

H-12 April 6, 1978
Rites held for Mr. McIlrath

Azel Hull McIlrath, former state legislator, newspaper editor, and Grinnell resident, died Friday afternoon, March 3, at his home in Cedar Rapids after an extended illness. He had been a Cedar Rapids resident since 1938.

Services for Azel McIlrath were held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, at the First Congregational Church by Dr. Glenn N. Bender.

Born March 3, 1897, in Hartwick, he was a 1913 graduate of Grinnell High School and graduated from Iowa State University six years later. He married Reatha Burke in Blairstown on March 19, 1938.

McIlrath spent his early years as an auctioneer with his father. Beginning in 1927, he served two terms in the Iowa Legislature as a representative for Poweshiek County.

For many years he was associated with Poweshiek County newspapers, serving as editor of the Brooklyn Chronicle. In 1933 he joined the mortgage and loan department of the National Life of Vermont company as a field representative. He held the position for 20 years.

He was a member of the First Congregational Church, the Brooklyn Masonic Lodge, and High Twelve Club of Cedar Rapids. A veteran of World War I, he was also a life member of the American

Legion post in Cedar Rapids, and a past commander of Francis-Gallagher Post of the American Legion in Brooklyn.

Surviving him are his wife; four daughters, Mildred Moses of Hollidaysburg, Pa.; Margaret Liddle of Mountain View, Calif.; Sara Whelpley of Doylestown, Pa.; and Nancy Preston of Green Bay, Wis.; a son, Paul, of Cedar Rapids; 18 grandchildren, a sister, Emma Arthur of Ames; and three brothers, Ellsworth of Jacksonville, Fla.; William; Howard of Estes Park, Colo.; and Arthur of Menlo Park, Calif.

The body was donated to the University of Iowa.

Friends may, if they wish, contribute to the First Congregational Church Memorial Fund.