

F. A. Jones, banker, dies Thursday at 90

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H-R Editorials

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A friend passes

Fred A. Jones, 90, of 1526 West St., a longtime Grinnell banker, died Thursday evening at Grinnell General Hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. today at the United Church of Christ-Congregational, with the Rev. Phillip J. Bamstad officiating. Music will be provided by Elbert Smith, organist, and James T. Fudge, vocalist. Pallbearers will be Charles E. Bethel, John D. Bethel, F. Austin Jones, David A. Jones, Stephen F. Jones, and Douglas W. Terpstra.

Burial will be at Hazelwood Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Memorials
Memorials in Mr. Jones's name may be made to Grinnell General Hospital or the United Church of Christ-Congregational.

The son of Frank and Roena Palmer Jones, he was born July 23, 1885, on the family farm near Jewell, Iowa. He moved with his family to

Nebraska, and they lived as pioneers in "soddies" and log cabins. He was graduated from Valentine, Neb., High School in 1906 and later was graduated from Bellevue College, which is now merged with Hastings College.

Following his graduation from college, Mr. Jones served as superintendent of schools at Bertrand, Neb. In 1916, he began his banking career at



Fred A. Jones

Ruskin, Neb. He served as a receiver of banks at Bagley and Tama in 1926, organizing the Tama State Bank in 1927. In 1940, he moved to Grinnell, and a year later he sold the Tama State Bank.

Adviser
Mr. Jones was a financial adviser and consultant to Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co. until 1954 when he purchased controlling interest in Grinnell State Bank. He was chairman of the board of Grinnell State at the time of his death.

He was a member of the United Church of Christ-Congregational, a 60-year member of the Masonic Lodge, and a 36-year member of the Grinnell Kiwanis Club. He was past moderator, trustee, deacon and teacher of the men's class at the United Church of Christ-Congregational. He also served 12 years on the board of directors of the Mayflower Home and as treasurer for 12 years of the Grinnell General Hospital Board of Trustees.

Survivors include his wife, Josephine; his children, Mrs. James E. (Florence) Maxwell of North Oaks, Minn., F. Addison Jones of Grinnell, and Mrs. Charles (Esther) Bethel of Grinnell; nine grandchildren; and a sister, Mrs. Clint (Charlottle) Day of Seattle, Wash.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Florence, who died in 1925; a daughter, Ruth, who died in infancy; two brothers, Herbert and Raymond Jones; and a sister, Mrs. Upton (Alta) Collinson.

Many of us in the greater Grinnell area are mourning the loss of a friend, a confidant, and a financial adviser. F. A. Jones, who filled all these functions and more, died Thursday night.

Perhaps one of the best marks of the kind of man F. A. was could be found in a remark he made on his retirement from the Grinnell General Hospital board in 1974. Using the occasion of his retirement to make a gift to the hospital, Fred said: "I have always felt that there were three things of particular importance to me, family, church and hospital. That's why I've served, and that's why I've donated the money."

A member of the old Community Hospital board at the time they were debating taking on the challenge of a building program, Fred is generally credited with breaking loose the indigestion when he banged his hand on the table and said: "Let's build!"

But Fred did more than just provide lip service to the project. He was an active board member on the Community Hospital board, and then on the Grinnell General Hospital board at the time of the merger.

In kindred service, he was active on the board of the Mayflower Home and in several capacities of church work. Some 60 years in banking and finance fields had given F. A. a vast store of knowledge in money matters—and he was always willing to listen to your money problems, and offer areas of counsel and advice.

To say that Fred was anything but conservative in financial matters would be folly. But, if one followed his advice and consulting, some of the rougher financial bumps could be avoided.

We enjoyed Fred as a person. He always had time for a "visit." And he seemed to have almost a reckless courage about facing up to operations he underwent in recent years—a courage we felt that we might not be able to maintain.

A Grinnellian since 1940, Fred has been active in the Grinnell State Bank for the past 22 years, giving in only in recent months to another siege of illness. We'll miss having him among us—a.j.p.

BANK TO CLOSE

Grinnell State Bank will close at 12:30 p.m. for the remainder of the day today in respect for the late F. A. Jones, chairman of the board.