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Thumb-nail Sketches of Birmingham Business Leaders

From a single Model T Ford truck and trailer to four modern trucks hauling 16 tons of freight per day at the maximum between Detroit and Pontiac is the history of the Royal Oak-Birmingham Express in the 13 years of its existence.

Its proprietor, E. E. Meeker, began the enterprise after moving to Birmingham from Royal Oak after trading homes with a Birmingham resident who desired a change of location and found Mr. Meeker in the same mood.

Mr. Meeker and his family came to Birmingham at the last point in a gradual advance northward from Detroit where he was born and where he attended Central High School. Educated in the trade of mechanic and tool maker, he spent several years in the experimental engineering departments of the Cadillac and Ford Motor Companies before engaging in the express business here.

Mr. Meeker is a confirmed lover of the outdoors, and takes high delight in camping trips at regular intervals with members of his family.

His spare moments he devotes to the pleasure of "daubing around in oils," and he has, above all, his paint pictures of sail boats. The walls of his home on Wallace street are dotted with attractive specimens of his work.

Ever since he was a child when he formed the habit of carrying home wild flowers and other growing things to transplant them in his mother's garden, Emil G. Olin was destined to become a landscape architect and tree surgeon.

Born in Landskrona, Sweden, Mr. Olin came to the United States at the age of four with his parents, settling in southern Illinois, where he attended school and first developed an interest in the things of Nature that was to abide with him up to the present.

He has been in the tree surgery and landscape forestry business in Birmingham, where he is also the village forester, since 1921, coming here after a long period of training and experience in various other communities.

The proprietor of one of Birmingham's newest automobile repair shops is Ernest Carson, who opened his garage at 159 Brownell street on Aug. 1 after 16 years of experience as an automobile mechanic.

Though new to independent business circles, Mr. Carson has been well known for years in Birmingham where his friends know him intimately as "Ernie." Just previous to entering business for himself, he was employed for nearly two years with the Oliver Cadillac Company here, and before that time worked for about three years for the Shaw Motor Sales Company.

Mr. Carson first entered on his career as an automobile mechanic at the age of 18 years in Pontiac where he had worked with his family 23 years ago from Ypsilanti, Mich., the place of his birth. Part of his employment there was with the Oakland-Pontiac Company, which, together with his associations with the two Birmingham concerns, has equipped him to specialize in servicing Oakland, Pontiac, Cadillac and LaSalle cars.

Mr. Carson's particular recreation is tennis, to which he regularly devotes his holidays. Though he doesn't consider himself qualified for tournament competition, he does hold his own with the average run of amateur players, and enjoys the game for all it is worth.

While employed for the City of Detroit in 1920, he managed the exhibition of tree surgical work at the Michigan State Fair and Exposition.



—Arnold Photo
Mr. Meeker



—Arnold Photo
Mr. Olin



—Arnold Photo
Mr. Carson

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