

PARKS, WILLIAM M

William M. PARKS, proprietor of the popular Ford garage at Portland and one of the best known young automobile men in this part of Indiana, was born at Richmond, this state, October 2, 1892, and is a son of Leonidas L. and Jennie (RANDOLPH) PARKS, both of whom were born in Preble county, Ohio. Leonidas L. PARKS has for years been a teacher in the public schools of Richmond. He and his wife have seven children.

Reared at Richmond, William M. PARKS supplemented the schooling received in the public schools of that city by a course in Mrs. Hiser's Business College there and thus equipped for clerical work entered the office of the Gaar-Scott Company in that city, where he remained for about two years, at the end of which time he was transferred to that company's offices at Laporte, Ind., in connection with the operations of the M. Rumeley Company, heavy farm machinery. Mr. PARKS remained with these people about three years and then went to Toledo as secretary to the treasurer of the Willys-Overland Company. Not long afterward, however, his services were secured by the Ford Company as division head of the purchasing department of that company and he went to Detroit, where he remained with the Ford organization for five years. By that time he had determined to enter business for himself and in casting about for a location decided on Portland. On August 1, 1920, in association with his brother, Ernest PARKS, he bought the Ford garage at Portland, together with the local agency for the Ford cars and tractors, and has since been engaged in business there, proprietor of what is regarded as one of the most completely equipped garages in this section of the state. Twelve persons are employed in the place and business is carried on in snappy style.

Mr. PARKS is a Republican. He is a member of the local Kiwanis Club at Portland and he and his wife are attendants at the Methodist Episcopal church. On June 19, 1915, William M. PARKS was united in marriage to Ruby HUNTER, who was born and reared at Indianapolis, daughter of Albert A. and Ada (SCHAFFER) HUNTER, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Rubynelle, born on March 1, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. PARKS have a pleasant home at Portland and take an interested part in the general social activities of the city.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.66-67. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut