

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.

Frank D. Abel



FRANK DONALD ABEL

Frank Donald Abel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Abel was born in Wisconsin Rapids September 3, 1885. His father was born in Milwaukee and came to this city June 11, 1881.

His mother, who before her marriage was Miss Augusta Siring, is a native of Berlin, Germany and came to this country with her parents when eight years old. The family resided in Milwaukee two years and then moved to this city.

Educated Here

Frank attended the public schools in this city, finishing his education in the junior year at the Howe High School, when he left to enter the clothing department of the Johnson & Hill Company store. After five years' service he went to Almond, where he was employed as manager and buyer of the gents' clothing and furnishing department of the L. S. Walker main store and also as assistant to the manager of the branch stores located at Plainfield, Hancock and Bancroft.

After a year's employment with Mr. Walker Mr. Abel returned to Wisconsin Rapids and re-entered the service of the Johnson & Hill Company, remaining with them three years.

Formed Corporation

His next place of employment was in the Sampson & Halverson Clothing Store, located in the building at present occupied by the Steinberg Style Shop. At the end of two years service as a clerk, Mr. Abel and A. J. Podawiltz bought the stock and formed a corporation called the Abel & Podawiltz Clothing Co., the members of which included Mr. Abel, Mr. Podawiltz and H. A. Sampson. The stock was moved to the building just across the street where H. F. Lock now has a grocery store.

The new firm continued business in this building for two years when the stock was removed to the building now occupied by Fridstein, Inc. In the year 1913 Meyer Fridstein bought Mr. Podawiltz's interest and business was continued under the name of Abel & Podawiltz Clothing Co. On February 1, 1917, Mr. Fridstein bought the entire interest and the name of Abel & Podawiltz Co. was discontinued.

Organize New Firm

After disposing of their stock to Mr. Fridstein, Mr. Abel and Henry Sampson, Jr., and R. C. Mullen purchased the clothing stock of Bauer Bros. and again formed a corporation under the name of Abel-Mullen Co., and are still doing business in the same building on Second Street S. Mr. Abel is president of the firm, Mr. Mullen is vice-president and Mr. Sampson is secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Abel is one of the most active Elks in the city and at the last election was for the third time elected Exalted Ruler of the local lodge. In July 1920 he was one of the most enthusiastic workers in the home carnival and mardi gras which was presented under the auspices of the order and was one of the most successful home talents entertainments ever given in this city.

In August, 1920, Mr. Abel was elected delegate to the Elks National convention held in Chicago. He has also represented the order as a delegate to several state conventions. He also belongs to the order of Eagles and the E. F. U.

At the spring election this year, Mr. Abel was elected supervisor of the Third Ward of this city and at the meeting of the county board following the election, was appointed one of the committee of public property of Wood county.

Active in War Work

During the last world war, he actively assisted in every drive in the city and also greatly helped in all Red Cross work. With the assistance of Captain Wilbur Herschleb and George Lane, Mr. Abel was instrumental in organizing Company K.

Wisconsin State Guard of this city. At the time of its organization he was appointed First Sergeant of the company and was later commissioned Second Lieutenant. He at present holds a commission as Lieutenant of Infantry of the W. N. G. Reserves.

On August 2, 1911, Mr. Abel was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Stahl, daughter of Frank Stahl of this city. Two children have been born to them, the eldest, a daughter, Elizabeth, and the youngest, a son, Donald.

Mr. Abel is a member of the First Moravian Church. He is a republican in politics and has always voted the straight ticket.