

Necrology of Notable Iowans...

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN, sculptor and art teacher, died at Ames, Iowa, April 4, 1961; born in Dybbol, North Slesvig, Denmark, February 25, 1885; immigrated at the age of nine to the United States with his parents in 1894, locating on a small farm in New Jersey; attended Newark Technical School, learned the art of steel-engraving and die-cutting and began work in a jewelry factory at the age of sixteen; studied Art Students League of New York, Rhode Island School of Design, and with Boston sculptor, Henry Hudson Kitson; employed the sculptor method to the making of medals and medallions; established his own studio; accepted a position with a trophy manufacturing firm in Chicago; married Charlotte Garvey of Belvedere, Illinois in 1929; chosen by Grant Wood to assist in Public Works of Art Project and commissioned to design six terra cotta panels for the Dairy Industry Building at Iowa State University, 1933-1934; stayed on as instructor and was named associate professor of applied art 1944; worked in semi-retirement since 1956; major works include the terra cotta statue of St. Francis Xavier, at Dyersville and a heroic depiction of St. Bernard at the Mount St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque; member of Delta Phi Delta, honorary art society and Tau Sigma Delta architecture and allied arts honorary society; survived by his wife, Charlotte, and a daughter, Sister Mary Kerstan, BVM.

LEO J. WEGMAN, bank executive and former state treasurer, died at Anamosa, Iowa, February 13, 1961; born in Maries County, Missouri, May 17, 1875, the son of John Bernard and Mary Helen (Schmitz) Wegman; attended rural school, Maries High School, and briefly studied for the priesthood at Josephinum College, Columbus, Ohio; left St. Louis to become a telegrapher with the Ohio, Missouri & St. Paul Railroad at Janesville, Wisconsin in 1896, was station agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul at Sexton, Iowa, a brakeman at Mason City, and the next year opened a new Iowa Central station at St. Benedict in Kossuth County; organized a military company at Loose Creek, Missouri during the Spanish-American War; went to Madill in the Indian Territory to enter the banking business, helped organize and was cashier of the First National Bank at Tishomingo, capital of the Chickasaw Nation, 1900-1901, resigned as agent for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway at Freeburg, Missouri and returned to Iowa as cashier and manager of the Peoples Savings Bank at St. Benedict in 1902; married to Ida C. Heinen of Loose Creek, Missouri in November of that year; organized and became president of the Peoples Savings Bank, Templeton, Iowa, 1904-1932, Dedham Savings Bank in Carroll County, 1905-1908, secretary, treasurer and a director of the Charles E. Walters

Company in Omaha, a firm engaged in the purchase and sale of banks, 1906-1908, president of the German Savings Bank, renamed the Farmers Savings Bank, at Halbur in Carroll County, serving as mayor from 1910 to 1914, then moved to Carroll to head the German American Bank, incorporated as the American Savings Bank; founded the Carroll County Club, was city treasurer and for fourteen years chairman of the Democratic County Committee; elected Treasurer of Iowa in November, 1932 and served three consecutive terms before relinquishing office January 1, 1939; purchased a majority interest in and chosen president of the Citizens Savings Bank of Anamosa January 10, 1939, associated with other progressive stockholders to restore its continued financial growth, later named chairman of the board, and was also president of the Dyersville National Bank at Dyersville; had been chairman of Group V of the American Bankers Association, a director of the Iowa Bankers Association, state deputy of the Knights of Columbus, 1929-1932, member of the Elks, Catholic Order of Foresters, and lay leader of St. Patrick's Church in Anamosa; survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Irma H. Bird, Dyersville, Iowa, and three sons, Clarence M. Wegman, Evanston, Illinois, and Leonard J. and Edwin L. Wegman of Anamosa.

