

Directory of Birmingham Businesses

Thumb-nail Sketches of Birmingham Business Leaders

It is appropriate that C. E. Newkirk should be the owner of the largest saddle-horse stables in Michigan, for he is also the state's oldest figure in point of service in the riding-stable business.

It is in recognition of this fact that Mr. Newkirk will preside over the 1932 Northville Horse Show of the Wayne County Fair, beginning today, as chairman of the committee which has headed for the past 15 consecutive years.

Mr. Newkirk has literally grown up with horses. He was born in Newkirk, Okla., a town founded by his grandfather, which is in the heart of the horse country and the county seat of one of the four counties included in the famous "101 Ranch."

Always true to the tradition of his environment, he joined the "101 Ranch Show" at the age of 18, and in three seasons travelled all over the United States in the role of branchmaster, sharpshooter and larist artist.

After joining his parents in Detroit, he opened a riding stable in Dearborn 16 years ago, which he still owns. A year ago he opened a second stable on Wood Maple road, which, with 400 acres of land and stable room for 150 horses, earns the title of Michigan's largest.

Though not as young as he used to be, Mr. Newkirk still thinks of all the young colts at his stables, and can still tell a good rider from a novice. He was the judge of Michigan's first state rodeo, held in Detroit in 1919 and 1920, as well as of the Kentucky state rodeo at Louisville in 1930.



Photo Photo
Mr. Newkirk

One of Birmingham's most recent business ventures is the Motor Service Garage, 452 South Woodward avenue, which opened six weeks ago. The proprietorship is vested in other and son, who, though they have been engaged individually in several different business and professional undertakings in Birmingham and in Florida, are now associated in their new joint partnership.

J. B. McBride, the younger member of the combination, has lived in Birmingham most of his life. He began attending public schools here, but finished in St. Petersburg, Fla., after his family removed there for his mother's health and where his father, Ed McBride, now the senior partner in the garage, opened a real estate agency.

He also attended the University of Florida, and at the time proposed to be a civil engineer. A period of time as a surveyor, as well as trading entries into the insurance business and other fields convinced him, however, that the mechanical road of mind which was characterized from childhood had best fitted him for an occupation in the field of the automobile.

The garage offers an operation in Birmingham in the form of United Motors Service, consisting of equipment designed especially for testing and servicing the electrical parts of automobiles.



Photo Photo
D. B. McBride

Harry A. Mudge—who can remember when Whitehead and Mitchell published The Eccentric and when Birmingham boasted not more than a score of telephones—might be a most colorful character today rather than an electrical contractor of 23 years' experience if uncontrollable circumstances had not intervened.

Born and raised on a farm near Franklia, Mr. Mudge has lived his entire life within three miles of Birmingham and attended the Birmingham public schools. His first real "job" was as a meat-cutter for A. R. Parks in the latter's market at the corner of Woodward and Maple avenues.

He enjoyed the work and determined to remain in the business, but confinement indoors, the hot weather, impaired his health and doctor's orders forced him to leave the market after three and a half years.

He had previously done some electrical work, and turned naturally to that again for his occupation, remaining in it ever since. He worked for different companies in Royal Oak, Rochester, Farmington and Birmingham, including the Leland Electric Company here, by which he was employed just 22 days short of 18 years.

Three years ago he entered business for himself, and has conducted it ever since from his home at 264 North Woodward avenue.

Mr. Mudge is a devoted Mason, having been a member of the Birmingham Lodge for eight years, and



Photo Photo
Mr. Mudge

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