

Brooklyn Chronicle March 19, 1964

Erwin Jones, Former Local Banker, Dies

Erwin William Jones, 76, former president of the Poweshiek County Savings Bank, and a resident of Brooklyn from 1896 to 1929, died at Grace Methodist hospital in Des Moines March 13.

An Iowa banker for more than half a century, Mr. Jones began his banking career in Brooklyn in 1909 when the president of the Poweshiek County Savings Bank suggested that the young man become his apprentice. Because of a natural liking for facts and figures, the offer was accepted despite the stipulation of no pay and the performance of janitor work during the first two months.

Mr. Jones served the bank for more than 20 years, becoming its president in 1924. One of his outstanding achievements was rehabilitation of the bank during the deflation period following World War I when many banks throughout the country closed. While in Brooklyn Mr. Jones founded the Poweshiek County Bankers Association and served as its first president.

In 1929 Jones, widely known to bankers throughout the state, joined the Iowa-Des Moines National Bank as assistant cashier and moved his family to Des Moines. He was made assistant vice president in the same year and vice president in 1932 when he became head of the department of Banks and Bankers. He held this position until his retirement in 1953.



Erwin W. Jones

Upon retirement he became vice president of the Bankers Service Co. of Des Moines, a position he held until his death. He was granted a leave of absence in 1954 to serve as executive vice president of the First National Bank of Oelwein. Later he took another leave to become president of the First Federal State Bank of Des Moines during a period of the bank's reorganization under new management.

Active in state and national banking circles, Jones was a former Iowa Councilman for the American Bankers Association. He was a director of the Minonk State Bank of Minonk, Ill., since 1961. He was a former member of the Des Moines Club and of the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce and served many years on the Chamber's agricultural committee.

Born in Williamsburg, Iowa, Aug. 30, 1887, Jones was the only son of Ioan and Alinna McDermott Jones. During his early years his family lived in Gowrie, East Des Moines and Colfax. He began his public

schooling at Colfax. His family moved to Brooklyn in 1896 where his father purchased a grocery store. After a time a dry goods department was added and the store was known as I. Jones & Son.

Oct. 16, 1912, he married Della E. Ormiston of Brooklyn at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Ormiston. Mrs. Jones survives and lives at 2821-46th Street, Des Moines. Other survivors are a son and a daughter, Don O. Jones of Des Moines and Ruth, wife of Robert L. Stuhr, of Wilmette, Ill.; a sister, Mrs. Coe H. Manatt of Des Moines; and four grandchildren, Mrs. Gus T. Erickson, the former Janet Jones, Cedar Rapids, Steven D. Jones, and John J. and Margaret D. Stuhr.

Preceding Mr. Jones in death were his parents, his sister, Bessie Korns, and infant granddaughter, Nancy Elizabeth Jones.

Services were held at 3 p.m. March 16, at Dunn's Funeral Home. Burial was in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines.

Memorial contributions may be made to the ministry of music of Grace Methodist Church in Brooklyn or to Grace Methodist Church, Cottage Grove at 37th street, Des Moines.

Active pallbearers were Burl Cherryholmes, Robert Donhowe, Virgil J. Nutt, Edward Tesdell, and Clarke Wilson, of Des Moines, and C.V. Allison of Waukee.

Honorary pallbearers were Henry Byers, Everett Griffith, Allan Herrick, Harry Wilson, Ream Daugherty, Sherman Fowler, Charles Kelley, Herman Kucharo, J.B. McCabe, all of Des Moines; Arch Kreidler, West Des Moines; Carl Child, Grinnell; J.E. King, Albia; Clay Stafford, Ames; Al Sanderman, Melbourne; Floyd McAllister, Brooklyn; Ray Jipson, Oelwein; C.W. Anderson and L.M. Lanning, Madrid; and Lewis Gregg, Minonk, Ill.