organization could have been perhaps even greater than it was during his administration, although it was not the fault of Mr. Normington that it did not function as it should have done at times. He gave his full support and sacrificed many hours a week from his own business and personal affairs to engage in matters of community interest which had to be handled by the local chamber.

He is a good leader and able executive and his work here is a splendid testimonial of his fine ability.

#### Loves Athletics

Mr. Normington's chief hobby, according to himself, is school athletics which he has helped to foster by many suggestions, financial support at various times and work among the players on the local teams. He admires a good clean game of football, basketball and all of the sports and has been one of its chief patrons. He finds plenty of time to attend meetings where the athletic affairs need the attention of local business men, and never has been found wanting with his support and help.

He took a prominent part in the af-

fairs of the highly successful Tri-City Athletic Club team and it was largely through his efforts that a successful team was put on the floor last year.

Above all, Mr. Normington is a good booster for all things which need and deserve boosting. He is known to be one of strong mind and keen will power and has exceptional ability to analyze and find the truth which often leads in conflicts with other men's point of view. At the same time he has been endowed with a personality which wins and retains a wide circle of friends.

Mr. Normington is Republican in politics, although not a bigoted partisan. He has not engaged in political affairs in this community to any large extent, although he at one time was a candidate for a county office, being urged to run on the Republican ticket.

Mr. Normington is properly known as "Al" and is one of the most widely known men in this community.