

Paul Meyers, Business Man Here 50 Years, Dies Sunday

Paul P. Meyers, retired district manager for the Iowa Southern Utilities company and for years actively associated with the business and community life of Grinnell, passed away in a local hospital at 4 p.m. Sunday as a result of a heart condition from which he has suffered for the past two or three years.

He had been taken seriously ill Saturday evening and was rushed to the hospital about 1 p.m. Sunday. He had passed his 53rd birthday on July 31.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock from the Congregational church.

Immediate survivors are his wife, one son, David of New Orleans, La., and a brother, Tasso, of Los Angeles, Calif.

Active in Business

Mr. Meyers had been actively associated with the business life of Grinnell since 1902 and had been connected with the electrical development of Grinnell from its infancy. He was called from his senior year in the engineering school of the university of Minnesota, to assist his brothers Ed and Tasso after they secured control of Grinnell's first electric plant, established by a man named Bender. Those were primitive days in electricity and Mr. Meyers was called upon to surmount unusual obstacles during the first years of operation. Later the plant was bought by J. A. Radford, a well-known Chicago electrical engineer and the father of Admiral Radford, now



Paul P. Meyers

so prominent in the nation's defense effort. Mr. Meyers stayed with Mr. Radford as his right-hand man and continued under the next owner, the Grinnell Electric & Heating Co. After the plant was sold to the Iowa Southern Utilities company, Mr. Meyers' unusual ability was recognized by steady promotion until he became district manager, a post which he held until his retirement in 1932 as a result of increasingly serious ill health.

Community Interest

Mr. Meyers has always taken an active and constructive interest in Grinnell church and community affairs, while carrying on his duties as a top notch business executive. He was instrumental in the founding of the Grinnell Kiwanis club, of which he was a charter member and twice served as its president during its early years of struggle. He served two six year terms as a trustee of the Congregational church, a position in which his ingenuity and technical experience were often put to good use. He was twice president of the Poweshieck discussion club, of which he was a devoted member and was also affiliated with the Masonic lodge.

Born In Indiana

Mr. Meyers was born in Marion, Ind., where his father, Rev. David P. Meyers, a United Brethren minister, was chaplain of the National Soldiers Home. He graduated from the Marion high school before entering the university of Minnesota for his engineering training, which was interrupted by his call to Grinnell.

He married Louise Alvord.

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Paul Meyers

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daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Alvord of Battle Creek, Mich., and a granddaughter of Henry G. Little, one of the pioneers of Grinnell. The Little home stood where the college president's house now stands at the corner of Fifth avenue and Park street.

Mr. Meyers held a commission in the Army engineers during World War I, seeing service in 1918 and 1919. Aside from that, all his experience has been in Grinnell.

It is hard to evaluate the influence of such a life on the community of Grinnell. As a business executive he was honest, resourceful and efficient. He was devoted to the welfare of his employees and they were devoted to him. In community matters he was ready not only with sound advice but with active service. His impact on the life of the town was always helpful, never destructive.

He was a worker and even since his retirement he has kept constantly busy in his home, providing improvements, making furniture, of which he was adept, and carrying out ambitious projects which, while they taxed his failing strength, gave him the satisfaction of accomplishment.

In his home he was a genial host, a loving husband and father. He and Mrs. Meyers loved having their friends around them and their home was the scene of many happy gatherings.

Paul Meyers lived a good life; a life that was good for his home town, and he leaves a memory that will be cherished by his friends.

Possibly in this connection a more personal note is permissible from a writer whose sense of loss is very keen. Paul Meyers was a good friend. No man ever had a better.

Tom Gray, district manager of the ISU office here, said the office will be closed on the afternoon of Mr. Meyers' funeral.

—A.L.F.

ISU Pledges College Memorial To Paul Meyers

A pledge which will provide a large share of the audio-visual facilities for the new Grinnell College library has just been made to the college's current development campaign by Iowa Southern Utilities Co., Grinnell President Howard R. Bowen announced this weekend. The audio-visual hall will be a memorial to Paul P. Meyers, who had been actively associated with the business and community life of Grinnell from 1902 until his death in 1953, at the age of 73. Meyers had been connected with the city's electrification development from its infancy and was a long-time employee of ISU here, retiring as district manager a few years before his death. He was a member of the Grinnell College class of 1906 and from 1940 to 1947 served as buildings and grounds superintendent at the college.

Notification of the pledge came from Edward L. Shutt, manager of the ISU board, at Centerville. E. T. Gray is the Grinnell district manager.

The college's plan for a large new library, to cost about \$1,200,000, is part of a current development campaign to raise a total of \$2,460,000. The rest of the fund would finance a \$1,100,000 fine arts center and provide \$100,000 to remodel the present library into offices and classrooms, plus \$60,000 assigned to the Alumni Fund.

Memorial Services Held Wednesday For Paul Meyers

Funeral services were held Sept. 21st at the Congregational Church for Paul Meyers, 73, prominent Grinnell businessman, who died Sept. 19th following a lingering illness.

Officiating at the services was the Rev. Roland W. Mann, minister of the Congregational Church, while organ selections were furnished by Elbert Smith. Flowerbearers were Mrs. Carl Child, Mrs. J. W. Charlton and Mrs. A. L. Frisbie.

Palbearers were Gaylord Bowen, Thomas Gray, Robert Mitchell, Harold Simmons, John Talbot and E. W. Tomasek while honorary palbearers included Roy Bates, Carl Child, J. W. Charlton, Ray George, A. L. Frisbie, Robert Kinsey and L. V. Phelps.

Immediate survivors are his wife, a son, David of New Orleans, La., and a brother, Tasso, of Los Angeles, Calif.

Interment was at Hazelwood Cemetery.