

# 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.

## James E. La Vigne



### JAMES EUSEBE LAVIGNE

James Eusebe LaVigne, son of Eusebe and Elizabeth LaVigne, was born in Wisconsin Rapids, August 12, 1896. His father was one of the early settlers of this city, coming here from Quebec, Canada, in the year 1835. The elder LaVigne was the second sheriff of Wood county and began his duties after the spring election in April, 1861.

His mother whose maiden name was Eliza Holmes, was born in Sing Sing, N. Y. and came to Wisconsin in her early girlhood.

When about seven years of age, James LaVigne had a severe attack of infantile paralysis. He was confined to his bed for a year at his home, and was then taken to St. Vincent's Hospital at Green Bay where he remained a patient for eleven months. Although he was somewhat improved, the ravages of the disease left him crippled for life, but he is now able to get about very nicely with the aid of a crutch and cane.

#### Attended Local Schools

On his return from Green Bay he entered the Howe school where he pursued his studies until finishing the seventh grade. He was then promoted to the Lincoln High School where he finished the freshman year and a part of the sophomore year.

#### In Business Here

During his last two years at school he was employed as night operator for the Wood County Telephone Company in their offices in the second story of the F. J. Wood block. Later Mr. LaVigne resigned his position with the telephone company to engage in busi-

ness for himself, operating a small confectionery store on Second street north where the City News Depot is now located. He closed out the confectionery business and on July 14, 1918 purchased the Owl Lunch car on Oak street, and upon advice of his physician, sold the business to Jesse Knutson on August 19, 1920.

Through the influence of his many friends, Mr. LaVigne was urged to run for the office of county treasurer and at the fall election of 1921 was elected on the Republican ticket by a big majority. He has proven his capability by being one of the best officers that has ever served Wood county.

#### Fond of Sports

Although unable to take active part, Mr. LaVigne has always been very fond of outdoor sports, especially football and basketball. He is an enthusiastic rooter for the home team, often accompanying the teams when they play in different cities.

He is a member of St. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church of this city, a staunch Republican in politics, a man with a bright intellect, blessed with a cheerful disposition and a favorite among both his business and social friends and acquaintances.