

Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

CLARK H. MCNEAL, state legislator, grain dealer, and operator of a farm management, real estate and insurance business, died at Belmond, Iowa July 28, 1959; born in Clarion, Iowa December 4, 1918, the son of Clark Edward and Hilda Bredholm McNeal; attended public schools in Clarion and Rockford, Illinois where his parents moved about 1930; graduated from Cornell College at Mount Vernon in 1939, and received a masters degree in public administration from the University of Michigan two years later; married Dorothy Courson of Belmond August 26, 1939, accepted a position as branch manager for the Beneficial Management Corporation, returned to Belmond to take over management of the Courson farm management and real estate business upon the death of his father-in-law, R. E. Courson, in 1942; formed a partnership with a brother-in-law, Ronald W. Courson, in 1944, and upon its dissolution in 1953, established the McNeal Grain Company in Clarion, though continuing to live and operate a farm management, real estate and insurance business in Belmond; was active in community affairs, becoming president of the Belmond Chamber of Commerce, heading Red Cross and bond-selling drives, played an important part in building the Belmond hospital, and served a term on the city council; named Republican committeeman and alternate delegate to the Republican national convention at Philadelphia in 1948; first sought public office in 1950, being easily elected state representative from Wright County; a fluent and effective speaker, was re-elected for his fifth term in 1958 after gaining considerable prominence between sessions as chairman of a special legislative committee that investigated campaign and election practices; chosen majority leader by his party during the Fifty-eighth General Assembly, and contributed much to improved cooperation between the two opposing political parties; was active in the Masonic lodge and a member of the Methodist Church; survived by his wife and five children; Clark E., 17; David Anthony, 14; Kristin Jane, 11; Tyler, 6; and Sherman, 21 months.

WILLIAM DANIEL LEAHY, naval officer, diplomat, and presidential adviser, died at Bethesda, Maryland July 20, 1959; born May 6, 1875 in Hampton, Iowa, the son of Michael Arthur and Rose Hamilton Leahy; removed with his family to Wisconsin, graduating from the high school at Ashland in 1892; accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy

at Annapolis, Maryland and graduated in 1897; married, February 3, 1904, to Louise Tennent Harrington who died April 21, 1942; was a midshipman on the battleship Oregon when it made its dramatic dash around Cape Horn to take part in the battle of Santiago at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War; commissioned ensign in 1899 and saw service in the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion in China; was chief of staff of naval forces during the American occupation of Nicaragua in 1912 and served in the Haitian campaign of 1916; commanded the dispatch ship Dolphin during the Mexican Punitive Expedition in 1916, and was searching for German supply ships in Caribbean waters when World War I began; promoted to commander and supervised the commissioning of the Princess Matoika, a confiscated German liner which under his command was used to transport American troops to Europe; awarded the Navy Cross for distinguished service and advanced to captain July 1, 1918; rose rapidly after the war, serving as chief of the bureau of ordnance with the rank of rear admiral from 1927 to 1931; commander of destroyers scouting force for the next two years, chief of the bureau of navigation until 1935, vice admiral commanding battleships of battle force the following year, and admiral commanding battle force from 1936 to 1937, President Roosevelt then making him chief of naval operations; became an ardent champion for a strong fleet and the navy's spokesman for its first billion dollar appropriation bill in 1938, was acting secretary of the navy during the prolonged illness of Claude A. Swanson, and retired in 1939 because of the statutory age requirement; appointed governor of Puerto Rico in 1939, and in 1940 took the important post of ambassador to the Petain government of France, serving as our listening post there during the critical period of Nazi occupation; recalled to active duty to fill the newly created post of chief of staff to the commander in chief in 1942, being senior member of the joint chiefs of staff and a member of the combined chiefs which included senior officers of America's principal allies in World War II; overcame traditional jealousies in working closely with the ranking officers of each military service to provide the president with information on which to formulate global strategy; promoted to fleet admiral December 15, 1944 and given seniority over six other officers also raised to newly created five-star rank; as senior military adviser to the president, accompanied him to the Yalta conference, and continuing on in the same post under President Harry S. Truman, was also at the Potsdam conference; helped to establish the organization that became the Central Intelligence Agency, aided in unifying the armed services under one member of the cabinet, and resigned in March 1949 but remained an advisor to successive secretaries

of the navy; his quiet, solid conservatism was credited with being a good counter-balance to the more impulsive advice sometimes given the president by his colleagues; his navy reputation was one of much executive ability, at sea or ashore, "a cold logician," and a stern disciplinarian; had been president of the Navy Historical Foundation since 1950; awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in World War II as well as many other American and foreign decorations; author of *I Was There*, the story of his wartime experiences; survived by an only son, Rear Admiral William H. Leahy.

