

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative McGrath, James L. Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented Poweshiek County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 21 Sept 1871 Hartwick Iowa in  
Poweshiek County

2. Marriage (s) date place  
① Elizabeth A. Korns 3 June 1892 Marengo, Iowa

② Helvie Rowland Compton 30 June 1946

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was an auctioneer for almost 60 years throughout Iowa,  
Minnesota, North and South Dakota; connected with the Pioneer Land Bank

B. Civic responsibilities for 25 years  
Modern Woodmen of America

C. Profession Auctioneer; farmer

4. Church membership Methodist, later Congregational

5. Sessions served 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly 1925

6. Public Offices

A. Local He was secretary of the Grinnell - Marengo (Iowa) division of the  
National Farm Loan Association; mayor of Grinnell

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 21 Nov 1955 Grinnell Iowa; buried Hartwick Cemetery, Hartwick Iowa

8. Children Ray E.; Agel H.; Ellsworth; Howard; Arthur;

Mrs. Harold T. Ellis; Mrs. J. Arthur; Walter R.; five additional children  
preceded their father in death

9. Names of parents Nathaniel and Nancy Agnes (Hyler) McGrath

McArdle, James L.

10. Education He was deprived of an education and at age 10  
he was fatherless and did not have the funds. He was  
self-educated.

11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

12. Other applicable information Republican

- His first wife, Lizzie A., born 1873, died 1945, buried in  
Hartwick Cemetery, Hartwick, Iowa
- His second wife, Nellie, born 10 Apr 1874, died Aug 1970
- He was left fatherless at age 10 (1881) and the oldest of 6 children. He  
had to work and contribute his labor to support the family.
- At age 24 he started farming for himself and was a renter for 6 years  
and in 1898 he was in a position to purchase land for himself.
- In 1896 he began his political career
- He moved later to Grinnell and was elected mayor in 1921, but resigned  
and became an candidate for the Legislature and was elected in 1924.



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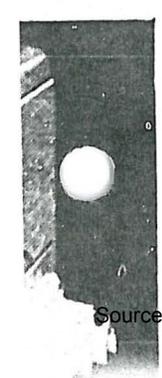


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# J. L. McIlrath, Former Mayor Dies Monday

Succumbs To Heart  
 Attack; Longtime  
 Resident of Grinnell

James L. McIlrath, 84, former Grinnell mayor and prominent livestock auctioneer, died Monday afternoon following a heart attack.

He was just getting out of his car after returning from some errands when the fatal attack occurred.

Born in Hartwick on September 21st, 1871, he was married on June 3rd, 1892, to Lizzie A. Korn, who preceded him in death. On June 30th, 1946, he married Nellie Rowland Compton, a childhood friend.

An auctioneer in the Grinnell area for almost 60 years, he was widely known throughout Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. For more than 25 years he was connected with the Omaha Land Bank, serving most of that time as secretary of the Grinnell-Marengo division of the Federal Farm Loan association.

For nearly 25 years, he was teacher of an adult Sunday School class at the First Methodist church in Grinnell.

In addition to his wife, seven children survive: Roy E. McIlrath, Chicago; Azel H. McIlrath, Cedar Rapids; Mrs. Harold V. Ellis, Marengo; Ellsworth and Howard McIlrath, Jacksonville, Fla.; Mrs. Ira Arthur, Ames; and Arthur McIlrath, Spencer.

Also surviving are three sisters: Mrs. Agness Bennett, Santa Monica, Calif.; Mrs. Margaret Creamer, Hollywood, Fla.; and Mrs. Ella Warnick, Mitchell, S. D. A brother, Nathaniel McIlrath of Hartwick, also survives.

Other survivors include 18 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Five children preceded him in death.

Funeral services were conducted November 23rd from the Congregational church where he had been a member since moving to Grinnell from Hartwick in 1909.

The Rev. Leland W. Mann, minister of the First Congregational church, officiated at the services. Organ selections were provided by Norman Goodbrod.

Pallbearers were: Carl Child, Ross Cutts, A. B. Hamilton, R. S. Kinsey, H. G. Pearce, and F. W. Tomasek.

Interment was at Hartwick cemetery.



