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Paquin Avenue,



Columbia, Missouri

When I received the Paquin Key upon retiring from the presidency of the American Oil Chemists' Society in 1954, I pointed out that I'd followed Felix Paquin¹ to Columbia, Missouri, where he studied around the turn of the century, and then to Memphis, Tennessee, where he operated until about 1909. I went to Memphis after my graduation in 1912.

Mrs. A. E. Bailey called my attention to the fact that there was a Paquin Avenue in Columbia, Missouri, where she had attended the University.

Obviously, Paquin Avenue was not named for a young French-Canadian (Felix was born in St. Andrews, Quebec, December 17, 1865, of Canadian parents of French descent. He came to the United States as a young man.) who attended the University for a couple of years around 1900, and later got his degree from another school—St. Louis University.

In three fifty-year reunions (football, B.S. degree and Ch.E. degree), I made a point of interviewing a number of Columbia residents, even older than I. It appears that Paquin Avenue was really named for a Dr. Paquin who lived where the street is now located.

Dr. Paul Paquin was appointed to head the new Veterinary Medicine Department at the University of Missouri in 1884. He was sent abroad to study with leading scientists of the day, including Louis Pasteur in France. He retired in 1891.

It seems most likely that Felix attended the University of Missouri because a relative of a previous generation was there, or had been there.

We can imagine that Paquin Avenue was really named for Felix's great uncle.

PROCTER THOMPSON²
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¹ Charter Member, 1909; First AOCS President, 1910-11; Honorary Membership; died September 21, 1961, as a result of a laboratory accident at the age of 87.

² Procter Thomson (1933); AOCS President, 1953-54; Emeritus Member, 1960.