

Necrology of Notable Iowans...

OSWALD VEBLEN, eminent mathematician, died in Brooklin, Maine, August 10, 1960; born at Decorah, Iowa June 24, 1880, the son of Andrew A. and Kristi (Hougen) Veblen; graduated from the State University of Iowa in 1898, received an A.B. degree from Harvard in 1900, and his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1903; remained at Chicago as an associate in mathematics for two years, joined the faculty of Princeton University in 1905, was one of the "preceptor guys" who led a study plan based on small informal discussion groups inaugurated by President Woodrow Wilson, and became professor of mathematics in 1910; married Elizabeth M. D. Richardson in 1908; commissioned a captain and major in the ordnance department of the United States Army during World War I, 1917-19; became widely known for his work in advanced geometry, pioneering in the field of topology; appointed professor and worked with Albert Einstein at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, 1932-50, and had been professor emeritus since 1950; awarded the Army-Navy Certificate of Merit in 1948, was president of the American Mathematical Society and chairman of physics and sciences on the National Research Council, 1923-24, president of the International Congress of Mathematicians at Harvard in 1950, Fellow of the American Academy of Sciences, member of the American Physics Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Academy of Sciences, American Philosophical Society, Mathematical Association of America, and honorary member of many foreign professional organizations; recognized as one of 99 outstanding alumni by the State University of Iowa in 1947 and cited by the Institute of Advanced Study in June, 1947 for helping "establish Princeton as a mathematical center of the world"; authored several major mathematical works, including: *Infinitesimal Analysis* (with N. J. Lenes), 1907; *Projective Geometry* (Vol. I, with J. W. Young), 1910, Vol. II, 1918, *Cambridge Colloquium Lectures on Analysis-Situs*, 1922, *Invariants of Quadratic Differential Forms*, 1927; *Foundations of Differential Geometry* (with J. H. C. Whitehead), 1932; *Projective Relativitätstheorie*, 1933; and *Geometry of Complex Dimains* (with Wallace Givens), 1936.

EDWARD STAAT ESTEL, retired manager of the National Dairy Cattle Congress and widely-known leader in the dairy industry, died at Dubuque August 3, 1960; born in Taylor township, Marshall County, Iowa April 16, 1887, the son of Anthony and Margaret Staat Estel; graduated from the Marshalltown high school in 1906, Iowa State College in 1910, taught briefly in the dairy husbandry department at Kansas State College, moved to Waterloo the same year as assistant field secretary of

the Iowa State Dairy Association; married to Catherine R. Bird at Ames July 22, 1912; advanced to field secretary in 1915, also elected assistant secretary-manager of the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress the following year, having worked with the management in continuing the first annual show held in 1910, was named secretary and general manager in 1918 and successfully headed the National Dairy Cattle Congress for 40 years; received his master's degree from Iowa State College in 1922, managed the Buttermakers Publishing Company, 1916-50 and edited the national *Creamery Journal* from 1920 to 1947; established the International Belgian Horse Show as a significant part of the National Dairy Cattle Congress in 1918 and was knighted by the King of Belgium in 1929 for his important contributions to the development of Belgian horses in this country; took a leading part in efforts to organize and promote the greater use of dairy products, became secretary of the Iowa State Dairy Association in 1933, helped draft the original articles of incorporation, represented Iowa on the board of directors, and served as the first secretary of the American Dairy Association, 1940-47; directed the growth of the National Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo from a small one-day celebration to an eight-day international exposition, the leading dairy show in the nation, its policies on judging and standards of quality universally accepted by government agencies and national dairy organizations; honored for his leadership in the dairy industry by the Dairy Shrine Club in 1953; retired in 1958 being succeeded by Norbert J. Cash; served on the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce agricultural committee, Iowa State College Alumni Advisory committee, and as president of the Wapsipinicon Area Council of the Boy Scouts from 1931 to 1946; was a director of the Rotary Club and member of St. Edward's Catholic Church; survived by his wife, and two daughters, Mrs. Kathryn Corrine Sargent of Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Gretchen Mary Estel of Iowa City; a son, John Anthony Estel, was killed in 1943.