JAMES G. PATTERSON, district judge, died at Oskaloosa, Iowa May 22, 1959; born in Jasper County August 6, 1871, the son of William J. and Elizabeth Steele Patterson; received his early education in Mahaska County schools, was a teacher for two years, 1891-92, and completed pre-law studies at Oskaloosa College in 1894; enrolled at the University of Iowa, obtaining a Ph.B. degree in 1899 and LL.B. in 1901, and upon admittance to the Iowa bar, began the practice of law in Oskaloosa that year; married June 10, 1908 to Maude McClure who died July 8, 1958; served as Mahaska County attorney from 1909 to 1913 and as Oskaloosa city solicitor, 1925-6; became a recognized authority on legal drainage matters and had served as advisor to the Mahaska County board of supervisors on such issues; appointed judge of the Sixth judicial district at Oskaloosa in February 1928, succeeding Charles A. Dewey; retired December 31, 1958 after 30 years on the bench; owned several farms and was much interested in fishing and farm development; was a long time member of the Iowa and Mahaska County Bar Associations, the Iowa District Judges Association, the Masonic lodge, the Shrine, a Republican in politics, and active in the First Presbyterian Church.

FREDERIC LARRABEE, attorney, realtor, farm supervisor, cattle breeder, and former state senator died at his home in Clermont, Iowa August 27, 1959; born at Clermont November 3, 1873, the son of William and Anna Matilda Appelman Larrabee, his father being governor of Iowa from 1886 to 1890; graduated from the Clermont High School, the University of Iowa in 1897, and received his law degree from the university in 1898; studied for a time at Columbia University, established a law practice and real estate business in Fort Dodge in 1901, and supervised a number of farms in northern Iowa; was a first lieutenant in the 56th Regiment, Iowa National Guard, and battery adjutant several years; elected a Republican state senator from the Twenty-seventh District comprising Calhoun and Webster Counties in 1909, serving continuously through the Thirty-sixth

General Assembly in 1916; was a past chairman of the Webster County Republican central committee, and a delegate to the Republican national convention in Cleveland which nominated Calvin Coolidge for president in 1924; noted for his interest in raising Brown Swiss dairy cattle, and was president of the Iowa State Dairy Association from 1929 to 1937; belonged to the Chamber of Commerce and the order of the Elks; left Fort Dodge about 1953 to make his home in Clermont; had never married, being survived by a sister, Miss Anna Larrabee of Clermont.

MAX OTTO LORENZ, statistician, died in Palo Alto, California July 1, 1959; born at Burlington, Iowa September 19, 1876, the son of Carl Wilhelm and Amalie Marie Brautigam Lorenz; the first coffee roasting establishment in Burlington across from the First Congregational church on Fourth Street, operated by his father, was sold to A. J. Benner, founder of the Benner Tea Company; received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1899, taught in the Burlington high school for two years, and was an instructor in economics at the University of Wisconsin from 1901 to 1907, obtaining his doctorate from that institution in 1906; served as deputy commissioner of labor and industrial statistics in Wisconsin until 1909; special agent for the U. S. Bureau of Census for a year, and statistician with the Bureau of Railway Economics from 1910 to 1911; married Nellie F. Sheets October 28, 1911; was an associate statistician with the Interstate Commerce Commission from 1911 to 1916, secretary of the 8-Hour Commission the following year, and director of statistics for the Interstate Commerce Commission until his retirement in 1944, making his home in Palo Alto, California; co-authored a text, *Outlines of Economics*, and originated the "Lorenz Curve" used in population studies.