ZALES NELSON ECTON, wheat farmer, rancher, lawyer, and former United States senator, died in Bozeman, Montana, March 3, 1961; born at Weldon, Iowa, April 1, 1898, the son of Aaron Smith and Delphia (McVay) Ecton; attended Montana State College, 1916-19, and the University of Chicago, 1919-20; married to Vera B. Harris, November 25, 1920; was secretary and director of the cattle ranch, Flying D, Inc., Gallatin Gateway, Montana, and had owned and operated a 1,000 acre, dryland, wheat farm for more than a quarter century; began his political career as state representative from Gallatin County, 1933-37, and served in the Montana State Senate from 1937 to 1946; successfully campaigned for the United States Senate in 1946 to become the first Republican senator elected by popular vote in Montana, winning his seat by 15,000 votes over Lief Erickson, who had upset incumbent Senator Burton K. Wheeler in the Democratic primary, and lost a close race for re-election to Mike Mansfield in 1952; was a member of the American Legion, American Farm Bureau Federation, Masons, and Christian Church; had a daughter, Mrs. Eloise Moe, and a son, Zales N. Ecton.

HEINRICH C. TAYLOR, district judge, died at Bloomfield, Iowa, March 14, 1961; born in Bloomfield, Iowa, August 6, 1898, the son of Henry C. and Helen W. Steckel Taylor; attended high school in Bloomfield two and a half years, Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Connecticut from 1914 to 1916, left Princeton University to enlist in the Naval Aviation Corps in July, 1918, stationed at the Dunwoody Naval Training School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and resumed his studies following his dis-

charge in December, 1918, graduating from Princeton in 1920; entered law school at the State University of Iowa, was associate editor of the *Iowa Law Review* and received his law degree in 1922; became a partner with his father in the Bloomfield law firm of H. C. and H. C. Taylor, and continued the practice after the latter's death in 1934; married to Mrs. Opal Lorenz Hotchkiss at Bloomfield, July 12, 1928; served as Bloomfield city attorney, 1936-1939, president of the school board, 1937-1938, and took a leading role in civic affairs, being instrumental in the construction of Lake Fisher; elected judge of the Second Judicial District in November, 1938, assumed his duties January 1, 1939, and had been on the district bench twenty-two years; was the owner of two Davis County farms, president of the Davis County Republican Company, a director of Nock-on-Wood, Inc., chairman of the Davis County War Chest and Bond Sales drives for three years during World War II, president of the Second Judicial District Bar Association, 1944, Bloomfield Rotary Club, 1939, member of the Davis County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, Masonic order, Elks, American Legion, and Methodist church; survived by his wife, a son, Heinrich C. Taylor, Jr., Des Moines, and a stepson, Robert Hotchkiss, Cedar Rapids.

FRED C. LOVRIEN, retired judge, attorney, and former state legislator, died in Long Beach, Mississippi, March 20, 1961; born on a farm in Humboldt County, Iowa, July 26, 1875, the son of Frank and Agnes Lovrien; graduated from the State University of Iowa law school in 1897, began the practice of law at Humboldt in June of that year, and later was a partner in the firm of Lovrien & Lovrien with his brother, Frank S. Lovrien; married to Jennie Bell French, November 30, 1901; elected a Republican member of the state legislature in November, 1922, served as Humboldt county representative in the 40th, 40th extra, 41st, 42nd, 42nd extra, and 43rd sessions of the General Assembly; co-authored the Lovrien-Brookhart law creating a state sinking fund for public deposits in closed banks, was an able floor leader, member of the Joint Legislative Committee on tax revision and tenth district member of the Republican State Central Committee; resigned August 27, 1929 to accept an appointment by Governor John Hammill as judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District succeeding Daniel F. Coyle; remained on the bench four years before returning to his law practice, and had made his home in Spirit Lake since his retirement in 1945; was a member of the Baptist Church; survived by his wife, four daughters, Mrs. Carol Hope Matty, Tucson, Arizona, Mrs. Alice Mahon, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Mrs. Gladys Lasser, Moline, Illinois, Mrs. Frieda Howell, Jopez, Kentucky, and a son, Arthur Lovrien, Spirit Lake.

