

GUEDEL, WALTER M

WALTER M. GUEDEL, head of the GUEDEL Manufacturing Company of Portland and long recognized as one of the leaders in industrial circles in that city, is a native of Ohio but has been a resident of Indiana practically all the time since the days of his childhood. Mr. GUEDEL was born on January 1, 1886, and is a son of John and Mary (LENNES) GUEDEL, the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania. John GUEDEL was born in the republic of Switzerland. In 1868 he came to this country and located in Ohio, where he became engaged in farming and where he married. Some years later he moved with his family to Indianapolis and in that city became employed in the saw works of the E. C. Atkins Company and established his home in that city. He and his wife had ten children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Samuel, Malinda, Charles, Louis, William, Arthur, Clarence, Henry and John.

Walter M, GUEDEL was but a child when his parents moved from the home they had first established in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he was born, to Indianapolis and in the latter city he received his early schooling. Upon completing the course in the high school there he took a course in Indiana University and then entered the force of teachers employed by the Government in the Philippine Islands, manual training being his specialty, and was thus engaged in the islands for some time. Upon the completion of this term of service Mr. GUEDEL returned to the United States and for two years thereafter was employed as a bookkeeper in the office of the Bimel-Ashcraft Company at Dermott, Ark., being then transferred from that office to the office of the Bimel Company at Portland, since which time he has made his home in Portland. For seven years Mr. GUEDEL served as secretary and treasurer of the Bimel Company at Portland, or until in August, 1919, when he started in his present line, proprietor of the plant of the GUEDEL Manufacturing Company, and has built up a thriving business. Mr. GUEDEL's specialty is dashes for automobiles, the Ford Company being the chief consumer of his product in that line. Bread boards are a considerable by-product of the GUEDEL factory. Mr. GUEDEL is a member of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the board of directors of the Country Club, a member of the board of directors of the Kiwanis Club, a 32 Mason and a member of the local lodge of Eagles. He is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

In 1910 Walter M. GUEDEL was united in marriage to Hazel BIMEL, daughter of Fred and Margaret BIMEL, of Portland, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, John and Barbara. Mr. and Mrs. GUEDEL have a pleasant home at Portland and take an interested part in the city's general social activities.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.71-72. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.