J. L. McIlrath

## Virginia's to Open New Sportswear Room On Friday

Opening of a new sportswear room at Virginia's is announced in today's issue of the Herald-Register.

The new sales room was added by closing off a porch on the south side of the house. Bamboo matchstick draperies and grass rugs have been used in the decorating scheme to give the room a casual sports look.

Sweaters, skirts, sports jackets and other items of ladies sportswear are featured in the new room, Virginia announced.

Formal opening of the sportswear room and a 9th anniversary celebration are being combined this weekend. There will be gifts for all women who attend the opening, Virginia said.

## Goal In Sight; Band Boosters Only 200 Tickets Shy Of Mark

Still working toward their goal of 1,000 tickets sold, the Band Boosters have now set December 6, the time of their next regular meeting, for the final report on ticket sales.

Everett Kahl, chairman of the committee, has been assisted by Max Hayes and Ed Hughes, and tickets may be obtained from any of these men. Kahl estimates that the report to date shows that the goal is about 200 tickets short, and he hopes that enough friends desiring tickets will be contacted to complete the "1,000 Ticket Club."

THE BIG  
 CLASSIFIED  
 NEWSPAPER



EIGHTY-EIGHTH YEAR

# Reorgan

## Confesses To Passing Bad Checks Here

Man Apprehended In  
 Kansas; Passed Two  
 Checks, \$32.90 Each

A man apprehended in Me-pherson, Kansas, October 11 has admitted to passing two bad checks in Poweshiek County, according to information received in the Poweshiek sheriff's office.

He is Robert Francis Vice, 32, who gave his home address as Paris, Illinois.

### Two Bad Checks

Vice admitted passing bad checks in the amount of \$32.90 at the Arnold's Shoe store here and at Morgan's Jewelry in Brooklyn.

He has a long record of arrests, starting in 1941. At Me-Pherson, he admitted passing bad checks in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas and Iowa.

### Long Record

Deputy sheriff Harold Wiedow said Monday that it was improbable that Vice would be returned here to stand trial since there are several states and several other cities in Iowa who are ahead of Poweshiek County.

Vice's wife and his brother, Jack, were also picked up by authorities but as far as is known, neither operated in Poweshiek County.

## Over 100 Attend 4-H Club Officers Training School

More than 100 Poweshiek County 4-H club officers and leaders attended the officers training school held in Brooklyn Saturday afternoon. Each of the county were represented.

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A Narrative History  
of  
The People of Iowa

with  
SPECIAL TREATMENT OF THEIR CHIEF ENTERPRISES IN  
EDUCATION, RELIGION, VALOR, INDUSTRY,  
BUSINESS, ETC.

by  
EDGAR RUBEY HARLAN, LL. B., A. M.  
*Curator of the  
Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa*

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IOWA BIOGRAPHY  
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Volume V

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ILLUSTRATED

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CHICAGO AND NEW YORK  
STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY  
1931  
Des Moines, Iowa

confidence and esteem. The Judge has maintained his residence at Anamosa, the county seat, since June, 1889. In 1887 he was elected county attorney, of which office he continued the incumbent six years. In 1906 he was elected to the bench of the District Court of the Eighteenth Judicial District, the office that he now holds and in which he has given an able and conscientious administration that has extended over a period of nearly a quarter of a century. His judicial rulings have marked his broad and accurate knowledge of law and precedent as well as his fine conception of the principles of justice and equity, so that few of his decisions have met reversal in the courts of higher jurisdiction.

Judge Ellison has long been recognized as one of the leaders in the councils and campaign activities of the Republican party in this part of the state. In 1894 he was elected to the State Legislature, in which he served as representative from Jones County one term, he having then been elected to the State Senate, in which he served one term. In 1904 he was chosen presidential elector for his district, and two years later he was elected to the judicial office that he has since retained through successive reelections.

REV. ARNOLD BOEDING is a Catholic priest whose labors have been in the Dubuque diocese for over thirty-eight years and who has won the love and respect of the people of Dubuque, where he is pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart, at East Twenty-second and Windsor Avenue.