BRUCE F. STILES, state conservation official, died in Des Moines July 17, 1959; born at Decorah, Iowa, June 23, 1897; attended the public schools in Decorah and at Cherokee, and studied at Morningside College in Sioux City and Drake University in Des Moines; served in the navy during World War I; appointed conservation officer for Council Bluffs in 1938, and was instrumental in organizing conservation leagues in both Mills and Pottawattamie Counties; advanced to chief of the Fish and Game division of the state Conservation Commission in 1942, assistant director of the commission in 1946, and named director August 15, 1948 to succeed G. L. Ziemer who had resigned; the work of the conservation commission was greatly expanded under his administration with carefully planned programs being instituted to increase fish and game recrea-

tional facilities, conservation research, land for reserves and wild life refuges, and use of state parks; served as president of the International Association of Game and Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the Midwest Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the Midwest Association of Game, Fish and Law Enforcement Officers, the Iowa Ornithological Union, and chairman of the Mississippi Migratory Waterfowl Flyway Council; was a member of the National Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Interior on Migratory Waterfowl, attended President Eisenhower's conference on the fitness of American youth at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1956, and received an original etching from the Wildlife Management Institute that has been placed in the Deane Collection of Portraits of American Ornithologists in the Library of Congress; was also a member of the Izaak Walton League and of Masonic orders; survived by his wife, and one son, James F., a medical student at the University of Iowa.

JOHN RANKIN IRWIN, former businessman, state representative, civic official, and community leader died at his home in Keokuk, Iowa August 10, 1959; born of a distinguished Iowa family in Keokuk August 24, 1883, the son of John Nichol and Mary Love Rankin Irwin; attended the local public schools, entered Lawrenceville Preparatory School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey in 1899, graduating in 1902, and received his bachelor of letters degree from Princeton University in 1906; began the study of law in the offices of Ralston & Siddons in Washington, D. C., that fall, attending classes at the National University law school there at the same time; returned to Keokuk the next year to work as a clerk with the Irwin & Phillips Dry Goods Company, established by his grandfather, Stephen Irwin in 1856; became a director of the company in 1908, was subsequently made secretary, and served in both capacities until 1927; traveled widely with his parents meeting many eminent personalities of the day; married Florence V. Johnstone of Keokuk July 9, 1909; enlisted during World War I and took officer's training at the University of Iowa in the summer of 1917, but was rejected for active service because of his eyesight; became a director in the Keokuk Savings Bank and Trust Company, a trustee of the Keokuk public library, president of the Keokuk Country Club; and director of the Y.M.C.A. in Keokuk; a republican, was elected state representative from Lee County in 1928; appointed postmaster of Keokuk by President Herbert Hoover in 1929, and spent the remainder of his life in public service; again returned to the Iowa house of representatives in 1934, 1936, and 1938, being elected speaker in the Forty-eighth General Assembly;

was a member of the Elks Club, and an elder in the Westminster Presbyterian Church; survived by his wife and two sons, Alexander Johnstone of Chicago, and John N. Irwin II of Washington and New York, deputy secretary of defense for international affairs.

BYRON BENNETT BOYD, artist and former architect, died at his home in La Jolla, California July 16, 1959 at the age of 72; born in Wichita, Kansas, and grew to manhood in Denver, Colorado; studied art in high school with private tutors, Jean Mannheim of Denver and Henry Hensche of Provincetown, and at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students' League in New York; received his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and a master's degree in architecture from Columbia University in New York City; came to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1914 to practice architecture in the firm of Boyd & Moore; designed and supervised the construction of the Iowa Memorial Union at the University of Iowa, San Gabriel Monastery, Salisbury House, Warren G. Harding Junior High School, the Insurance Exchange Building, and the Iowa National Bank Building in Des Moines, as well as other business buildings and banks; served with the submarine division, bureau of Yards and Docks in Washington in World War I; by the middle twenties was painting whenever time allowed and his work was being shown in local exhibitions; painting had become his vocation by 1926; traveled and painted abroad six summers in the following years; assisted Boardman Robinson with the frescoes at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and with murals in the department of Justice Building in Washington, D.C., also did the murals at the Osceola and Pella, Iowa postoffices; was associated with Grant Wood in promoting the Stone City art colony, and served as president of the Iowa Artists' Club for four years; his paintings were soon represented in regional and national art shows; gained national recognition in 1933 when his painting "The New God" was placed in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts exhibition, and another of his pictures, a study of the old Mills mansion in Des Moines called "Progress," was also shown there that year; the Corcoran gallery in Washington, D.C., selected another of his works entitled "Speed" to be exhibited in 1937; returned from painting in Mexico in September 1939 to become head of the Drake University art department where his leadership in revising courses and stimulating interest resulted in greatly increased attendance and accrediting of the school; named to the Des Moines planning and zoning commission in 1943; retired from the university because of ill health in 1944; and had made his home in California since 1944; author of four published plays; was a member of the

board of trustees of the Des Moines Association of Fine Arts, and the American Institute of Architects; survived by his wife, Ivan, and a daughter, Mrs. John Garner of Coos Bay, Oregon.

