

Lyle J. Goodwin

Lyle J. Goodwin, 85, of Grinnell died Friday, Oct. 7, at his home.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Smith Funeral Home, with the Rev. Grover Branson of Ottumwa and the Rev. Harley Schull, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene, officiating. Organist will be Margaret Wheeler, Deborah Schull will be the vocalist.

Pallbearers will be his nieces and nephews. Honorary bearers will be Delmar Appleby, Chuck Brammer, Jay Hansen, Marvin Kolars, Raymond Larsen, Truman Motland, James Van Arkel and Dr. Bernard G. Wiltfang.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo.

The son of Jerome R. and Myra Margaret Fuller Goodwin, he was born May 6, 1909, in Brooklyn. He was raised on farms in the Brooklyn and Malcom areas. At the age of 6 months, he contracted polio and was a paraplegic. He received his education in the Malcom School District, then worked at several trades, sharpening knives and scissors, selling tools and spices, mechanical work, bookkeeping and selling cars.

He was married to Arlene Goodlow March 11, 1942, in Malcom. They lived there for 39 years. Mr. Goodwin owned an office in Grinnell and did income tax work and bookkeeping. He also sold insurance and real estate for 35 years.

Following the death of his wife in 1981, he moved to Grinnell. He was married to Bernice Inman Nov. 28, 1981, and they lived in Grinnell. Mr. Goodwin attended the Church of the Nazarene here.

He is survived by his wife, Bernice; two daughters, Linda Albers of Russellville, Ark., and Louise Simpson of Toledo; two stepchildren, Howard Inman and Lola

Sadler, both of Grinnell; four grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; three great-granddaughters; and two sisters, Verna Baird of Montezuma and Maxine Turner of Grinnell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife; one brother, Vernon; a sister, Eva Hall; and one grandson.

Memorial contributions in Mr. Goodwin's name may be made to the Church of the Nazarene or Grinnell Regional Medical Center Home Health Care Center.

October 10, 1994
H-8

Lyle Goodwin^{BC} 10-12-74

The son of Jerome R. and Myra Margaret Fuller Goodwin, Lyle was born May 6, 1909, in Brooklyn. He grew up on farms in the Brooklyn and Malcom area. At six months of age he contracted infantile paralysis (polio) and was a paraplegic from that time on. This did not deter him from doing most things that the average person could do in life.

He received his education in the Malcom School District. Following his education he worked at several trades, including sharpening knives and scissors, selling tools and spices, mechanical work, bookkeeping, and selling cars.

He was married to Arlene Goodlow March 11, 1942, in Malcom, where the couple made their home for 39 years. He owned an office in Grinnell and did income tax and bookkeeping, along with selling insurance and real estate for 35 years. Following the death of his wife on March 27, 1981, he moved to Grinnell. He was married to Bernice Inman Nov. 28, 1981, in Grinnell, where they made their home. He attended the Church of the Nazarene in Grinnell.

He is survived by his wife, Bernice of Grinnell; two daughters, Linda Albers of Russellville, Ark., and Louise Simpson of Toledo; two stepchildren, Howard Inman and Lola Sadler, both of Grinnell; four grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; three great-granddaughters; and two sisters, Verna Baird of Montezuma and Maxine Turner of Grinnell.

Lyle died Oct. 7, at his home, at the age of 85. He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife; a brother, Vernon Goodwin; a sister, Eva Hall; and a grandson, Jeremy Simpson.

Services were held at Smith Funeral Home, Grinnell. Officiants for the service were The Rev. Grover Branson of Ottumwa, and The Rev. Harley Schull, Church of the Nazarene of Grinnell.

Music was provided by organist Margaret Wheeler, and vocalist Deborah Schull singing "The Old Rugged Cross" and "How Great Thou Art".

Pallbearers were his nieces and nephews. Honorary pallbearers were Delmar Appleby, Chuck Brammer, Jay Hansen, Marvin Kolars, Raymond Larsen, Truman Motland, James Van Arkel, and Dr. Bernard G. Wiltfang. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo.

BC October 12, 1997

Remembering Lyle Goodwin; A Magazine Clip from 1946

The death of Lyle Goodwin at Grinnell this week prompts recollection of the unusual career of this Brooklyn native. His insurance and real estate business made him well-known all over Poweshiek County.

Lyle's accomplishments would be remarkable for a person blessed with sound body. Lyle was not so blessed, and for the benefit of younger readers who may not remember, here's a clipping from a 1946 "March of Dimes" magazine:



LYLE GOODWIN

"Whenever you get discouraged about the enormity of your responsibilities or the amount of hard work you have to put into making a living, we suggest that you give a thought to the mayor of Malcom, Iowa.

