

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Emerson,  
Stephens Ray - served from Creston in Union County, Iowa  
that served Union, Ringgold and Decatur counties

1. Birthday and place 25 Feb 1889 Union County, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Mrs. Florence Roney 13 Oct 1913 at Fairfield, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Member of Builders Exchange of America; Assoc. of  
General Contractors of America; director of Master Builders of Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities Rotary; Elks; Shrine; Mason;  
Chamber of Commerce;

C. Profession Contractor for Emerson Brothers Construction  
Company

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1941 and 1943

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Creston; board of trustees, State Highway  
Commissioner; president and chairman of Iowa State Baruffe Spk;  
Creston school board

B. State Member of State Highway Commission; president of Master  
Builders of Iowa

C. National Delegate to National Conventions; national vice-  
president of the General Contractors of America

7. Death Aug 1953 Creston, Iowa;

8. Children Jane (Mrs. Fred James); Rachel (Mrs. Joseph S. Knock);  
and Francesca (Mrs. Gail Brown)

9. Names of parents Lincoln Jasper and Vernal (Shaw) Emerson  
Grandson of Rev. Steven and Mary (Peck) Emerson

10. Education Attended Creston, Iowa schools  
graduating in 1908

11. Degrees Graduate of Central College, Pella, Iowa in 1910.

12. Other applicable information Republican

- Began working in the building trade with his father  
while attending school.
- Formed a partnership with Guy J. Swartz in the  
construction business in Creston in 1912 until 1925.
- In 1925 formed the Emerson Construction Co. with his  
brother, Don Emerson, which continued for 27 years.
- His company built many homes and buildings in the  
Creston, Iowa area



# CRESTON NEWS

VOL. 74. — NUMBER 106.

CRESTON, IOWA, SATURDAY

## State Funeral P

### PMA Committees Named In County Conventions Today

#### Ruckman Is New Chairman of Union County Committee

Carl Ruckman, Dodge township farmer who has been vice chairman of the Union county production and marketing committee for the past year, today was elected as the committee chairman for the coming year. Ruckman succeeds Raymond A. Strain of New Hope township who is the new vice chairman.

Ed Winkler of Lincoln township, a committee alternate last year, was elected as the third member of the committee. He succeeds Elmer Everling of Spaulding township, who was named as the first alternate for the new term. He succeeds Frank Miller.

Alton Decker of Jones township, a community committeeman during the past year, was named the second alternate.

The delegates met in the annual PMA county convention at the PMA office here this morning. Their only duty was the election of the county committee. The delegates had been chosen in township elections held during the past few weeks.

New committee terms begin Monday. One of the first duties of the committee will be the selection of a full-time office manager, who will handle the executive duties formerly performed by the committee. The committee, under the new PMA setup, will become a part-time group to handle policy matters. In the past it has been on a full-time basis handling both policy and executive duties.

Applications for the office manager post here, and in other Iowa counties, are being received at the county offices.

Administrative plan, county committeemen will be eligible for PMA em-

### Ray Emerson Dies

#### Prominent Creston Man Had Been Ill About 6 Years

S. Ray Emerson, prominent resident of Creston, died this afternoon.

Mr. Emerson, who was 64, had been ill for several years. He had suffered a stroke July 24 and another early this week. His condition had been serious for several days.

He was a former mayor of Creston, a former state senator, and a former member of the state highway commission.

Mr. Emerson was a native of Union county. He was born Feb. 25, 1889, the son of Lincoln J. and Verna Shaw Emerson. He graduated from Creston high school in 1908 and from Central college at Pella in 1910. He was married, Oct. 13, 1913, to Meta F. Rancy of Fairfield, who survives him.

Mr. Emerson had been a building contractor here for a number of years with his brother Donald. He was president of the Iowa State Savings bank for several years and was chairman of the bank's board of directors at the time of his death.

Surviving him are his widow; three daughters, Francesca (Mrs. Gail Brown) of Creston, Rachel (Mrs. Joseph G. Knock) of Creston, and Mrs. Jane James.

### Political Pot Bubbling Early

By DWIGHT McCORMACK  
DES MOINES — The season for political announcements and speculation opened so much earlier than usual this year that the list of possibilities for top nomination is already nearly 50.

In the last few months the



S. Ray Emerson

### Start Blood Donor Recruiting Monday

A drive to recruit 200 blood donors for the visit of the Red Cross bloodmobile to Creston on August 11 will be started Monday by the American Legion Auxiliary. A team of Auxiliary members will call upon every business house in Creston to recruit donors to meet the quota for the visit. Mrs. Frank G. Reynolds, Auxiliary president, said today.

