

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative McGill, Francis Thomas Senator

Represented Swiss County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 30 Sept 1888 Cleveland, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

Lona Norris 21 June 1926 Rock Valley, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business President of the Community Oil Board 4 years; member of  
Swiss County and Iowa Oil Association since 1946

B. Civic responsibilities Rotary; Commercial Club; Rock Valley  
fair board

C. Profession Attorney; teacher; bank employee

4. Church membership Catholic

5. Sessions served 46<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1935

6. Public Offices

A. Local Rock Valley school board member 1926-1935; Mayor of  
Rock Valley 13 years; Rock Valley city attorney

B. State

C. National

7. Death 22 Dec 1986 Rock Valley, Iowa; buried St. Mary's Cemetery, Rock Valley, Iowa

8. Children Thomas; Mary Frances (Mrs. Clyde Ginn)

9. Names of parents Thomas and Mary (Hatch) McGill

10. Education He was educated in the Rock Valley, Iowa schools  
graduating in 1906

11. Degrees He graduated from the University of Iowa law school  
in 1916

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He moved to Rock Valley in 1908 when his widowed mother  
married Thomas Barry
- He taught in a country school north of Rock Valley and worked in  
the First National Bank in Rock Valley
  - After graduating from law school he practiced law in Mt. Dodge, Iowa 1916-1917
  - Later in 1917 he went to Camp Dodge and opened a Knights of Columbus  
service men's canteen
  - After the war he returned to work in the Rock Valley Bank and practiced law  
until his death.



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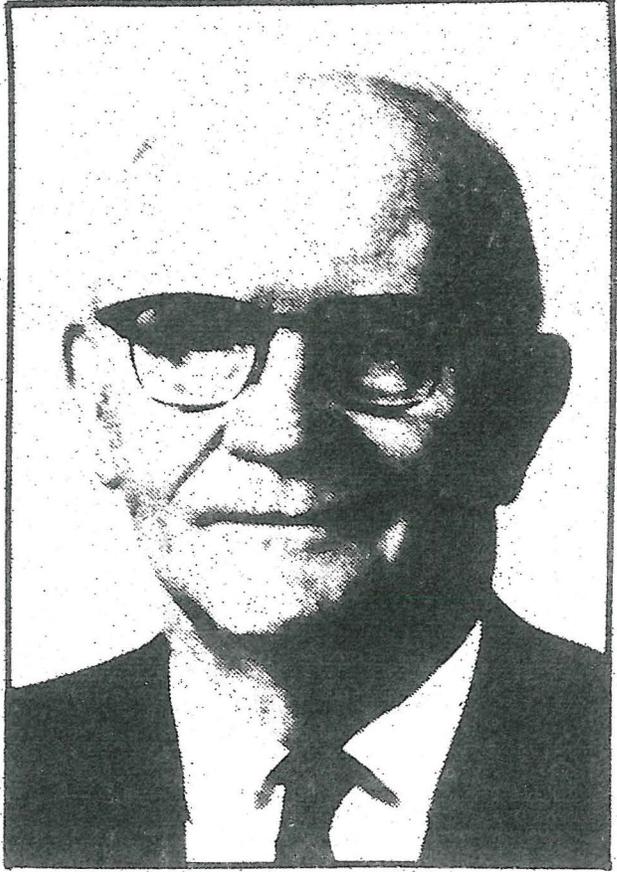
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# Obituaries



**Frank McGill**

Frank T. McGill, 98, died Monday, December 22, 1986 in Hegg Memorial Hospital, Rock Valley.

**Francis Thomas (Frank) McGill** was born October 1, 1888 to Thomas and Mary McGill in Cleveland, Ohio. He moved to Rock Valley, Iowa at the age of 12 when his widowed Mother married Thomas Barry. His graduation from Rock Valley High School was in 1906. He taught in a country school north of Rock Valley and worked in the First National Bank of Rock Valley. He graduated from the University of Iowa Law School in 1916 and practiced law in Fort Dodge, Iowa until 1917, when he went to Camp Dodge where he operated a Knights of Columbus service man's canteen. After the war he returned to work in the bank and practiced law where he continued to do so until his

in the St. Mary's Catholic Church, president of Community Oil board for 40 years, and was a member of the Sioux County and Iowa Bar Association since 1916. He was also the Honorable Grand Marshall of the Rock Valley Centennial parade.

