

Citizens Mourn Death of F. J. Scheidenhelm

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at the bottom, which meant sweeping the floors and performing other menial tasks. He was an outstanding example of the type honorably known in those days as "rugged individualist," and what he accomplished, and what he became, was due to the strength of character, the physical and moral courage, the foresight and initiative that rendered him conspicuous in any community he entered or any commercial avenues he invaded.

Goes to Nebraska

It was in 1888 that a "boom" struck Lincoln, Nebraska, and young Scheidenhelm decided to seek his fortune in that western state. Soon after his arrival there he secured a position in one of the city's banks. After four years, however, he came to the definite conclusion that Chicago and its environs offered opportunities for a business career not surpassed by any other locality, and in 1892 he returned here to take a position with the Merchants National Bank of Chicago. Later he joined the Federal Trust and Savings bank, and the American Trust and Savings bank. The change was brought about by the merger of the first two banks by the last one.

August 1, 1908, he came to the State Bank of Evanston as cashier. The following year he was elected vice president and cashier in which capacity he served until 1919, when he became president of the bank. In 1927, he retired as president and became chairman of the board. In 1929 he became vice chairman of the board, again assuming the chairmanship in February of this year upon death of William A. Dyche.

Prominent Among Financiers

In 1920, Mr. Scheidenhelm served as chairman of Group 4 of the Illinois Bankers association. For three years, he was a member of the Executive council of the American Bankers association. In February 1927, he was elected the first president of the Evanston Clearing House association.

Mr. Scheidenhelm took an active part in the building of the second home of the bank on the site of its present building and the present structure is in no small degree due to him. The arrangement of the banking room and its equipment received his special attention. When he came to the State Bank and Trust company, the deposits of the bank were \$1,800,000. Today they are over \$13,000,000.

Comes To Wilmette In 1896

In 1894 Mr. Scheidenhelm was married to Miss Minnie Knauer of Mendota. In 1896 the couple came to Wilmette, which they had selected as their permanent home. For two years they lived in a small house on Ninth street, just north of Central avenue. Early in the spring of 1899 they completed and occupied the pretentious house at 804 Forest avenue which has since been the family home.

Immediately upon settling in Wilmette Mr. Scheidenhelm entered upon active participation in community affairs. He affiliated with the First Congregational church, of which he remained a faithful, active and valued member throughout the years to his death. He served as Village treasurer during 1902, 1903 and 1904, and for the past 29 years as treasurer of the Wilmette Park district. His acknowledged genius for finance resulted in many calls upon his time and efforts, as well as his advice and direction, and neither was ever withheld. His keenest interest in municipal and other public affairs centered in the fiscal policies, his concern being that

the various governmental units, village, park and school, should not be overburdened with debt by entering into ill-advised or needless extensions and improvements. Nothing affecting the welfare of the village as a whole failed to attract his interest and his earnest efforts. Strong in his convictions, and with the courage to express them, he often met with opposition, but was always accorded credit for honesty of purpose and fairness to those with whom he differed. His judgments were usually found to be sound.

Dominant Influence

And so through the years he became a dominant influence in all the affairs of the community having for their purpose the advancement of the civic, religious, educational and cultural lives of his neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens. At Village board and other meetings where matters of public policy were being discussed he was a familiar figure, always ready to respond with an opinion when asked, or quietly listening to the words of others. He thus became a solid timber in the community structure, the strength of which was depended upon in times of need.

Of Mr. Scheidenhelm it may truly be said that "he served his generation well." Wilmette and the north shore owe him much. His reward, it is hoped and believed, will be great.

Among many expressions of regret

at the untimely ending of a life that can ill be spared we quote the following:

Judson F. Stone—Wilmette has lost one of its finest citizens in the death of Frank J. Scheidenhelm. His deep convictions, his sympathetic nature, his loyalty to Wilmette and his friends, his wise advice and counsel will all be sadly missed. His life is an inspiration to all of us to follow in his footsteps.

