

Louis Orman Bernier

Louis Orman Bernier was born on October 4, 1886 in Mendota, Minnesota. He was the fifth of nine children born to Esdras Bernier and Eugenia Auge Bernier. Esdras was born in 1850 in Lotbiniere, Quebec, Canada. He immigrated to Eagan Township in 1871. Eugenia was born in 1884 in Mendota. They owned and operated a general store in Mendota before moving to White Bear, MN in 1908. They opened a general store in White Bear as well. Prior to his military service, Louis attended schools in Mendota and graduated from Cretin High School in 1903. In 1915, Louis and George Germain started a general store in Rosemount, MN. Louis eventually took over full responsibility of the store for 11 years with the help of his brothers. He sold “groceries, flour and feed, washing machines, Edison phonographs, Ford cars and tractors”.

Bernier registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 and enlisted on May 28, 1918. Bernier was a musician in the 37th Field Infantry Artillery Band and assigned to the 44th Company, 166th Regiment. He served at Camp Lewis, Washington but probably did not go overseas. Bernier was mustered out of service in March of 1919.

Louis married Marie Ethel Hyland of Rosemount on June 19, 1919. The family general store business was sold to John Thul, former cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Rosemount, around 1926. Louis and Marie had three children, all born in the home: Jeanne, Gertrude, and Louis Jr. From 1923 to 1927, Louis and his brothers Arthur and George operated a Ford car agency in Rosemount. Louis then had sole ownership of the Bernier Motor Company from 1927 to 1953. Louis Jr. joined his father’s business once he was of age. Louis was also the treasurer of St. Joseph’s church for 29 years. Additionally, Louis served on the Rosemount Village Council, the Rosemount School Board, the Knights of Columbus, and was 1st Commander of the Rosemount American Legion. Marie died in 1963. The remaining family moved from Rosemount to St. Paul in 1969. Louis died in May 1972 after suffering a stroke. He is buried at St. Joseph’s Catholic Cemetery in Rosemount.

