

Wilbur L. Parkin

W. L. Parkin, a pioneer in the Marshfield dairy industry, began his career here when he purchased the McCrillis Ice Cream Company in 1928. Under his leadership, the business grew. In 1941 he watched the construction of the new Parkin Ice Cream and Dairy Company plant here, and later helped establish distributing plants in Medford and Merrill.

Wilbur L. Parkin (the initial was once “Q.” but the letter in his signature was so often mistaken for “L.” that he changed it to end the petty annoyance) was born August 12, 1879 near Pine Lake, Minnesota. He married Verta Cowles at Mantorville, Minnesota in 1902. The marriage ended in divorce. On October 15, 1929, he married Adela (Lawrenz) Neeb at Rockford, Illinois. Her marriage to Henry Neeb, who died in 1919, took place in 1916. W. L. Parkin had two children, John and Evelyn, as well as a step-daughter, Bernice (Neeb) Drobka.

In addition to his business interests, Parkin maintained an intense interest in the municipal utility, which he served as a commissioner for more than two decades. He became a member of Marshfield’s Water and Light Commission when it organized in 1934. After a 22-year tenure, failing health forced his resignation in 1956. He served as president of the commission for 12 of those years.

Parkin, a victim of Parkinson’s Disease, passed away July 4, 1959 at the age of 79 in Marshfield. His wife, Adela, died September 29, 1964. They are buried in the Hillside Lutheran Cemetery.

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