

of his home town, of which he was elected city attorney on February 20, 1917.

Mr. Garrity is an earnest member of the Catholic church and is prominently affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus and with the Catholic Order of Foresters. He also is a member of the local branch of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

On May 31, 1917, Mr. Garrity was united in marriage to Marguerita Evans, of Ottumwa, Iowa, the daughter of George W. and Regina Evans, the former being one of Iowa's prosperous farmers in Wapello county, that state. Mrs. Garrity was the teacher of domestic science in the public schools of Moorhead before her marriage.

OLE SKALET.

Ole Skalet, one of the best-known and most substantial first settlers of Clay county, general manager of the Ulen Grain Company at Ulen, president of Citizens Auto Company of Ulen, vice-president of the State Bank of Ulen, former president of that village, former chairman of the board of supervisors of Keene township, former assessor of that township and the owner there of four hundred and forty acres of fine land, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life, a continuous resident of Clay county since he was twenty-one years of age, having come up here into the Red River country in 1883. He was born on a pioneer farm in Houston county on October 14, 1861, son of Knut and Helga (Olson) Skalet, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who came to this country in 1852 and proceeded on out to Minnesota, settling on a farm in Houston county, where they reared their family and spent the remainder of their lives, substantial and useful pioneers of that section. Knut Skalet and wife were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being: Gutrum, Helga, Mary, Anna, Knut, Gura, Berget, Andrew and Olaus.

Reared on the pioneer home farm in Houston county, Ole Skalet received his early education in the local schools, and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant in the labors of developing and improving the home farm, becoming practical manager of the same when in his teens. He continued to be thus engaged until he was twenty-one years of age,

when, in 1883, he came up into the Red River country and began working in Clay county. He married in 1885, and shortly afterward bought a farm in section 2 of Keene township, where he established his home, his first place of residence there being a humble shack, nine by eleven feet, enclosed in lap-siding, with but one door and one window. This is a distinct contrast to the present substantial farm house and excellent farm buildings that mark the Skalet farm. When Mr. Skalet took that tract, it was wholly unimproved and he "broke" every furrow and planted every tree on the place. As he prospered in his farming, he gradually added to his holdings until now he is the owner of two hundred and eighty acres surrounding the home place, and an additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 4. The old original home shack on the home place is still standing, and Mr. Skalet is carefully preserving the same as an interesting relic of his experience as a pioneer farmer.

In 1901, Ole Skalet retired from the farm, leaving the same in responsible hands, and moved to Ulen, where he became engaged as local manager of the Monarch Elevator Company and was thus engaged until 1911, when he returned to the farm. The next year, however, he returned to Ulen and there bought the Great Western elevator and has ever since been operating the same, the elevator now being under the management of the Ulen Grain Company, of which Mr. Skalet is general manager, the company doing a general grain, coal and seed business. In addition to his interests in the grain and coal business, Mr. Skalet takes an active interest in the general business affairs of his home village, being president of the Citizens Auto Company of Ulen and vice-president of the State Bank of Ulen. He has ever taken an interested part in the civic affairs of the community and for six years served as president of the village council. During his residence in Keene township, he served for about five years as chairman of the board of township supervisors, and at the time of his removal to Ulen was serving as township assessor. He also served for several years as clerk of the local school board and in other ways has given of his time and energies to the public service. Mr. Skalet is a member of the Lutheran (Synod) church in Keene township. He helped build the church, being a member of the building committee when the church was erected, and for years served as a member of the board of trustees of the same.

In 1885, Ole Skalet was united in marriage to Martine Martinson, daughter of Carl Martinson and wife, who died in 1909, leaving nine children: Nedra, Charlotte, Charles, Ella, Hermana, Myrtle, Elvina, Olga and Carl.