

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PLATTSMOUTH PEOPLE



THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

Miss Mary E. Foster.

This young lady, superintendent of Cass County schools, was born in Cass County, near Union. Miss Foster's early years were passed at the family home. The first school she ever attended was district No. 12, located not far from her home. Later on she attended the Academy of the Annunciation at Nebraska City. From that academy she went to the State Normal at Peru, and graduated from that institution.

After a short vacation she began teaching in the schools of Cass County for a time.

She determined to still further resume her studies and went to Arkansas, where she entered the Methodist College at Arkadelphia.

Returning again to her home she again took up teaching and for some time taught in various Cass County schools.

She then attended the State University at Lincoln and graduated in 1905, took the degree of A. B.

Returning home she took the principalship of the Union school and afterwards went to Murdock where she was located when the Democratic nomination for Superintendent of Schools was tendered her in 1907. She accepted, made a canvass and was elected much to the astonishment of her republican opponent.

Miss Foster is a hard and thorough worker and when nominated for the office determined to win, even though she had a republican majority to overcome.

Her earnest manner and thorough knowledge of the wants of Cass County schools impressed voters and they dropped party lines and voted for her. The affairs of the office are well cared for in Miss Foster's hands and when the time comes she will undoubtedly receive another term, for her services have been all that could be wished for by the taxpayers of the county.

Chester W. Baylor.

This gentleman was born in Tabor, Fremont County, Iowa.

He left that place when very young and went with his parents to Hastings, Nebraska.

He lived in that town for two years, and then removed to Omaha, where he resided until May, 1907.

Mr. Baylor took up his residence in Plattsmouth in May, 1907, and after a time concluded to embark in business here. He opened a coal yard on the 1st of August, 1908. The business has steadily grown under careful management and the sale of the best there is in coal.

Mr. Baylor has built up his business on the principle that honest weight is the only permanent standard and he is now known as the 2,000 pound coal man.

It is a reputation to be proud of and the gentleman is justly entitled to the title.

He makes a specialty of the best in both hard and soft coal and his prices always run at least 50 cents a ton under those charged in Omaha for similar grades.

A special and recommended coal for cooking use, is the Radiant Nut coal. No better coal is on the market than this and Mr. Baylor cheerfully recommends it as the best on the market for the price.

Mr. Baylor's trade is steadily growing and the result is very gratifying both to himself and a large circle of friends.

George L. Farley.

Mr. Farley was born in Cass County June 3, 1866. He attended the Cass County schools in his youth and afterwards took a course in the Weeping Water Academy. Mr. Farley early began teaching, and was but a short period over 17 years old when he taught his first school. He continued teaching until 1894, when he received the nomination of the republican party for county superintendent of schools. He was elected and continued to hold the office for

six years, having been re-elected two consecutive times. He gave up the office in 1900.

Shortly afterwards he bought the Plattsmouth Evening News, and owned and edited that paper for nine years.

Early in 1907 he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of J. W. Gamble, superintendent of county schools. That term expired on January 1st, 1908.

Since January first of this year Mr. Farley has been engaged in the real estate business. He opened an office in the Coats building and is prepared to handle all kinds of land transactions. He is agent for farm lands all over the state and has many fine properties for sale. Mr. Farley is an excellent citizen and is enterprising and energetic.

The Majestic.

The Majestic is an up-to-date moving picture concern. It opened for business in Plattsmouth Sept. 1st, 1908 under the present management. Its program changes three times a week. Its entertainments consist of Dramatic, Scenic, Educational, Comedy, Spectacular, Topical, Industrial, Historical, Religious, Biblical, Pathetic and Mythical, all of a high order, clean and wholesome, morally and otherwise.

The very best interests of its patrons are rigidly looked after, and nothing that congenes offense to the most refined ladies is ever shown. It guarantees to its patrons "a square deal" and more than the worth of their money at each entertainment.

C. E. Wescott's Sons.

The founder of this firm, Mr. C. E. Wescott came to Plattsmouth in the spring of 1879. Shortly after his arrival he established the business, the outgrowth of which is the present firm as given above.



