



C.R. Messinger AFS President 1922-1923

Adam W. San Solo

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Overview

- Charles Raymond Messinger 1883-1941 (called “Ray”, or simply C.R.)
- Most directly noted as President, then Chairman of the Chain Belt Company (later know as Rex Chain, and now by the more familiar Rexnord Corporation)



- Founded in 1891 by inventor C.W. Levalley, and two foundrymen, W.A. Draves and F.W. Sivyer
- \$1 million in sales in 1913, that grew to \$10 million in by 1940, under Messinger’s management
- Authored one technical paper for AFS: Comparison of Electric Furnace and Steel Converter for Manufacture of Small Steel Castings (1917)

Fifteen Years—No Repairs —No Time Lost

Fifteen years ago, the Grimes Canning & Preserving Company, which operates one of the largest and most modern corn canning plants in the country, at Grimes, Ia., bought their first Rex Chain.

This chain—Rex Griplock No. 0319—was installed on a clean corn elevator.

This elevator is in continuous service thirteen hours a day during the corn canning season—when up to 4,800,000 cans of corn are packed.

In the pumpkin season, this elevator is used for conveying the cut pumpkin to the cookers. During these fifteen years, this Rex Griplock Chain has never once required a repair or replacement, nor cost a minute’s delay.

This is an unusual record for chain subjected to such severe usage for this length of time—but not an unusual record for Rex Chain. As a result, the Grimes Company has installed Rex Chain on all elevators and conveyors, not only at its main plant but at its four other Iowa plants.

At every one of these plants, the results from Rex Chain are the same: no breakdowns—no repairs—no replacements—no time lost.

Rex Chains, engineered to specific installations, are saving labor, and speeding production in many industries.

They can do the same for you.

REX CHAIN

Rex Traveling Water Screens, Rex Concrete Mixers and Pavers, Rex Sprockets, Rex Elevators and Conveyors]

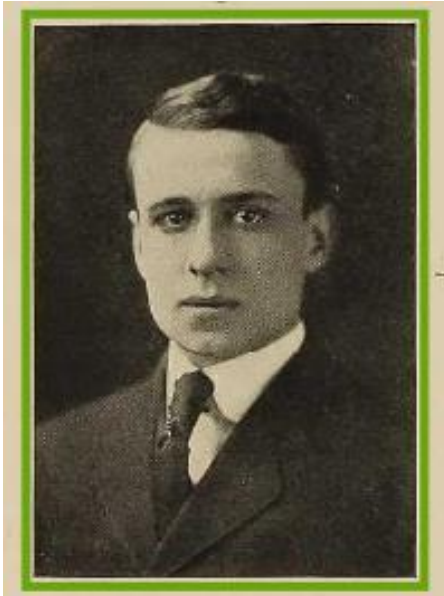
CHAIN BELT COMPANY, MILWAUKEE
Branch Offices and Representatives in Principal Cities in the United States and Abroad



This Rex Griplock Chain, with its exclusive side-bar design, is giving exceptional service on the drives of pulp and paper mills, textile mills, coal mines and pockets, sawing factories, packing plants, saw mills, sand, gravel and cement plants, and many other industries. With attachments it is used in the same industries for conveyors and elevators.

You can secure standard Rex Sprocket Chain of any size or type, either from distributors or direct, for every transmission and conveyor need.

Biographical Highlights



Yearbook photo, 1906

- Born 1883 in New Haven, Connecticut
- Studied metallurgy in high school
- Graduated Yale University in 1906 with a degree in Philosophy
- Moved to Pittsburgh to take a sales job with the Harbison Walker Refractories Company, then relocated to Chicago in 1907
- Moved to Milwaukee in 1909 to help establish the Sivyer Steel Casting Company, serving as Secretary, later ascending to Vice President and General Manager
- Married in 1911, father of four
- Became Vice President and General Manager of the Chain Belt Company in 1917