Father Boeding was born in Neuenkirchen, Westphalia, Germany, April 29, 1868, son of a German shoe merchant, Conrad Boeding. His early years were spent in Westphalia, where he attended school. On April 2, 1885, the family arrived in Iowa and settled at St. Lucas, in Fayette County, where one son, Francis X., was pastor of St. Luke's Church. Arnold Boeding was at that time sixteen years of age. Determining to devote his life to the church, he continued his American education in the Quincy College at Quincy, Illinois, also attended the St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee and then went abroad to complete his theological training in the University of Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria. He was ordained in 1892, and at once returned home and was assigned duties at Dubuque as assistant at St. Mary's Church for five years, after which he became a pastor at Clinton and Lyons, Iowa, for three years. In 1901 he was appointed pastor of the Holy Ghost Church and in 1905 entered upon his duties as the pastor of the Sacred Heart parish. This is one of the largest congregations in the city. The parish was established in 1880, and celebrated its fiftieth anniversary December 14, 1930. At present the parish comprises about 625 families, and the administration of the spiritual and material needs of the parish is no small task. The excellent parochial school, which was started about the same time as the church, is conducted by a group

of twenty Sisters of St. Francis, and a lay teacher, Professor Dreher, who is the principal, and has held this post for thirty-two years.

JAMES L. McILRATH is a resident of Grinnell, has business offices in the Poweshiek County National Bank and home on East Sixth Avenue. His has been a very successful career. He has been a farmer and auctioneer, and over a large part of the state his abilities as an auctioneer are known.

Mr. McIlrath had a difficult struggle in his early years. He was born at Hartwick, Iowa, September 22, 1871, and in 1881, when he was ten years of age, his father died, and from that time forward, being one of the oldest of the children, he had to work and contribute his labors to the support of the household. His father, Nathaniel McIlrath, was born in Ballyemina, Ireland, and his mother, Nancy Agnes Wylie, was a native of the same locality. Nathaniel McIlrath came to America in 1865 and settled at Hartwick, Iowa. He was married in 1868. The rest of his life he gave to his farm. He was a man of enlightened ideas, served as a school director in his township, and was a member of the Presbyterian Church. His wife survived him many years, passing away in 1912. Of their six children five are living: James L., of Grinnell, Mrs. Ella E. Warnock, of Mitchell, South Dakota, Mrs. Margaret E. Creamer, of Midland, South Dakota, Mrs. Agnes Bennett, of Covina, California, and Nathaniel H., of Hartwick, Iowa.

James L. McIlrath had only limited opportunities to attend schools in Jefferson Township, Poweshiek County. Until 1892, when he was twenty-one years of age, his time and energies were fully taken up with the responsibilities of the home farm. When he started farming for himself he was a renter for six years, and it was not until 1898 that he was in a position to purchase land for himself. In the meantime, in 1896, he had begun his career as an auctioneer. He has great natural gifts, which have been thoroughly trained in the school of experience, and he has been called far and wide to cry sales, and it is a business and profession which has brought him a large measure of his success. Mr. McIlrath while without special school advantages during his youth has always been a student of books and men, and is really a well educated man.

After moving his home to Grinnell he was elected mayor of the city in 1921, but resigned to become a candidate for the Legislature and was elected in 1924. In 1926 he was candidate for Congress. He has farming interests, is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Congregational Church.

He married, June 3, 1892, Miss Lizzie A. Korns, of Hartwick, Iowa. Eleven children were born to their marriage and seven are now living: Roy E., treasurer of the American Bond & Mortgage Company of Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. Grace E. Ellis, of Sac City, Iowa, formerly prom-

inent as a home economics teacher; Azel H., of Brooklyn, Iowa, a member of the State Legislature; Ellsworth K., member of the law firm Johnson & McIlrath at Jacksonville, Florida; Miss Emma A., a teacher in home economics at the Iowa State College at Ames in the extension department; William Howard, a student in Grinnell College; and Arthur J., attending Grinnell High School. The son Walter R., who was with the Grinnell Motor Company, passed away in April, 1930, from injuries received in the World war.

MRS. EVELYN SPENCER BRAY, librarian of the Stewart Library at Grinnell, was born in that cultured Iowa community and has lived there the greater part of her life.

