

Funeral Services Honor John Vest, Past Bank President, Outdoors Man

"Be of good courage and He will strengthen our life," Rev. Glenn Dieken, pastor of the 1st Presbyterian church, informed the mourning relatives and friends attending memorial services for J. W. H. Vest at the Steffy Funeral Home June 7. The Montezuma State Bank was closed during the funeral hour, 2 p.m., out of respect for their former president and son of a former president.

"Life is not a heaven on earth," Rev. Dieken continued, "for there are oppositions and misunderstandings. We thank our Lord for thy promises and for the fulfillment of them as exemplified by the words of The Old Rugged Cross."

The minister continued with pointing out that the world today is one of great hurry, where, if we do not keep pace, we'll be left standing on the roadside--in everything but the steady obedience to God, and that God will have his way with our life.

Louis Gorsuch played the organ selections and accompanied Miss Mary Lou Ladely as she sang "The Old Rugged Cross." Following cremation, interment will be in the family lot in Masonic-IOOF cemetery.

J. W. H. Vest, one of 11 children, was born to John W. and Mary Johnson Vest on the farm east of Montezuma now occupied by the Carl Cummings but then belonging to his grandfather, Jan. 22, 1882.

Guests were Mr. and Mrs. [unclear]

Death was June 12 at St. Francis hospital, Grinnell, where he had been receiving treatment for an injury and shock received about six weeks before. Although left handed, for some reason on that particular day John was pulling the starting cord on his lawn mower with the right hand when it caught, breaking the arm just below the shoulder.

The shock of the injury proved too much for the 79-year old retired banker, gentleman farmer and ardent bass fisherman. For many years John was one of the best hunters of birds, both waterfowl and upland game, in the county, and rarely returned empty handed from a go at the bass. As the years came on he gave up the hunting but almost every night during the season he could be found in his boat on Diamond Lake, accompanied by Mrs. Vest and always by his faithful bird dog--until she died last winter.

As a young man, John and his brother were partners in a mine construction business in Colorado. Then he became an assistant in the county treasurer's office, leaving that position in 1917 to become assistant cashier to his cashier father in the Monte State Bank. He became cashier in 1926 when his father became president. Following his father's death in the height of depression 1934, he continued as cash-

ier under W. M. Stone and succeeded Stone as president in 1938.

In 1951 he was elected chairman of the board. Retired in January 1951, he devoted his time to their farm to fishing, and to traveling about the United States as they desired. Both he and Mrs. Vest enjoyed their farming activities.

J. W. H. Vest and Bess Fish were united in marriage Dec. 23, 1914. They have always called Montezuma "home". They were active in the Presbyterian church and enjoyed their church connection.

Survivors, in addition to Mrs. Vest of the home, are two brothers, Cy Vest, Fort Collins, Colo., and Fran-

Vest, for many years a Malcom resident; two sisters Mrs. Flossie Johnson, Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Amy Stutsman, Ames; other relatives and many friends.

J. W. H. learned his banking well from his father and religiously followed Dad's footsteps. Both were very conservative in their handling of the depositors' trust, a matter of great relief to the depositors who did not lose a cent during all the depression closings.