CLARENCE FLOYD LETTS, retired farmer and former state representative, died at his home in Washington, Iowa, August 20, 1959; born on a pioneer family homestead north of Ainsworth December 14, 1877, the son of David Grove and Hannah Gale Dickinson Letts; attended rural schools, prep school and Parsons academy in Fairfield until 1896, and studied at Parsons College for two years; married August 9, 1898 to Zelma M. Sawyers, who died in 1953; owned and operated a grocery store in Ames from 1898 to 1903, and then was a clerk and salesman for the Martin Wholesale Grocer Company in Davenport prior to taking over the family homestead in Highland township, Washington County in 1907; specialized in raising hogs and stock feeding; was for several years a township trustee, member of the township school board, and also chairman of the Republican committee of Highland township for many years; served as president of the Washington County Farm Bureau from 1917 to 1919, and was a member of the committee on Liberty Loan drives during World War I; elected to the Iowa house of representatives for the 39th General Assembly from Washington County in 1920, re-elected to the 40th and 40th extra sessions in 1922; served on the county board of health in 1936, and the same year began twenty years service on the Washington County hospital board; had made his home in Washington, Iowa, since retiring about 1944; was a trustee of the First Presbyterian church for many years, president of the board, member of the Masons, Shrine, Knight Templars, and former Rotarian; survived by a daughter, Mary Gale of Washington, twin sons, Grove R. of Ainsworth and David S. of Washington, D.C., and a brother, the distinguished Judge Fred Dickinson Letts in Washington, D.C.

PAUL SAYRE, professor of law, died at Iowa City, Iowa, August 10, 1959; born in Insdale, Illinois July 26, 1894, the son of Rockwell and Susan Lombard Sayre; attended University High School in Chicago, the Tacher School in Ojai, California, received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College in 1916, a law degree from the University of Chicago in 1920, and his doctor of juristic science from Harvard in 1925 while practicing law in Chicago from 1920 to 1924; married in Boston September 22, 1924 to Grace Geyer of Roswell, New Mexico; was a professor of law at Indiana University and editor of the *Indiana Law Journal* for the next three years, became a research fellow at Harvard Law School in 1928, lecturer on civil pro-

cedure in 1929, and came to the University of Iowa as a professor of law in 1930; presented award of merit as founder of the National Council of Family Relations in 1937, serving as president first two years; was reporter on succession to property at the International Congress on Comparative Law at the Hague in 1937, University of Iowa delegate to the International Conference on Higher Education in Paris that same year; served as faculty editor of the *Iowa Law Review* from 1930 to 1935; edited *Living* from 1938 to 1939, contributed to legal and philosophical journals, edited *Interpretations of Modern Legal Philosophies* in 1947, *Selected Essays on Family Law* in 1950, and authored *Life of Roscoe Pound* in 1947, *Introduction to a Philosophy of Law* in 1951 and *Philosophy of Law*; was a member of Chicago, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Society for International Law, American Association of University Professors, Society of Mayflower descendants, American Legion, and the order of the Coif; survived by his wife, one son, Dr. Lombard Sayre of Cloverdale, California, and two daughters, Mrs. Mary Abel of Clemson, South Carolina and Miss Susan Sayre of Washington, D.C.

HARRY ERVIN YARNELL, retired naval officer, died at Newport, Rhode Island Naval Hospital July 7, 1959; born on a farm near Independence, Iowa October 18, 1875, the son of Ervin and Catherine Countryman Yarnell; attended high school in Independence, passed his examination to enter the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, September 3, 1893, graduating in 1897; served as an ensign aboard the battleship Oregon during the Spanish-American War, taking part in the blockade and battle of Santiago, on U.S.S. Yorktown in Philippine Insurrection and the China Relief Expedition at the time of the Boxer Rebellion in 1900; married Emily Carroll Thomas September 15, 1903; took part in the occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1914; graduated from the Naval War College with a degree in engineering the next year, commanded the U.S.S. Nashville on patrol duty off Gibraltar in 1917, and was on the staff of Admiral Sims in London in 1918; received the Navy Cross in 1919, served as the first commanding officer of the aircraft carrier Saratoga 1927-28, and was appointed chief of the Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department, September 24, 1928; was a member of the technical staff of the American delegation to the Conference on Limitation of Armaments in London, in 1930; commanded Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet, 1931-33, Pearl Harbor Naval Station 1933-36, and named commander-in-chief of the Asiatic Fleet in October 1936; given considerable freedom to deal with rising international tensions in the Far East during the undeclared Sino-Japanese War;

