

MR. EUGENE H. SMITH

Seattle, Washington



Mr. Eugene A. Smith, Cosmopolitan, i. e., one who considers the world his home.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, he received his early education in Jefferson City. Later removed to Sedalia, Missouri, where he finished in the George R. Smith school of that city. In attaining his majority he proceeded to Chicago, Illinois, where he remained for twelve years. His next move was to Detroit, Michigan, from there to Kansas City, Missouri. In 1914 the Puget Sound attracted his attention and he came to Seattle, Washington, and joined Lieut. James A. Roston in organizing The Colored Marine Benevolent Association of the Pacific Coast. The venture caused him many a sleepless night. Few comprehend, and no one knows, unless they have had practical experience, what a task it is to place a large crew of men on the number of ships flying the Pacific S. S. Co. flag, training them in an unfamiliar line of work.

It called for patience and perseverance. Mr. Smith was indefatigable, and spent months in making trips on each ship, until he was satisfied that the men could deliver the proper service. In 1923 he accepted a position on the H. F. Alexander and for eight months remained on the East Coast, running from New York City to Miami, Florida.

The large measure of success which has been gained by the Association is due to the energy and initiative of Mr. Smith.

He is married and lives with his wife at 209 24th Avenue North.