

## RATHFON, HERSCHEL E

Herschel E. RATHFON, secretary of the Caar Canning Company of Redkey and one of the best known and most progressive young business men of that city, is a native Hoosier and has lived in this state all his life. Mr. RATHFON was born in Wayne county on August 21, 1885, and is a son of John D. and Luella (BALDWIN) RATHFON, both of whom also were born in Indiana. John D. RATHFON, who prior to his death at Redkey in 1916 had been for years engaged in the mercantile business in that city, in his earlier life had been a school teacher and had a wide acquaintance throughout this part of the state. He and his wife were the parents of three children, one of whom, Everett R. RATHFON, died in 1906, the other besides the subject of this sketch being the latter's sister, Effie. Herschel E. RATHFON's early years were spent in Wayne and Henry counties, where his father had been engaged in teaching and in operating a general store, and he was quite a lad when his parents moved to Redkey, where his father became engaged in the mercantile business, proprietor there of a general store. He was graduated from the Redkey high school in 1904 and upon leaving school became associated with his father in business and was so associated until the latter's death in 1916. For two years thereafter he maintained the business and then, in 1918, sold the store in order to give his undivided attention to the affairs of the Caar Canning Company, with which concern he had become associated at the time of its organization in 1917, when he was elected secretary of the company. The plant of the Caar Canning Company, one of the best equipped plants of its kind in Indiana, was erected "from the ground up" and is, therefore, thoroughly up to date in its equipment, and its affairs are managed along the same progressive lines. Tomatoes form the chief product of this plant, which has a capacity of 1,000 cases of No. 3 goods and 1,000 five-gallon cans of pulp daily, in season employing about 135 persons. The company was organized in 1917 with a capital of \$20,000, and the officers besides Mr. RATHFON are David E. COOK, president; Clement ARTHUR, vice-president, and Harry L. AUKERMAN, treasurer.

On November 27, 1917, Herschel E. RATHFON was united in marriage to Floss M. SELVEY, who was born and reared at Dunkirk, a daughter of Dr. Samuel and Alice (WILSON) SELVEY, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Walter F., born on February 2, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. RATHFON are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Redkey and are Democrats. Mr. RATHFON is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Redkey and the chapter at Dunkirk, and he and his wife are members of the Order of Eastern Star. Mr. RATHFON also is a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen at Redkey. He and his wife have a pleasant home at Redkey and have ever taken an interested part in the community's general social activities.

**SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.347. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.**