Aloysius Bernard Heinen

Aloysius Heinen was born on June 11, 1892 in Hastings, Minnesota to John Heinen (1862-1924) and Barbara Mainz Heinen (1862-1942). He was one of 12 children. His father John was a banker and Dakota County Auditor but he also played an important role in WWI as the County Chairman of the Liberty Loan Program. Liberty Bonds were federally issued debt obligations used to finance the war. Aloysius attended St John’s Prep School and Nichols Expert School. By the time he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 he was married and Assistant Secretary of the First National Bank & Trust in Hastings. He was also recently married to Charlotte Louise Willwerschied (1893-1979). Instead of waiting to see if he would be drafted, Aloysius enlisted in the US Navy on May 15, 1918. He was sent to the Pelham Bay Naval Training Station in New York. He became a Chief Petty Officer – Chief Storekeeper. Storekeepers were responsible for purchasing and procurement, shipping and receiving and issuing equipment and consumable items or anything else obtained through the Naval Supply System. They were also responsible for maintaining the ship store. He was released on December 22, 1918.

Aloysius returned home and attended the St Paul College of Law. He opened a law practice in Hastings and was the Hastings City Attorney for two terms. He also sold real estate and insurance and was legal advisor for the First National Bank. He also played in the Hastings City Band for many years. Aloysius and Charlotte had nine children. Three would die young and tragically. Their first son Donald died of Scarlet Fever as an infant. John died in a car crash at age 30 and Paul, born in 1932 died when he fell down an abandoned Men’s Calhoun Beach Club elevator shaft when he was ten.

Two sons served in the US Navy in WWII, Alcuin and Lawrence.

Aloysius died on July 10, 1954 at the age of 60 at the Good Counsel Cancer Home in St Paul, Minnesota. He is buried at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery in Hastings.