

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with Dr. R. E. Leidigh

Conducted by Carolyn Wellso  
June 24, 1985  
Marion, Iowa

Transcribed by Sue Daugherty

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Dr. R.E.Leidigh has lived most all of his life in Marion, Iowa. Born on October 11, 1890, he attended the University of Iowa in 1914, went into the service during WWI and set-up practice in Springville, Iowa after the service. He and his wife remained there about two years before setting up practice in Marion in 1921 and retiring on December 30, 1972.

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Leidigh: This is Dr. R. E. Leidigh, born in Marion, Iowa, October 11, 1890 and went to Marion High School from the lower grades through high school, graduated in 1909.

CW: What was it like in Marion growing up?

Leidigh: Marion was a very small town when I was here first. It was a town of about 3,000 people, all mud roads. I carried the Gazette for about 6 years, when I was going to lower grades, had the whole second ward as where I carried the papers. While I was in high school, I worked at Schumack and Seeburn's Department store, started out as a window-washer and sweeping the floors and finally clerking. After I finished high school, I worked for the Milwaukee railroad here in Marion, just as a helper around for everything and then when my father was sent to Davenport, Iowa, I started working for the railroad there as a yard clerk. Then I went firing on the railroad to get money enough to go to college. I spent two years at Cornell College to find out what college was like and learn to take notes. Then I fired for five years while on the Milwaukee railroad and the longest run I had was from Milwaukee to Davenport, 480 miles. I went to University of Iowa in 1914, entered the Dental school and when I was given the notice of what my grades had to be there, I had to have two C's my first year, one C my second year and have a straight B average my third year. I never