Mrs. Pearl Ryason is chairman of the recruitment campaign for the Auxiliary. The members who



will assist her in the drive are Mrs. Ethel Hardman, Mrs. Dale Johannes, Mrs. J. R. Carlson, Mrs. Earl

### Expect August Temperatures to Be Below Normal

WASHINGTON — The weather bureau said Friday its 30-day outlook for August calls for temperatures to average below normal. The northern half of the nation except for near normal in the lower lakes, Middle Atlantic State and northwest coast.

Above normal temperatures are expected in the southern half of the country except for near normal in the central plains, the bureau said.

Precipitation is expected to exceed normal in central and northern parts of the nation, but subnormal rainfall is predicted for the southeast, far west, and western Texas. Near normal amounts are indicated in the Rocky mountain states, Ohio valley, Middle Atlantic states, southern plains, and gulf coast.

### Harry Ford, 71, of Shannon City Dies

SHANNON CITY — Harry Ford, 71, of Shannon City, died at 3:40 p. m. Friday after an illness of more than two years.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m. Monday in the Methodist church here with Rev. Ida I. Roberts of Blanchard officiating assisted by Rev. Merlin Wilkins. Burial will be in the Shannon City cemetery. The body is now at the Richards' funeral home in Winterset and will be brought to Shannon City Sunday. Mr. Ford was formerly employed at the Richards' funeral home.

Born Sept. 14, 1881, in Jefferson township, Ringgold county, he spent all his life in the Shannon City vicinity except for a few years at Winterset. He was the son of George and Roseta Ford. He was married on Dec. 11, 1912, in Creston to Josie Stinson of Shannon City who survives. Also surviving are Mrs. Elma Holmes of Ripon, Wis.; and Mrs.

**Reds let marry her... TOLE HIS BRIDE!**

**NEVER LET ME GO**

with RICHARD HAYDN

An M.G.M. Picture

● CARTOON ● SPORTS REEL

● 2 TOP ATTRACTIONS ●

Organization Present  
"OWNED"  
Agricultural

**SHERIDAN HAYDN**

Take Me to the Sun

Technicolor

# Fights and

## Plan Funeral for S. Ray Emerson Here On Tuesday

Body Will Lie In State From 10 A. M. Tuesday

Funeral services for S. Ray Emerson, prominent Creston man, will be held at the First Congregational church here at 2 p. m. Tuesday.

Mr. Emerson died shortly before 2 p. m. Saturday at the Greater Community hospital. He had suffered a stroke on July 23 and had a later stroke early last week. He had been in poor health since suffering a stroke about six years ago.

Rev. Leslie J. Barnette will officiate at the services Tuesday afternoon. Casket bearers will be Arthur M. Glick, J. D. Keynolds, Willis G. Royce, Lloyd Kenney, George Gault and Arthur J. Nord. Honorary pall bearers will be W. D. (Pat) Patterson, Dr. F. E. Sampson, Fred Ide, Dr. H. A. Childs, Burton R. Jones and N. I. Menzer.

### Native of County

Mr. Emerson's body will be taken to the church at 10 a. m. Tuesday to lie in state until the hour of the funeral services.

Stephen Ray Emerson was a native of Union county, the grandson of pioneer residents of the county. He was born Feb. 25, 1889, the son of Lincoln Jasper Emerson and Verna Shaw Emerson. His father was a builder and it was that occupation Mr. Emerson followed during most of his adult life. He was a grandson of Rev. Steven and Mary Peek Emerson, pioneers of Union county.

Ray Emerson graduated in 1908 from Creston high school and from Central college at Pella in 1910. While attending school he worked with his father in the building trade.

### Widow Survives

He was married, Oct. 13, 1913, at Fairfield, to Meta Florence Raney of Marengo. Mrs. Emerson survives him. They made their home in Creston.

They were the parents of three daughters, who also survive him. They are Jane (Mrs. Fred James) of St. Johns, New Foundland; Rachel (Mrs. Joseph G. Knock) and Francesca (Mrs. Gail Brown), both of Creston. Five grandchildren also survive. They are Nancy and Steven Brown and Jody, Barbara and Karl Knock.

Two brothers, Don and Willard Emerson, both of Creston, and two sisters, Ethel (Mrs. Robert Wilbee) of Des Moines and Geraldine

## Weekend Traffic On Iowa Highways Takes 5 More Lives

By The Associated Press

Five persons were killed in as many traffic accidents on the state's highways over the weekend to bring Iowa's 1953 motor vehicle death toll to 320. The state had 286 fatalities on this date last year.

