

PIONEER TRADER DEPICTS GROWTH OF FIFTY YEARS

Institution Founded by Bernard Silberstein Kept Pace With Development of City.

Fifty years ago today, when Duluth had a population of 3,500, Bernard Silberstein began his business career in Duluth. Plans were made immediately for the opening of a store at the present location of the Fidelity building. Dr. E. E. Collins, now deceased, erected the building, which was the first business house on the lower side of Superior street. In June of 1870, Mr. Silberstein opened his store. With him as partners were Capt. William Farrell of Duluth and Charles Whitcer of St. Paul.

Began with One Clerk.

From a small store, "a chanty," as Mr. Silberstein calls it, needing only one clerks and having a total expense of \$6 a day Mr. Silberstein has built his business into one employing 110 people and having an expense of about \$400 a day. There were no railroads in Duluth then and Merchandise was shipped by boat. In June, 1870, Mr. Silberstein was a passenger on the first train from Carlton to St. Paul. In August of that year when the bridges were built between Carlton and Fond du Lac trains were run regularly between St. Paul and this city.

Mr. Silberstein moved his store in 1875 to the present location of the M. Cook & Son clothing store, moving next door two years later. This building was later torn down and a brick one erected. In 1872 Mr. Whitcer and Capt. Farrell withdrew and the firm of Silberstein & Bondy was organized, with I Bondy as the other partner.

Buys New Location.

The present location of the store was purchased in 1884 and in 1902 a third floor was added, making the exterior just as it is today. J. M. Gidding became a member of the firm in 1899 and Mr. Silberstein's son, E. A. Silberstein, became identified with it in 1903. Later Mr. Gidding opened his own store and L. Traubman became a member of the Silberstein & Bondy company.

Since the Sunday in 1870 when he arrived, Mr. Silberstein has been confident that Duluth would become a city with a capital "C". He believes that in ten years from now the evolution of Duluth will be beyond our comprehension.

Served as City Official.

"We are on the eve of getting away from the petty jealousies of a town and assuming the earnest and co-operative method of a city," he said.

During the half century that Mr. Silberstein has been in Duluth he has given 26 years to the city. He was a member of the board of park commissioners for 20 years, a city commissioner for four years and a member of the library board for two years.