

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.

Daniel William McKercher



DANIEL WILLIAM MCKERCHER

Daniel William McKercher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McKercher, was born in Centralia, now a part of Wisconsin Rapids, June 10, 1870, at 1017 Grand Avenue, which at the time was the only residence between its location and what is now the Northwestern railroad tracks, and was also one of the first substantial houses built in Centralia.

Mr. McKercher attended the city school and in June, 1887 was graduated from the Centralia High School under R. A. Havenor, its principal. After graduating, during the fall and winter seasons of 1887-88 he taught the country school in the Fisher district in the town of Sigel. In the spring and summer months he worked at various odd jobs.

Left The Schoolroom

Mr. McKercher's profession as a school teacher was of short duration and in the winter of 1889, he left for Tomahawk to work in the woods for McGrath and Rourke, who were engaged in the logging business.

The following spring he again changed his occupation returning to Centralia, where he entered the service of Johnson & Hill as clerk in their general store in the building on Grand Avenue located directly opposite the New Meat Market and Wolt's Confectionery Store. The building was later destroyed by fire. He continued in this work until the spring of 1889 when he again changed his occupation and went to Oregon, cruising lumber along the western coast during the summer of 1889.

In the fall of the same year, Mr. McKercher left the state for Oregon for Tacoma, Wash., where he was engaged as clerk for nearly a year in the dry goods store of Morris Gross.

Visited Alaska

The third year after the big gold rush at the Klondyke, Mr. McKercher enjoyed a month's pleasure trip in Alaska during the summer, landing in Skagway, and stopping at all points of interest along the route. He described the scenery as most wonderful and his stay in the north as one of the pleasant memories of his life.

In Merrill Business

Returning east, he came to this city where he remained until fall when he went to Merrill to engage in a business for himself. He conducted a wholesale flour and feed store for three years, with W. R. Bryan, as a partner. The firm name was W. R. Bryan & Co.

After disposing of his interest in the firm, Mr. McKercher again went west, where he spent about two months in the city of Portland, Ore. He again returned to this city to accept a position as travelling salesman for the Jackson Milling Company, continuing his travels for nine years. The first six years he resided in Waukegan and in 1911 he came back to Wisconsin Rapids where he has lived ever since.

Started Local Concern

In 1914 Mr. McKercher and E. C. Rossier incorporated as McKercher & Rossier in the wholesale flour and feed business, building their elevator and warehouse at its present location on Grand Avenue. It was formerly the location of Whorton's Planing Mill.

On May 21, 1905, Mr. McKercher was united in marriage to Miss Louise Dene of Merrill. They are the parents of three children, two sons, Robert and Donald and one daughter, Jean, all school students.

Mr. McKercher is a member of the Masonic Order, the Consistory, and also belongs to the Rotary Club of this city.

He is of a quiet unassuming disposition, a great lover of home and a man of keen business qualities. He is interested in Wisconsin Rapids, its schools and all other benefits and improvements, and is always willing to lend to it his hand and efforts to-

wards building up the city of Wisconsin Rapids. Mr. McKercher is one of the city's new public servants, having been chosen alderman of the sixth ward at the last municipal election.