



H. R. Ritter, Sr.

H. R. Ritter Reaches Close Of Long Life

Veteran Grinnell Business Man Died Wed. Evening; Funeral Saturday

Harry R. Ritter, Sr., veteran Grinnell business man, passed away at 8:50 p. m. Wednesday at his home, 1233 Main street, aged 79 years, 1 month and 5 days. He had been an invalid ever since suffering a stroke two years ago and had been in a critical condition for the past few days.

His Life Span

Mr. Ritter had been intimately connected with Grinnell for most of his long life. His life span ran from Newton to Grinnell to Searsboro to Grinnell. He was born in Newton Dec. 5, 1872 and came to Grinnell in early manhood as depot agent serving both railroads. After a few years here he became depot agent at Searsboro. Some time later he had an opportunity to buy the hardware store in Searsboro. The business prospered and he remained there for several years.

Years Ago

Forty four years ago he moved his hardware business to Grinnell, taking over Frank Marvin's hardware store on Commercial street, which has developed into the prosperous store which his sons, Frank and Francis, conduct today.

Interest In Television

Active, industrious and pleasant in his dealings with the public, Mr. Ritter became almost an institution in Grinnell business up to the time when ill health forced his retirement 5 years ago. He built up his store on the high and consistent service in the community and never failed to be consistently on the job. He was interested in the development of business. When he started he was selling harness. When he died the Ritter store was selling television sets.

Lodge Affiliations

Mr. Ritter would have reached his 50 year mark as an Odd Fellow next June, and was a 50 year member of the Knights of Pythias. He also belonged to the Masonic and Elks lodges and was affiliated with the Rebekahs and Pythian Sisters. He was a member of the 50-year club of the Iowa Retail Hardware Dealers association. He was a member of the Methodist church.

On Jan. 1, 1894, Mr. Ritter was married in Newton to Carrie Ada Rairdon, who survives him with their seven children, Vera, Mrs. Alfred Bradley of Los Angeles, Calif., Hazel, Mrs. Clem Lisor of Goshen, Ind., Ruth, Mrs. C. D. Smith of Salem, Oregon, Allene, Mrs. Ivan Seiberling of Los Angeles, and Frank, Harry, Jr., and Francis of Grinnell. There are also ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Following his retirement Mr. Ritter spent some time in California but was brought back to Grinnell after his health failed and the past few months of his long life have been spent here.

Services Saturday

Funeral services in charge of Rev. W. F. Overhulser assisted by Rev. Royal J. Montgomery will be held in the Methodist church at 3:30 p. m. Saturday. Music will be provided by Mrs. Rhee Auman, Mrs. Dolph Miller and Mrs. Carl Paxson. Masonic services at the grave in Hazelwood cemetery will be conducted by Sharp Lannon. Pall bearers will be Carl E. Child, Ross Coult, George Hiser, Bert Sawyer of Searsboro, Bert Whitaker and Frank Wilson. Flower bearers will be Mrs. M. O. Wilson and Mrs. Lee Farley. Friends may call at the Smith funeral home. The Ritter hardware store and the Ritter Maytag & Appliance Co. will be closed all day Saturday.