



NORMAN M. WILCHINSKI
1877-1937

NORMAN MORRIS WILCHINSKI was born in the Mississippi River town of Louisiana, Missouri, December 25, 1877, and died in his office in the Younker Brothers department store in Des Moines, June 26, 1937. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines. His parents were Morris and Agnes (Berkson) Wilchinski, natives of Poland and Germany. He came to Des Moines with his parents at the age of two, and attended the public schools and two years of high school. In 1892, one year after his father's death, he entered the employ of Younker Brothers as a messenger boy, commencing his business career at a salary of \$3.00 a week. Because of his business acumen and qualities of leadership, he rapidly rose to executive positions through the office division of the store. He was admitted to the firm as secretary in 1909, and in 1919 was elected president, succeeding Herman Younker. Under his leadership the Younker Brothers store grew from a mercantile establishment occupying a small four-story building to the largest department store in Iowa, occupying a block long building. He gave to all Iowa a store of which all citizens could be proud, a public institution founded and built on the ideal that the customer was always right. Although he shunned all personal publicity, his policies were a standard for the whole retail industry of the nation and the organization was recognized as one of the finest examples of its kind. In 1917 he was married to Grace Kendall of Des Moines. In 1920 a daughter, Elaine, was born to them. Both survive him. He was chairman of the Des Moines Water Board of which he had been a member since it was founded in 1919. He was a member of the Temple B'nai Jeshurun, the B'nai Brith, the Des Moines Club and the Hyperion Field Club. He was a keen and avid reader, not only of the leading periodicals of his day, but was also a student of the great writers of the world of literature. He believed there never was a better state than Iowa, and believed in Des Moines and its future as no one else. For twenty years he had been a member of the Greater Des Moines Committee. That body passed a memorial resolution of which the following is an excerpt: "Des Moines has never possessed a citizen of wider vision or greater value. His wise counsel and tireless energy suggested and carried to success unnumbered projects for our city's welfare and to all of them he gave unceasingly of his time and his funds. He had the admiration and the affection of us all and there was not a man on our Directory Board more loved and honored. All Des Moines loved him for his kind and understanding heart and unfailing generosity to every deserving cause and person. He leaves as a priceless heritage the deep esteem and affection of his fellow citizens."

RICHARD PHILIP BAKER was born at Condoover, England, near Shrewsbury, February 3, 1866, and died at his home in Iowa City, Iowa, August 13, 1937. Burial was in Oakland Cemetery, Iowa City. He entered Clifton College at Bristol in 1877, holding scholarships continuously in science by open competition, and was school exhibitor on leaving in

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