

Grinnell Nominee Entered In State Contest ---

Mrs. Matlack Mother Of Year

The Grinnell Council of United Church Women has nominated Mrs. Henry (Mertie) Matlack as Grinnell's nominee for the State Mother of the Year contest.

Mrs. Matlack, who resides at 1310 East Street, has spent most of her life in Grinnell. She was a housewife in Grinnell college when she met Henry W. Matlack, a member of the music faculty. They were married and moved to Chicago where they started their life together. Five years later they returned to Grinnell and Mr. Matlack again joined the music faculty where he served for many years.

While Mrs. Matlack was raising her family of six children she also took part in college activities, the League of Women Voters, Uncle Sam's club, P.T.A. and the Congregational church. She has served in leadership capacities in all these organizations and was instrumental in the organization of several of them. She taught many classes and individuals in the art of sewing, knitting, weaving and cooking.

Mrs. Matlack has been an understanding mother not only to her own children but also to many college students. At the 50th reunion of her college class in 1959, the Grinnell College Alumni Association granted her its highest recognition, the Alumni Award, for her community service and leadership.

Mrs. Matlack's six children are: David, at home with his mother and very active in the Congregational church; Mrs. Keith (Mary) Davenport, of Cambridge, Mass., whose husband is an architect; Mrs. Paul Margaret Kiesel, of Excelsior, Minn., who is managing editor of Congregational Iowa magazine and also an English instructor at Hamline University in St. Paul; Mrs. Henry Laura Weinman of Carbondale, Ill., an accomplished artist whose husband is a distinguished wartime



Mrs. Henry Matlack

professor of religion at Illinois Southern University; Mrs. Jane Rutherford of Marion, Alabama, who with her husband, an army career officer, has recently adapted a German refugee boy; and Mrs. Robert (Constance) Weiman of Athens, Ohio, whose husband is professor of philosophy at Ohio University. Six grandchildren have been added to this family circle. One grandchild spent the past summer in Japan as an exchange student through the American Field Service.

Mrs. Matlack's nomination has been sent to the state chairman and secretary for the State Mother of the Year will be made later this month. From the ladies chosen to represent each state a National Mother of the Year will be selected.

Last Rites Said For Mrs. Matlack

Services were held Saturday at 2 p.m. in the United Church of Christ (Congregational) for Mrs. H. W. Matlack, who died on Aug. 13.

Mrs. Matlack, the widow of Prof. Henry William Matlack, longtime member of the faculty of Grinnell College, was widely known in the community for her leadership in the Social Service League, the Congregational church and other community groups.

She was born in Kokuk, Iowa, on Oct. 8, 1881, the daughter of Gust C. and Elma Westgate Johnson. She was educated in the Kokuk schools, graduating in 1899.

She came to Grinnell to enroll as a freshman in Grinnell (then Iowa) College in the fall of 1899. While a student she met Professor Matlack, who had come to Grinnell to join the faculty of the School of Music after studying and teaching in Oberlin College, Ohio.

They were married on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, 1902, in Mrs. Matlack's senior year at college, at the home of friends in Des Moines.

For several years the Matlacks lived in Chicago, where he was connected with the Leon & Beary music company. They later moved to Battle Creek, Mich., and St. Louis, Mo., returning to Grinnell in 1909 when Mr. Matlack resumed the music faculty of the college. He later served as alumni secretary and assistant to the president.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Matlack were active both in the community and the college. For many years Mr. Matlack was organist and choir director of the Congregational church, while also serving as college organist for the Sunday recess services. Mrs. Matlack was an active member of the Women's Fellowship, serving one term as president and several terms as

(continued on page 9)

PAGE SIX

Death --

(continued on page 6)

the board. She was a charter member of the Cooper School P.T.A. and served as director of Uncle Sam's camp for several years, following the late Mrs. Lactitia Moon Conant in that position.

She had a continued and deep interest in a unified recreation program for the community of Grinnell, and while on the Social Service League worked diligently to achieve such a program with the entire community. When the Centennial of Grinnell was celebrated in 1954, she was among those receiving a distinguished citizens award and several years later she was Grinnell Mother of the Year.

Following the death of her husband in 1956, Mrs. Matlack had a professional career, which included serving as district supervisor of housekeeping aides under the Works Progress Administration. When that project was closed she served as secretary to the American Friends Service Committee's Institute of International Relations, which then had its headquarters in Grinnell.

Upon her retirement from this position, Mrs. Matlack developed a deep interest in the craft of weaving, and she became a member of the Des Moines chapter, Iowa Weavers Guild. She had a tighted in staples to her friends, young and old. She also taught weaving for several years.

After the new Congregational church was built, she helped to new and establish the new library there, based on the original

library which Mrs. Frank T. Marvin had given the church. She also served as church historian for several years.

The Matlack home at 1310 East St., Grinnell, was a center for alumni and former faculty members of the college, who returned for visits. Mrs. Matlack's college class was 1904, and upon the 50th anniversary of the class she was recognized by being given the Alumni Award for that year to her class.

She was also a member of English, Young Club, the League of Women Voters, serving both on local and state boards—the Camp Fire Girls and political and college organizations.

For the past few years Mrs. Matlack had lived at Mayflower Home, where she continued to enjoy her friendships with residents there and in the community. She is survived by her son David, who made his home with her, five daughters—Mary Davenport of Cambridge, Mass.; Margaret Kiesel of Marshalltown; Jane Rutherford of Washington, D.C.; and six grandchildren. Her parents, sister and husband preceded her in death.

Mrs. Matlack Dies; Services Saturday

Maria Matlack, 87, a resident of the Mayflower Home, died Tuesday afternoon at a local hospital. Mrs. Matlack lived at 1310 East St. before her retirement to Mayflower Home. She is survived by five daughters and one son and was interred in death by her husband. Her funeral services for Mrs. Matlack will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the United Church of Christ, 710 East St. Rev. Harold K. Johnson, pastor of the church, will officiate. Friends desiring to contribute to the church fund may call the church office for more information. For any additional information a home funeral home.