Career Highlights

- An organizer of Sivyer Steel Casting Company, Milwaukee, 1909, secretary and manager 1909-10, general manager 1910-29, vice-president 1910-28, president 1928-29, and chairman of the board 1929-41
- Vice-president and general manager Chain Belt Company, Milwaukee, 1917-23, president 1923-31, chairman of the board 1931-41
- President Oliver Farm Equipment Company, Chicago, 1931-35 and chairman of the board 1935-41
- An organizer Electric Steel Castings Company, Chicago, 1916 and a director
- Director Interstate Drop Forge Company (secretary 1920, treasurer 1920-21, president 1921-28)
- Federal Malleable Company (secretary 1911-20 and vice-president 1920-32)



Captain of Industry

- Vice President of Sivyer Steel Casting Co.
- Vice President of Chain Belt Co.
- President of the Interstate Forge Co.
- Vice President of Federal Maleable Co.
- Director of Electric Steel Co.

**Messinger held all these posts
concurrently in 1922, the year he
became AFS President!**

First row left to right: L.R. Smith of A.O. Smith, Gov. La Follette, C.W. Nash of Nash Motors, Co., and C.R. Messinger, of the Chain Belt Co. Second row, left to right: Prof. John R. Commons, of the UW Economics dept., Assemblyman Harold M. Groves, Gen. Otto Falk, Allis-Chalmers Co., L.R. Clausen, of the J.I. Case co. standing in the rear, S.B. Way, of the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Co.



Portrait of Governor Philip La Follette and eight industrialists standing in front of the Governor's Residence, January 1931.

Interesting Facts

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

National Number _____ State Number _____

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

**TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF
THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY
OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.**

I, Charles Raymond Manning, hereby apply for membership in this Society by right of legal descent in the following line from Titus Smith who was born in Unity, New York on the 22 day of Aug 1782 and died in _____ on the _____ day of _____ 1777 and who assisted in establishing American Independence.

I was born on 27 day of October 1893 in New Haven Conn and was a resident of Milwaukee Wisconsin

(1) I am the son of Charles Frederick Manning born in New Haven Conn on July 15 1859 and Abigail Ann his wife, born in New York City on Nov 9 1809 and died in _____ on _____

(2) James I 1883

(3) George Edwin Beecher born in Woodbridge Conn on May 23 1829, died in Woodbridge Conn on May 11 1881, and Elizabeth his wife, born in _____ on Sept 13 1834, died in Woodbridge Conn on Nov 9 1878, married in _____ on July 14 1848

(4) Anna Beecher born in Woodbridge Conn on _____ 1777, died in Woodbridge Conn on _____ 1831, and Charles Baldwin his wife, born in _____ on July 16 1777, died in Woodbridge Conn on July 30 1870, married in _____ on April 26 1817

(5) Silas Baldwin born in Woodbridge Conn on 11 day of _____ 1770, died in Woodbridge Conn on April 18 1808, and Phyllis his wife, born in _____ on June 12 1774, died in Woodbridge Conn on July 9 1850, married in _____ on _____ 1791

(6) David Smith born in Woodbridge Conn on _____ 1776, died in Woodbridge Conn on Nov 15 1809, and Abigail his wife, born in _____ on May 31 1747, died in Woodbridge Conn on _____ 1822, married in _____ on May 22 1771

(7) Titus Smith born in Woodbridge Conn on _____ 1722, died in Woodbridge Conn on Nov 10 1777, and Elizabeth his wife, born in _____ on _____ 1726, died in Woodbridge Conn on _____ 1782, married in _____ on _____

and he, the said Titus Smith (No. 6) is the ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence, while acting in the capacity of Private

NOTE: It is not essential to admission to membership that all blank spaces for information be filled, but it is extremely desirable.

Recommended and recommended by the undersigned members of the Society:

Charles Raymond Manning
Edw. L. Hill
Manhattan

Milwaukee

ANCESTOR'S SERVICE.

"SUCCESSOR. Any man shall be eligible to membership in the Society who, being of the age of twenty-one years or more, and a citizen of good name in the community, is the legal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times residing in the territory to, and rendered active service in, the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman, or volunteer, in the several houses of the Continental Congress, or of any one of the several Colonies or States, or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain."—Constitution of National Society 2. A. R., Article III, Section 1, adopted June 3, 1907.

