

(Notes on Julius Barnes written by Mike Zlonis)

Barnes moved with his parents to Duluth from Little Rock, Arkansas in 1883. Barnes' parents, Lucien (d. 1890) and Julia (d. 1930), as well as his brother Arthur and his sister Henrietta (Mrs. Edwin D.) Field (her husband and his family are commemorated by the Field Memorial Window in Pilgrim's sanctuary), were active members of Pilgrim Church from the time they arrived in Duluth in 1883. Julia put great effort into assembling a portrait book of early Pilgrim's for the Church's 25th anniversary (1896). Julius Barnes purchased a Tiffany window for the Fourth Street Church building in memory of his parents.

Julius Howland Barnes' life was characterized by remarkable achievement, extraordinary generosity, exemplary public service and bad luck. Barnes dropped out of high school (10th Grade) after only two months (his father died in 1890) and went to work as an office boy for the Ames-Brooks grain trading firm (headed by Ward Ames, Sr.). He eventually became wealthy on the trading floor of the Duluth Board of Trade. He was a partner or sole owner of many business enterprises: Barnes-Ames Company (with Ward Ames, Jr.; Barnes-Ames was at one time the largest grain exporter in the world, operating elevators and ships with offices in Duluth, New York and Winnipeg); Barnes-Duluth Shipbuilding Company and Barnes-McDougal Shipyard (with Alexander McDougal, Chester Congdon, Marshall Alworth and Ward Ames, Jr.; the shipyards and housing formed the community of Riverside where Barnes made a disciplined effort to hire men with families who were out of work; 36 freighters were built at the Riverside shipyard during World War I); Klearflax Looms (founded by Julius Barnes in 1909 as the Western Linen Company, Barnes eventually built a 117,800 square foot six storey building on Grand Avenue and employed over 300 workers, using flax grown in Meadowlands and Port Wing, to make custom carpets designed by the company's textile design department (Barnes was a champion (and putative "father") of "chemurgy" (the science of converting products of the soil to new uses)); Erie and St. Lawrence Corporation; Intercontinental Development Company; Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Corporation (Chairman of the Board of Directors); General Bronze Corporation; Washington Herald (owner and publisher); and American Industries, Inc.. Julius Barnes married Harriet Carey in 1896. The couple built a Spanish Colonial house in 1906 at 25 South 26th Avenue East (they also maintained a residence in New York City but considered Duluth to be their home). Barnes owned the first private aircraft in Duluth (1913) named Lark of the Lakes. Julius Barnes was the main guiding force and principal patron of the Duluth Boat Club (which he joined in 1900). He led the project to construct a new club house (with dormitories for the rowing team, dining rooms for club members and an Olympic size swimming pool) at Tenth Street on Park Point. Barnes was particularly interested in rowing. As a young

man, he was a member of a four man championship rowing crew. In 1911, Barnes hired James Ten Eyck, Jr. (one of the world's finest scullers, son of the great rowing coach at Syracuse University and the U.S. Naval Academy, and brother of Edward H. Ten Eyck (who was the first American to win rowing's highest honor, the Diamond Sculls at the Royal Henley Regatta in 1897) to coach the Duluth rowing team. With training costs and traveling expenses largely paid by Julius Barnes, Duluth crews won 47 of 58 races and 20 national championships between 1911 and 1923. Walter Hoover of Duluth won the Diamond Sculls at Henley-on-Thames in 1922. When James Ten Eyck, Jr. was said to be leaving Duluth, The New York Times reported (May 21, 1918) that James Ten Eyck, Sr. had resigned as head coach at Syracuse University to become coach at Duluth (as best as I can tell, neither of the resignations ever took effect, but the fact that this story was reported suggests that Duluth had credibility as an absolutely first-class, well-financed program). Herbert Hoover, Jr. (later Undersecretary of State during the Eisenhower administration) lived for a summer at the Barnes' home while training with the Duluth rowing team. During World War I, Julius Barnes was President of the U.S. Food Administration Grain Corporation, set up by Herbert Hoover to control food shipments to Europe. Millions were fed, more than eight billion dollars of grain was purchased for the program without (as Calvin Coolidge would write in a tribute to Barnes) "...a single charge of irregularity." After World

War I, he received the highest civilian honors from six European countries which had benefited from the relief efforts. In 1920, Barnes paid the entire cost of (\$160,000 (more than the entire cost of the Fourth Street Pilgrim Church building with furnishings)) of constructing a new Y.M.C.A. building in West Duluth (Barnes' support for the Duluth Y.M.C.A. may have been inspired by his participation in Y.M.C.A. programs; in 1891, he won a Y.M.C.A. award for being the best all around athlete). Julius Barnes was President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce 1921-1924 and Chairman of its Board of Directors 1929-1931. President Hoover appointed Barnes in 1929 to head the National Survey Business Conference in an attempt to rally the nation's industrial forces to prevent a prolonged economic downturn. Julius Barnes was on the cover of the May 5, 1930 edition of Time magazine. Barnes is said to have lost the bulk of his fortune in 1929. During the last part of his life he championed the Great Lakes deep waterway, and "...for 35 years ...was one of...[the]...strongest and most consistent proponents..." of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Although he left school in 10th Grade, Julius Barnes was an avid reader, "prolific writer...and...persuasive public speaker". He received honorary degrees from Harvard University, Dartmouth College, University of Pittsburgh and Syracuse University. "In 1921, he was made an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa at the College of William and Mary. Julius Barnes wife Harriet died in 1957. During the last years of his life, he lived alone in a single cheap hotel room in Downtown Duluth. On April 29, 1958, he gave his foreign decorations as well as his prized 1891 Y.M.C.A. "all around" athlete award and his championship rowing award

to the St. Louis County Historical Society. During the 1950's, he appears to have had to rely on the charity of friends. Beginning in 1953, he signed a series of \$1,000 notes (payable on demand without interest). After Barnes death Herbert Hoover and others filed a claim on Julius Barnes' estate in an attempt to recover the money they had loaned him. On April 17, 1959, Julius Howland Barnes was found dead (age 86 years) in his small room at the Holland Hotel (located at 5th Avenue West and Superior Street in a part of town which would be torn down in a few years for urban renewal). He had a simple service at Crawford Mortuary Chapel. The Duluth News-Tribune (4/21/1959) reported that "...Mr. Barnes' minister, Dr. William Halfaker of Pilgrim Congregational Church...[could not conduct the service]...Dr. Halfaker is in Miami Beach, Florida, attending an executive committee meeting of the board of directors of the Home Missions Board of the Congregational Christian Church...". Julius Barnes was buried (4/20/1959) next to his wife, Harriet (buried 5/27/1957) in Forest Hill Cemetery, Duluth (Section M, Block 4, Lot 29, Graves 1 and 2). The graves of Julius and Harriet are unmarked. They do not have headstones or a monument.