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Spiering, Richard Ludwig (1869 -)

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Like most successful men in the business world of today, Richard Ludwig Spiering owes his advancement to hard work and conscientious application to the duties given him to perform, coupled with the ability to meet and master situations. He has devoted practically his entire life to gas plant building and engineering of which he has gained a detailed knowledge, and his constantly expanding powers have brought him to the responsible position of superintendent of a number of gas and electric plants all over the northwestern part of the state.

Richard Ludwig Spiering was born December 6, 1869 in Spenburg Germany son of Adolph and Catherine Spiering natives of Germany. Adolph Spiering came to America in the fall of 1874 and settled in Appleton, Wisconsin, where he opened a woolen mill. The next year, in 1875, Mrs. Spiering and family followed from Germany and settled with their father in Appleton. At that time Richard was six years of age.

Richard Spiering received his education in the public schools of Appleton, Wisconsin and after school worked for his father in the woolen mill until he was twenty-one years old. In 1890 he started to work for George McMillan the owner of the Appleton Gas and Light Co., here Mr. Spiering worked hard and studied after hours for four years then Mr. McMillan sold out and took over the Fox River Gas and Electric Company and made Richard Spiering superintendent of the plant. The next year Mr. Spiering received a call from Mr. McMillian to Supervise the rebuilding of the LaCrosse Gas Plant. This was in the spring of 1899. In July 1906 Mr. Spiering came to St. Cloud, Minnesota to build the Gas plant here, at St. Cloud, for Mr. A. G. Whitney. In 1915 Mr. Spiering broke ground and built the Brainerd Gas plant. Upon completion of this plant Mr. Spiering went to manage to Crookston and Bermidji Gas and Power plants. He remained there and operated the plants for four

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years after which time he returned to St. Cloud and was placed in charge of the Crookston, Bermidji, Brainerd, and the St. Cloud plant until the fall of 1929. He then went to work for the Northern States Power Company in the Commercial Department until he retired in 1932.

Richard Ludwig Spiering was married on May 1, 1892 to Mary Maurer of Appleton, Wisconsin, daughter of Joseph and Marion Maurer also of Appleton, Wisconsin. To Richard L. and Mary (Maurer) Spiering were born three sons. Jerome Spiering, Superintendent of the Brainerd and St. Cloud Gas Plants; Clemins Spiering who died in the world war while in the tank service; Adolph Spiering stationed in Pekin, China with the U. S. Marines.

Mr. Spiering has four grand children: Mary, Richard, Catherine, and Donald Spiering all of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Mrs. Spiering died November 2, 1932.

Interviewed: Richard Ludwig Spiering
By: N. P. Kruchten
Date: June 1, 1936