

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Shoff  
Rogers John - Represented Clinton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 19 Nov 1910 Clinton County, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Marion Shoff 24 June 1939 Shopton, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was a member of the Gillespie Association, Corn Growers Association, Farm Bureau

B. Civic responsibilities Trustmaster Club, Rotary

C. Profession Farmer, Banker

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 62<sup>nd</sup> 63<sup>rd</sup> 64<sup>th</sup> 65<sup>th</sup> 66<sup>th</sup> 67<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1967-1968, 1969-1970, 1971-1972; 1973-1974, 1975-1976, 1977-1978 - Senate

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State President Pro-tem of the Iowa Senate in the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1973-1974

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

7. Death 4 June 2004 near Camanche, Iowa; buried Shopton Cemetery, Clinton County, Iowa

8. Children John D.; Fred (Mrs. Jim) Irwin

9. Names of parents John Ostrows and Gladys (Melick) Shoff

Shoff, Roger John

10. Education He was educated in the Clinton, Iowa schools graduating  
in 1928

11. Degrees He earned a B.A. from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa  
in 1932, with an Economics degree and one year of law

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He began farming in Camanche Township of Clinton County, Iowa in 1932. He  
lived and farmed the family farm that goes back to his great-  
grandfather, Herman B. Shoff who settled there in 1837.
- His father, John Estrander Shoff and his brother, David O. Shoff,  
were also in the Iowa Legislature.
- He often was a 4-H judge.
- He was one of the original directors and stockholders of the Camanche State  
Bank, Camanche, Iowa



## Roger John Shaff

Camanche, Iowa

November 19, 1910 – June 4, 2004

Roger John Shaff, 93, of rural Camanche, died at his home Friday evening June 4, 2004. Funeral Services will be 10:30 am, Tuesday, June 8, 2004, at the Camanche Chapel Snell-Zornig-Dennis A. Lemke Funeral Homes and Crematory with Rev. Connie Peake officiating. Visitation will be Monday from 4:00-8:00 pm at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Shaffton Cemetery.



Roger was born November 19, 1910, the son of J. O. and Gladys Melick Shaff and lived his entire life on the family farm that goes back to his Great Grandfather Heman B. Shaff who first settled here in 1837. Roger graduated from Clinton High School in 1928 and the University of Iowa in 1932 with a degree in economics which included one year of law school. He married Marian Thede on June 24, 1939 in Davenport, Iowa.

Upon his graduation, he returned to the family farm in which he was active until his death. The farm continues with son John and grandson Peter. Roger was active in many organizations including: Cattle Feeders, Corn Growers, Farm Bureau, Toastmasters, and Rotary. He served as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church.

He was in the Iowa Senate from 1966 to 1978 where he worked diligently on tax issues. His greatest accomplishment there was bringing equity to schools through the Iowa Education Foundation Funding Act. The law which served as a model for other states resulted in more equal spending per pupil across the state. He often was recognized as the most knowledgeable on state tax matters, especially property taxes. He once had the honor of shaking President Ford's hand when he was President Pro-Tem of the Senate when Iowa was recognized as having the most improved legislature.

Roger is survived by his wife Marian, son John (Evelyn) of Camanche, daughter Ann Frein (Jim) of Vail, CO, brothers J. M. of Bettendorf, Jim of Cedar Rapids, and David of Clinton, and a sister Jeanne Kieley of Fullerton, CA He is also survived by six grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and one sister.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church or VNA - Hospice.

Online condolences may be expressed to Mr. Shaff's family by visiting his obituary at [www.snellzornigfuneral.com](http://www.snellzornigfuneral.com)

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per year. But this May, the county sent a notice indicating the property would go to tax sale unless the Shaws paid almost \$2,000 in back taxes and interest dating back to the cabin's construction in 1983.

No one, including the supervisors, County Auditor Charlie Sheridan and County Attorney Mike Wolf, could come up with an answer for why, if taxes had been assessed since 1983, the property hadn't been sold at tax sale years ago. Judge said that question led him to believe tax notices weren't sent out on the building until 2002.