GUY GOLDTHORPE BUTLER, state senator, farm owner, bank executive, and former dentist, died in Des Moines, April 12, 1961; born at Beattie, Kansas, March 5, 1887, the son of William S. and Ellen Rosamond Goldthorpe Butler; moved with his parents to a farm north of Rolfe,

Iowa, the following year, attended elementary school in Des Moines township, graduated from the Rolfe high school in 1909, and the Northwestern University School of Dentistry in 1913; went to Asia, receiving the seventh license ever issued to practice dentistry in the Imperial Japanese Empire, named dentist by royal appointment to the household of King Rama VI of Siam, and practiced five years in Bangkok; married in Swatow, China, May 30, 1921, to Suma Grenova from Odessa, Russia; had to give up his profession after injuring his arm in an automobile accident during a visit to the United States in 1923, and moved onto the family farm near Rolfe; developed an active interest in politics, had a long record of attendance at state conventions, became a member, 1925, and later chairman of the Pocahontas County Republican Central Committee, and locally known as "Doc" or "Mr. Republican"; was one of the founders, a stockholder, director, president, and board chairman of the Rolfe State Bank; served two terms as mayor of Rolfe, elected to the state legislature in 1946, represented Pocahontas County again in the 54th and 55th sessions of the General Assembly, and had been state senator from the Buena Vista, Humboldt, and Pocahontas Fiftieth District since 1954, being elected to a second term in 1958; respected for his integrity and sound judgment in public affairs, and often referred to as "the shirt-sleeve senator"; was a member of the Farm Bureau, past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, past master of the Masons, past high priest of the Royal Arch Masons, member of Za-Ga-Zig Shrine and Order of Eastern Star; survived by his wife.

CLARENCE ARTHUR (DAZZY) VANCE, former major league baseball player, died at his home in Homosassa Springs, Florida, February 16, 1961; born at Orient, Iowa, March 4, 1891; pitched semi-pro baseball in Hastings, Nebraska, and at nineteen began his professional career with Red Cloud in the Nebraska State League; was playing for St. Joseph, Missouri in the Western League by 1915, had brief trials with the Pittsburgh Pirates and New York Yankees, but hurt his arm and returned to the minor leagues; played several years in the American Association, International, Pacific Coast, and Southern Leagues, moving to Columbus, to Toledo, then to Memphis in the Southern League; was traded to New Orleans of the Southern Association in 1920 and after a successful season the following year reported to the Brooklyn Dodgers in the spring of 1922 to become one of the great right-handed pitching stars of the game; won 18 games his first year and with sheer speed led the National League in strikeouts, duplicating the feat for the next six years; named the circuit's most valuable player in 1924 and led Brooklyn to a near pennant in winning 28 games against 6 losses with an amazing earned run average of 2.16; pitched a no-hit game after signing a three-year contract for a record \$50,000 the following year, and became a favorite of the Dodger fans; remained with Brooklyn until traded to the St. Louis Cardinals at the end of the 1932 season, went to the Cincinnati Reds, then back to the Cardinals, and appeared in the 1934 World Series; won a total of 197 major league games, lost 140, and in later

years was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame; retired to property invested in Florida where his wife and daughter had made their home since 1924, operating a fishing lodge at Homosassa Springs until forced to curtail his business during World War II; survived by his wife, Edith, two brothers and a sister.

LLOYD OREN BREWER, newspaper editor and publisher, died at his home in Newton July 25, 1960; born near Vinton, Iowa, January 25, 1889, the son of John Warren and Estella Grace (Bryner) Brewer; graduated from the high school at Dows in 1907, and learned the printers trade with the *Dows Advocate*, 1904-08; managed and edited the *Butler County Tribune* at Allison for two years, owned and published the *Dumont Journal*, 1910-16, being postmaster at Dumont, 1912-16, and also managed the *Gilman Dispatch* before becoming city editor of the *Newton Daily News* in 1917; enlisted in the Army Air Corps in World War I, served with the 306th aero squadron at San Antonio and Waco, Texas, overseas six months, discharged at Camp Dodge with the rank of sergeant in January 1919, and returned to Newton to organize and manage the commercial printing department of the *News*; married at Newton January 25, 1921 to Stasia B. Carey, who died in 1953; advanced to business manager of the paper in 1924, associate publisher in 1938, and had been secretary-treasurer of the News Printing Company and publisher of the *Newton Daily News* since 1944; served as chairman of the Jasper County Republican Central Committee, and nominated for the state legislature in 1958; received the Iowa Press Association "Master Editor-Publisher" award in 1955, was a director of the Inland Daily Press Association, a past president of the Iowa Daily Press Association, Newton Chamber of Commerce, Jasper County Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., Kiwanis Club, chairman of the County Statehood Centennial Committee in 1946, active in the American Legion, member of the Masonic Lodge, Elks Club, and general board of the First Congregational Church; married in 1956 to Mrs. Winifred M. Peek of Kansas City, who survives him.