Membership is based upon one original claim; when the applicant derives eligibility by descent from more than one ancestor, and it is desired to take advantage thereof, separate applications, to be marked "Supplemental Applications," should be made in each case and filed with the original.


Have fully such documentary or traditional authority as you found the following names upon, and also the residence of ancestors, with date of birth and death, if known.

By order of the Board of Trustees, May 3, 1911, the recipient of a certificate granted under this application agrees to surrender his certificate upon failure to pay his membership fee, unless his membership shall cease by reason of death or total disability, to be determined by the State Society of which he is a member.

My ancestor's services in assisting in the establishment of American Independence during the War of the Revolution were as follows:

Private in a Company raised in the defense of New Haven Conn. It appears from the records on file in the Record and Pension Office that Titus Smith, served in Captain Phineas Bradley's Company of Militia in the service of the State of Connecticut, War of the Revolution. His name appears on the company pay roll of that organization. He enlisted Feb. 11, 1777 and was discharged Feb. 10, 1780.

Children of Titus Smith the Probates Records New Haven Conn. They born Sept. 24, 1745 married Roxwell Aug. 30, 1767 David married Huldah Beecher Edna unmarried in 1800



- Ivy League Educated – a rarity for AFS presidents
- Great-great-great-great grandson of Titus Smith, an officer in the revolutionary war
- Served as Chairman of the metal trades division of the War Finance Committee
- Served as a director of the Milwaukee Metal Trade & Founders Association
- Served as President of the Association of Commerce Housing Corporation
- His son William succeeded him as President, then Chairman of Rexnord, (1963-1980) before moving on to be President of Sivyer Steel (1980-1983)

Quote from his 1922 Biography

“Chain Belt Company is one of the mammoth industrial interests of [Milwaukee], employing about 1300 people in the manufacture of concrete mixing machinery, conveying and handling machinery, chain belts and allied products which are not only sold extensively throughout the new world but are found today in many foreign countries.

Mr. Messinger has been active in the upbuilding and development of the business until it is one of the mammoth and profitable manufacturing interests of the state.

His plans are carefully formulated, his activity intelligently directed, and the results achieved are most satisfactory.

He has ever used his talents wisely and well. His energies have taken him into the great field of industrial and civic activity, and he has become a prominent figure in connection therewith.”

Sources

Charles Raymond **Messinger**

Vice-president of the *Sivyer Steel Casting Company, Milwaukee, Wis.*
Residence, 398 Kane Place

Messinger writes: "Within five days after being classed among the educated, had located in Pittsburgh and had a *job* in the sales department of the Harbison Walker Refractories Company, also had one of those beginners' salaries, and to hold this down was kept so busy that I was a fine subject for typhoid fever and consequently was laid up for repairs during October and November.

"On my return to work (December first) was sent to Blandburg, Pa. (don't look it up because you can't find it), where the company had a plant and mines. January first was called back to Pittsburgh and made a correspondent in the sales department. I now had a *position* as I had a stenographer, could sign the boss's name to letters with impunity and also have my own number shown in the lower left hand corner of the same letter.

"With about fifteen minutes' notice, on February 22, 1907, was sent to the Chicago office and was the second salesman of that office. For exactly two years lived in Chicago, although I sometimes doubted it, as my work took me from Duluth to Dallas and every other place at which trains stopped.

"In February, 1909, moved to Milwaukee and have lived here ever since, residing at the University Club up to the time of my marriage. Moved to Milwaukee to become identified with Frederick L. Sivyer, William C. Frye, and Donald Frazer in the organization of the Sivyer Steel Casting Company. Was secretary and manager of this company until January 1, 1910, when I became vice-president, which position I now hold.

"During the early part of this year, I became interested in the West Allis Malleable Iron & Chain Belt Company of this city and am secretary of same."

Messinger is a member of the University Club of Milwaukee.

- Yale University Five Year Record, 1912
- History of Milwaukee City and County, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1922
- Yale University Obituary Record, 1940-1941
- Ancestry.com
- Wikipedia.com

