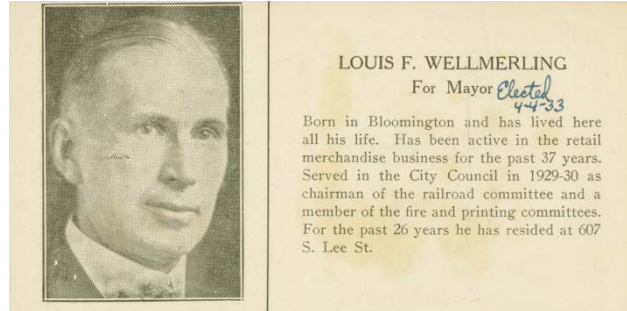


Name \_\_\_\_\_

## “Depression-Era Bloomington Mayor Besieged by Jobseekers” Letter Analysis

**Overview:** Louis Wellmerling served as mayor of the City of Bloomington from 1933 to 1937, years which were the most difficult period of the Great Depression. The accomplishments of Mayor Wellmerling were several and noteworthy because they were accomplished in tough economic times. Modern traffic lights were installed in the central business district, Highland Park Golf Course was expanded to 18 holes, new streets were constructed in Miller Park, streetcars and their tracks were replaced with buses, fares were reduced from 10 to 5 cents, the Bloomington Airport was completed and opened, and natural gas rates were lowered.



**Directions:** Bloomington Mayor Wellmerling was deluged with letters from citizens soliciting jobs. Reach your letter and use the questions below to document the viewpoint of the person writing the letter.

1. Who wrote this letter and what is the author's current financial situation?
2. List the date and the address listed on the letter (if possible).
3. Based on your reading, list three or four observations that describe this person.

