

Louis Block

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was the city's first building contractor. He had a good education, although he never attended college or university. He grew up under the influence and surroundings of building and of architect's plans. In 1904 he and his brothers, Charles and Edward, took over the business of their father under the firm name of Charles Weitz Sons. The firm was reorganized in 1933 as The Weitz Company, Inc., and Fred W. was made president. Under his leadership they built many of the prominent buildings of Des Moines, among them being Hotel Fort Des Moines, the Hubbell Building, the Amos Hiatt Junior High School Building, the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School Building, the Wallace-Homestead Building, the Hoyt Sherman Place Auditorium, the Orpheum Theater, St. Gabriel's Monastery on Merle Hay Highway, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, and St. John's Catholic Church. He erected the Allison Memorial, under contract with its sculptor, Miss Evelyn B. Longman and her architect associate, Henry Bacon, and under supervision of the Allison Memorial Commission of which General Grenville M. Dodge was chairman. The Weitz Company also constructed the Camp Dodge Cantonment during the World War, and fulfilled contracts for more than forty post offices and federal buildings in cities in many states of the country. Mr. Weitz was not only an enthusiast and critic on architecture and building, but also in city planning for Des Moines. He was a director in the Des Moines National Bank, and later in the Iowa-Des Moines National Bank and Trust Company, and was a vice president of the Century Lumber Company since its organization forty years ago.

LOUIS BLOCK was born in Davenport, Iowa, June 30, 1869, and died in Davenport June 3, 1935. Private incineration of the body took place at the Davenport crematorium. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Block. He was graduated from high school in Davenport, and from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1893, and began the practice of law in Davenport the same year. He was associated with James W. Bollinger as Bollinger & Block from January, 1911, until 1931, when the partnership was dissolved and his son, Albert F. Block, joined with him in practice as Block & Block. In 1933 another son, Robert L. Block, and Fred Agnew joined the firm. During all those years Louis Block was actively engaged in the practice of law in which he achieved success, but his thirst for knowledge and his brilliant talents led him into many other lines. He was made a Mason in 1894, became a great student of the mysteries of that order and eventually was honored with receiving the thirty-third degree, the highest rank of the fraternity. He was a past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, a past grand high priest of the Royal Arch Masons, was a member of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Consistory, was Masonic inspector general for the state of Iowa, and was one of the most outstanding Masonic members of the state. He was a student of poetry, archeology, scientific research, and music, and was an ardent

reader of the classics. He was a member of the Davenport Chamber of Commerce, was a trustee of the Davenport Public Museum, and was one of the three trustees of the Iowa Masonic Library at Cedar Rapids. He was a member of the Unitarian church at Davenport.

ERNEST H. FABRITZ was born near Eddyville, Iowa, May 17, 1895, and died in Ottumwa June 20, 1935. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Ottumwa. His parents were Henry and Mary Fabritz. He attended rural and grade schools, and O'Brien Business College, Ottumwa, and at seventeen took up office work which he followed four years, first as an employe of an investment company, and later with a coal company. He then entered on a collegiate course in the Lewis Institute, Chicago, but at the end of two years, or in April, 1918, enlisted in Company H, Three Hundred and Fiftieth Infantry, was sent overseas and spent more than a year in France where he was commissioned a lieutenant of infantry. Returning after the war he engaged in the hardware business, and at the time of his death was president of the Ernest H. Fabritz, Inc., operating two hardware stores in Ottumwa and one in Oskaloosa. He was active in American Legion work, was a director in the Ottumwa Chamber of Commerce, was past president of the Iowa Implement Dealers Association, a member of the Rotary Club, of the Knights of Columbus, and a prominent member of the Catholic church. In 1930 he was elected representative, was re-elected in 1932, and served in the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth general assemblies. In the Forty-fifth he was chairman of the Fish and Game Committee. In 1934 he was the Democratic nominee for Congress in the Fifth District, but was defeated at the polls by Lloyd Thurston, the Republican nominee and then congressman.

ELBRIDGE HOSMER SABIN was born in Matawan, New Jersey, January 10, 1865, and died in the National Military Home hospital, Sawtelle, California, January 30, 1934. He came to Iowa with his parents, Henry and Esther Hotchkiss Sabin, in 1871. He was graduated from the Clinton (Iowa) High School in 1882 and from the State University of Iowa with the degree of A. B. in 1886. He studied law and practiced in Clinton, Denver, Colorado, Texas and elsewhere. In 1898 he enlisted in the First Texas Volunteer Cavalry and served on the border throughout the Spanish War. In 1900 he engaged with his father, Henry Sabin, in conducting a teachers' agency in Des Moines, and in 1914 removed with his father to Southern California. There he operated a lemon ranch at Chula Vista, south of San Diego, and at the time of his death had been in the real estate and insurance business in Chula Vista. He left a brother, Edwin L. Sabin, of Hemet, California.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM was born in La Salle County, Illinois, February 28, 1870, and died in a hospital in Fort Dodge, Iowa, July 10, 1935. Burial was in Union Cemetery, Humboldt, Iowa. His parents were

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