J. STUART (Jim) RUSSELL, farm editor and agricultural journalist, died in a highway accident near Cedar Rapids August 4, 1960; born on a family farm near Newton, Iowa May 27, 1892, the son of Thomas G. and Nellie M. (Davis) Russell; graduated from the Newton high school in 1909, Grinnell College in 1913, being editor of the student paper, and farmed in Jasper County for five years; served in the infantry of the United States Army during World War I, 1918-19; then began his newspaper career as editor and co-publisher of the *Sac County Bulletin* with Paul H. Appleby, later secretary to Henry A. Wallace; married at Sac City to Marjorie J. Rahe of Waterloo June 25, 1921; after the sale of their paper became the first farm editor of the *Register and Tribune* in December, 1925, one of the first journalists to specialize in farm news; reported and interpreted developments in agriculture and government for 35 years, gaining national recognition for his knowledge and understanding of farm problems; had been on the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce agricultural committee since 1932, chairman since 1943, a

former member of the United States Chamber of Commerce agricultural committee, and a founder and chairman, 1937-40, of the National Farm Institute and the annual Harvest Sunday observance in Iowa; appointed midwest regional administrator for the Agricultural Marketing Administration in 1942, accepted a year's leave of absence to serve as deputy administrator of the Food Distribution Administration and assistant to the War Food Administrator in Washington, D.C., returned to the *Register* and *Tribune* as farm editor in January, 1943, also assuming the duties of managing editor until the return of Kenneth MacDonald in 1946, and edited the Farm and Home Register section of the Sunday *Register* following its establishment in January, 1946; his concern for the welfare of people in foreign countries took him again to Washington, D.C. as assistant to the chairman of the President's Famine Emergency Committee for a brief period in 1946; traveled over much of the world to investigate land and food conditions in other countries, 1947-57, served as consultant on call, 1953-55, and member of the department of agriculture advisory committee on foreign trade, assistance and public information, Committee for Economic Growth, a United States trade mission to Asia in 1954; was also on the board of trustees of the Farm Foundation, 1949-59, Committee for International Economic Growth, and consultant for the Point Four program (TCA); a director, 1954, and deputy chairman of the board, 1957-59, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, president of the Soil Conservation Society of America in 1957, a director of the Congregational Churches of America Christian council for social action and trustee of the Plymouth Congregational Church; other activities included the National Council of Churches committee on economic life, American Farm Economic Association, American Agricultural Editors Association and executive committee of the Agricultural Hall of Fame, International committee of the Y.M.C.A. world service program, the Red Cross, American Legion, Masons and Republican party; survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Janet Damtoft of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a son, James S. Russell of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PHILIP HOMER ELWOOD JR., landscape architect and regional planner, died at Tucson, Arizona August 20, 1960; born in Fort Plain, New York December 7, 1884, the son of Philip Henry and Alice Viola (Dolan) Elwood; graduated from local high school, attended Michigan State College, 1904-06, and received a bachelor of agricultural science degree from Cornell University in 1910; was with Charles W. Leavitt Jr., a civil and landscape engineer in New York City till 1913, then supervisor of civic improvement extension at Massachusetts State College for two years before organizing and heading the department of landscape architecture at Ohio State University in 1915; served a year overseas and took part in the Argonne offensive while a field artillery captain during World War I, 1917-19, and directed the landscape engineering and construction of Argonne Cemetery, Romagne, Dous-Montfauson, France; returned to the landscape architecture department at Ohio State after

