

EARHART, GEORGE I

George I. EARHART, of the EARHART Packing Company of Portland, and long regarded as one of the energetic business men of that city, is a "Buckeye" by birth, but has been a resident of Portland since the days of his youth. Mr. EARHART was born in Darke county, Ohio, October 11, 1877, and is a son of Samuel S. and Elizabeth (SMITH) EARHART, both of whom were born in that same county. Samuel S. EARHART, who is now living at Portland, associated with his son George in the operations of the EARHART Packing Company, was a brick mason in the earlier years of his active career and 'then became the proprietor of a grain elevator at Burkettsville, Ohio. After operating that elevator for about eighteen years he disposed of his interests at Burkettsville and moved to Portland, where for about ten years he was engaged in the grocery business before becoming connected with his present line of operations. He and his wife have four children, all living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Pearl, Earl and Ethel.

George I. EARHART received his schooling in the schools of Darke county, where he grew to manhood, and after leaving school took up the trade of brick mason, following his father's early vocation, and was so engaged until 1915, when he and his father bought the ECKMAN packing plant at Portland, the only meat packing plant in Jay county, and have since been operating the same under the name of the EARHART Packing Company. Upon taking over this plant Mr. EARHART made extensive additions and improvements to the same, putting it into up-to-date shape and installing a refrigerating plant, and the company now is turning out around 900 head of cattle a year and about 2,500 head of hogs, their trade being largely confined to Portland and the nearby towns, their delivery system covering all parts of the county. In 1921 they established a retail meat market at Ft. Recovery. Mr. EARHART and his father are Democrats.

In March, 1903, George I. EARHART was united in marriage to Bertha ECKMAN, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, daughter of William and Lottie (HOFFMAN) ECKMAN, and to this union two children have been born, Edward and Gladys.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.216. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut