



# RINGSRUD

## MERCANTILE CO., INC.

Mr. C. W. Beggs, a pioneer merchant of Elk Point, was born in Peoria, Illinois, July 31st, 1840. He came to Dakota Territory in 1868, and established a general mercantile business in Elk Point.

The Beggs' store was located on Main Street near the present site of the City Auditorium, and was a great factor in the early days of this community.

Three young men from pioneer families, who aided substantially in Beggs' success, were A. O. Ringsrud, John F. Reid and Oluf Johnson.

In 1885, A. O. Ringsrud purchased a half interest in the Beggs' store, and the firm name was changed to Beggs & Ringsrud.

In 1886, M. H. Gill, another young man from a pioneer family, became an employee of the Beggs & Ringsrud store, and was destined to carry on the traditions of the establishment after the founders had passed on. This same year Mr. Beggs sold his remaining interest in the store to Mr. Ringsrud and the name once more changed. For the next ten years the establishment was known as the A. O. Ringsrud store.

In 1896, the Ringsrud Mercantile Company was formed, with A. O. Ringsrud, President, M. H. Gill, Vice President and John F. Reid, Secretary. In 1906 the firm was incorporated under the laws of the state of South Dakota.

In 1904, the present store building was erected and at that time was one of the finest business buildings in the state of South Dakota.

Mr. Ringsrud passed away in January 1932. After the death of Mr. Ringsrud, M. H. Gill was elected president and general manager of the firm, a position he was well qualified to fill after forty seven years of service, the last twenty years as assistant manager.

In 1956, M. H. Gill retired from active duty after 70 years of faithful and untiring service to the firm and Elk Point community.

On June 1st, 1954, T. L. Gill was appointed manager of the firm and is still acting in that capacity.

This year, the Ringsrud Mercantile Company, Inc., is celebrating its Ninety First Anniversary. From its humble inception its policy has always been to handle only merchandise of fine quality.