the war, was also a member of the architectural firm of Elwood & Fry in Columbus, Ohio, 1920-23, and consultant on city planning from 1919-1923; married to Dorothy Buck at Columbus June 15, 1921; began his long association with Iowa State College as professor of landscape architecture in 1923, and together with Professor Allen H. Kimball prepared the basic plan for the present buildings and grounds, defending it against many proposed changes in the years following; compiled works on *Scenic Ohio*, 1923, *Roadside Planning*, 1932, and edited the journal of *American Landscape Architecture* in 1924, conducted American, European and Oriental landscape architecture traveling schools every other year from 1922 through 1931, and in 1929 organized and became the first head of the landscape architecture department at Iowa State College; served as a member of the Ames Zoning commission, 1924-25, city planning commission, 1930, an inspector for the National Park Service, 1933, an adviser to the Iowa conservation plan, and consultant and director of the Iowa Planning Board, 1934-35; organized and became the first chairman of the Iowa Roadside Improvement Council in 1934, a member of the Highway Research Board and American Association of Highway Officials committee on roadside development in 1931, and a counselor, 1934-40, and chairman, 1940-43, of Region 6 of the National Resources Planning Board; was a Fellow, trustee, 1930-36, and vice president, 1941, of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a director of the American Planning and Civic Association in 1939, chairman of the Missouri Valley Regional Planning Commission, 1941-43, a member of the board of governors of the American City Planning Institutes, 1938-40, and vice president, 1941-42, and president, 1942-43, of the American Society of Planning Officials; had been a consultant on Site Planning for the United States Housing Authority, from 1939 to 1943, professor of geography in the World War II training program, town planner for the Army Engineers on the Garrison Reservoir Townsite, consultant on the site of Boys' Town, Nebraska, counselor for the Iowa Postwar Commission, 1944-45, collaborator for the National Park Service on Army Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation projects in the Missouri Valley, 1945, consultant for the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School at Gatlingsburg, Tennessee, 1946-47, and prepared a master plan for Canon City, Colorado, 1948-49; was a land planner for Luepke Marum Associates and member of the firm of Elwood & Greene at Tucson, Arizona till 1955 on resigning from the faculty at Iowa State College in 1951; received the title of Professor Emeritus in 1958; belonged to the Masonic Order and Episcopalian Church; survived by his wife, a daughter Mrs. Mary Greene of Tucson, and a son, David Buck Elwood of Los Angeles, California.

ARCH W. McFARLANE, former lieutenant governor, longtime state legislator and Waterloo businessman, died at the Republican national convention in Chicago July 24, 1960; born in Waterloo, Iowa April 14, 1885, the son of Willam Wallace and Emma J. Moss McFarlane; graduated from East Waterloo high school in 1904 having been the first editor

of the school paper; worked in the offices of the Smith, Lichty & Hillman wholesale grocery company in Waterloo for four years; married classmate Elsie V. Hawkins at Clinton, Iowa April 6, 1908; was north-eastern Iowa sales representative for the Northwestern Fuel Company of St. Paul till 1910, a salesman with the Hunter W. Finch Wholesale Fuel Company in Chicago, and became vice president at the Waterloo headquarters of the Puritan Coal Company of Chicago upon its establishment in 1914; his father and George E. Lichty, prominent Waterloo Republican leader, encouraged an early interest in local politics; began his 40 years in public life as Black Hawk County representative in 1914, was re-elected in 1916, 1918 and 1920, serving as speaker pro tem in 1917 and speaker during the 38th, 38th extra and 39th sessions; exhibited an early concern for conservation, successfully fought for legislation that provided civil service status to city firemen and policemen, helped to preserve the small Iowa Highway Commission in 1917, introduced the bill authorizing free textbooks in the public schools, and as speaker signed the resolution of the Iowa General Assembly ratifying the Nineteenth Amendment which gave women the right to vote; had owned and operated the Arch McFarlane Fuel Company, a wholesale coal business, in Waterloo since 1922; elected state senator from the Black Hawk-Grundy 38th District in 1926, served in one session before accepting the nomination of the Republican state central committee for lieutenant governor in 1928 and was presiding officer of the senate the last two terms of Governor John Hammill's administration; again elected to the house in 1932, re-elected in 1934, served continuously from 1938 through 1946 and from 1950 to 1954; returned to the senate by the newly designated 38th district, Black Hawk County, in 1954, serving as chairman of the advisory investment board of the Iowa Public Employees Retirement system and member of the "Little Hoover" committee studying problems of government reorganization and consolidation in 1956; defeated for re-election by 30 votes in 1958, continued his association with the seat of government as a lobbyist for the Iowa State Education Association during the 58th General Assembly, and was a candidate for Black Hawk County representative in the 1960 election; no other man has been a member of both house and senate and presided over each for two regular sessions; regarded politics as a vital factor in the American way of life, had a friendly engaging personality, a ready wit and was known for his integrity and common sense; had been a United Commercial Traveler for 53 years and supreme (international) counselor, 1930-31, past president of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers Association and the first member still in the legislature when invited to join, twenty years after election to the General Assembly, presented the Distinguished Service award by Des Moines newspapermen in 1957, and his contributions to conservation were recognized by the dedication of Arch McFarlane State Park east of La Porte City in 1959; was a past director of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, president of the Waterloo Baseball Association, active in the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Elks and Moose and a vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church; survived by his wife.