### The dead:

Mrs. Joan Zuck, 18, Des Moines, was killed Sunday when the car she was driving rolled over several times after apparently striking a curb on Highway 65-69 about four miles north of Indianola.

Mrs. Delbert E. Ream, 27, Ottumwa, was killed Sunday in a car-truck collision on Highway 63 five miles north of Ottumwa as she and her husband were nearing their home after a Canadian vacation trip.

William Kepler, 26, Webster City, was killed Sunday when his car struck a bridge abutment on Highway 20 at the east city limits of Webster City.

Margaret Freeman, 43, Fort Madison, was killed Saturday after her auto left a gravel road two miles south of Wever in Lee County.

Charles Alvis, about 60, near Montrose, was killed Saturday night in the collision of a car in which he was riding and a semi-trailer truck on a gravel road two miles north of Argyle.

## Boost In Debt Limit Shelved for Early Adjournment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress drove toward afternoon adjournment today after a White House conference decided to postpone action on raising the federal debt limit until next year if possible.

Acting Senate Leader Knowland (R-Calif) and Sen. Millikin (R-Colo), chairman of the senate finance committee, told newsmen after a breakfast meeting with President Eisenhower that every effort would be made to avoid a special session this fall to act on the debt ceiling.

Eisenhower had proposed an immediate 15 billion dollar increase. The house voted approval but the senate finance committee killed the measure last Saturday.

Secretary of Treasury Humphrey, who with Budget Director Dodge sat in on the White House meeting, said later the administration will operate under the limit for the remainder of the year if it is at all possible.

## Heavy Rain Hit North Miss C

Shower Afternoon Mercur

A shower of rain hit the Creston area Sunday afternoon. The heavy rain fell in parts of north

Rainfall here was a short shower of about an inch of precipitation at the cooper at KSIB. No downtown Chicago was able on the

The shower of rain was by farmers, who are in need of rain

At Lenox, Iowa, .20 of an inch of first rain of the fall rainfall of 2.75 inches, normal for the

There was a shower of rain at Kent and Creston

Temperature Sunday was 88 degrees. The maximum was 82 degrees at 2 p. m.

The thermometers at the Creston after successive readings.

Rainfall of 4.25 inches was recorded in the west and the west that small amount were flooding

Other heavy rain during the 24 hours Monday was 2.6 inches at Decorah. Mr. Williams recorded at 1.90 inches. Williams 1.75, Storm 1.35, Storm 1.19, Independence Center 1.00, eral violent

Other rain: Spencer .68, .73, Sioux City .18 and Des

Thomas Dies at

**GO**  
with **RICHARD HAYDN**  
An M.G.M. Picture




75 • CARTOON • SPORTS REEL

IT! • 2 TOP ATTRACTIONS •

Best Organization Presents  
**QUEEN OF THE CROWNED**  
by **Technicolor**  
with **RENÉE OLIVIER**  
NATIONAL RELEASE

Supervising International Artists  
with **SHERIDAN HAYDN**  
**Take Me To Town**  
color by **Technicolor**




**LARK DRIVE-IN** ★  
**Theatre**  
ONLINE ROAD AT HIGHWAY 25  
at 7:00 P.M. — First show starts at dusk.  
PHONE 178

**WOMAN of the NORTH COUNTRY**  
RUSSEY CAMERON AGAR STORM  
CARROL NAISH JIM DAVIS RAY C. TIPPES



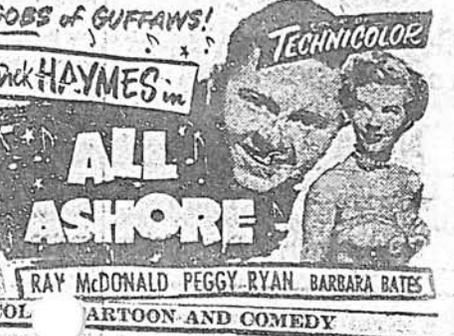
**TRUCOLOR** BY CONSOLIDATED

Tweet Tweet Tweety and Sports  
or 12 Free! • Kiddies Free Playground  
arts • Free Pony Ride • Croquet Court

Starts 11 p.m. - "Mummy's Ghost"

Come as you are — Your car is your theatre ★  
- SUN. and MON. — 2 BIG DAYS

**SOBS of GUFFAWS!**  
with **Dick HAYMES** in  
**ALL ASHORE**  
RAY McDONALD PEGGY RYAN BARBARA BATES



**TECHNICOLOR**

COOL CARTOON AND COMEDY

pioneers of Union county.  
Ray Emerson graduated in 1908 from Creston high school and from Central college at Pella in 1910. While attending school he worked with his father in the building trade.