Lauds Great Devotion

F. Dewey Anderson—In the passing of Frank J. Scheidenhelm Wilmette has lost an estimable citizen. His devotion to his home and family, his high concept of responsibility to his church and the community were characteristic of his thoughts and actions in his everyday life. This community and his many friends will miss Mr. Scheidenhelm.

Harry C. Kinne—I am greatly grieved by the sudden and untimely death of Frank J. Scheidenhelm. Wilmette has lost a true christian gentleman, one of its very best citizens. His devotion to the interests of his Village was recognized by all who knew him. No sacrifice was too great for him to make when he was called to service. Only a few evenings ago he was in attendance at a meeting of citizens who were discussing the welfare needs of our village. His valuable work in connection with the Wilmette Park district for many years is another example of his service. I repeat that Wilmette has lost a great citizen, one whose example may well be followed by all of us.

Life An Inspiration

Robert E. Ricksen—My first reaction to the news that Frank J. Scheidenhelm had suddenly left us was one of infinite regret. He was among the first of

splendid Wilmette people whom I met when I came to the village twenty-two years ago, and I have always held him in highest esteem. His unswerving devotion to the interests of the village through the years has been a challenge to my admiration and an inspiration

Helped Build Wilmette

Earl E. Orner—Frank J. Scheidenhelm came to Wilmette just before the turn of the century. At that time he decided, after careful analysis, that the land along Lake Michigan, north of Evanston, was truly a land of promise, and his keen vision told him that Wilmette was destined to become a leader in north shore communities. He purchased lots in what was then the forest primeval, and there built his permanent home. The arduous duties of business did not lessen his efforts to help in laying the foundation of the Wilmette of today. He was one of the first men with whom I became acquainted in 1902. His cheery "good morning" came from the heart, and his handshake was real and inspiring. Identified with the Wilmette Park district from its organization as financial adviser and treasurer, his knowledge of finance has been invaluable. He knew that public expenditures can be balanced only by taxation, and was always willing to try to work out a procedure that would provide permanent improvements at the least possible cost.

Township Officials Pay High Tribute to F. J. Scheidenhelm

A resolution paying lofty tribute to the late Frank J. Scheidenhelm as an active and devoted citizen of New Trier township for more than forty years, was adopted this week at a meeting of the New Trier Township Board of Auditors and township officers. The resolution, moved by Justice Edmund W. Burke, seconded by Mrs. Gertrude M. Thurston, Township supervisor, and adopted by rising vote, follows:

WHEREAS, on the thirty-first day of July, A. D. 1936, FRANK J. SCHEIDENHELM departed this life; and

WHEREAS, for more than forty years, he has been a resident of New Trier Township and has, at all times, been interested and active in public affairs; and

WHEREAS, he has been a faithful and constant attendant at township meetings, and has discharged to the fullest extent his duties as a citizen of New Trier Township; and

WHEREAS, when called upon, he has given this Board and the township officers the benefit of his wide experience as a banker and financier in the various questions that have come, from time to time, before the Board for consideration, and more especially in problems of a financial nature; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Board that it should express its appreciation of his aid and counsel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, in the death of FRANK J. SCHEIDENHELM, the Township of New Trier has suffered a great loss, and it is fitting that this Board should express its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to this Board by him; and

IT IS ORDERED, that this resolution be spread upon the records of this Board, and that an engrossed copy thereof be forwarded to Minnie K. Scheidenhelm, his widow.

