

Thursday, December 18, 1969

Wilbur Molison Services Today



Wilbur C. Molison

Wilbur C. Molison, 66, of 1717 Manor Drive, Grinnell, a former state senator and widely known farm leader, died shortly before noon Monday at Grinnell General Hospital East following hospitalization the past six weeks.

The son of William and Elizabeth Cleland Molison, he was born near Malcom on Dec. 20, 1902. He attended Malcom High School and graduated with a B.S. degree from Iowa State University in Ames in 1921, where he was a member of Theta Delta Chi social fraternity.

Mr. Molison served as Washington County extension agent for four years before returning to Poweshiek County to farm in 1928. From this beginning, he became interested in the educational and economic opportunities for the farmer. He was elected to the Poweshiek County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in 1934 and was elected president of the County Farm Bureau in 1940, an office which he held for four years. Following his presidency, he was elected to the State Farm Bureau Board of Directors, representing an 11-county area, an office he held until 1948.

Mr. Molison was a member of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School District Board of Directors, and served as president of the board. He was also a member of the Poweshiek County Board

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of Education and a member of the board of directors of the Iowa State Memorial Union and the Iowa State Alumni Association.

He served in the Iowa Legislature for two terms, representing Poweshiek and Keokuk counties as senator from 1951 to 1959. He was appointed to the Board of Regents of the State of Iowa and served on the board from 1961 to 1968. He served as president of the board of directors of Grinnell Community Hospital, and was also an official of the Poweshiek County 4-H Fair Association.

At the time of his death, Mr. Molison was a member of the board of directors of Grinnell State Bank and General Telephone Company of the Midwest. He was a member of the United Church of Christ-Congregational and served in every office of the church, as well as being state moderator of the Iowa Conference of Congregational and Christian Churches.

He was member of the Kiwanis Club in Grinnell and was the recipient of the club's "Most Outstanding Citizen Award" in Poweshiek County in 1969.

Mr. Molison was married to the former Miriam McLain at her parents' home near Brooklyn on July 6, 1927. To this marriage were born three children—Mac Molison of Grinnell, Mrs. Grant (Mary) Finley of Harlan, and Robert Molison of Urbana, Ill. Surviving in addition to his wife and children are seven grandchildren, Connie and Bill Molison of Grinnell, Dennis, Diane and Beth Finley of Harlan, and Christopher and Laura Molison of Urbana; and three sisters, Mrs. William (Ruth) Schneckloth of Tipton, Mrs. Leonard (Grace) Sheerar of Stillwater, Okla., and Mrs. Britton (Lucille) McCabe of Springfield, Mass. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services for Mr. Molison were held at 2 p.m. today (Thursday) at the United Church of Christ-Congregational, with the Rev. Newell Davis, minister of the church, officiating. A memorial statement was read by Dr. W. Robert Parks, president of Iowa State University at Ames. The Rev. Walter J. Olsen, minister of Faith United Church of Christ, Iowa City, offered prayer.

Organist was Mrs. R. J. Nash. Pallbearers included Raymond George, Burton C. Holmes, L. G. Keeney, Donald Lambie, Hugh McCleery, and F. W. Tomasek. Honorary pallbearers were Judson Blakely, Verner Bolen, David Danger of Des Moines, Carl Hamilton of Ames, Lester Hendrickson, F. A. Jones, Dr. S. D. Porter, Harris Stafford, Kenneth Thatcher of Cummings, and Everett Wood.

A family prayer service was held at 11 a.m. today at the Smith Funeral Home, followed by graveside service at the Ivy Hill Cemetery at Malcom. Should friends desire, they may contribute to the Wilbur C. Molison Memorial Fund which has been established at the United Church of Christ-Congregational in Grinnell.