

GRAVE - on west drive about center

## Long Life Of Service Reaches Close

Rev. P. A. Johnson  
Died Thursday Evening;  
Funeral Saturday



The Grinnell community and church circles in Iowa and beyond were saddened by the death of the Rev. P. Adelstein Johnson at the Community hospital Thursday evening, March 24. Dr. Johnson has been in failing health for some months and his illness became acute recently. He had celebrated his eightieth birthday December 10 last, and in October he and Mrs. Johnson observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Dr. Johnson had been a citizen of Grinnell 42 years.

The funeral service was held in the Congregational church on Saturday afternoon at four o'clock. It was in charge of the pastor, Dr. Leland W. Mann, assisted by Dr. Judson E. Fiebiger and Dr. Royal J. Montgomery. Organ music was played by Professor Elbert Smith of Grinnell college. The pallbearers were D. H. Thomas, Croft L. Pilgrim, Carl E. Child, J. W. Charlton, Fred A. Jones, and F. W. Tomasek. Burial was in Hazelwood cemetery.

### Born In Iceland

Dr. Johnson was born in Iceland and at the age of seven came to Winnipeg, Canada, and then, a little later, to Minnesota. He attended high school in Marshall, Minn. He was graduated from Tabor college in 1893 and after a year of home missionary work in Minnesota entered Yale Divinity school from which he was graduated in 1897. He and Mrs. Johnson attended the fiftieth anniversary of his class at the Yale Commencement in 1947.

He became pastor of the Congregational church in Montevideo, Minn., in June of 1893, and was ordained there in the following August. October 20, 1898, he was united in marriage with Miss Alice C. Piper of Tabor, Iowa. To this marriage four children were born: a daughter and a son dying in infancy, a daughter Heien, now Mrs. Siegfried Guyan of Monticello, and Dorothy, Mrs. Theodore Thomas of Grinnell. There are four grandchildren, Betty Jo and Robert Guyan and David and Richard Thomas.

### Served For 31 Years

In 1907, after a pastorate of seven years in the First Congregational church of Ottumwa, Dr. Johnson was the choice of the Congregational Conference of Iowa to succeed Dr. Truman O. Douglas as its executive. He served for 31 years until his retirement in 1938. At that time he was honored with a testimonial dinner, a large bound volume of letters and a gift of \$1100. He was also elected superintendent emeritus. During his retirement he has been active as supply minister and served as interim supply for a part of the period Dr. Mann was on leave as chaplain.

### Honorary Degrees

The quality of his leadership was recognized by his Alma Mater and by Grinnell college in the awards of the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was given many assignments on important boards and committees of inter-church and denominational circles. Following his retirement he brought the history of the Iowa Congregational churches

up-to-date in a published volume entitled "The First Century of Congregationalism in Iowa."

His long service to the Iowa Congregational Christian churches reveals his kindness of spirit, his fair-mindedness, and the confidence of the ministers and churches in his wise counsel. The highest tribute accorded him was his continued re-election to a position which, in the nature of things, requires Christian personality and character of a high order. His influence will be felt in Iowa for many years to come.