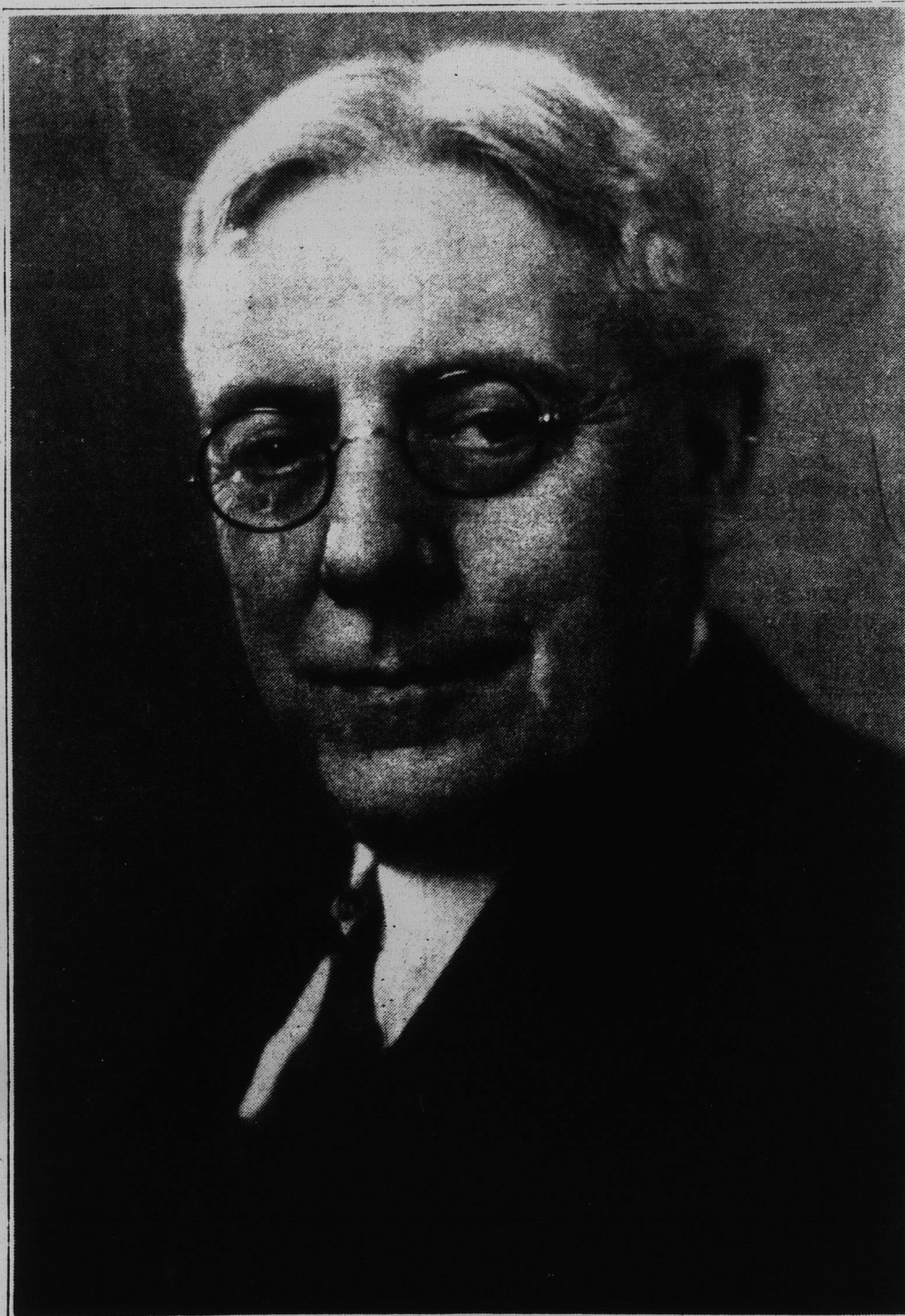
VISIT AT MACKINAC

Dr. and Mrs. C. G. Smith of 1325 Greenwood avenue took their house guests, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Montague of Houston, up to Mackinac island last week. Mr. and Mrs. Montague and their daughter, Jerry, and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Keillhotz and their small daughter, returned to their homes in Houston Monday, after visiting the Smiths for several weeks.

Mrs. Herbert Hakes and daughter, Miss Miriam Cullings, of Edelstein, Ill., are guests this week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert A. McKeighan, 1025 Greenleaf avenue.

Frank J. Scheidenhelm

1867-1936



"He served his generation well"