

Dentist Over Half A Century, Dr. Lemley Recalls Old Days



"Doc" Lemley enjoying one of his favorite pastimes, reading the Chicago Tribune.

Montezuma Repr. Dec. 15, 1955

Mayor at 23
You can guess what happened. The very young blunderer nominated Lemley for Mayor and he was elected. At 23 he was the youngest mayor in the state.

And his administration was noted for another reason. It was discovered later that they forgot to give him the oath of office and a bill had to be introduced into the legislature legalizing all of his official acts. After six months as mayor "Doc" contracted typhoid fever and was replaced when he moved to the farm to recuperate.

For three years "Doc" served as publisher of the Richland Clarion and gained a name as a crusading editor. He was such a crusader, in fact, that his wife, the former Maud Stalker, a. d. his father-in-law persuaded him to give up the business because he was too outspoken and might get in law suits.

Studied in Chicago
Before the turn of the century young Mr. Lemley embarked on his dentistry studies at the famous Chicago College of Dental Surgery and received his diploma with a large class of 250 in 1901. Prior to his senior year he practiced in Richland in the summer of 1900. "Doc" was elected president of his class.

Locating at Blooming Prairie, Minn., (town of 900 people and 9 saloons between Austin and Ow-

atonna), "Doc" practiced there five years before coming to Grinnell and closer to home in 1906.

Lemley Rites Held Today

**Retired Local Dentist
Dies Here Saturday
H-R, June 16, 1958**

Dr. Levi Greene Lemley, 56, longtime Grinnell resident and practicing dentist, died Saturday evening at a local hospital following an illness of the past four days.

Memorial services were held this afternoon at the Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Leslie Mann, pastor of the Congregational church officiating. Organist was Elbert Smith.

Memorial donations are being sent to the Community Hospital.

Born on May 6th, 1899 at Richland, Iowa, Dr. Lemley was the youngest son of Jacob and Caroline Greene Lemley. On June 18th, 1926, he was married to Maud Stalker at Richland and to the union were born two children: Mrs. Dwight (Margaret) Brooke of Des Moines; and Irving S. Lemley of Grinnell.

Dr. Lemley came to Grinnell from Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, 32 years ago, where he first practiced dentistry as his profession. He followed his profession in Grinnell for many years until his retirement a few years ago.

After his retirement, he spent much time at his home with his wife, who survives him. Besides his parents, all of his brothers and sisters preceded him in death.

Dr. Lemley was a member of the Grinnell Congregational church and had belonged to the Masonic and Elks lodges, and the Kiwanis Club, all of Grinnell.

A dentist for nearly 35 years and a practitioner in Grinnell for almost half a century, Dr. L. G. Lemley at the age of 55 looks back on a life rich in experiences.

Dr. Lemley opened his office in Grinnell Jan. 6, 1906, and kept at his practice until late last summer, hence stopped only a few months short of 50 years as a dentist in that town.

Teacher, Newspaperman
Born on a farm near Richland and starting his education in country school, Dr. Lemley pursued a variety of work—school teaching, store clerking and newspapering—before turning to dentistry.

At the age of 19 he took a rural school teaching job at the stipendous salary of \$20 a month, and walked two miles to work. He later got better teaching jobs at \$30 and \$35 a month.

Next "Doc" worked for \$25 a month, opening up at 6 a. m. to sweep out and often staying until 11 p. m. because the place was the hang-out for the town's young geny.

The gatherings at the store launched him on an unusual political experience. The youths were dissatisfied with the old town administration and "Doc", tired of hearing them complaining and doing nothing, suggested that they form a ticket of their own.

The Lemleys have a son, Irving, on the staff of Iowa Southern Utilities Co. in Grinnell, and a daughter, Margaret, who's married to Dwight Brooke, head of Bankers Life legal department in Des Moines. Irving's wife, Gwen, is a well-known postal official. After long service as assistant postmaster at Grinnell, she's now assistant district manager in Des Moines.

There are two grandchildren, Elizabeth Brooke, a student nurse and Philip Brooke, a senior in high school.

Dr. and Mrs. Lemley will mark their 60th wedding anniversary next June 18.

Dr. Lemley Recalls Old Days



"Doc" Lemley enjoying one of his favorite pastimes, reading the Chicago Tribune.

A dentist for nearly 55 years and a practitioner in Grinnell for almost half a century, Dr. L. G. Lemley at the age of 85 looks back on a life rich in experiences. Dr. Lemley opened his office in Grinnell Jan. 6, 1906, and kept at his practice until late last summer, hence stopped only a few months short of 50 years as a dentist in that town.

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Next "Doc" worked in a Richland clothing store for \$25 a month, opening up at 6 a. m. to sweep out and often staying until 11 p. m. because the place was the hang-out for the town's young gentry.

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To Grinnell
Dr. Lemley opened an office in space rented from Mr. Spaulding (over present Ben Franklin store) and practiced dentistry there continuously except for service with the Red Cross in World War I. (He didn't pass the army physical for the Spanish-American and World War I because of a heart ailment.)

Levi G.

When "Doc" came to Grinnell he brought with him "equipment" including a foot assistant and gas machines. Changes in material for better dentures and the introduction of X-ray machines and dental plates are the major developments. Dr. Lemley recalls during his 55 years over a dentist's chair, "Doc" has worked on three generations in many families.

Council, Red Cross
In the realm of public service, Dr. Lemley has been active during the time when the apple plant and pitting was put in. He also served as county Red Cross secretary during the depression when flour, clothing and other foods were distributed to the needy. The Lemleys have a son, Irvin, on the staff of Iowa Southern Utilities Co. in Grinnell, and a daughter, Mrs. M. E. Lemley, married to Dwight Brooke, head of Bankers Life legal department in Des Moines, serving as vice president of the Iowa State Bar Assn. After long service as assistant postmaster at Grinnell, she's now assistant district manager. There are two grandchildren, Elizabeth Brooke, a student nurse and Phillip Brooke, a senior in high school. Mrs. Lemley will mark their 60th wedding anniversary next June 18.

CITIZENSHIP*****

The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want . . .
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters . . .
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake . . .
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me: Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over . . .
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

23rd Psalm

IN MEMORY OF
DR. LEVI GIBBENS LEMLEY

BORN
May 21, 1878
Richland, Iowa

ENTERED INTO REST
June 14, 1968
Grinnell, Iowa

MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD
2:30 P. M., Monday, June 16, 1968
Smith Funeral Home
Grinnell, Iowa

CLERGYMAN
Rev. Leiland W. Mann, D.D.,
Minister of the Congregational Church
Grinnell, Iowa

ORGANIST
Mr. Elbert Smith

Smith Funeral Home
Grinnell, Iowa