

leadership that has characterized the enviable reputation of Mercantile Bank in past years.

Some notable Directors, Officers, and Employees who have served Mercantile Bank past and present are:

Henry Blomer .....	1906-1907
Chauncey H. Castle .....	1906-1910
Samuel W. Eldred .....	1906-1927
Henry C. Pfeiffer .....	1906-1911
Harvey G. Riggs .....	1906-1920
John L. Soebbing .....	1906-1928
William Somerville .....	1906-1911
Aldo Sommers .....	1906-1915
Fred Wilms .....	1906-1911
Joseph J. Michael .....	1907-1949
H.P. Walton .....	1910-1911
Henry E. Knapheide .....	1910-1936
G.W. Menke .....	1910-1927
J.F. Pieper .....	1911-1928
E.C. Schureman .....	1912-1918
Timothy P. Castle .....	1915-1933
John H. Sieckmann .....	1918-1965
Rome Boekenhoff .....	1920-1954
Roy Bennett .....	1927-1947
William F. Gerdes .....	1927-1952
George H. Wilson .....	1927-1947
Arthur C. Fifer .....	1928-1939
Edgar H. Wisherd .....	1928-1959
Wilton E. White .....	1929-1935
Andrew C. Schnack .....	1934-1955
Roderick P. Miller .....	1940 to Date
Carl G. Schmiedeskamp .....	1947 to Date
Edgar F. Schaefer .....	1947-1955
George F. Berry .....	1950-1956
Lee M. Howerter .....	1953 to Date
Clarence A. Gerdes .....	1955 to Date
Elmer H. Wilson .....	1955 to Date
Robert R. Bunting .....	1956-1960
Richard W. Spake .....	1956-1966
Charles M. George .....	1959 to Date
Corneilus F. Ridder .....	1961 to Date
John M. Winters .....	1965 to Date
Fred A. Shinkay .....	1966 to Date

### Merkels, Inc.

1907 organized under firm name of Heim Merkel. John M. Merkel, Sr., and Arthur C. Merkel were two of the officers when Heim Merkel was organized.

1908 incorporated under the name of Merkel Hardware Company, now a family owned business.

Walter Merkel and Albert O. Merkel joined the firm in 1911.

Allen H. Merkel and Carl E. Merkel joined the firm in 1913.

Arthur C., Allen H., Albert O., and Carl E. Merkel served on the until 1927 at which time the corporate name was changed to Merkel Brothers Hardware Company.

In 1937 the property at 1710 Spring Street purchased and enlarged in 1939.

In 1938 the store was expanded, doubling the space.

In 1944 the four story building located at 123 Third Street was purchased for the sale and service appliances and building products.

In 1949 the capitalization of the corporation tripled.

In 1950 John E. Merkel and Russell C. Merkel led the firm.

In 1957 the firm purchased the property at Broadway, opening a Marine department, also dealing in power mowers, tractors, and other motor driven equipment.

In 1962 they purchased the building located 1717-1719 Broadway.

In 1963 the name was changed to Merkels, Inc.

In 1964 they enlarged their property at 1717 Broadway and completed a modernization program.

In 1966 they purchased three properties on 1728 Spring on which they erected a modern sales and service unit for most of their major lines. The building at 123 North 3rd Street was sold.

In 1952 John E., Russell C. and Florence K. Merkel were elected to the Board and have since served as officers of the corporation.

At one time the firm operated stores at 12th and State Streets and 8th and State Streets.

At present they stock and sell seven major lines covering very large territories in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri. They also serve a number of customers in various other states.

### Bob Meyer Garage

Robert Meyer has been repairing cars in the same location for fifty years. He opened the Bob Meyer Garage at 620 South Tenth on 14 November 1921. He was a young man then—only nineteen years old—had spent two years training with Pfanschmidt and Marshall at Fifth and Vermont. He is now repairing the cars of the third generation of families. His employees, Lester Althoff and John (Jack) Meyer have worked for him twenty-five years and nine years respectively.

When Meyer began in the garage business not all that was needed was a screwdriver, feet, and hands.

"We didn't have special wrenches for everything then, nor the portable 'electronic diagnostic machine' that does most of the thinking for us now", he says.

Back in 1923 Meyer and his father-in-law, the late Herman Wulfmeyer, also decided to sell new cars and they obtained the Dort Agency. Manufacturing the Dort continued for only about a year after that and was liquidated in 1924. Meyer never went into a new car business again.

According to Bob Meyer, the Dort was a good car. The touring car sold for \$1,170; a four door sedan