She was born June 28, 1883, a daughter of the late Henry C. Spencer. The Spencer family came to America in the late 1600s, settling in New York, and Mrs. Bray is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as a descendant from ancestors who took part in the war for independence. Her great-grandfather, Jared Wilson Spencer, was born at Hadley, Connecticut, in 1760. Henry C. Spencer was born at Watertown, New York, October 5, 1855, and came to Iowa in 1869, at which time the family located at Grinnell. He graduated at Iowa State College at Ames and spent his active life as a banker. He died July 20, 1904. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, was a Republican and a member of the Episcopal Church. He married Katherine Hatch, who was born at Chelsea, Vermont, February 11, 1856, and died September 14, 1922. Her family came to Grinnell about 1876. Henry C. Spencer and wife had two children: Clark H., born August 10, 1879, and died July 20, 1904, and Evelyn Spencer.

Evelyn Spencer attended public schools at Grinnell until 1895, then entered Iowa College Academy, where she took her high school diploma in 1898. Her education was continued in Iowa, now at Grinnell College, where she pursued the liberal arts course for two years. In 1901 she entered the Woman's College of Baltimore, Maryland, now Goucher College, but received her A. B. degree, from Grinnell College in 1927.

At Grinnell on October 25, 1904, she was married to Mr. Edward J. Bray, of Grinnell. Three children were born to them: Harowth Spencer, in 1905, at Brooklyn, New York; Henry Marshall, June 1, 1908, a student in Grinnell College, and Mary Ellen, who died in September, 1907.

Mrs. Bray began her work with the Stewart Library as assistant. In 1919 she attended the summer school for librarians at the University of Iowa, being awarded a certificate, and in 1921 was chosen librarian. She is a member of the Iowa Library Association and is serving her sixth year on the Grinnell school board. She is a member of the Federation of Woman's Clubs, the Social Service League and is a member of the Congregational Church.

WILLIAM JOHN SHARRAR, the former mayor of the City of Montezuma, is a man who has always had an active interest in and has cooperated with the civic affairs of his community along with his private business.

He was born at Moline, Illinois, March 9, 1864, and was five years of age when his parents moved to Poweshiek County, Iowa, and settled in Scott Township. His father, Henry Clay Sharrar, was born in Pennsylvania, was educated in country schools and learned the trade of machinist. After coming to Iowa he followed farming as his business. He moved his home to Brooklyn, Iowa, in 1901 and lived there until his death in 1904. His wife, Margaret McCaw, was born in County Down, Ireland, and was a small girl when her parents came to America. She died in 1907. Of their ten children five died in infancy and the three now living are: Mrs. Margaret Johnson, of Audubon, Iowa, William J., of Montezuma, and Charles M., of Davenport.

William John Sharrar attended country schools in Scott Township, worked with his father on the farm until he was twenty-two and then engaged in farming for himself. Farming was a business that he followed actively until 1920, since which year he has lived in Montezuma.

Mr. Sharrar in 1889 became a member of the school board in Jackson Township, and is now director-at-large and president of the township school board. He was, until 1931, also township trustee, an office he filled for twenty-four years, since first elected in 1907. He was appointed a member of the city council of Montezuma in 1922, and in 1925 was elected mayor, being re-elected in 1927. He gave the city a splendid administration of its municipal affairs, retiring from office in April, 1930. Mr. Sharrar is a member of the Woodmen of the World, is a Republican and has been an elder and trustee of the Presbyterian Church.

He married, February 9, 1887, Miss Josephine Smith, of Lincoln Township, Poweshiek County, daughter of John V. Smith. To their marriage were born six children and the five now living are: Charles O., of Chicago; Mrs. Jessie Black, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, who has one son, Raymond, and one daughter, Doris May; Henry C., of Chicago, who married Zadie Porter, of Poweshiek County, Iowa; Kenneth B., of Morris, Illinois, who married Doris Douglass, of Montezuma; and Phillip E., of Chicago, who married Mildred Anderson, also of Montezuma.

WILL S. BEELS, publisher of the *Hopkinton Leader*, has had a long and interesting experience as a printer and newspaper man. While he has spent thirty years in his present sanctum at Hopkinton, a number of other communities in Iowa and other states enter into his life record, since it is now half a century since he started working at a printer's case.