**Widow Survives**  
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They were the parents of three daughters, who also survive him. They are Jane (Mrs. Fred James) of St. Johns, New Foundland; Rachel (Mrs. Joseph G. Knock) and Francesca (Mrs. Gail Brown), both of Creston. Five grandchildren also survive. They are Nancy and Steven Brown and Jody, Barbara and Karl Knock.

Two brothers, Don and Willard Emerson, both of Creston, and two sisters, Ethel (Mrs. Robert Wilbee) of Des Moines and Geraldine (Mrs. George Atwood) of Wakefield, Ia. Another sister, Mrs. Basil Wise of Creston preceded him in death by only four days. She died suddenly at her home here last Tuesday.

**A Builder**  
Mr. Emerson became a partner with Guy F. Swartz in a construction business in Creston in 1912 and continued in that association until 1925. In that year he formed the Emerson Construction company with his brother, Don, and continued in the firm for 27 years. Among the many structures they built in Creston were the Methodist and Episcopal churches, the Agnew building, the Matilda Gibson memorial library, the telephone company building and many

**Maude Tilford, 68,  
Dies in Creston**

**CORNING**—Mrs. Maude Tilford, 68, of Creston, died Sunday at 10:40 a. m. in a Creston nursing home.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. in the Methodist church, Creston, with Rev. A. P. Keast officiating. Interment will be in the Cromwell cemetery. The body is at the Roland funeral home, Corning, and will be taken to the Methodist church Tuesday where it will lie in state from 1 until 2:30.

Mrs. Tilford's husband preceded her in death in 1940. Surviving are a son, Loren, of Corning; a daughter, Mrs. Mildred Kerr of Richmond, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. Minnie Evering of Mt. Ayr; and three brothers, Arthur Stone of Anita, Charles Stone of Mt. Pleasant, and John Stone of San Bernardino, Calif.

drove toward afternoon adjournment today after a White House conference decided to postpone action on raising the federal debt limit until next year if possible.

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Eisenhower had proposed an immediate 15 billion dollar increase. The house voted approval but the senate finance committee killed the measure last Saturday.

Secretary of Treasury Humphrey, who with Budget Director Dodge sat in on the White House meeting, said later the administration will operate under the present 275 billion dollar debt limit for the remainder of the year if it is at all possible.

"We will make every effort to comply with the demand of the senate finance committee to postpone the necessity for action by it as long as we can and until the next regular session of congress if possible," Humphrey said in a prepared statement.

Knowland and Millikin told newsmen they are hopeful a special session can be avoided.

**Seven Die As  
Fire Sweeps  
Hotel In Texas**

**TEXARKANA, Tex.** (AP) — Seven persons perished early today when fire swept through a second-story hotel on the Texas side of this border city's business district.

Four other persons were injured, two critically, as the flames gutted the hotel.

Mrs. B. Baker, owner of the 12-room hotel, and two other persons escaped without injury.

Fireman Ivy Dukes said five of the bodies were found clustered around a window in one of the rooms. He said the victims apparently suffocated.

Dukes said the lower part of each bedroom window was sealed off by a window fan. He said there was evidence that the five people had tried unsuccessfully to rip away the blind to get at the upper window before they died.

The window was still closed.

**'Baby Brother', 80,  
Saves 3 Sisters**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — An 80-year-old "baby brother" saved his three sisters, aged 81, 82 and 86, when fire broke out in their home today. Frank Norton roused and led to safety Miss Celia Norton, 81, Miss Elizabeth Norton, 82, and Mrs. Mary Burrell, 86, after he heard an explosion and found the kitchen on fire.

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the date for preliminary hearing. Dillon was held in jail without bond.

A coroner's jury reported Mrs. Dillon "came to her death feloniously by means of strangulation at the hands of her husband." The coroner said her larynx had been crushed.

Sheriff Thorall said Mrs. Dillon's partly clad body was found at the foot of the bed. Her face was bruised and there was a jagged cut on her arm. Two nearly empty whisky bottles were in the room and the floor was strewn with shattered glass.

Stockburger was found slumped unconscious in a corner, the sheriff said. The hardwareman and the attractive woman had registered at the hotel as Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Stockburger, the sheriff added.

Authorities were summoned to the Tangney Hotel when the desk clerk, Marvin Engle, 17, reported a fight in progress in the third floor room. The sheriff said Dillon ran from the hotel while authorities were en route and was arrested later when he reappeared and asked for a room.

