

10. Education

11. Degrees

Graduate of Jamesville, Wisconsin Business
College in 1878

12. Other applicable information

Republican

- At age 16, he farmed land his father bought in North
County, Iowa
- Later he became a bookkeeper and salesman with
an agricultural implement firm in Forest City, Iowa

Corn Has Improved

Farmers who have made comparison of the condition of the corn in the fields, covering the past two weeks up to last Saturday are with one accord impressed with the improvement made in its condition. Two weeks ago water would squeeze from the cob, while later the cob became reasonable dry. We do not know how Saturday's snow has affected it, but some say that the outside moisture will in no way damage it to the extent the internal moisture did.

AVIATOR HALL IS TO LECTURE HERE

This Birdman Has Nine German Airplanes to His Credit—Decorated by Four Nations.

"For the past week or more, the clouds have been hanging low, the atmosphere is dark and murky, but during the night, last night the wind shifted and this morning it is as clear as could be wished for. During the last few days, the atmosphere about the hangars has been in keeping with the conditions above, and the aviators are a restless bunch. But with the clearing of the heavens, every one is busy. During the enforced rest, the airplanes have all been gone over, the rapid fire guns have been tuned up, and everything is in readiness for action, and the men are on tip-toe anxious to get going. As soon as possible after breakfast, they are off singly, and in squadrons. The reconnaissance planes are the first to get away, and within an incredibly short time, the wireless begins to work, and information is given of the presence of a number enemy planes coming



FORMER CITIZEN DIED LAST SUNDAY

Former Well Known Business Man, Banker and Politician of Forest City Passed Away Sunday.

Gilbert S. Gilbertson, for many years one of the prominent men of the state, and a resident of Forest City, died Sunday morning at the Iowa Lutheran hospital in Des Moines.

At the time of his death Mr. Gilbertson had given up numerous business connections and interests. He had retired from active association with the Iowa Trust and Savings bank, the Interstate Business Men's Accident association and the Northwestern Land and Colonization company, several years previous to his last sickness. He had at times held the presidencies of these firms, and was the organizing spirit of many successful insurance and banking businesses. Mr. Gilbertson had been long in the service of the republican party in Iowa. He had earned all of his honors by hard and unceasing effort. He began his political career as clerk of the District Court of Winneshago county in 1889, and held the office for eight years, being re-elected in 1890, 1892, 1894 and 1896. He resigned the position in 1896 following his election as state senator from the forty-first senatorial district.

Four years later Mr. Gilbertson was nominated to the state treasurership on the republican ticket, being later re-elected in 1902 and 1904. In 1900 his majority at the election for the office was 100,000. Not only in the more prominent places of trust but in the many smaller offices he held he served the public interest. He served as city treasurer of Forest City for ten years, and was secretary of the board of education for seven years. For nine years he served his party as chairman of the Winneshago county republican central committee.

During most of the years he was in business here and in politics he owned and controlled the Winneshago County Summit.

Mr. Gilbertson was born at Spring Grove, Minnesota, October 17, 1852. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1875, and for some years his father lived in Forest City. He later came to Forest City and worked in some of the business places previous to his election to county office in 1885. In 1889 he was married to Miss Belle D. Whitney. Two daughters, Mrs. E. C. West and Mrs. E. H. Scripps, and Mrs. Gilbertson survive him, and reside in Des Moines.

For some years past Mr. Gilbertson's health has been poor, having suffered from four strokes of paralysis, and has been in the hospital most of the time since his visit to Forest City during the early summer. Funeral services were held from the St. John's Lutheran church in Des Moines Tuesday, conducted by Rev. A. B. Leamer, and burial was in the mausoleum at Glendale cemetery. Several of his former business associates here attended the funeral.

The Cars Skidded.

A number of Ford "skiddings" took place Monday when the light snow fall of Saturday started to melt. Clarence Fritz broke a rear wheel on his car while turning the corner near T. E. Jensen's. H. N. Macomber stopped his car just before it entered the front door of the Summit office the same afternoon. A. J. Pinkney and E. J. Wartchow became tangled up with their cars.

Forest Theatre

Forest City, Iowa

3, 1917

50 Cents Each

When the clouds are dark and a fight in the air is imminent.

All this is the product of a feverish imagination of our reporter, who has never seen a fighting plane, and has no more idea of the sensations experienced by one who has actually seen it in the service, than you have, gentle reader. But there will be a man here next Monday evening at the Forest theatre who has had just the same sort of experience.

suffer for food and clothing. I wanted that the best of every-

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MEET ME ON THE CORNER

42nd Street and Harwood Drive

Banker, developer, politician co-founder of Gil-Mar Park

By RENDA LUTZ

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Gilbert S. Gilbertson was a successful Iowa public servant and a prosperous businessman, but it was his interest in residential development that endures today.