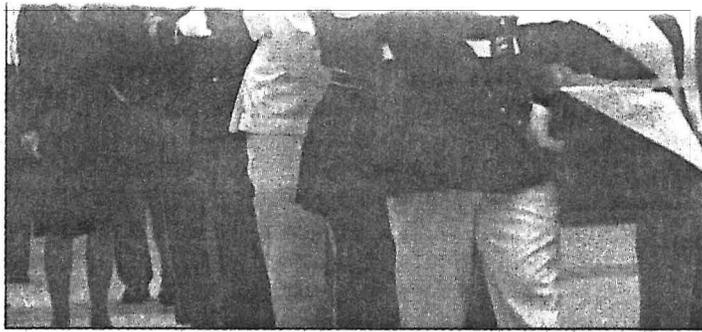
**Taxes —**  
please turn to page 5A

and flip-flops. All fell silent at the first glimpse of the flag-draped casket of Ronald Reagan.

The thousands of people who waited in line for hours to pass by the former president's coffin were a cross-section of America: retirees, business people, families, veterans.

"Reagan was truly the people's president and you can see it here," said Maura Rippen of Anaheim Hills, who came with her husband Steve, son Sean, 6, and daughter Katherine, 23 months.

They were among more than 16,000 people who came to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Monday to pay their respects to



Associated Press

**Nancy Reagan follows the honor guard carrying the casket of President Ronald Reagan into the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., Monday. The remains will lie in repose through this evening.**

Reagan, who died Saturday at sympathy began after Reagan's body, accompanied by wife Nancy Reagan, 82,

but think of the love and outpouring that has begun in the nation for a great president, a great world leader and a faithful servant of almighty God."

After the service, Nancy Reagan walked to the casket and placed her left cheek to it. Her daughter, Patti Davis, hugged her tightly and other family members joined them around the casket.

The library then opened to throngs who were bused about five miles from a college that closed to provide parking. By evening the wait for buses had

**Reagan —**  
please turn to page 5A

# City official backs job creation report

**By Scott T. Holland**  
Herald Staff Writer

CLINTON — City Planning Director John Staszewski this morning stood by a report his office submitted to the state regarding job creation requirements associated with grant funding for the Mill Creek Parkway project.

While confirming the state is looking into a report on job creation in the city, Staszewski said this morning the numbers he used all were provided by local companies — in writing.

A stipulation in the \$7.85

million Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy grant for construction of the west-end bypass called for the city to facilitate creation of 714 new jobs near the road within two years of its November 2001 opening. In a February 2004 meeting with Iowa Department of Transportation Director Mark Wandro, Clinton Mayor LaMetta Wynn said more than 1,100 jobs had been created.

Staszewski said this morn-

**Report —**  
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# Shaff remembered as a 'great state senator'

**■ Former State Senator Roger Shaff of rural Camanche died Friday at age 93.**

**By Scott T. Holland**  
Herald Staff Writer  
CAMANCHE — As America mourns the loss of former President Ronald Reagan, local residents are dealing with the death of another prominent Republican. Former State Senator Roger Shaff, of rural Camanche, died Friday at his home at the age of 93. Shaff served in the Iowa

Senate from 1966 to 1978, following in the footsteps of his father, J.O., and younger brother, David.

Clinton resident Don Krambeck, who worked with Roger Shaff in several areas for many years, spoke about his friend at Monday's Clinton Rotary Club meeting. He and Shaff knew each other for more than 65 years, Krambeck said, often discussing political and farm-



Shaff

ing interests. "As with his father, and with his brother ... Roger Shaff was incorruptible," Krambeck told the *Clinton Herald* this morning. "He did what he thought was right and I thought he was just a great state senator." Krambeck owned Krambeck Feed and Supply, now Clinton Feed and Grain. His business was used to sponsor judging of 4-H contests, which Shaff always assisted with. Except for his time at the University of Iowa, which included a year of law

**Shaff —**  
please turn to page 5A

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Historical Society of Iowa

## Taxes —

continued from page 1A

He also reasoned why the Shaws weren't aware of the back tax issue when they bought the cabin, a problem that usually pops up during the title search process.

