

H-R
January 17, 1994

Melvin Houck

Melvin E. Houck, 93, of the Mayflower died Thursday, Jan. 13, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A memorial service was conducted Sunday in Denison Chapel at the Mayflower, with the Rev.

Homer F. Perry officiating. Pianist was Norman Goodbrod. Burial was in Presbyterian Cemetery, Bellevue.

The son of Zeke Garret and Loretta Florence Zibble Houck, he was born Nov. 1, 1900, in Bellevue. He graduated from Bellevue High School in 1920 and attended the University of Iowa.

He was married to Lucille Ann Ragatz, March 29, 1928, in Dubuque. They lived in Ft. Wayne, Ind., where Mr. Houck was associated with the Home Telephone Co. During the Depression they returned to Bellevue where he worked for Bellevue Clay Products Co. until 1940, at which time he became associated with Civil Service in Savanah, Ill., serving as electrical supervisor in various government war plants.

The couple moved to Washington, Iowa, in 1945, and he managed Iowa Continental Telephone Co. In 1955 he was transferred to Grinnell as manager. Following the merger with GTE he served as manager of the commercial and traffic departments in eastern Iowa. He retired in 1965, then sold real estate for Ramsey-Weeks until 1975.

He was a member of the United Church of Christ-Congregational and was active in Masonic organizations for 74 years. He had been a resident of the Mayflower since 1986.

Surviving are a daughter, Ann Victor of Jonesboro, Ga.; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and one sister, Evelyn Faust of Rogers City, Mich. He was preceded in death by his wife and two sisters, Corinne Cheney and one in infancy.