

file Renfrow
Monday, December 16, 1968

Helen R. Lemme Services Pending

Mrs. Helen Renfrow Lemme of Iowa City, a former Grinnellian, died of smoke inhalation early Saturday in her home in Iowa City.

A hematologist at University Hospitals, she also was active in the Democratic party and was an original member of Iowa City's human relations commission. She was the first Negro woman to receive Iowa City's annual "best citizen" award.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Augustus Renfrow, longtime Grinnell residents, Mrs. Lemme was valedictorian of the Grinnell High school class of 1923. Mr. Renfrow died in 1945 and Mrs. Renfrow in 1962.

Preceded in death by her husband, Mrs. Lemme is survived by two sons. Other survivors include five sisters and brothers — Alice Lee Renfrow of Washington, D.C.; Rudolph Renfrow of Norfolk, Conn.; Paul Renfrow of Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Evanel Renfrow Ferrell of Thunder Bolt, Ga., and Mrs. Edith Virginia Smith of Chicago.

Services are being arranged by Gay's Funeral Home in Iowa City.

School Dedicated To Grinnell Native



Mrs. Helen Lemme

The dedication and open house at Helen Lemme Elementary school in Iowa City was held last Sunday.

The school was named after a Grinnell native who later became a local civil rights and community leader. Mrs. Lemme died at the age of 64 in a fire at her Iowa City home in 1968.

Mrs. Lemme, the former Helen Renfrow, was the first woman to receive Iowa City's "Woman of the

Thursday, October 3, 1970

Year" award. A member of the first Iowa City Human Relations Commission, she earlier worked as a research technician at the Medical Research Center, University Hospitals.

Helen Lemme Elementary School first opened its doors Aug. 31 with an enrollment of 225.

At Sunday's dedication, a portrait of Mrs. Lemme, painted by Mrs. Lynn Stiles of Iowa City, was unveiled.

To Dedicate New Grade School

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

IOWA CITY, IA. — A new elementary school, named for the late Helen Lemme, will be dedicated here Sunday.

Mrs. Lemme, an original member of the Iowa City Human Relations Committee, died in a fire at her home in December, 1968.

Active in campaigning for school bond issues and in Parent-Teacher Association activities, Mrs. Lemme received Iowa City's "best citizen" award in 1949, becoming the first black recipient of the citation.