He is survived by his son, Thomas and his wife Mary Ellen McGill of Rock Valley, Iowa; daughter and her husband, Mary and Clyde Goin of Mitchell, S.D.; 14 grandchildren; and 22 great grandchildren.

The parish rosary was said Thursday, December 25 at 8 p.m. at the Porter Funeral Home in Rock Valley, Iowa. The funeral mass was at 1:30 p.m. Friday, December 26, at the Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Rock Valley. The Father Donald R. Smith officiating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Rock Valley.

## Harriet VanDerVliet

Harriet VanDerVliet, 89, Hull, died Sunday, December 21, 1986 in Pleasant Acres Nursing Home, Hull.

Harriet Spinden was born June 2, 1897, in Sioux Center, Iowa.

She married Gradus VanDerVliet December 15, 1919, in Hull. They farmed in the Hull area.

Her husband died August 15, 1948. In 1960, she moved into Hull. She was a school teacher in the Hull and Sioux Center areas. She was involved with the Grandparent Program at Hope Haven in Rock Valley, Iowa, for 12 years. She was a member of Grace Community Church in Sioux Falls. She spent the last three weeks in the nursing home.

Survivors include three sons: Herman, Hull; Henry John, Brea, Calif.; and Stanley, Colton; four daughters: Mathilda Kumpers and Mrs. Bernard

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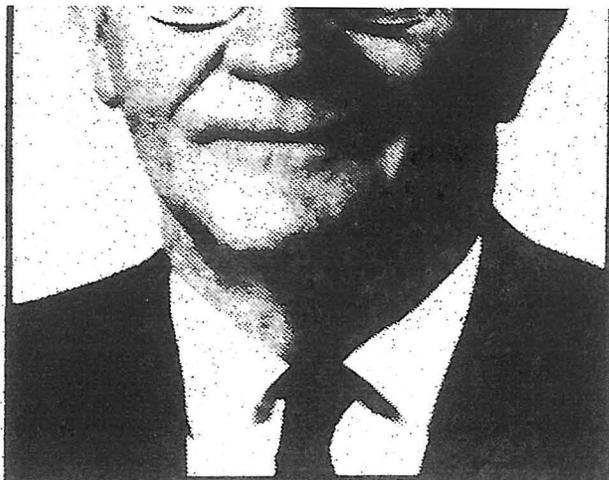
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His marriage to Lona Norris was on July 21, 1926 in Rock Valley. She died on November 3, 1976.

Mr. McGill served in the Iowa Legislature representing Sioux County from 1934 to 1936. He was mayor of Rock Valley for 13 years and also city attorney for many years. He was a charter member of the Rotary Club, served on the school board, was trustee

husband, Mary and Clyde Goin of Mitchell, S.D.; 14 grandchildren; and 22 great grandchildren.