WILLIAM H. TATE, realtor, insurance agent and former state legislator, died in Des Moines September 29, 1959; born at Independence, Iowa August 11, 1900, the son of S. Roy and Alice Ringoll Tate; served as an ambulance driver with the 4th Division in France and Germany 13½ months during World War I, was wounded and gassed in the Meuse-Argonne sector and discharged August 9, 1919; graduated from high school at Independence in 1922 and Upper Iowa University in 1925; married Betsy Belknap at Manchester June 10, 1923; was principal of the high school and coach at Clermont for two years, superintendent of schools and coach at Elma from 1927 to 1934, his teams reaching the finals of the state basketball tournament in 1931 and 1934, and superintendent at Manly until 1938; held a commission as second lieutenant in the Army Reserve from 1921 to 1936; received an M.A. degree from the State University of Iowa in 1936 and became superintendent of schools at Atlantic in 1939; contributed a number of articles to educational and historical periodicals and was an active Boy Scout leader for 20 years; entered the insurance business at Mason City in 1941 as general agent for the American Mutual Life Insurance Company and also owned and operated the Bill Tate Realty Company; married Vivian Bancroft of Monticello in 1944; elected Cerro Gordo County representative in 1950, 1952 and 1954, named chairman of the public lands and buildings committee, schools, appropriations, cities and towns, insurance, public health and pharmacy, mines and mining and other committees, and during his final term in the house a member of the interstate committee on higher education; elected to the state senate from the 43rd district in 1956 serving as chairman of the committee on insurance and member of the schools committee; helped to pass the law giving Korean War veterans the same tax exemptions as veterans of World War II, supported efforts to complete a good road program and legislative reapportionment, co-sponsored a bill to permit county zoning and a water resources bill for the conservation of water in Iowa; resigned from the senate in 1958 and moved to Des Moines to become western Iowa and northwestern Missouri real estate officer for the Post Office Department; was a member of Wesley Methodist Church, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kiwanis, Masons, and Elks clubs; survived by his wife, two daughters and a son by his first marriage, Mrs. Dorothy Kimball of Rome, New York, Mrs. Barbara Wolf of Omaha and Sgt. William Tate, Jr., in the Air Force; a younger son and daughter, Thomas and Althea are at home.

JULIA JESSE TAFT, pioneer social worker, teacher and writer, died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania June 8, 1960 at the age of 78; born at Dubuque, Iowa, the daughter of Charles S. and Mary A. Taft, attended public schools and Drake University in Des Moines, being an assistant in German in 1902 and associate editor of the *Quax* in 1904, and was a high school teacher in Des Moines for a few years before removing to Chicago to obtain her doctor of philosophy degree; made important advances in social work as assistant superintendent of the reformatory for

women at Bedford Hills, New York, one of the first psychiatric workers at the Cornell Clinic, and social service director of the New York State Charities Aid Association's mental hygiene committee; appointed director of the first child study department and mental hygiene clinic established by the Children's Aid Bureau of Philadelphia and Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania in 1918, and was on the faculty of the Pennsylvania School of Social Work for many years, becoming professor emeritus in 1950; wrote and translated several books in her field.

