

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH: MR. RAY STEELE

CONDUCTED BY: EMILIE HOPPE

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Ray Steele was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1893. He moved to Cedar Rapids in 1895 where his father worked for Williamson-Hunting Mill Company. Mr. Steele attended Taylor, Madison, and Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. As a young man, he worked for Western Union and the Gazette. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1917 and served as an airplane mechanic in France during World War I. The Douglas Starch Works explosion occurred on the day he disembarked from France in 1919. His memories include downtown during the early 1900's, the Depression, and the founding of Peoples' Bank.