Mr. Wescott, sr., continued alone until 1895, when his son, C. C. Wescott was taken into partnership with the name of C. E. Wescott & Son.

In 1901 the other son, Mr. E. H. Wescott, also became a member of the partnership and a change in the style of the firm name again became necessary. It was called C. E. Wescott & Sons. In January, 1906, Mr. C. E. Wescott decided to retire from active life and he turned the entire business over to his two sons, C. C. & E. H., as a New Year's present.

Since that time the style of the



INTERIOR VIEW OF WESCOTT'S STORE

M. L. Johnson.

This gentleman was born in Denmark and came to the United States in 1889.

After visiting a number of places in the country, he finally decided to make Plattsmouth his home.

In 1898, he established business for himself and ever since the time named, has been in the same business and at the same place. Mr. Johnson keeps a first-class market, one which it is a pleasure to visit on account of its absolute cleanliness at all times and under all conditions.

He believes and practices the old adage that cleanliness is next to Godliness.

His place is the popular one for house wives and his trade always good, is increasing steadily as time passes.

Mr. Johnson has a slaughter house of his own in which he kills calves and all the poultry used in his market.

For beef, mutton, pork and cured meats, he buys of the packers as they offer the best from time to time. He handles the celebrated Maxwell brand of hams and bacon, considered by many the best in the United States.

All his meats are the best that money can buy and he is at all times anxious to please his trade by giving them the best possible value for their money.

firm's name has been C. E. Wescott's Sons. The house of Wescott has prospered both under the father, as father and sons, and as sons of the father.

The elder Wescott early in his business career in Plattsmouth adopted two mottoes, which have become cardinal principles with the house, "One price and no monkey business," and "Where quality counts."

These mottoes have been and are strictly adhered to and it is known that customers get the benefit of these facts.

The Wescott store has always stood for quality, good quality, reliable quality, first last and all the time.

Two serious disasters have overtaken the firm. During a violent storm which occurred July 6th, 1907, the store was flooded and a stretch of wall and floor, about 60 feet long, in the front part of the store dropped into the basement, ruining a vast quantity of goods and causing several thousand dollars of damage to the building.

Again on June 27th, 1908, a flood following a heavy rain, caused the front part of the store to fall in. Clothing, furnishing goods, fixtures, a fine cash register and other articles fell into the cellar and were practically ruined. Such losses are beyond the aid of insurance, so a loss of approximately \$10,000 was entailed upon the Wescotts.

Notwithstanding these calamities,

D. P. Jackson.

This gentleman was born in Delaware county, Iowa, in 1857.

After spending his early years in Iowa, he went to the Black Hills in 1883, where he lived until about 1901, when he removed to Omaha. After spending about a year and a half in Omaha, he concluded to cast his fortunes with Plattsmouth and moved here in 1903.

Shortly after his arrival, he bought out the stock of Moore & Lundell at the corner of Third and Main streets.

After a time he moved his store across the street and then to his present location.

Mr. Jackson deals in furniture and stoves and carries a complete line of goods of excellent quality.

He handles some little second hand furniture, mostly articles which have been bought from him on time and taken back on payments.

But most of the stock is new. A large line of sanitary couches, a large supply of rockers, dining room chairs, steel ranges, etc., is constantly kept in stock.

Mr. Jackson is making a special price on dining room chairs at this time in order to reduce a very large stock. He has ranges in prices from \$8 to \$45. He handles the Garland & National ranges than which there are no better on the market.

He keeps iron beds, all sizes, and prices from \$2 to \$15.

the firm has prospered and today stands as an exponent of fair dealing, good goods, right prices and everything that is right and honest.

The store is a credit to Plattsmouth and is so regarded by the entire community.

F. G. Fricke.

This gentleman was born in Brunswick, Germany, April 6th, 1846. He came to the United States in 1866. He first lived in Richmond, Virginia and remained in that city for two years. From Richmond, Mr. Fricke removed to St. Louis, in which place he resided two years.