WALTER FERDINAND LOEWING, university dean and professor of botany, died at his home in Iowa City, Iowa August 1, 1960; born in Chicago, Illinois, November 25, 1896, the son of Charles Henry and Emilie O. Augusta Hildebrandt Loehwing; graduated from high school in 1914, enlisted in the army in August, 1917, with the overseas field artillery 18 months, received a Certificat Superieur, Alliance Francaise, from the Pasteur Institute at Paris in 1919, and was discharged in February, 1920; received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Chicago the same year, was professor, head of chemistry and dean at Oklahoma State School of Mines from 1920 to 1923, earning his master's degree from Chicago in 1921 and doctorate magna cum laude in 1925; came to the State University of Iowa as assistant professor of botany that year, advanced to associate professor in 1928 and professor two years later; married Helen Cromer at Iowa City February 26, 1936; contributed many articles and papers on plant physiology, development and nutrition to scientific journals and became quite active in a number of professional organizations; was treasurer of the Iowa Academy of Science, 1929-32, vice president 1955-56, and president 1956-57, member of National Research Council Grant, 1933-34; was delegate to the International Botany Congress at Amsterdam, Holland in 1935, successively secretary-treasurer, 1935-37, vice president, 1937-38, and president, 1938-39, of the American Society of Plant Physiologists; became head of the botany department in 1940, edited the *Journal of Plant Physiology* from 1945-1953, vice president of Botanical Society of America, 1946, vice president and chairman of Section G of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1947, and was a member of several clubs, being lieutenant governor of the Kiwanis Iowa-Nebraska district, 1943; appointed dean of the graduate college in 1950, served as civilian consultant to the army chemical corps from 1947 to 1952, vice president of the American Society of Graduate Schools, 1958-59, and vice chairman of the Midwest Conference on Graduate Study and Research, 1955-56; survived by his wife.

CHARLES BIRDSALL CHAPPELL, prominent realtor and local historian, died at his home in Keokuk July 12, 1960; born at Independence, Iowa September 7, 1905, the son of Jesse M. and Mary Birdsall Chappell; attended Kansas City University from 1924 to 1926 and graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in journalism in 1930; was a newspaper reporter in Phoenix and Kansas City for three years,

became a partner of the Eastern Land Company in 1933 and came to Keokuk in 1939 as owner and operator of the Iowa Land Company; developed and president of Midland Homes, Inc., a successful real estate brokerage, appraising and insurance business; served as an appraiser for the Veterans Administration, director of National Association of Real Estate Boards, past president of the Iowa Real Estate Association, director of the Farm Brokers Institute of Iowa, and was secretary of the Certified Appraisers of America, member of the Senior Residential Appraisers, and Lee County inheritance tax appraiser at his death; had a distinct and stimulating personality, an inquiring mind and was particularly well-read and informed with a strong interest in history; provided helpful knowledge and leadership in many state and local historical activities as a founder and past president of the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks, a director, charter member and first vice president of the Lee County Historical Society, and chairman of the Civil War Centennial committee for the 1960 Iowa State Fair held membership in the Elks, Odd Fellows and St. John's Episcopal Church; survived by his wife, and two sons, Charles S. and James B. Chappell.

RAYMOND R. GILLESPIE, extensive land and livestock owner, bank official, and state senator, died at Tucson, Arizona, June 3, 1960; born at Chariton, Iowa, July 23, 1890, the son of Robert A. and Elvia M. (Guye) Gillespie, his mother being a member of a pioneer Madison County family; attended high school at Dexter, graduated from Iowa State College in 1913, and began lifelong farm operations; married to Edith Power Dunham of Greenfield June 17, 1936; received a presidential citation for food production in 1917, served as 1st Sergeant in the United States Army, 1918-19, then actively engaged in farming and livestock breeding near Pitzer in Madison County until his election to the state senate from the 16th District in 1948; served in the 53rd, 54th, 57th and 58th General Assemblies, and was secretary of the budget and finance control committee in 1957; had been renominated for his third term on the Democratic ticket without opposition; served on the school board for a number of years, was vice president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Winterset, and with his wife had traveled widely in Europe in recent years; was a member of the United Presbyterian Church, the Masonic Order, Consistory, Farm Bureau, American Legion, and American Angus Association; survived by his wife, and two sons, Cecil E. of Winterset, and Jewett Dunham, professor of zoology and entomology at Iowa State University.

