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7-21-1936

### Boyd, James R.

Dean Nelson

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BOYD, JAMES R.

File No. B-143

James R. Boyd Sr. was a native of Scotland. He received his education and spent his early life in that country. James came to America and St. Cloud about 1867 and established a grocery store in Saint Cloud. Being a very erratic and sharp business man his store was successful and James was well respected by the citizens of Saint Cloud.

They exhibited this feeling in electing him mayor of the city four different times. His first term was in 1873. At the same time John Rosenberger was city clerk and Wm. Powell, John Smith, J. L. Wilson, W. W. Wright were aldermen.

He was relected in 1874 and 1895 and again in 1901.

James Boyd was also very poetic. He always managed to insert a stanza or so of his own poetry in the ads he put in the Saint Cloud Papers.

The grocers of the city at that time called him our first cut-rate grocery man. James was always cutting prices and when asked by other grocery men why he did so, replied, "Boys, as long as I can sell and make a profit I don't believe in trying to get the last penny Mr. Peter Public has."

It was during James' term of mayor that the bicycle ordinance was originated in the city of Saint Cloud. This compelled bicycles to have lights and some form of warning. The cyclists of the city were quite disturbed so they decorated their cycles with streamers and tin pans of all sorts. Then they paraded down St. Germain amid noise and confusion. It ended by having them all arrested. Mr. Ripley Brower, a very promising attorney, defended the cyclists in court and won the case for them. This ended all controversy over the bicycle traffic in Saint Cloud.

James Boyd always was distinguishable by his silk top hat which he

BOYD, JAMES R.

always wore. His time was divided between this store and the office of mayor, and he fulfilled both offices very satisfactorily.

Being conservative he accumulavted considerable property in the block of Third and Fourth Avenue and First Street South.

He had one son James Boyd Jr. and one daughter Aimee Boyd.

His son James Jr. managed the store from 1894 until 1903.

At that time James Boyd Sr. sold his property to Nicholas Brauch and moved from the city with his family.

The only known relative is his daughter, Aimee, now married and living in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Information: gotten by Dean Nelson  
Date: July 21, 1936  
Interviewed: H. Bowing  
L. J. Rochell  
Otto Kastln  
Chief Edward Brick  
Pete Blommer

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JAMES R. BOYD BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Amy Boyd	Feb. 1, 1880		James Boyd	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. May Boyd		A	387	25	