



Biographies of Past Presidents

First President of Vermilion Rotary Club, Albert H. Hart Sr.

Albert was born in Vermilion in 1888. He had two sisters, Alice and Bertha (Wood). Albert's parents were Peter and Emma. His father was born in Hessen Cassel, a State in what is now Germany. Many early Vermilion families came from this place in Europe during the nineteenth century. Peter was a farmer in Vermilion. Albert and Emily had two children, Albert H. Jr., (he is known as Jim around Vermilion), and Jane, (Pinkney) Hart. His son, Albert H. Jr (Jim) is still living at this writing (February 2008).

Albert purchased a building where Lee's Landing is today on August 2nd 1912 and went into the drug store business. He then purchased the building which exists today on the Northwest corner of Liberty Avenue and North Main Street, installed a central heating system, made changes in the interior, rebuilt the store front and moved his drug store over to this location. Interestingly, along with Albert's drug store business, the building occupied many other businesses, and at one time, the Masonic Lodge occupied space on the second floor. Albert's son, "Jim" took over the "Hart's Drug Store" business when he finished his formal pharmacy training. Albert Sr. passed on in 1956 from Parkinson's disease. At this writing, there isn't any information found concerning Albert's presidency other than he took office in 1928 to 1929, the Rotary fiscal year.

Sources: Rich Tarrant
Riddle Funeral Home
Albert H Hart Jr. (Jim)
Biography written by: Bob Kyle