CLIFTON G. GRIMES, research engineer and retired naval officer, died at Abington, Pennsylvania, July 9, 1960, at the age of 57; born at Zearing, Iowa, was reared at Marshalltown where his family moved during his childhood, accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1925, and received a master of science degree

in electrical engineering from Columbia University in 1932; married Frances Sellers of Marshalltown, and began a successful career as an engineering officer in the Navy; advanced to captain, and in 1942 was assigned to head the Interior Communications and Fire Control Section; pioneered in the development of complex ship and gunnery control systems and combat formation centers, and received several presidential citations for his outstanding contributions to the advance of naval technology, including the Legion of Merit in 1945; appointed technical intelligence officer on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Navy Technical Mission to Japan at the end of World War II, and was deputy director of Naval Shipbuilding in Europe for two years prior to his retirement from the Navy for medical reasons early in 1956; made his home in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, became director of research for the Electric Storage Battery Company, greatly expanded the research activities of the firm, having the responsibility for planning and developing the Carl F. Norbert Research Center, Yardley, Pennsylvania, and was elected vice president by the directors April 20, 1960; served on technical committees of the National Institute of Lead and the National Association of Manufacturers, and was a member of American Physical Society, Acoustical Society of America, American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, American Society of Naval Engineers, American Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, and American Institute of Electrical Engineers; survived by his wife, and two daughters, Mrs. Frank Delzingaro, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Bruce F. Henderson, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

FRANCIS C. (JACK) REITH, automotive executive, took his life at his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 3, 1960; born in Des Moines, Iowa, September 4, 1914, the son of Frank S. and Emma (Carlson) Reith; attended Roosevelt high school and graduated from Drake University with a bachelor of commercial science degree in 1936; was associated with the General Electric Credit Corporation at Dallas and New Orleans from 1936-1941; served as a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army Air Forces from 1943 to 1946, receiving the Legion of Merit and French Legion of Honor; married to Maxine Wallace September 20, 1945; joined the Ford Motor Company at Detroit in 1946 as manager of the budget department, advanced to manager of product programming for the Ford division, manager of product and facility programming, and as managing director and vice chairman of the board was credited with saving Ford of France by changing the firm's two million dollar deficit to a million dollar profit in one year; successively made a special Ford Motor Company executive office official, vice president of the car and truck division and was general manager of the Mercury division, 1955 to 1957; had a reputation as an industry trouble-shooter upon becoming president of the Crosley division of Avco Manufacturing Corporation and vice president of Avco Manufacturing Corporation in 1957; had served on the board of trustees of Drake University since

1956, was nominated for one of its distinguished service awards in 1957, and was named national chairman of a five-million dollar fund raising campaign in January, 1960; held membership in the Society of Automotive Engineers, American Ordnance Association, National Association of Accountants, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon; survived by his wife, a daughter, Donna, and two sons, Francis C. and Charles Reith.

BURTRAM COLLVER HOPKINS, insurance man, died at his home in Des Moines August 8, 1960; born near Pleasant Grove, Olmsted County, Minnesota October 30, 1878, the son of Collver Michael and Sarah Louis (Harris) Hopkins; resided on his parents' farm till 1886, attended grade and high school in Rochester, Minnesota, and completed a two-year business course at St. Mary's Academy, 1894-96; was a bookkeeper and secretary in Rochester for D. Stevenson, general agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, 1896-97, came to Des Moines May 17, 1897 as secretary to his brother, Edwin N. Hopkins, who with Frederick A. Durham had founded the *Underwriters Review*; and began sales work as a solicitor writing fire insurance policies for the Willcox-Howell and Company insurance agency November 16, 1898, became a partner upon purchasing an interest in the business in April, 1899, its name being changed to Willcox-Howell-Hopkins and Company; married to Mona Anne Willcox in Des Moines June 20, 1900; named secretary of the company after its incorporation in 1909, continued in that position when it became Willcox, Howell, Hopkins and Mulock Incorporated in 1917, Hopkins-Mulock, Inc. in 1934, and elected president of the company in 1938; established his own business in 1944, and was a partner in the Hopkins Insurance Agency with his two sons; had been president of the Iowa Association of Insurance Agents, 1938-39, a director of the national association and vice president of the Des Moines Association of Insurance Agents, 1939; was a member of the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, Executives Association, Pioneer Club, Knights of Pythias, and a Republican in politics; served as a trustee of the First Federated Church from 1930 to 1937, and building committee chairman when the church was rebuilt in 1930; survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Anne Adams of Highland, Indiana, and two sons, Burtram Willcox and William Vance Hopkins.

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