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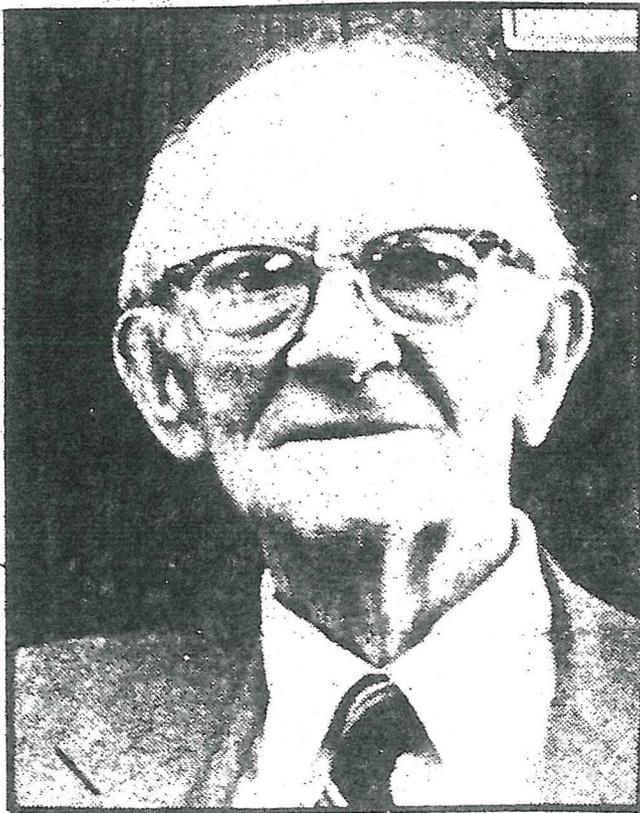
Survivors include three sons: Herman, Hull; Henry John, Brea, Calif.; and Stanley, Colton; four daughters: Mathilda Kuipers and Mrs. Bernard (Henrietta) Meendering, both of Hull; Mrs. Gerrit (Anetta) TerMaat, Hickman, Neb.; and Mrs. Henry (Bernice) Vink, Colton; 37 grandchildren; 89 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Hull Community Building, Hull. Burial was in Hope Cemetery, Hull.

# Era ends with death of Fra

He has been called the last true gentleman in Rock Valley. In the circles of law, banking and local government his name was synonymous with integrity,

because in some ways he did not really fit in. The town and region had changed during his lifetime, and people are now predominantly Dutch, predominantly reformed Protestant, and predominantly conservative Republican. Frank was Irish, a dedicated Catholic and a devoted Democrat.



*Frank T. McGill*

and when Frank T. McGill passed away on Monday, December 22, Rock Valley said goodbye to an old friend.

"He loved Rock Valley," related Frank's son, Tom McGill. "We never went anywhere that he didn't crow about this town."

McGill has been a name that means something in Rock Valley for decades. Frank moved here when he was 12 years old, and graduated from Rock Valley High School in 1906.

At that time he began a career that, in one way or another, had its effect on everyone who lived in Rock Valley. He worked at such various occupations as



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At that time he began a career that, in one way or another, had its effect on everyone who lived in Rock Valley. He worked at such various occupations as teacher, banker, and lawyer; he served on such diverse bodies as the Fair Board, city government (as mayor), and the Iowa Legislature; he was active on the school board, in St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the Knights of Columbus.

For a time his path led away from Rock Valley, when he practiced law in Fort Dodge and when he operated the Knights of Columbus servicemen's canteen at Camp Dodge. But he returned to Rock Valley, and for about 70 years his presence on Main Street as an attorney and banker and a Rock Valley promoter was a fixture.

Today, the law firm Frank started is still going strong, now as McGill and Scott. The McGill is for Michele, his granddaughter. Frank practiced law with son Tom as McGill and McGill from 1952 through 1981.

In addition, other grandchildren are doing business in Rock Valley. Frank owns and operates Frank's Market, and Mark is the proprietor of Thor-nburg Company.

Frank McGill was a marked success here, a fact all the more remarkable



*A car belonging to John Van Beek School Saturday morning. Due to pa delayed in arriving, and extensive dam was unknown.*

