

Thursday, September 1, 1966

H-R

Joseph L. Van Horn, Grinnell Civic And Business Leader, Dies Suddenly

Joseph L. Van Horn, 61, of Grinnell, President of General Telephone Companies of Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska, died suddenly Wednesday night at Columbus, Nebr.

Widely active in telephone industry and civic affairs, Van Horn was a former Mayor of Grinnell and held numerous offices in the Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska Telephone Associations. He was also a member of the Regional Committee of the United States Independent Telephone Association and the Advisory Committee of Business Economics of the University of Southern California.

Van Horn was a native of Lincoln, Nebr., and a graduate of Cathedral high school in Lincoln. He attended the University of Nebraska.

He began his career in the telephone industry in 1927 with the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company and was subsequently employed by Postal Telegraph Company and the communications departments of the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Rubber Company. He joined Iowa Continental Telephone Company and Iowa Telephone and Telegraph Company, Grinnell, in 1943 as general superintendent.

In 1948 he was named general manager of Middle States Utilities Company of Missouri, at Cameron, and was elected vice-president of the firm in 1950. In 1954, retaining his position of vice-president with the Middle States Company, he returned to Grinnell as general manager of the Iowa Continental Telephone Company and Iowa Telephone and Telegraph Company.



J. L. Van Horn

Van Horn became President of the General Telephone Companies of Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska when these companies became affiliates of General Telephone and Electronics Corporation in 1956.

Survivors include his wife, the former Catherine Cain; one daughter, Mrs. Glen (Dorothy) Bowman of Columbus, Nebr.; and five grandchildren.

Requiem mass will be held at St. Bonaventure Catholic church, Columbus, at 9 a.m. (CST) Saturday. Burial will be at Calvary cemetery following the mass. The Rosary will be recited Friday at 8 p.m. at the McKown Funeral Home.