

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.

W. J. Taylor



W. J. TAYLOR

W. J. Taylor, Wisconsin Rapids banker and business man, was born at Depere, Wis., on May 8, 1889, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Taylor. The family moved to Green Bay while Mr. Taylor was still a lad and he entered in the Green Bay public schools and later in the East High School of Green Bay where he finished his education. The mother died while he was still a young boy while the father still lives in Green Bay. School in those days held little attraction for this "peppy" lad and the yearning for a chance to get on an independent financial basis appealed strongly. He left high school near his graduation and entered the employ of the McCartney National Bank of Green Bay to learn the groundwork of a business which he has been destined to follow and later to become a leader.

Was Bank Messenger

The first job he was given in the McCartney bank was that of messenger. "Plenty of leg work and little pay" is Mr. Taylor's accurate description of the first job he ever had. The messenger work was pretty well handled by Mr. Taylor, which lead his employers to believe that he could do more responsible work and because he showed an aptitude to figures he was promoted to a combination of messenger and bookkeeper and later to bookkeeper. He remained four years on that work. The confinement of the counting house was too much for him and he decided to go on the road where travel and people offered a more interesting life. About that time the Baker-Vawter Co. was looking for a likely young chap who could sell and install bank systems and he was engaged to work in Georgia and Florida, making a big success.

Tried Newspaper Work

After two years in the south, Mr. Taylor's elder brother, Frank J. Taylor who was starting on his career of the leading journalist of St. Louis, persuaded the younger brother to go to St. Louis to work on the Star. Realizing the possibilities for experience in newspaper work, Mr. Taylor went there and remained in the employ of the Star for nearly two years. A telegram came one day from Green Bay saying that there was an opening in the Citizen's National Bank of Green Bay for an auditor. The position looked like a real opportunity and he decided to accept. He remained

there for a year and a half. Soon other opportunities offered chances for him and he elected to accept the opening of assistant cashier of the State Bank of Kiel, Wisconsin, where two years later he was promoted to the position of cashier, which position he held until coming here nearly three years ago.

Became Cashier Here

Mr. Taylor was elected to the position of cashier of the First National Bank of this city about three years ago. He moved here with his family and they took up residence on Belle Isle. When the Bank of Grand Rapids was merged with the First National Bank, Mr. Taylor ably handled the big transaction and became the cashier of the merged institution. His leadership in the banking business, although a young man in the point of service, was quite recently recognized when the Group Six of the Wisconsin Bankers Ass'n. elected him to the presidency.

Well Known Here

Although a comparative newcomer in this city, Mr. Taylor has made a host of friends here in his business capacity and through his various activities as he has taken a prominent and responsible part in community affairs. The banking business, with its high ethical requirements, has not changed the personality of Mr. Taylor as he is regarded as one of the most democratic business men here. He is known to a larger circle of people as Bill Taylor or Will Taylor than as Mr. Taylor. He is a member of several lodges and organizations including Masonic lodge, Commandry of the order, Elks Rotary Club, of which he is vice president and director and is secretary-treasurer of Bull's-Eye Country Club. He is also a director in the Building & Loan Ass'n and is secre-

tary and treasurer of the Wisconsin Rapids Sand & Gravel Co.

Has Three Children

Mr. Taylor was married while he was a resident of Kiel to Miss Carmen Getzloe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Getzloe of Manitowoc. They have three children, Jane, Bill Jr. and Rosemary. Mr. Taylor is devoted to his family and when asked what his hobbies are said "The family and golf and in summer it is almost a question of which comes first." All people who have known Mr. Taylor agree that the city made a very valuable acquisition when he decided to come with his family to Wisconsin Rapids.