**Frank C. Doty, 78,  
 Of Macksburg, Dies**

MACKSBURG—Frank C. Doty, 78, a lifetime resident of the Macksburg vicinity, died at the Winterset hospital Saturday morning. His death followed a 24-hour illness.

Funeral arrangements have not been made pending word from a daughter who is an army nurse serving in France.

Mr. Doty, a retired farmer, was 78 years old on July 24. He had farmed in the Macksburg community for many years but had retired.

Surviving are his widow, Besie; three daughters, Mrs. Mary Hall of Iowa City, Mrs. Lois Jorgensen of Ankeny, and Capt. Irene Doty, an army nurse now in France; six grandchildren, three great grandchildren; a brother, Jake Doty of Benton, Kans.; and a sister, Mrs. Delilah Pyle of Albuquerque, N. M.

His body is at the Watts funeral home at Lorimor.

**30 Survive Crash  
 Of Air France  
 Plane In Turkey**

PARIS (AP)—An Air France Con-

tested hearing in Union county district court here before Judge H. J. Kittleman, Aug. 1, 1953. Plaintiff's petition declared they were married at Jackson, Minn., Oct. 27, 1948, and were later divorced. They remarried in October 1952, and lived together until June 1953. They have two children. Plaintiff charged defendant with cruel and inhuman treatment. Decree awarded her a divorce, custody of the children, and \$60 per month for child support.

**Ray Emerson . . .**

(Continued from Page 1)

homes.

During those years he served four years as a member of the Creston school board, eight years (1931-1939) as mayor of Creston, as a member of the board of the First Congregational church, as president of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary club, the Crestmoor Golf club, and the Creston Country club. He was a member of the Elks lodge here and was a 32nd degree Mason.

**State Senator**

Mr. Emerson was honored by his fellow builders in Iowa with the presidency of the Master Builders of Iowa and with the national vice presidency of the General Contractors of America.

In 1940 Mr. Emerson was elected to the Iowa state senate from the fifth district, which includes Union, Ringgold and Decatur counties. He served one term and was appointed to the Iowa state highway commission, on which he served two terms.

Mr. Emerson was president of the Iowa State Savings bank here for a number of years but, after suffering a stroke in 1947, gave up the presidency and became chairman of the board of the bank, a position he held at the time of his death.

**Ike Takes Off to  
 Meet With Governors**

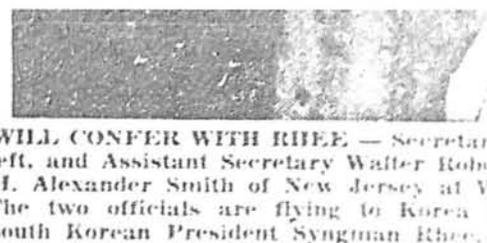
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower took off from National airport at 12:37 p. m. today for Seattle where he will attend the governors' conference.

Gov. Frank Lausche of Ohio who will name the late Sen. Robert A. Taft's successor joined the presidential party for the flight.

The president took off shortly after attending memorial services for Sen. Taft.

**Visitors from St.**

GREENFIELD — Mr. and Mrs.



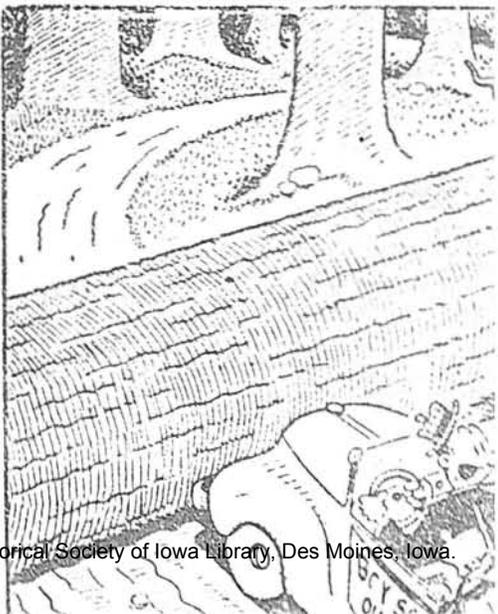
**WILL CONFER WITH RHEE** — Secretary of State A. A. Rhee, left, and Assistant Secretary Walter Roberg, right, are flying to Korea at the invitation of South Korean President Syngman Rhee.

**CARNIVAL**



**"Better make that Businessmen's from the Better Businessmen's"**

**FUNNY BUSINESS**



# UNION COUNTY IOWA HISTORY



UNION COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
INC., 1966

Written by the people of Union County and Compiled by the Union County Historical Society