LUKE L. VITTETOE, druggist and former state senator, died at his home in Sigourney, Iowa, September 16, 1959; born at Oberlin, Kansas, November 5, 1885, the son of James F. and Mary Ragan Vittetoe; moved with his parents to Sigourney in 1897, and graduated from the high school in 1905; taught rural school, 1905-06, attended the National Institute of Pharmacy in Chicago, 1906-08, and was a drug clerk for the Edwin Franken Pharmacy in Sigourney till 1911; married at St. Louis August 11, 1911 to Dolly Willcockson, who died June 6, 1956; established his own store that year, having been in the retail drug business in Sigourney 48 years; became a director of the Keokuk County State Bank in 1925, and had engaged in farm operations near Sigourney since 1935; served two terms as Republican state senator representing the Keokuk and Poweshiek Twelfth District from 1942 to 1950; was a member of the Iowa State Pharmacy Association, and

president of the Eleventh Judicial District Pharmacy Group, 1936-37; took an active part in civic and community affairs, serving on the Sigourney school board, 1930-45, being president eleven years, was chairman of Keokuk County Civilian Defense, and local Boy Scout committee; became a member of the Keokuk County board of education in 1940, secretary, 1929, and president, 1930, of the Lions Club, member of the Chamber of Commerce, Keokuk County Farm Bureau, Masonic orders, Shrine, Odd Fellows, and Christian Church; survived by a daughter, Mrs. Jeanette Paulson, and a son, Luke Edwin Vittetoe, both of Sigourney.

JESSE E. CUNDY, former state legislator, civic official, teacher and school administrator, died at Cedar Falls, February 11, 1961; born on a farm in Taylor county March 23, 1876, the son of Edwin L. and Mary Basisto Cundy; attended country school, Iowa State Normal School at Cedar Falls, the University of Arkansas, and began teaching rural school in 1894; married at Newell, Iowa December 25, 1902, to Minnie L. Newton who died December 9, 1960; taught at Massena, Newell, Marathon, and Milford, was superintendent of city and consolidated schools, county superintendent at Storm Lake in Buena Vista County, and farmed near Cedar Falls for a number of years; elected a member of the Forty-sixth General Assembly and in his one term as the first Democratic state representative from Black Hawk County, 1935-1936, supported legislation to establish the Iowa Highway Patrol and permit school reorganization; moved to Cedar Falls in 1938, taught at Monona and Marshalltown during World War II, and had been an instructor at Iowa State Teachers College; served as mayor of Cedar Falls from 1951 to 1958, contributing much to the rapid expansion of the city; was a member of the First Methodist Church; survived by two daughters, Mrs. Annabel Schantz, Wellsburg, Mrs. Carol Walden, Redondo Beach, California, and a son, John E. Cundy, Cedar Falls.

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The public is invited to visit the Iowa State Department of History and Archives and its many departments of historical and general interest. It is located in the Historical Building, (pictured on the front cover) just across from the State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

Of particular interest to the public is the state museum where many interesting exhibits of early pioneer articles of daily use may be found. Horse drawn wagons and buggies and a number of gasoline and steam propelled automobiles may be seen, as well as an excellent collection of early farm machinery and implements. Indian lore is well represented with some of the finest artifacts of these early Iowans to be found anywhere.

Geology exhibits of fossil and mineral specimens tracing Iowa's history back into prehistoric times have attracted many students and scholars from other states. The wars that Iowans have fought in are well recorded by the many souvenirs on display. Portraits of many important early Iowa citizens may be viewed in the portrait galleries.

Church, school, or other groups may arrange for the services of a guide to aid them in touring the museum. Please notify the Curator in advance if a guide is desired.—Ed.

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