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Schaefer, George M. (1857 -)

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Bunt, Gilbert, "Schaefer, George M. (1857 -)" (1936). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 1115.
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SCHAEFER, GEORGE M.

File No. B-1156

George M. Schaefer has been characterized as the foremost citizen of Albany, Minnesota. He is a friend of every progressive movement, he has many interests, and has shown his faith in the future of the village by his varied investments. He was born in Crown Point, Indiana, April 1, 1857, son of George and Margaret (Klein) Schaefer, who, in 1860, brought him to St. Cloud, where he was reared. At the age of twenty-one he rented the Schaefer house from his father, and conducted it some two years. In the fall of 1880 he moved to Albany, bought out Carl Herberger, who is a uncle of George who owns the Herberger store at St. Cloud and Long Prairie, and engaged in the mercantile business. At the time George Schaefer bought this business it was housed in a small frame building with living quarters in the rear. He also relates how he would shoot grouse and quail and other birds before breakfast from the back door of his store and for ducks he only had to walk a block and shoot all he wanted. Now he says his sons go hunting for a week at a time and don't bring back as much as he used to shoot in a few minutes. In 1898 he erected a splendid department store building, which his business now occupies. His trade has constantly increased, and he carries and entire line of goods demanded in a community of this kind. While this store is a large concern, it is but one of the many interests in which Mr. Schaefer is engaged. He is President of the Schaefer Brandtner Hardware Company, which conducts a large establishment there. He is also interested in the George M. Schaefer Furniture Company. Some years ago he assisted in organizing the First State Bank, of Albany, of which at one time he was President. He also served on the village board for several years and also at one time was treasurer of the St. Joseph society of which he is still a member.

When George M. Schaefer first opened his store, the only other store was operated by Joseph Kraker, who later went to Melrose and left the store in Albany to his oldest son. In addition to these two places of business there were two blacksmith shops. When this village started to grow and new buildings were built the old ones were moved to the rear and most of these old business houses can still be seen in the village of Albany.

George M. Schaefer was married to his first wife, Julia Schutz, a native of Carver county who died May first, 1897. To this union there were born twelve children: Carl, Lena, Thomas, Julia, Henry, Anton, Otto, George, Roman, Genevieve, Joseph and Leo. The present Mrs. George Schaefer was Magdeline Marshall a native of Shakopee. They were married on September 16, 1899 and from this union there were six children: Richard, Celestine, Carl, Edmund, Gertrude, and Marguerite.