"The mayor is Lyle J. Goodwin, 5-year-old man who was crippled by infantile paralysis when he was six months old. And although he started life by crawling on his hands, dragging his legs behind him, until at the age of 12, his arms and shoulders were strong enough to pull him up on a horse so he could go to school."

and the hips were weak. His crawling overdeveloped the muscles of his shoulders and arms, so that, when he was 12, he was able to take a saddle stirrup and hoist himself into the saddle of one of his father's horses, which his older sister held for him until he got on. By this feat he was able to ride the mile and a half to and from school.

"In school the county health nurse examined him and suggested to his parents that he be taken to the University Hospitals in Iowa City for treatment. He spent two months there one summer, came home walking with plaster-of-paris casts on his legs, and with crutches. He wore casts for two years and has worn leg braces ever since. He cannot walk without braces and crutches now.

"They will be lifetime fixtures for me," he says -- but there is cheerfulness even in this phrase. The

"He has been, in the course of what he terms a 'happy, successful life', a scissors and knife sharpener, feed and tool salesman, automobile agent, farmer, hired man, insurance salesman, bookkeeper, a mechanic and a service station operator. Despite the fact that he is completely paralyzed from the waist down and had but six and a half years of schooling, he is today making a very good salary -- better, in fact, than many college graduates.

"Lyle J. Goodwin is an example to all his friends and neighbors of what it means to strive for almost everything that life brings to others without effort. In this, he is a fairly typical infantile victim. Most sufferers from this disease, including the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, exhibit a will-to-do which often compensates for lack of physical prowess. Sure those of us who have been more fortunate in our bouts with disease can only feel ashamed, that we do not always show the undaunted spirit and unvarying cheerfulness of men like this!

"The only advice I could give anyone who is a polio victim is NEVER GIVE UP! says the mayor of Malcom. As long as my health stays as it is, I will make a very good living. I have a grand little wife and we have a very sweet six and a half month old, brown-eyed baby girl. We have our own modern home and a nice car, and everything we need to live a very comfortable and enjoyable life."

"Born on a farm near Brooklyn, son of a farmer, Lyle J. Goodwin never knew what it meant to be whole in body. He learned to crawl as a baby -- and went on crawling for 12 years. Both his legs, to the hips, were paralyzed

crutches and braces represent freedom from crawling on hands and knees.

" 'I have never suffered, and no doubt never will, as a result of this disease,' says Lyle J. Goodwin.

"After my graduation from grade school and one and a half years of high school, the boy wanted to work. He had convinced his parents that he could drive a car -- something which, in those days, many people doubted polio victims could do. With a 1923 Model T Ford coupe, he started out as a scissors and knife sharpener and salesman of extracts. He went from this to selling farm tools, then hog and cattle feeds, and finally became a salesman of automobiles and trucks.

"In 1942, when he was 32 years old, he married Miss Arlene Goodlow, a country school teacher, and they bought their own home. Shortly after, he was elected mayor by the population of the town of 400. They say that he is one of the most popular city officials in all the great state of Iowa. It's not to be wondered at. A man who can rise from crawling on the floor to making his own way in a variety of jobs -- and keep his zest for living and his sense of humor at the same time -- is a man to be hailed as among the world's most inspiring characters.

"There are boys and girls today, who with a little assistance from their fellows, can do as he has done, PERHAPS with less difficulty than Mayor Goodwin. For the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has come into being to provide medical care for all victims who need it. There were no doctors, no infantile paralysis centers, no resources behind Lyle J. Goodwin, when he contracted this disease. Today, because another gallant sufferer fought the same kind of fight and left as one of his heritages to the American people a foundation which would bring help to others with infantile paralysis, there are places to turn in all parts of the country for that 'lift' which may spell victory over disease.

"As you contribute to the 1946 March of Dimes, commemorating the birthday of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, you might give a thought as well to the Mayor of Malcom."

When 80 years old, Lyle recalled "When I was two years old, the folks moved six miles south of Brooklyn on a 160-acre farm where we lived eight or nine years.

"I have banked at Brooklyn since 1940, and remember keeping books for Ray Anthony, the Studebaker dealer. I bought one of the first cars that came out after World War II. At that time, I began selling insurance.

"I wrote insurance from then on, and in 1952 I got a real estate license. We had an office on Main Street, Grinnell, for 35 years where I wrote insurance and did tax work."

Goodwin and his wife, Arlene, had two daughters and four grandchildren. They were parted by her death after 39 years of marriage.

In 1981, Goodwin and the former Bernice Inman were married. Mrs. Goodwin, a registered nurse, retired in 1984 so the couple could travel. Goodwin says he's seen all but three northeastern states, and Canada and Mexico as well.

The Chronicle reported in 1991, that at age 80, Goodwin can look back at a life well lived, and Poweshiek County can be proud of a
visited Verla Van Dee, Sunday and