

H-R March 29, Peterson dies 1978 in Long Beach

Raymond C. Peterson, former Grinnell junior high coach and teacher during the early 1930s, died suddenly of a heart attack in Long Beach, Calif., on Wednesday, March 22.

Peterson graduated from Grinnell College in 1932, working his way through school officiating high school athletic contests. After three years at Grinnell, he taught and coached at Centerville, then entered the school system in Long Beach, where he became supervisor of attendance in the city's schools.

He organized the Boys' Clubs of America for Long Beach, and his rehabilitation program in the Long Beach schools brought that city a reputation as a model city for juvenile behavior. Peterson was named "Man of the Year" by the city of Long Beach as a result of his far-reaching work with juveniles.

He is survived by his wife Luverne, one son, and one daughter.

Rites for Peterson held on March 25

Services for Raymond C. Peterson, former Grinnell resident and junior high teacher and coach, were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at Sunnyside Memorial Park cathedral chapel in Long Beach, Calif.

Peterson, 73, was pronounced dead Wednesday at Memorial Hospital Medical Center in Long Beach, after an apparent heart attack at his home.

Born in White Lake, S.D., he graduated from Grinnell College in 1932, working his way through college by officiating at athletic events. After graduation, he taught at Grinnell junior high, coaching junior high football and basketball. Following his position here, he taught and coached in the Centerville junior high.

Throughout his teaching career in Iowa, he continued the football, basketball, and baseball officiating career he had conducted during his college years and became a noted boys and girls basketball tournament referee.

Move to Long Beach

He arrived in Long Beach in 1938 and took a position teaching health and physical education at Hamilton Junior High. He received a master's degree from USC in 1942 and moved to a position as supervisor for attendance in the Unified School District two years later.

A member of the California Heights United Methodist Church, he was past exalted ruler of Long Beach Elks Lodge 888 and was a member of the El Beka Shrine and various other civic organizations.

He helped to affiliate the Long Beach Boys' Club with the national organization in 1943 and received the club's Golden Boy youth service award in 1956. He was president of the organization in 1952.

Peterson was appointed to the Advisory Commission on Children and Youth of former Gov. Edmund G. Brown Sr. in 1961.

After 18 years as supervisor for attendance, he announced his retirement in June of 1962. Later, he sold mutual funds for the Long Beach branch of San Francisco-based Insurance Securities Inc.

At his funeral services in

Long Beach last Saturday, a graveside Masonic eulogy was presented by Howard Macy of Lynnvile. Peterson and Macy had been close friends for 50 years since their days at Grinnell College.

He is survived by his wife, Luverne; a son, Craig; and a daughter, Marylou Dunn, all of Long Beach; brother, Paul, of

San Simon, Ariz.; three sisters, Louise Smith and Lucille Bakeman, both of Escondido, and Lolita Hunter of San Marcos; and three grandchildren.

The family suggest that those wishing to make memorial contributions send their checks to their favorite charities.