

This document came from a binder of notable Elmhurst, IL citizens that was kept by librarians for many years. No further information is available about where the information came from. 2010

Elmhurst-  
Biographies - Alben Bates, Sr.

# Elect Senior Bates Board Chairman Of Elmhurst National

Another honor has been conferred on Alben Bates Sr., Elmhurst lawyer, banker and civic leader when he was elected board chairman of the Elmhurst National Bank last month.

He replaces Albert H. Glos, who died in June, 1964.

The senior Bates has been identified with the Elmhurst National Bank since 1909 and has witnessed its growth to one of the leading financial institutions in the west suburban area. . . .

**FIFTEEN YEARS** after the founding of the then Elmhurst States Bank, he took a seat on the board of directors in 1909.

His election as chairman of the board climaxes an unbroken 56-years for one of the longest associations as a director in banking annals.

Bates served as director of the institution when it was still in its infancy 55 years ago. He was affiliated with it during the dark days of the depression of 1929 to 1936.

While banks in Chicago and surrounding areas closed, the then Elmhurst State Bank kept its door open.

Bates assumes chairmanship of the board when the bank's assets are at the highest in its 70 year history. At the close of business in 1964, assets were reported as \$54,767,000 compared with \$52,270,000 on Dec. 31, 1963, representing a gain of \$2,490,000.

The bank took its new

name, that of the Elmhurst National Bank in 1939, and simultaneously joined the Federal Reserve System.

**THE ELMHURST** National Bank services saving, commercial and industrial depositors in 23 northwest area communities.

The senior Bates has for more than a half a century had an active role in Elmhurst's growth, watching it steady rise to a leading place in DuPage county and elsewhere in the northwest suburbs.

Six years ago, January 1959, to be exact, Bates was honored for his 50 years association with the Elmhurst National Bank. In the fall of 1958, the DuPage County Bar assn. honored him for having "brought credit and honor to the legal profession of DuPage county."

The same year Elmhurst college conferred honors on him with an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

In almost any phase of community life, the senior Bates has had a stellar part whether it be the Memorial Hospital of DuPage County,



Alben Bates Sr.

Elmhurst, or the Elmhurst YMCA.

A life-long resident of Elmhurst, Bates has been hailed as one of its most distinguished citizens. He is a grandson of one of the pioneer founders of the city of Elmhurst.

He attended Lewis Institute, Lake Forest college and Northwestern university, where he received his law degree. He entered into law, practiced in Elmhurst and served as city attorney for 15 years.

**BATES ALSO** has had time to give a part of his energy to his church — First Congregational church of Elmhurst — having served as its chairman of the board of trustees. He has been a life-long member of the church.

At the same time he has been an ardent and enthusiastic supporter of Elmhurst college.

**As a lawyer, a banker and outstanding civic leader, Bates has won the admiration and respect of persons in all walks of life.**

The Press Publications board of editors selected Bates as "Citizen of the Month" in April, 1960. In January of 1961, he was chosen by the board as "Citizen of the Year."

His distinguished service to his profession and to his community has won him the plaudits of old and new citizens of Elmhurst.

Bates is the son of Dr. Frederick H. Bates and a grandson of pioneering Gerry Bates, credited with the founding of Elmhurst.

Bates and his wife, Clara, reside in Elmhurst, and have three children, Mrs. George P. Edwards of St. Charles, Atty. Alben F. Bates Jr., Elmhurst, and Henry G. Bates of Hinsdale.

## Bates, Frederick H. (Dr.)

Dr. Frederick H. Bates, born in Elmhurst on the 8th day of October, 1857, was the oldest son of Gerry and Georgia Bates, and resided in Elmhurst until his death in 1920. He graduated from Rush Medical College with the class of 1878 and practiced his profession practically continuously from that time until the date of his death.

Always interested in civic affairs, he gave generously of his time and money to promote worth-while enterprises in the community. He served as village trustee and was on the Board of Education. In 1890 he organized the first public library in Elmhurst and acted as librarian. The library was open three nights a week and was located in the old Hawthorne School.

He took an active part in the organization of the Elmhurst Spring Water Company and the Elmhurst Electric Light Company in the early part of 1890, both of which enterprises, in conjunction with a program of sewer and street improvements, did much at that time to make Elmhurst a more desirable residential suburb.

During his college days, Dr. Bates was a member of the First Regiment, Illinois National Guard and when the World War came, he asked for service and was appointed and served on the County Examining Committee for the Draft Board and as Food Administrator. These arduous duties, combined with the increased responsibilities made necessary by the absence of many younger physicians in service, hastened his death.

Dr. Bates is perhaps best remembered for his kindness and personal interest in thousands of people who were his patients and friends during his 40-year professional career in this community. He always had time in the course of administering to the sick to help solve the problems of others; to do a vast amount of reading, and to promote and preserve local tradition and history.