

# Charles J. Shain (1882 – 1951)



***Charles J. Shain, 1899***

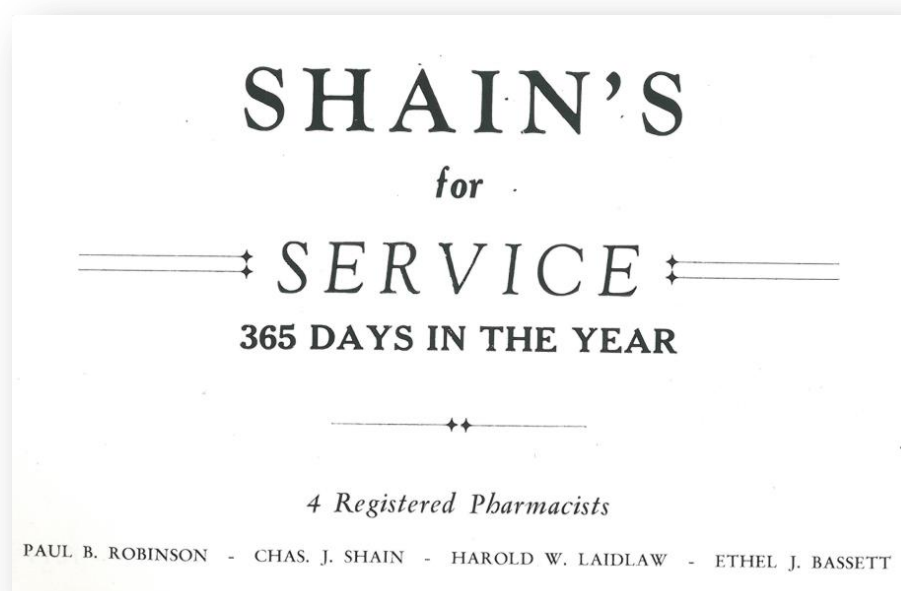
Doctors knew they could depend on Charles Shain. Shain's Store would open whenever a patient needed medication, day or night. His business, both a drug and grocery store would serve an integral role in the community for more than 40 years.

He was born to Charles and Fannie in 1882 at the Rudgate Farm on Quarton Road. Charlie, as he was called, attended high school in Birmingham and with the help of Martha Baldwin, would go onto study to be a druggist at the Ferris Institute (today, Ferris State University) in Big Rapids.

His skills as a businessman were useful in 1924 when he was president of the village. The state wanted to route traffic away from downtown, something that would have harmed local businesses. Charlie erected a water tower near the new route's path, ending the change.

He and his wife Ruth traveled to Belgium in 1927 as a representative of Birmingham at the International Rotary Convention. They would also help found the Village Players and served as a chairman in 1931.

In 1946 Birmingham honored him with a dinner to celebrate his 40<sup>th</sup> year in business and upon his death named Shain Park in his memory.



***Advertisement for Shain's from the Baldwinian, 1929.***

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*Why I was inspired: Charles Shain worked nearly his entire life to improve Birmingham and through Shain Park, we still remember him today.*

*--Submitted by Amy Wells*