

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with
Oliver Samuel Wilson

Conducted by Laura Derr
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Transcribed by Renae Blasdel

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Oliver S. Wilson

Mr. Wilson was born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, on August 27, 1887, to Samuel A. Wilson and Minerva Manning Wilson. As a child, he lived in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Mr. Wilson followed in his father's footsteps as a travelling salesman in the seed business. He came to Cedar Rapids in 1920 where he worked for the Hamilton Company for 34 years, all 34 on the road as a travelling salesman.

Mr. Wilson married and had one son.

INTERVIEW TOPICS
CEDAR RAPIDS: THE EARLY DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- 1 --When were you born? Where?
- 2 --How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
- 1 --What are your parents' names?
- 7 --Where did you go to school?
- 2 --Are you married or single?
- 2 --Did you raise a family? How big?
- 3 --What has been your occupation (career) during your adult years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community

1. Transportation
 - Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa City on Crandic)
 - Trolleys (the Interurban)
 - Horses and First Automobiles
 - 25 --Mud roads and the seedling mile
 - Hunter Airport and the first planes
 - Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)
 - 27 --Streetcars
2. Communications
 - 18 --Newspapers
 - 16 --Radios
 - 18 --Advertising
 - Telephones

B. People in the Community

1. Amusements/Recreation
 - 28 --Motion Pictures
 - 13,20 --Cedar Rapids Parks
 - Dances
 - Carnival Week
 - Chautauqua
 - Community Theater
 - Little Gallery
 - Symphony Orchestra
 - 40 --Circus
 - Greene's Opera House
 - Amusement Parks (Alamo)
 - Camps
 - Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)
2. Famous Characters
 - Cherry Sisters
 - Grant Wood
 - Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)
 - 35 --Marvin Cone
 - 16 --Tex Ferrim

