

Dr. Samuel Stevens, Former Grinnell President, Dies Suddenly Friday Eve

Samuel Nowell Stevens, 65, president of Grinnell College from 1940 to 1954, died suddenly Friday evening at his home in Wilmette, Ill.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday from the Covenant Methodist Church in Evanston, Ill., with which Dr. Stevens had been associated for more than 35 years. The Hebblethwaite Funeral Home in Evanston is in charge of arrangements.

At the time of his death, Dr. Stevens was head of Stevens, Thurow & Associates, a Chicago management personnel consulting firm with which he had been connected for many years, and was chairman of the board of Psychotechnics, Inc., of which his son, Samuel N. Stevens, Jr., is president.

He had not been ill. On Friday he had conducted the second day's sessions of a three-day seminar for managers for Arthur Andersen & Co., international accounting firm, and was looking forward to concluding the seminar on Saturday.

Surviving are Mrs. Stevens, the former Anna Albert of Baltimore, Md., their son, and four grandchildren, all of Wilmette.

Speaking for the college, President Glenn Leggett expressed sympathy and regret over the passing of the man who had headed Grinnell for 14 years during a critical period in its history. Dr. Leggett appointed College Marshal Guillermo Mendoza of the biology faculty, a long-time friend of the Stevens family, as the college's official representative at the funeral.

A native of Eastport, Md., and son of a career Navy officer, Dr. Stevens received his B.A. degree in 1921 from Wesleyan University and later earned a B.D. from Garrett Biblical Institute and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University. His academic field was psychology.

Before coming to Grinnell, he had been associated with Northwestern continuously since 1924, first as a faculty member and then as dean of the University College. His years as sixth president of



Dr. Samuel Stevens

Grinnell College were busy and sometimes stormy ones, as he coped not only with such internal matters as reaction against curricular innovations but also with the pressures of World War II. During his first years, the war depleted male enrollment, but he arranged for two different training units on campus. Then came the postwar problem of veteran-swollen enrollments, and finally the economic crisis of the early 1950's, when enrollments were depressed by the low pre-war birth rate.

Nevertheless, his achievements were many. Most obvious of these were the additions to the physical plant during his administration—three residence halls, Darby Gymnasium, and the Hall of Science. He also established a sounder financial base for the college's operations, built up the quality of the faculty, revitalized the liberal arts curriculum, and maintained academic freedom.

And when he left in 1954, a typical eulogy characterized him as "alert, vigorous, and well rounded, a superb administrator, utterly devoted to education in its best

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sense, with an enormous fund of vitality." These were qualities that continued to distinguish him until his death.

A dynamic speaker and a nationally known psychological and educational adviser to colleges, social agencies, industry, and government, he earned many honors away from the campus. Among other things, he served on the board of governors of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and later had a similar association with the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, an assignment which reflected his personal interest in flying.

In 1948, Carleton College conferred on him an honorary doctorate of laws.

Dr. Stevens' successor at Grinnell was Howard R. Bowen, now president of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Stevens died Sunday morning at a Grinnell home.

Wallace Hansen, 79, of Gilman
Sundays