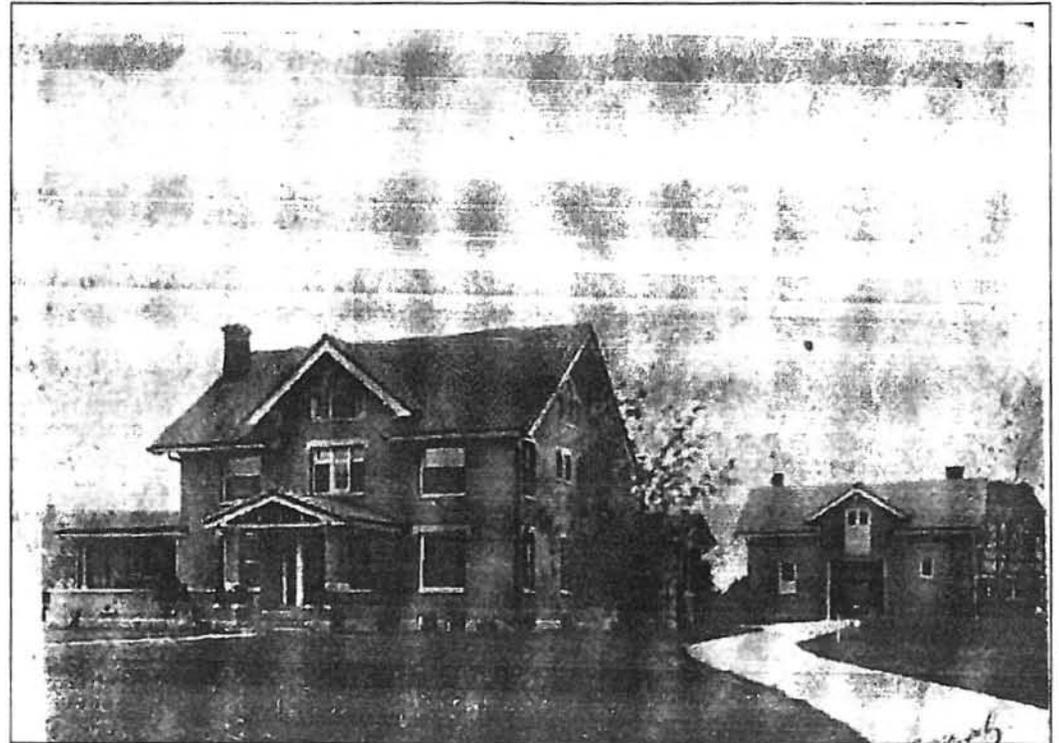
Early successes in northern Iowa led Gilbertson to Des Moines and a partnership with William B. Martin. Martin, 17 years Gilbertson's senior, was president of Iowa Trust and Savings Bank while Gilbertson served as vice president. Gilbertson was also president of Interstate Business Men's Accident Association, later known as Interstate Assurance Co.

The two men formed Inter-State Realty Co. in the early 1900s to develop a luxurious neighborhood between 42nd and 45th streets, from Center Street to Ingersoll Avenue. Gilbertson and Martin used the first three letters of their last names to designate the development.

Gil-Mar Park was platted in 1908 in a former cherry orchard. It became the first residential area in the city with circular streets and green parks at the intersections. Martin and Gilbertson built homes for themselves in the new neighborhood. Gilbertson crafted a roomy 2½-story home with five bedrooms and a spacious garage and carriage house on a large lot at the corner of 42nd Street and Harwood Drive for his wife and two daughters.

Gilbertson was born in Spring Grove, Minn., on Oct. 17, 1863. He attended a business college in Janesville, Wis., as a young teenager. At age 16, Gilbertson farmed land his father bought in Worth County, Iowa, before securing a position as a bookkeeper and salesman with an agricultural implement firm in Forest City.

He began his political career at age 25 when he was elected clerk of the district court of Winnebago County. He was re-elected three



SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

42nd Street: This is a copy of an old picture of Gilbert S. Gilbertson's home on 42nd Street in Des Moines, part of the Gil-Mar Park neighborhood. The area was the first in the city with circular streets and green parks at the intersections.

more times, before he was elected state senator from the 41st district, which was Mitchell, Worth and Winnebago counties in 1896. Four years later, Gilbertson was elected on the Republican ticket to the office of state treasurer by a 100,000-vote majority.

Gilbertson, who had also served as city treasurer of Forest City for 10 years and the secretary of the town's board of education for seven years, proved over three terms to be a capable custodian of state money. Gilbertson's years as state treasurer overlapped several of Martin's years as secretary of state.

Belle D. Whitney became the woman supporting the ambitious man when the couple wed on Aug. 29, 1889.

Gilbertson became one of Iowa's best known bankers at the turn of the 20th century. He organized the Forest City National Bank in 1895, the same year he formed the Forest City Loan & Abstract Co. He went on to serve as president or an officer of four other banks in northern Iowa and one bank in Minnesota. He was also proprietor and publisher of the Winnebago Summit.

In addition to the Inter-State Realty Co., Gilbertson also served as general manager of the Northwestern Land & Colonization Co. The company purchased 12 townships in North Dakota for development.

Gilbertson's business interests were slowed by his battle with a blood disease. He and his wife

lived in California for awhile hoping for an improvement in his health before returning to his Gil-Mar Park home in 1917. He died at Lutheran Hospital of a stroke at age 54 on Nov. 25, 1917.

An editorial in the Des Moines Tribune the following day praised the legacy Gilbertson left. "He was a genial man. . . . He did everybody a favor if it was in his power." It was also noted, "He would have been a wealthy man had he lived."

Gilbertson's Gil-Mar Park home was originally marked as 640 42nd St. By the 1930s it had been renumbered 620 42nd St. The home is still a private residence.

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