

Weninger Insurance Agency

Founded: 1896

Location: North Judson, Knox (1896–); 8 North Main Street, Knox

Charles Walter Weninger was born in Starke County in 1873. He taught school, served as deputy postmaster of North Judson, and ran a meat market for several years before joining Jacob Keller in a real estate and insurance business. Keller had come to North Judson during the Civil War and, as a real estate agent, was responsible for attracting many Polish and German immigrant farmers to the area. Weninger and Keller's partnership lasted until Keller's death in 1910. Weninger served as town clerk of North Judson and Wayne Township trustee before his election as county auditor in 1912 on the Democratic ticket. In 1911 he became president of the First State Bank in North Judson, the product of a merger of two older banks. Weninger's son, Howard L. Weninger, born in 1904, joined his father's insurance firm in 1925. Like his father, Howard Weninger was active in business and politics, serving as a director of the American State Bank of North Judson, president of the Judson Publishing Company, and chairman of the county Democratic committee. Howard L. Weninger, Jr., followed his father into the firm in 1967. The independent Weninger Insurance Agency, owned by Howard Weninger, Jr., and his sister Kay Weninger Croyle, eventually moved to Knox, the county seat.