



**Meadows Furniture
155 East Court Street.
Pratt Furniture Store
(A.A. Bulard Building)
1883 - 1885.**

Characterized by a projecting metal Italianate styled cornice ornamented by large and small brackets, medal medallions, and a rectangular pediment, the brick (now painted) three-bay Bulard Building is further characterized by ornamental pilasters that flank the four long, narrow windows placed on the upper story façade. A plain cornice extends across the remodeled storefront. A deeply recessed entrance is located on the west end of the façade.

Built for A.A. Bulard, who also owned the adjacent building, this retail building was used initially as a furniture store with a cabinet shop at the rear of the building. The building was sold to the Pratt Brothers and Undertaking Company in 1906.

The A.A. Bulard Building which has been known as the Pratt Furniture Store and the C. Meadows Furniture & Floor Coverings Store, is a significant,

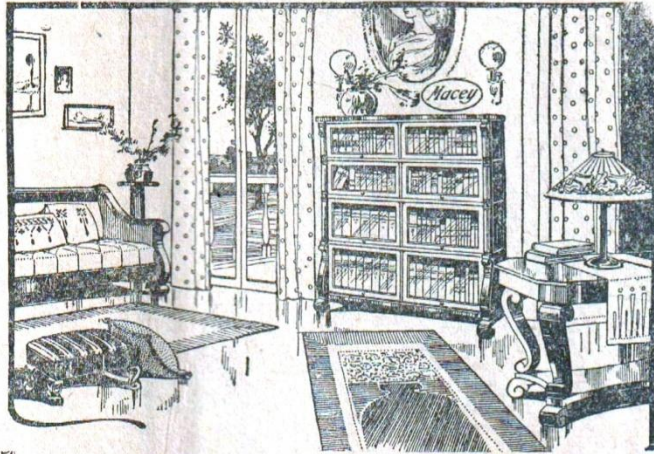
C. Meadows, Inc. - 155 East Court St. Richland County History Room photo.

well-maintained example of the Italianate Commercial Style. There are a number of good examples of the Italianate influence located in the Court Street Commercial Historic District including the Bailey Store at 194 East Court, the Burnham and Burnham Drug Store at 182 East Court and the O.J. Burnham Building at 159 East Court Street. Built as a financial investment for A.A. Bulard, this retail building has been used as a furniture store from the 1890s to 1948 when it was used for the Pratt Brothers Furniture and Undertaking business and by the Meadows furniture business from 1948 until 2012. The building's space was combined with the adjacent Bulard Jewelry Store in the early twentieth century to create one large space for the Pratt Furniture Company.

A.A. Bulard established his jewelry store in 1875. In 1877, he purchased and located his business in the W.H. Downs building, and in 1883 he erected his own building at 155 East Court Street. Bulard left Richland Center in 1892 when John Dieter's drugstore occupied the building for a brief period. Pratt Brothers moved into the building by 1892.

Fred Pratt and Edwin A. Dove began their business in 1878 selling paints, oils, and wallpaper. An advertisement in the 1879 business directory listed "Pratt Bros., painters." In 1891, the business appeared as "Dove & Pratt Bros.,

BRING BEAUTY TO THE HOME



Make your home just a little better--not necessarily because of heavier expenditures, but because of happier selections. No purchase is wasted and no effort lost that adds charm to the place you call your own. And we have never lost sight of these truths in preparing our large assortment of furniture for you. Please remember you are always welcome at our store whether you wish to buy or not.

Pratt Bros.

HOME FURNISHERS

The Richland Democrat Sept. 20, 1916.

Home Furniture Company to C. Meadows, Inc. in 1969 when the business was incorporated.

At the University of Chicago, Meadows, an outstanding athlete, had the privilege of playing football for that university's legendary coach, Amos Alonzo Stagg, before his retirement and was a member of the Green Cap Honor Society and studied pre-law. He transferred to the University of Wisconsin where he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and changed his course of study to pre-medicine.

Carl Meadows was a member of the Richland Center Kiwanis Club and served as its president. His great interests and activities in Richland Center were concentrated on youth organizations, particularly the Boy Scouts of America. He was a respected, quiet supporter of many civic organizations and enjoyed the game of tennis as his favorite past time. Meadows died on July 5, 1979, at the age of 70. Upon the death of his father, Michael Meadows assumed the role of President/Manager. Ann Rose Gross and Carl Meadows met on a blind date while students at the University of Wisconsin where she studied as a Dance major. When the Great Depression came her family could not afford to send her to the University of Wisconsin in Madison so she transferred to the University in LaCrosse. Carl Meadows had to quit school and go home to help with the family car storage and service business in Chicago. They were married in 1931.

Ann Meadows' parents were born in Russia (Ukraine). Her father, Shiman Kitigorodsky, came from Kiev, and her mother, Hashke

(Edwin A. Dove, George H. Pratt, Wallace E. Pratt and Fred H. Pratt) Furniture, Undertaking, and Paints and Oils." By 1895, three Pratt brothers, Fred, Wallace and Frank ran the business.

By 1892, Pratt Brothers had located in the A.A. Bulard Building. This structure then included the original 1883 portion and a second addition erected between 1885 and 1892. Pratts purchased the building from Bulard in 1906. Impaired health and the need to seek relief in a change of climate brought about the decision of Russell Pratt to discontinue the business of the Pratt Furniture Company. Pratt was very cognizant of the sixty year association of the family in the furniture business in Richland Center since he had been actively involved in the business since 1918.

