

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin
County
Historian
7-8-82



DR. WILLIAM C. WELLS 1873-1959

"I have one strict philosophy about business. Always remember, it pays to give a little more than you get paid for."—Dr. W. C. Wells

When Dr. William C. Wells died at age 85 he was the dean of Medina dentists who had maintained a dental practice continuously for over 60 years. He was born in Moline, Illinois and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. Following graduation he practiced dentistry in Tampa, Florida for one year prior to his coming to Medina. His first office was located in the McKnight block when he became associated for one year with Dr. Thomas Agnew. At the time of the Spanish American War Dr. Wells went into an office of his own, this time where the Penny Store is now located. When the Odd Fellows building was built, now Viking Motor Inn, he moved his office there until 1914 when he returned to the McKnight Block. During his latter years of practice he used his home which he built in 1914 at 820 West Center Street. For many years he specialized in dental plate work achieving a fine reputation for it. He kept abreast of the times and was always interested in new ideas from which he used the best. He believed strongly that vitamins were the secret to good health and that if you didn't feel well some vitamin was lacking.

Dr. Wells was a man of many avocations of which music topped the list. Along with studying dentistry he also studied music and became quite proficient at many instruments including piano, coronet and violin. He did however, specialize in playing the organ and was organist of the Medina Lodge F & A M for 53 years. He also devoted 27 years of his life as organist for the First Baptist Church. During the summers of 1892, 1893 and 1894 Dr. Wells played in an orchestra in the Adirondack Mountains. He once said "there is something in all kinds of music whether it is symphonic or jitter-bug."

Dr. Wells was also a great lover of the out-of-doors including fishing, gardening and travel. He maintained a flower garden with a wide variety of beautiful roses which were his favorite. In earlier years he took fishing trips on the Great Lakes and Lake Geneva using his own boat which he launched on the canal. He and his wife Betty often averaged seven thousand miles of travel by auto each year, covering the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Wood working was another hobby that Dr. Wells pursued. An example of his work is included here which is a cathedral clock seven feet in height. Dr. Wells spent over five years carving it by hand beginning in 1903 during his early residence in Medina. Upon his death the clock was accepted by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. under the Development Division to be displayed as part of early Twentieth Century America. Another of his carvings of local interest was a replica of an organ in the First Baptist Church.

"He has achieved success who has live well, laughed often and love much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children, who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it....who has looked for the best in others and given the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory is a benediction." — Mrs. A.J. Stanley