Mr. Beels was born at Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, March 15, 1863, and was six years of age

State of Iowa  
1957

**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE**  
of the  
**FIFTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Convened January 14, 1957  
Adjourned May 3, 1957

**HERSCHEL C. LOVELESS, Governor**  
**WILLIAM H. NICHOLAS, President of the Senate**  
**W. L. MOOTY, Speaker of the House**

Compiled Under Direction of  
Sherman W. Needham  
Superintendent of Printing

48648  
Published by the  
STATE OF IOWA  
Des Moines

its appreciation of his service, and tender its sympathy to the members of his family.

*Be It Further Resolved:* That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

HILLMAN H. SERSLAND,  
ELMER A. HOTH,  
A. L. MENSING,

*Committee.*

**JAMES L. McILRATH**

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable James L. McIlrath, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

James L. McIlrath was born September 21, 1871, at Hartwick and died at Grinnell on November 21, 1955.

An auctioneer in the Grinnell area for almost sixty years, he was widely known throughout Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. For more than twenty-five years he was connected with the Omaha Land Bank, serving most of that time as secretary of the Grinnell-Marengo division of the Federal Farm Loan Association. For nearly twenty-five years he was teacher of an adult Sunday School class at the First Methodist Church in Grinnell.

Mr. McIlrath served Poweshiek County in the Forty-first session of the General Assembly of Iowa.

On June 3, 1892, he was united in marriage with Lizzie A. Kornes who preceded him in death. On June 30, 1946, he married Nellie Rowland Compton, a childhood friend.

Surviving Mr. McIlrath are his widow and seven children: Roy E. McIlrath, Chicago; Azel H. McIlrath, Cedar Rapids; Mrs. Harold V. Ellis, Marengo; Ellsworth and Howard McIlrath, Jacksonville, Florida; Mrs. Ira Arthur, Ames; and Arthur McIlrath, Spencer.

Also surviving are three sisters: Mrs. Agnes Benett, Santa Monica, California; Mrs. Margaret Creamer, Hollywood, Florida; Mrs. Ella Warnick, Mitchell, South Dakota. A brother, Nathaniel McIlrath of Hartwick, also survives.

Other survivors include eighteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Five children preceded him in death.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly of Iowa:* That in the passing of the Honorable James L. McIlrath, the state has lost an honored citizen and a faithful, useful servant, and the House, by this resolution, would express its appreciation of his service, and tender its sympathy to the members of his family.

*Be It Further Resolved:* That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

GEORGE L. PAUL,  
NEIL E. JOHNS,  
MAHLON N. BROWN,

*Committee.*



You searched for **James L. Mcilrath** in **Iowa**

### 1920 United States Federal Census

Name: **James L Mcilrath**  
 Home in 1920: **Grinnel Ward 1, Poweshiek, Iowa**  
 Age: **48**  
 Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1872**  
 Birthplace: **Iowa**  
 Relation to Head of House: **Self (Head) [Head]**  
 Spouse's Name: **Lizzie A Mcilrath**  
 Father's Birth Place: **Ireland**  
 Mother's Birth Place: **Ireland**  
 Marital Status: **Married**  
 Race: **White**  
 Sex: **Male**  
 Home owned: **Own**  
 Able to read: **Yes**  
 Able to Write: **Yes**  
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">James L Mcilrath</a>	48
	<a href="#">Lizzie A Mcilrath</a>	46
	<a href="#">Azal H Mcilrath</a>	22
	<a href="#">Grace E Mcilrath</a>	20
	<a href="#">Walter R Mcilrath</a>	18
	<a href="#">Ellsworth K Mcilrath</a>	15
	<a href="#">Emma A Mcilrath</a>	12
	<a href="#">Howard W Mcilrath</a>	11
	<a href="#">Arthur J Mcilrath</a>	7

**Source Citation:** Year: 1920; Census Place: Grinnel Ward 1, Poweshiek, Iowa; Roll: T625\_511; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 124; Image: 108.

#### Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data: Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: [NARA](#). Note: Enumeration Districts 819-839 are on roll 323 (Chicago City).

#### Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1920 United States Federal Census, the Fourteenth Census of the United States. It includes all states and territories, as well as Military and Naval Forces, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Panama Canal Zone. The census provides many details about individuals and families including: name, gender, age, birthplace, year of immigration, mother tongue, and parents' birthplaces. In addition, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1920 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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