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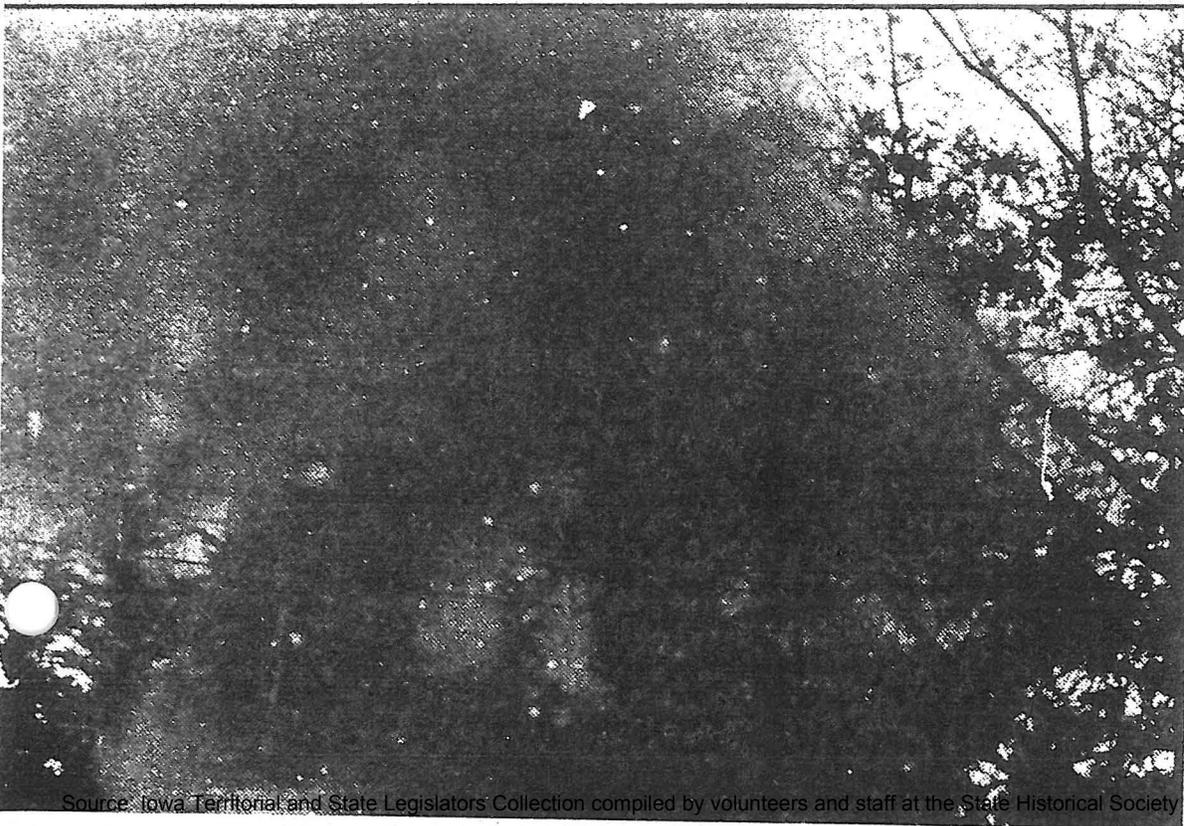
## Death of Frank McGill

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Nevertheless, he captured the  
respect and admiration of those  
around him, which was borne out  
when he was elected to city office and  
then to the Iowa Legislature.

When he reminisced, it was usually  
about the good things. About the first

*(continued on page twelve)*



# McGill

*(continued from page one)*

privately owned electric power plant in Rock Valley, when people first began to widely use electricity, especially in the country, and the advent of the telephone, cement sidewalks, automobiles and street lights instead of kerosene lamps. About when the city ball park was built, and the way baseball became a matter of town identity and pride in the late '30s.

"He was very proud of that ball park. He served on the fair board when they got rid of the old fairgrounds, and they gave the city the park. Then when he was mayor he got the WPA to build the pavilion there. He was awfully proud of that," Tom recalled.

When Frank passed away he was 98 years old. He had led a long and fruitful life, and even in his final years he was a noted figure. He will be remembered for the way he faithfully kept office hours at the law office well into his 90s. He will be remembered for his impeccable manners and the way he still tipped his hat to ladies on the street. He will be remembered for the way he faithfully attended church, sitting in the front row at nearly every service up until the day he died.

Frank T. McGill was a man Rock Valley was proud of, a sophisticated individual who represented us in the highest circles of the state, but still a home-grown citizen who kept himself on the same level as everyone else.

You gave a lot to this town, Mr. McGill. We're sorry to see you go, but we're glad we had you for so long.

in them are several projects that will be of importance to northwest Iowa.