was instrumental in obtaining a \$2,200,000 indemnity payment from the Japanese following the sinking of the United States gunboat Panay in 1937, and his firm stand toward Japan came to be known as the "Yarnell policy"; relieved of this command in July 1939, awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by Act of Congress, and retired from active duty November 1; returned to service during World War II in Washington, raised to the rank of full admiral in 1942, and retired in 1945, making his home in Newport; held decorations from Britain and China, was a member of the Society of Naval Engineers, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Episcopalian church; survived by his wife, and son, Philip; a daughter, Ruth, preceded him in death.

ARTHUR STEINDLER, orthopedic surgeon, died at his home in Iowa City, Iowa July 21, 1959; born June 22, 1878 in Vienna, Austria, the son of Leopold and Caroline Goldberg Steindler; attended the University of Prague from 1896 to 1898, and received his medical degree from the University of Vienna in 1902; practiced medicine in Vienna before coming to the United States in 1907 to become an assistant to a noted early Chicago orthopedist and to carry on a general practice there; came to Des Moines in 1910 as a professor of orthopedic surgery at the old Drake University medical school; became associated with the State University of Iowa in 1913, traveling back and forth between Des Moines and Iowa City; named head of the department of orthopedics at the Children's Hospital, University of Iowa in 1915; became a naturalized United States citizen in 1914; married Louise Junk at Waterloo March 1, 1914; specialized in studies on the use of listening devices to diagnose ailments of the joints restoring to normal life many children crippled by polio and other diseases; instituted an intensive one-year program in basic orthopedics for young doctors, handling most of the instruction himself in addition to his constant study and regular teaching load in the medical school; his students made his work known throughout the world; conducted clinics at other schools, including the University of Virginia and Duke University; urged the extension of medical services beyond the doctor's office and hospital room, and was a leader in the establishment of the University hospital's social service work and the creation of their ambulance service to bring needy patients back for further treatment from any point in the state; left the university in 1949 to conduct a private practice at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, though continuing to teach the more than 250 orthopedic surgeons who trained under his direction; saw more than 70,000 private patients besides the state patients admitted to his care at the University hospitals, according to his own records; was proficient in several

languages, highly interested in history, and appreciated music, having been an accomplished pianist; contributed over 240 scientific papers to American and European professional journals, and authored eleven books on orthopedic surgery; his numerous international honors included being named one of the honorary fellows of England's Royal College of Surgeons, and professor extraordinary of the National University of Mexico; served as president of the American Orthopedic Association 1932-33, diplomat of the Board of Orthopedic Surgery, a regent and one-time vice president of the International College of Surgeons, fellow and member of the board of governors of the American College of Surgeons from 1936 to 1939; also held membership in the American and Iowa State Medical Associations, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of University Professors, as well as a score of other professional societies; made a life member of the Johnson County Medical Society, and a distinguished service professor emeritus by the University of Iowa; was a member of the Jewish faith, and a charter member of the board of trustees of the university's school of religion; was active in the Rotary Club and the Masons; survived by his wife.

RICHARD H. PLOCK, attorney and state educational official died at Burlington, Iowa, April 22, 1959, at the age of 50; was a native of Burlington, attended the local schools, received his bachelor of arts degree from Amherst College, and graduated from the Harvard law school; married Helen M. Swisher of Waterloo in 1934; appointed to the state board of education by Governor Kraschel in 1937 and was reappointed by successive governors after it became the board of regents, until his resignation January 15, 1959; served as a trustee of the school of religion at the University of Iowa, a member of the Measurement Research center associated with the University, and on the board of the Iowa State College research foundation; had been president of the Governing Boards of State Universities and Allied Institutions, and secretary since 1946; was moderator of the Congregational Christian churches in Iowa in 1945-46, past president of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce and the Des Moines County Bar Association; survived by his wife, a son Richard H. Jr., and a daughter, Carolyn Ann, students at the University of Iowa.

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