From St. Louis he went to Mound City, Illinois and lived in that town until 1883. He came to Nebraska and lived in Ashland a short time.

Mr. Fricke came to Plattsmouth in July, 1884. Shortly after his arrival here he bought the drug business of Joseph M. Roberts, which was at that time located where it still is in the Union block on Sixth street, south of Main, and has remained there ever since. As the business has grown in time, it has grown in magnitude and importance.

Mr. Fricke has been an experienced druggist since he was 15 years old and there is no more expert and experienced man in the business than Mr. Fricke. His stock of drugs is complete and the best that can be bought for money.

Patk & Bajec.

Both members of this factory are young men. Emil Patk being a little more than thirty and John Bajec not more than 35 years old. They started their factory in May, 1901, and the business has grown steadily year after year until now it is the largest cigar factory in Cass County. Its goods are widely known and appreciated, and justly so because the highest priced stock possible to be used in their various brands is the only kind they will have.

At this time there are eight cigar makers working because it is a dull season of the year.

Most of the time as high as eleven hands are used.

Patk & Bajec are makers of the celebrated "Acorn" cigar the best 5 cent cigar made any where. There are more of this brand made and sold in Plattsmouth than all the five cent cigars together, and then some.

In clear Havana goods this factory makes the "Crown," a strictly hand made cigar.

Only the choicest grade Havana tobacco is used in the "Crown" brand, and is building up a reputation as a smoker fit for a millionaire.

This factory is progressive and bids fair to become a large concern.

Gasoline stoves are priced from \$1 to \$5.

Mr. Jackson has a stock of very fine sideboards, which he will sell at a bargain price. They are of the latest style and very choice.

J. E. Tuey.

Mr. Tuey was born in Watertown, Minnesota, in 1858. He lived at Howard Lake, Minn., until he was 29 years old. After attending school for several years, Mr. Tuey at an early age began a commercial training.

At the age of 29 years Mr. Tuey removed to the southern part of Iowa and settled in Tabor.

He was in business in that place for a period of 15 years and during the time gained an enviable reputation for fair and liberal dealing.

In 1905 he decided to move to Plattsmouth and continue here opened a store in his present location on Sixth street. He has never moved but has continued in the same stand, building up a reputation and business on the plan of solid worth and integrity.

Mr. Tuey believes in giving his customers ample value for their money and he has always acted along these lines.

He buys the best lines of dry goods and groceries and will handle nothing else, believing that goods go the farthest in advertising a man's business.

Mr. Tuey makes a specialty of high grade canned goods and he keeps only the output of canning factories of known worth. The goods are always fresh and new and not priced too high. Staple and fancy groceries of all kinds are sold at the most reasonable prices.

Mr. Tuey is a good business man, and is extending and enlarging his stock and trade from year to year.

Joseph Fetzer.

This gentleman was born in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, December 22nd, 1854. After spending his childhood and early youth in the Badger State he came to Nebraska in 1874 and located in Plattsmouth. He has made this town his home ever since.

When he first located in Plattsmouth, Mr. Fetzer engaged in various pursuits until 1882, when he opened a business for himself. The shoe trade attracted Mr. Fetzer and it was a shoe store that he began with and still continues it. From a small beginning the store owned by Mr. Fetzer has steadily grown, until the present time, and it may be easily classed among as good as any disreputable shoe store in Nebraska. The room is commodious and light, being fitted with all modern appliances needed in a business of its description.

The quality of the stock is the best that can be obtained in the factories of the east. Mr. Fetzer will handle nothing but the best in both men and women wear.

The Ralston, the Florsheim, the Douglass, the shoes made by F. M. Marzluff, John Shootman and Utz & Dunn are among the leaders handled.

They are all known throughout the country as the best of their class and run from moderate prices to \$4 and \$5 per pair.

Mr. Fetzer has always stood at the front in Plattsmouth as an honest, reliable merchant and citizen and it is a pleasure to know him and have his friendship.

Bernard G. Wurl.

Mr. Wurl was born April 23rd, 1874, at Horicon, Wisconsin. After spending his early youth in his native state, Mr. Wurl came to Plattsmouth May 12th, 1887.

