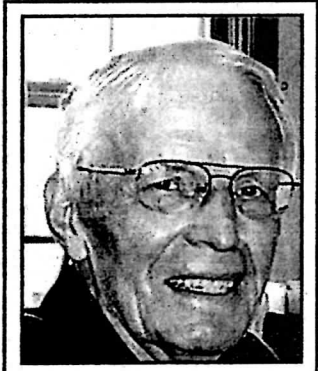


Pioneer businesses that continue today

C.S. 12439110

Bernard J.H. Ungrodt Jr. was born on January 30 1863, near Capetown, South Africa, the son of Bernard Ungrodt and Johanna Schroeder Ungrodt. They both were born in Germany and were serving as Lutheran missionaries in South Africa. In 1867 the family immigrated to Wisconsin, eventually settling in Medford, where the father accepted a call as pastor of the Immanuel Lutheran Church. In March 1886 Bernard, Jr. came to Washburn and opened a hardware store with Paul Schulz, his brother-in-law, at 15 Bayfield Street, advertising themselves as "Dealers In Shelf And Heavy Hardware." In May 1887 Schulz retired from the firm, selling his interest to Ernest Bergmann. In January 1889 this partnership was dissolved, and Bergmann opened his own hardware store. In May 1891 Bernard—or Ben as he was known—moved his store to 22 Bayfield Street West. In March 1906 the Ungrodt Hardware Store and the Washburn Hardware Company (located in the Olson Building at 14 Bayfield Street West) were consolidated under the Ungrodt name, and the store was moved to the east side of the Union Block. In November 1907 the store was moved back to 22 Bayfield Street, remaining there until the Ungrodt Shopping Center was opened in the Meehan Block in September



Lars Larson
Guest Columnist

1937. Bernard married Helena (Lena) Helmer on June 25 1891 in Chicago, purchasing in 1896 a large house on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Fifth Street as the family home. He was one of the leading businessmen and a respected figure in the city, serving on the school board, as an alderman, and in many other community organizations. Through his leadership and support a German Lutheran congregation was organized and a church building constructed near the Ungrodt house. He died in Jacksonville, Florida on March 1 1934; his wife died on January 26 1948. The Ungrodt home is located on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Fifth Street, number 3. After Bernard's death the business continued to be operated as a family owned enterprise; it was sold out of the family in April 2008, after 121 years service to the community.

Østen Anderson was born on March 16 1869, in Norway, the son of Anders Johnsen and Sylvei Sørensdatter. He emigrated from Bergen in February 1892, landing in Canada and entering the United States at Sault Ste. Marie during the same month. He first went to Bessemer, Michigan (perhaps to work in the iron ore mines), then to Washburn at an unknown date. In April 1891, in Bessemer, he married Caroline Jacobson of Washburn. In Washburn, he went into the grocery business, in partnership with Nicholas Sorenson on the southwest corner of Bayfield Street and Fourth Avenue West. The partnership was dissolved in October 1904, Østen continuing to operate the business in that location as O. Anderson Groceries. In June 1908 the business was moved to 226 Bayfield Street West. For many years it was operated under his wife's name as L. Anderson Groceries. About July 1926 the name was changed to Anderson and Sons to reflect the participation in the business of his sons, Arnold and Oscar. Østen died on October 15 1937; he was preceded in death by his wife on December 25 1929. The business remained in the family, managed by Østen's two sons, and then by his grandsons, Robert and William Anderson. In September 1998, the store was moved to a spacious new building

on the northeast corner of Omaha Street and Third Avenue West, under the management of his great grandson, Jeffrey Anderson and three other local grocery men.

William Olson was born on December 10 1877 in Oshkosh. In 1884 he came to Washburn and in 1889 he started a dray business with a horse and wagon, later adding lumber and other building materials. In February 1898 he was one of a party of six Washburn men who traveled to the Klondike region in the Yukon Territory of northwest Canada to seek their fortunes in the great Klondike gold rush. He returned after two years, continuing to operate his dray and lumber business. In 1890 he married Mary Anderson of Amery. He was active in community affairs, serving on the city council and county board, and as president of the Commercial Club. He died on January 7 1918 by his own hand, apparently despondent over failing eyesight; his wife preceded him in death on May 30 1901. His son Elmer and a cousin, Olaf Olson, purchased the lumber business, operating it as Olson and Olson Lumber Company. When Olaf retired in 1946 the business remained with the Elmer Olson family. It continues in business today as Olson Building Materials, operated by William's great grandsons.