

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1969

George L. Pierce Services Today

George L. Pierce, 94, a Grinnell resident since 1907, died Friday morning at Grinnell General Hospital East, where he had been a patient for the past three weeks.

The son of Horatio F. and Kathryn Smith Pierce, he was born on Aug. 13, 1874, at Monticello, Iowa. Following his graduation from high school he attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music at Oberlin, Ohio, and received a Bachelor of Music Degree in 1903. He served as director of the conservatory of music at Tabor College, Tabor, Iowa, from 1902 to 1906, and at Cornell College from 1906 to 1907.

In 1907 Mr. Pierce came to Grinnell and served as director of the School of Music at the college here from 1907 to 1930. He served as professor of piano from 1931 to 1942, and in 1942 he assumed the rank of professor emeritus.

From 1910 to 1911, he and his

wife both studied music in Berlin, Germany, with Rudolph Ganz and Hugo Kaun; in 1931 and 1932, he studied cello under Fredric Buxbaum in Vienna, Austria. For two terms he served as president of the Society of Music Teachers of Iowa, and was also a member of Music Teachers National Association.

He was also listed in the international Who's Who of Music.

On Aug. 15, 1906, he was married to Alma Fuller at Hoopeston, Ill. She also served as instructor of piano at Grinnell College from 1909 to 1910 and as an associate professor of piano from 1912 to 1931. She preceded him in death on Jan. 22, 1969.

During his youth, Mr. Pierce lived in Kellogg, where his father operated a produce station. Also during his musical career he served as guest conductor for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, as well as for many other well-known orchestras in the U.S. and abroad.

He is survived by a niece, Mrs. Donovan Shaw of Marion, Iowa; a cousin, Miss Marion Bancroft of Cedar Falls; two nephews, Herman and Ralph Pierce of Los Angeles. He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, two brothers and a sister.

Funeral services for Mr. Pierce were conducted at 1:30 p.m. today (Monday) at the United Church of Christ-Congregational. The Rev. Newell E. Davis officiated, and interment was in Our Silent City cemetery at Kellogg. Organist was Elbert Smith, and serving as pallbearers were Norman Goodbrod, Leo Sherman, Lawrence Pedersen, Fred Jones, Roy Leeper, and Howard Macy.

The James-Schalinske Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.