

Ethel Holmes

Dies at 91

7/16/74
Ethel Towne Holmes, 91, a resident of the Mayflower Home, died Tuesday evening, July 16, at the Mayflower Home Health Center, following an extended illness.

The daughter of Nathan C. and Ida Markel Towne, she was born June 29, 1883, at Pella. When she was three months old, her parents moved to Des Moines where she received her education.

Mrs. Holmes was the director of the State Commission for the Blind for 30 years. In December of 1957 she moved to Grinnell to make her home at the Mayflower Home.

She is survived by a brother, George L. Towne of Des Moines, and was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Irma Spaulding.

Friends may call the James-Schalinske Funeral Home for additional information. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Ethel Holmes

Memorial Set

9/7/74
Memorial services for Ethel T. Holmes, 91, the first director of the State Commission for the Blind, who died July 16 at the Mayflower Home Health Center, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, in Denison Chapel, Mayflower Home.

The Rev. Ralph Beebe will officiate, and pianist will be Mrs. Gladys Holt.

Born in Pella, she moved to Des Moines at an early age and lived most of her life there before retiring in 1957 and moving to the Mayflower Home. She was a graduate of Grinnell College, and during World War I she was director of the YWCA Hostess House at Camp Dodge.

Mrs. Holmes became director of the State Commission for the Blind when it was established in 1926. She established a work program for home-bound blind women and started a summer school program at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School for persons who became blind as adults. She added to the commission staff a job placement specialist, installed Braille switchboards in state institutions with blind persons trained to operate them, and established vending stands in state buildings with blind persons operating them.

Mrs. Holmes is survived by a

brother, George L. Towne of Des Moines.

The James-Schalinske Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

ETHEL HOLMES IS DEAD AT 91

7/16/74
Mrs. Ethel Towne Holmes, 91, first director of the State Commission for the Blind, died Tuesday at the Mayflower Home in Grinnell, where she had lived since her retirement in 1957.

Mrs. Holmes, who became director of the commission when it was established in 1926, established a work program for home-bound blind women and started a summer school program at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School for persons who became blind as adults.

She also added to the commission staff a job placement specialist, installed Braille switchboards in state institutions with blind persons trained to operate them and established vending stands in state buildings with blind persons operating them.

Born in Pella, Mrs. Holmes lived in Des Moines most of her life before retiring. She was a graduate of Grinnell College and during World War I was director of the YWCA Hostess House at Camp Dodge.

She was a member of PEO and the Christian Science Church.

She is survived by a brother, George L. Towne of Des Moines.

Memorial services will be arranged later at the convenience of the family. The body has been donated to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.