Carl Meadows, a native of Chicago, came to Richland Center in 1934 with his wife, Ann Rose, after he attended both the University of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin, and established a used furniture store on Church Street in downtown Richland Center. As the business became a success, he entered the new furniture market and started the Home Furniture Company and relocated it to a location on North Main Street. In 1948, Russell Pratt leased the Pratt Furniture building to Meadows who continued his furniture business there. Meadows later purchased the building in 1967. The store prospered and became a landmark in downtown Richland Center and changed its name from

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22 inch, Round Style

98c

18 inch Round Style

73c

Medicine Cabinets

Metal Mirror Front \$1.15

20% Discount on All Lamps

Yes . . . 20% discount on all lamps in stock for this special January event. Choose from the newest in novelty, table, radio, boudoir, junior, bridge and floor lamps . . . any of them at 20% discount from our regular low prices.

These Prices Effective Thursday, Friday, Saturday Only

HOME FURNITURE CO.

North Main Street

Carl Meadows

The Richland Democrat Jan. 14, 1938.



Left to right: Carl Meadows, Leslie Meadows, Ann Meadows. Michael Meadows photo.

in Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, as a goodwill ambassador for the Girl Scouts of America. She had a great love of dance and the arts and spent many years promoting them in her home community. Ann Meadows died on July 12, 1989, at the age of 78. The Meadows' had three children: Michael, Kathryn, and Stephanie.

Kropchoir came from the Minsk area. When Shiman and Hashke came to the United States, like thousands of other people of Jewish descent, each of them had their names changed by the clerks at Ellis Island. Shiman Kitigorodsky became Sam Gross and Hashke Kropchoir became Hilda Levine.

Ann Meadows received a degree with honors in physical education at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. When the couple moved to Richland Center in 1934, she taught creative dance for children and ballroom dancing; attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She also taught creative dance for several summers at Windsor Mountain School, Lenox, Mass., as well teaching health and physical education at the University of Wisconsin-Richland.

Like her husband Carl, she had a lifelong interest in scouting and attended the Edith Macy Training School in White Plains, New York. In 1960, she spent three months



The Richland Democrat November 18, 1948.

Platteville where she received a B.S. degree with honors in agriculture in 1979. She began her career in Richland Center as an area clerk for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. After retiring from the Soil Conservation Service she began her long career in the Meadows family business and became President of C. Meadows, Inc.

Leslie was very interested in historic preservation, travel, reading, gardening, museums and was an accomplished pilot. She worked to get the Meadows' buildings placed on the local Historic Register and was a Director of Wisconsin Main Street in Richland Center. Leslie was a major player in the restoration of the Richland Center Railroad Depot and was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Kiwanis Club.

In 1964, after a serious mining accident in Grants, New Mexico, Michael 'Mike' Meadows returned to Richland Center to recuperate and eventually entered the family business. Upon the death of Carl Meadows in 1979 Mike Meadows assumed the role of President/Manager.

In 1973 Mike Meadows and Leslie Simmons were married. Leslie was from Des Moines, Iowa and attended Northwest Missouri State University and the University of Wisconsin-



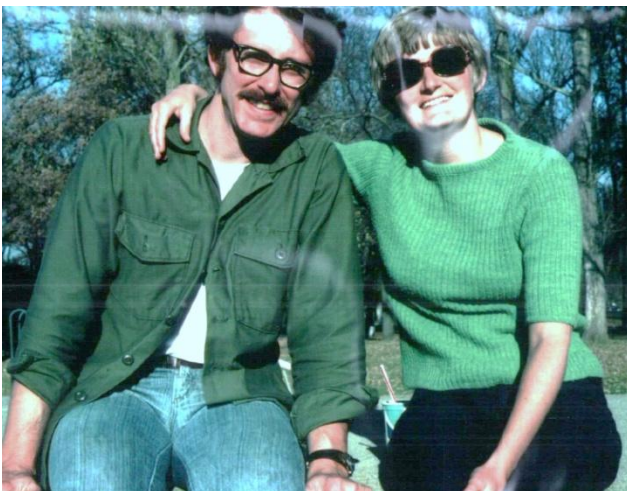
In 2012, Mike and Leslie retired and sold the Meadows Furniture business after 78 years of continuous Meadows family operation. Leslie K. Meadows passed away on January 7, 2013, while on vacation in Utah after a sudden illness. She was 63 and had battled cancer for 30 years. Her cheerful disposition and friendly demeanor were her trademarks.

Above left: Mike and Leslie Meadows. Above right: Carl and Ann Meadows. Mike Meadows photos.

CONGRATULATIONS MIKE & LESLIE!
Meadows
INC.



Mike Meadows, in his retirement, is deeply involved with the A.D. German Warehouse Conservancy, Inc. (ADGWC) working to restore the A.D. German Warehouse, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Like Leslie, he is dedicated to see this completed. The Meadows' continue to be an inspiration to all involved in this unique and worthwhile project.



Above: The restored Meadows Furniture & Floor Covering buildings.

Left: Mike and Leslie Meadows. Mike Meadows photos.