A brother, Otto Wurl, opened a cigar factory in 1896 and Bernard went into it to learn the trade. He worked at the trade until 1902 when he bought a half interest with his brother, and the factory given the name for the first time of Wurl Brothers. In 1906 Otto Wurl sold his interest to Charles H. Wilkins but the name of the factory remained as before—Wurl Brothers.

On the first of March this year Mr. Wurl bought the interest of Mr. Wilkins and now conducts the business alone, but still retains the name of Wurl under which the business has grown into large proportions. Instead of the name being Wurl Brothers it is now B. G. Wurl.

The name is valuable, as under it the reputation of the factory's output has been given a first-class reputation which fact is worth money.

The leading brand of cigars made by the Wurl Brothers factory is the "La Flor de Fama," a straight hand made ten cent cigar, than which no better is made in the entire country.

In 5 cents goods the "Gut Hell" and "El Puritano," are the favorites, and the sale of these cigars is growing constantly. They are honestly made, and with good value and that is the reason of their success.

Mr. Wurl is to be congratulated upon the success of his efforts in building up a prosperous business.

Anton H. Koubek.

Mr. Koubek was born in Plattsmouth in 1886. He has lived here all his life. He attended the public schools and after getting through, went into his first employment in the grocery store of John Kopia. He worked for Kopia for about a year and a half and then took a position in the cigar factory of Otto Bookmeyer. He only worked at that place for eight months.

He then took employment with the Burlington railroad company in the Plattsmouth shops.

He went into the foundry and learned the trade of core-maker and took up the trade of moulder. He was employed with the Burlington for five years, when he voluntarily quit the service.



He has since been engaged as manager in the liquor house of Ed. Donat and has made a host of friends by his good will and clever conduct.

Mr. Koubek joined the Plattsmouth fire department some years ago and has always been an active and efficient member of the fire fighting brigade in this city.

On January 1st of this year, Mr. Koubek was chosen chief of the fire department by a large majority of his fellow firemen.

He has used every effort to bring the Plattsmouth fire department up to a high state of efficiency and has succeeded in doing so to a marked degree.

While yet a young man, Mr. Koubek has first class judgment and no doubt will rise in his vocation. Mr. Koubek is 22 years old and is therefore the youngest fire chief in the entire world.

Frank E. Schlater.

This gentleman was born in Plattsmouth, February 4th, 1866.

He was brought up on a farm three miles south of Louisville and passed his early life on the home place. In 1886, Mr. Schlater went out into the western part of the state and went into stock raising in which business he continued for some years. Selling out his interests in the west, Mr. Schlater again came to Plattsmouth, where he now resides.

In the fall of 1907, his political friends persisted upon him to make the race for county treasurer. He was elected without trouble, largely on account of his personal popularity among all classes.

His well known integrity brought to him many republican votes and in a county normally republican, he won the place by quite a majority.

Mr. Schlater is an approachable man, who has no false notions of position making the man.

He is both democratic in faith and in his actions.

All he asks is that a man be honest and upright and then he stands ready to aid in any way he can.

Mr. Schlater is a good citizen and progressive in all his actions.

B. A. McElwain.

This gentleman is a native of Plattsmouth and is identified with the town from his earliest childhood.

After attending school in this city, Mr. McElwain took up the trade of jeweler and watch maker and after some years went into business for himself.

At the present time he owns and conducts a modern jewelry store, in which everything new and novel in the goldsmith's establishment may be found in profusion.

Mr. McElwain is a discriminating buyer and it is to his judgment entirely that his finely selected stock has been brought into tangible form. No out-of-date goods can be found in his store for rather than to carry antiquated ware, he will sacrifice it at any price regardless of profit.

Mr. McElwain carries in stock, the rare value of which may be ascertained by the expert, cut glass, hand painted china, leather goods, etc., of most recent design are to be found in abundance in the stock here referred to.

It is a pleasure to spend a half hour or so going over Mr. McElwain's stock and visitors are always welcome whether they purchase or not.