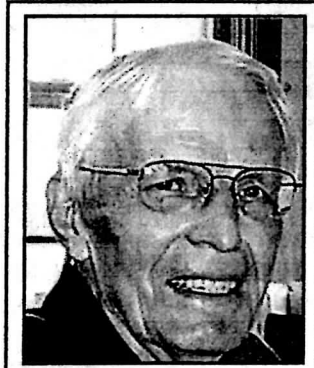


Who was who In Washburn - pioneer businessmen

CS 1423/10
Among the early settlers of Washburn were many men who became well-known businessmen. The first of these men to arrive was Daniel Webster Corning. He was born on November 27, 1862, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Later the family moved near Portage, where he grew up. As a young man he was employed by the Omaha Railroad, which was building a line northward from Spooner to Chequamegon Bay. In May 1883 he opened a general store on the Washburn townsite, located near the newly constructed coal dock. Later he moved his store, the Pioneer Grocery, to the first opera block, which burned in September 1888. He reopened his store in the second opera block, continuing to operate the in business until his death. He was active in the business affairs of the city, a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodman fraternal lodges and the Congregational Church and president of the Old Settlers Association. He married Jessie L. Gustin on October 17, 1886. He died on September 19, 1921.

Soon after Dan Corning opened his little store down by the coal dock, several other men arrived who would contribute to the



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welfare of the community over the years. Judge William H. Irish was born on March 31, 1844, in East Port, Maine. He moved to Ashland in 1883 from Minneapolis, operating a lumber company until 1884, when he moved to Washburn. In 1885, he and George F. Hulbert built the city's first sawmill. He was active in civic affairs, serving as town chairman, register of deeds from 1891 to 1894, and county judge from 1911 to 1914. In 1904 he was elected Washburn's first mayor, serving until 1906. In 1906 he and his son opened a farm east of Washburn, where they raised strawberries for the commercial market. In April 1881 he married Lovisa Emmett. He died on November 25, 1921.

Builder James A. Sheridan was born on December 12, 1852, in Millport, New York. The family moved to eastern Ontario, Canada, where he spent most of his boyhood, then settled on a

homestead near Grand Rapids, Michigan. He came to Washburn after the Omaha Railroad reached the townsite in the fall of 1883. He worked as a carpenter and contractor his entire life, constructing many buildings and houses, including the Donahue house at 316 First Avenue East, the oldest surviving house in Washburn, and was a contractor for the Washburn Public Library, constructed in 1904. He was active in community affairs, elected clerk of the Town of Washburn when it was organized in April 1884, serving in that capacity for two terms and was elected an alderman in April 1915, serving two terms. On July 28 1886 he married Sylvia Bohrer, who had come to Washburn in early 1885 as one of Washburn's first school teachers. He died on September 2, 1934.

Businessman William Goedeke was born on April 11, 1864 in Sheboygan Falls. In 1887, he came to Washburn and established a confectionary business. The following year he opened the "99¢ Store" at 16 Bayfield Street West, an old-fashioned variety store crammed with toys and other merchandise, some of which was imported from foreign countries. When this store was destroyed by fire in 1922, he reopened in a building he had constructed in 1916 at 204 Bayfield Street West, continuing in business there until shortly before his death. On Sep-

tember 27, 1897 he married Tillie Faude. He died on July 4, 1942.

Realtor Frank J. Meehan was born in Vassar, Michigan, on January 1, 1863. He attended school until he was 14 years old, when he began working in a dry goods and clothing store. In 1887, he came to Washburn, where he opened his own clothing store. In 1898, he sold his business and invested in real estate and building, constructing the Union Block on the southeast corner of Bayfield Street and Central Avenue, in 1888, and the Meehan Block on the south side of Bayfield Street, between First and Second Avenue West, in 1895. He was also a promoter of the Washburn Electric Light and Power Company. He died in late October, 1929.

Grocery man Frank Edward Tetzner was born on June 15, 1856, in Leipzig, Germany. On June 15, 1880 he married Marie Elizabeth Kluge, born on June 11, 1858 in Leipzig. Sometime later in 1880 they immigrated to the United States, remaining in Chicago for a year, then moving to Medford and finally to Washburn in 1886. He opened a meat and grocery store with partners but soon purchased the business from them and continued to operate it until his death. He died on May 5, 1930. The Tetzner store building is located at 123 Bayfield Street West.