

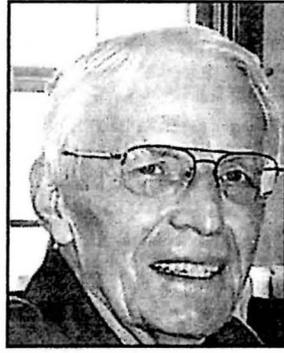
# Whos who in Washburn - Civic officials -1

92

CS 3/17/71

Washburn was fortunate in having many public-spirited men who served in the community in city or county government, some of whom were businessmen who viewed public service as an obligation to the community. Among these men was Hartwig P. Axelberg, born in Norway on January 11 1861. In 1869 the family immigrated to the United States, settling on a farm near Green Bay, where he grew up. He attended the Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis from 1878 to 1882, after which he taught school for a year and then worked briefly as a carpenter. In 1893 he came to Washburn to work as a cashier in the Bank of Washburn. Later he entered into a real estate and insurance business partnership. He served on the county board of supervisors, as deputy county treasurer, and from 1906 to 1912 as city clerk. In 1913 he was elected county judge, serving five six-year terms and then an additional two and one-half years as acting judge during the World War II, until the return of the elected judge from military service. He was married on October 1 1885. He died on September 24 1952.

Emerson Charles Hart was born on November 30 1860, in DeKalb, Indiana. He grew up in Columbia, Indiana, where he attended



**Lars Larson**  
Guest Columnist

grade and normal school. After graduation he was employed in a drug store, then in 1913 he moved to Drummond, where he sold land for a lumber company. In 1924 he moved to Bayfield, where he engaged in the real estate and cattle business, and served as a justice of the peace. In January 1929 he was appointed municipal judge in Washburn and was then re-elected for several terms, retiring in May 1951. He was a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias fraternal lodges and an enthusiastic fisherman and gardener. He died on October 8 1952.

Andrew I. Lien was born on December 2 1870, in Mt. Horeb, the son of Andrew and Julia Anderson Lien. The family moved to Manitowoc and in 1880 to River Falls. He graduated from

high school in River Falls and then completed a business course. In March 1896 he came to Washburn and entered the clothing business with his brother and another partner. In January 1905 he bought out his partners, continuing the business in a store he built in 1910 at 144 Bayfield Street West, until 1929. In April 1933 he was elected city clerk, continuing in that position until his retirement in May 1953. He was a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias fraternal lodges, serving in important offices in both organizations. He married Helen Olson in River Falls in 1897. He died on October 1 1956.

Nels Myhre was born on May 14 1868, in St. Croix County. He completed elementary school there and then studied bookkeeping. When he was 17 years old he began work as a scaler for a lumber company in Mason. On November 29 1890 he married Anna Helfield. They moved to Washburn when he was elected Bayfield County Register of Deeds in 1902. He was re-elected to the office 21 times, serving 44 years, retiring on January 6 1947, the longest serving county officer in Wisconsin. Through the changes in property ownership, and the births, deaths, and marriages that he recorded, he witnessed the transforma-

tion of Bayfield County from a boom lumbering economy to a recreation and agricultural region. He was a member of the Moose and Knights of Pythias and Scandinavian fraternal lodges, and the Christ Lutheran Church. He was also an active sportsman, enjoying bowling, hunting, and marksmanship, serving for many years as secretary of the Washburn Rifle Club. He died August 6 1953.

Nels M. Oscar was born on November 16 1877, in Crawford County, the son of Tobias and Nellie Oscar. When he was 12 years old the family moved to Washburn, where he completed his education. He was then employed in several business concerns in Washburn before being elected Bayfield County clerk in 1902, a position he held for 15 years. In December 1905 he purchased the Washburn Times, serving as editor until he sold the paper in August 1910. In 1921 he moved to Madison, where he as associated with the National Mutual Benefit Insurance Company. He married Florence E. Robinson on May 24 1900 in Washburn. She died in 1929, and he later married Edna Sandahl. He died on June 12 1944, in Madison.