

Aletha McNeal, Welfare Director, Dies at Hospital

January 5, 1972



Aletha C. McNeal

Aletha C. McNeal, 64, of 817 Summer St., Grinnell, died Wednesday evening (Jan. 5, 1972) at Grinnell General Hospital following an extended illness. She had served as director of Poweshiek County Department of Social Services since its inception in 1934 and had resigned from the position last month.

The daughter of Charles E. and Melia Jane McFerren McNeal, Miss McNeal was born near Montezuma on Aug. 16, 1907. She graduated from Montezuma High School and received her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls.

She returned to Montezuma to teach in the elementary grades and in 1934 accepted the newly created position as Poweshiek county director of Social Services. This position she held for 37 years and was the only director Poweshiek County has had.

the Grinnell United Methodist Church, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, VFW Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary. She had held a number of offices in the American Legion Auxiliary, among them being president of the Grinnell unit; president of the county unit, and president of the Auxiliary 5th District. She had served on several state committees of the American Legion Auxiliary, among them being mental health and education, poppy promotion, radio and tv, child welfare, and the State Finance committee.

In addition to her service committee work, Miss McNeal was a member of the Governor's Council for Children and Youth, and a member of the Commissioner's State Welfare Medical Council. She was a member of the Grinnell Planning Council in addition to many professional organizations which include Iowa Welfare Association, Iowa State Association of County Welfare Directors, State of Iowa Employees Association and the Southeast Iowa County Directors.

Survivors include her sister and brother, Mrs. Tom, Marlene Clark of Grinnell and James B. McNeal of Scottsdale, Ariz.; two nieces—Mrs. Don (Barbara) Lavent of Grinnell, Mrs. Robert (Nancy) Kaisand of Ft. Madison; two nephews, Craig and Michael McNeal, both of Scottsdale, Ariz., and two grand nephews—Scott and Michael Wagonknecht.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Services for Aletha C. McNeal will be held 2 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 6) at the Grinnell United Methodist church with the Rev. J. Eugene Young, minister of the church officiating.

Burial will be made in the IOOF Cemetery at Montezuma.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home.

Should friends desire memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society in care of Mrs. Wayne Reams, Grinnell director.

Aletha McNeal

Services Held 1/5/72

Funeral services for Aletha C. McNeal, 64, who died Wednesday, Jan. 5, at Grinnell General Hospital, were held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Grinnell United Methodist Church, with the Rev. J. Eugene Young officiating.

Organist was Mrs. Willard Heffner, and vocalist was Mrs. Shirley Sears. Pallbearers included Charles Aryes, LaVaughn Cram, Raymond W. Harris, Stanley G. Hutchinson, George LaMasters and Dale McWilliams.

Honorary pallbearers were Clifford Braley, John Collum, Jack Day, Wallace H. Edelen, Bob McWilliams and S. D. Porter.

Burial was in the IOOF Cemetery at Montezuma.