Over the next five years the state will spend \$9,750,000 on highway improvement projects in Sioux County. This year ditching and shoulder work will be done on Highway 75 from 10 miles north of the Plymouth County line to Maurice, using up \$275,000 that.

Also in 1987, \$454,000 will be used to replace the Six Mile Creek and Spring Creek bridges east of Heden on Highway 10, and \$20,000 will be used on lights at the two intersections of Highway 18 and Highway 75.

This year and in 1988, a total of \$2,996,000 will be spent on re-grading and re-paving the intersection of Highway 10 and Highway 75 known as Million Dollar Corner.

In 1988 another bridge on Highway 10, over a small creek just west of Highway 75, will be replaced.

## Hegg support committee

The "Support Committee" for the Hegg Memorial Health Center has met with the executive committee to discuss the needs and proposals for improvements of the Health Center. They were informed and enlisted in the first proposal of plans, which was "Three Phase" wiring for the Health Center Complex.

The nursing home, called Hegg Manor, was built in 1963, as a separate unit. The Hegg Hospital, built as a separate unit, in 1967. In 1986, the hospital, nursing home, doctors clinic plus an additional doctors clinic and dental clinic, is being combined into a one unit complex.

In the nation, our older population is growing faster than the rest of the population as a whole. Between 1980 and 1985, the number of people 60 years and older grew by 3.7 million or ten percent. This is compared to only a

four percent growth rate for the under 60 population.

Today, there are 39.5 million people over age 60, 28.5 million over age 85 (the fastest growing segment of the aging population).

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

With the passing of F.T. (Frank) McGill Rock Valley has experienced not only the passing of a prominent citizen but also the passing of a legend and an era.

Most of the young people and non-natives of this small city on the Rock River have no idea of what significance this dynamic person had on life in Rock Valley.

Very few realize that he subsidized his college education by teaching in a one room country school near Doon. By teaching one year and attending the University of Iowa the next, he eventually attained his Juris Doctorate degree which authorized him to hang out his lawyers shingle.

Only a few may remember when he came to the Valley to work for a long ago defunct bank. With a deep obligation to his fellowman he gave service totally above and beyond the call of a banker. With the crash of the stock market and the closure of his bank, he took it upon himself to pay off many of the depositors with his personal funds. His only ulterior motive for this human action was his love and respect for his Rock Valleyans.

Probably no one recalls his service as a state legislator at the State House. Although I've been removed from my boyhood home for a long time, I can't

recall anyone else from Rock Valley who has been elected and then served his state and city in this high position. Today we constantly read of politicians benefiting from their elected offices, but with Frank it was only business, as usual, serving his constituents loyally and to the utmost of his ability.

Being raised on the "South" side of the tracks, I realized numerous scrapes with the law (primarily Dick Van Eldik.) On a couple of occasions I appeared before Mr. McGill (the mayor of the town.) I feared for the worst, which could be incarceration in the dastardly city jail but found instead an individual that understood how boys may act and was sentenced to a very fair pentence. As the Mayor of Rock Valley he pioneered many projects such as the paving of Main Street. This may seem a small task, but at that time the pro and con camps were at each others throats. Being a true diplomat he smoothed most of the feathers and took a giant step forward. I'm sure its hard for many present day citizens to remember getting stuck in the mud holes in main street.

As a lawyer I don't think he ever made as much money as he could have. It is my opinion that much of his payment came from satisfying his clients and making sure they were satisfied with his services. I wonder

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# Individual Record

FamilySearch™ U.S. Social Security Death Index

## [Search Results](#)

Select record to download - Maximum: 50

 **Francis MCGILL**

**Birth Date:** 30 Sep 1888  
**Death Date:** Dec 1986  
**Social Security Number:** 482-16-1338  
**State or Territory Where Number Was Issued:** Iowa

**Death Residence Localities**

**ZIP Code:** 51247  
**Localities:** Carmel, Sioux, Iowa  
Rock Valley, Sioux, Iowa

[Return to search results](#)[Prepare selected records for download](#)

This data is only accurate as of 1 Jul 2011.

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