"There'd be no title search because there's no abstract," Judge said, since the federal land the cabin sits on is only being leased. "They don't own the land. You don't get a title search. The abstract only follows the dirt."

Supervisors Chairwoman Jill Davisson asked if there

was a way to forgive the penalties on the back taxes — interest that accrues at 18 percent monthly but Judge said his clients shouldn't be responsible for two decades of previous ownership.

"Why would we be responsible for taxes back through three owners and 20 years?" he said.

Davisson later asked if the supervisors had the authority to pull a property from a planned tax sale for a pending investigation. Sheridan and Wolf said they don't believe that is legal, but County

Treasurer Rhonda McIntyre, who was unavailable Monday morning, likely has that power.

Wolf said he would review the situation and submit a report to the board for discussion at next Monday's meeting. He did cite a section of Iowa Code that would clear the Shaws from the back taxes liability if it can be shown the county did not send proper notification of delinquency.

"If there's anything we can do," said Supervisor Grant Wilke, "I'm sure we will try to be fair."

## Shaff —

continued from page 1A

school, Shaff lived in the family farm that is nearly 170 years old. Krambeck called the Shaffs the original homestead family in Clinton County. Shaff's son, John, and grandson, Peter, operate the farm today.

"He was the quintessential farmer, a master farmer," Krambeck said. "Good with livestock, good with crops. I'm sure (he was) one of the more respected people of this county."

The two also served 20 years together as original directors and stockholders of Camanche State Bank, now a

branch of Clinton National Bank. And, as an avid Republican, Krambeck supported the Shaff family in their bids for elected office.

"He represented this district in the state senate very well," Krambeck said. "He did a lot of things for education and for tax relief."

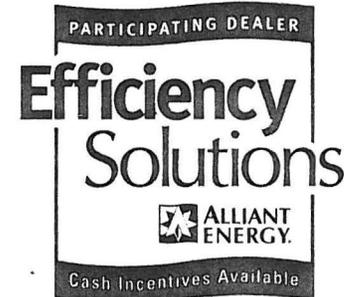
## Church group fund-raiser is Saturday

MORRISON, III. — The youth from Open Bible Fellowship in Morrison will be hosting a pancake breakfast fund-raiser event from 6:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the O'Dell Library in Morrison.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser will help fund the group's trip to Mexico from July 24 to Aug. 1. The group will be working with an organization called Operation Serve International which helps to

provide a number of services to those in need around the world. They will be working to help the people living in the garbage dumps of Mexico City. Everyone is invited to attend the fund-raiser.

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**SHAFF, Roger J., Camanche**  
Republican

**37th Senatorial District—Clinton County**

Born Nov. 19, 1910, in Clinton County, son of J. O. and Gladys Shaff. Graduated from Clinton High School 1928. B.A. University of Iowa 1932. Farmer and chairman Camanche State Bank board. Married Marian Thede of Dixon 1939. Children: John T. and Ann (Mrs. James Frein). Father, J. O. Shaff, served in Senate in 1920's and brother, David O. Shaff, formerly in the Senate. Member of Presbyterian Church, Rotary and various farm organizations. Served in 62nd and 63rd General Assemblies.



**SHAWVER, George L., Fredericksburg**  
Republican

**6th Senatorial District—Chickasaw,  
Bremer, Howard and part of  
Winneshek Counties**

Born December 29, 1916, in Kirkville, Iowa, the son of C. Jesse Shawver and Carrie Shawver. Graduated from Kirkville High School in 1934. Married Helen Wilson of Ottumwa in 1937. Water-well drilling contractor and owner of the Shawver Well Company for 32 years, also motel owner. Served U. S. Army 1942-46. Has two sons: Marvin, Gary; one daughter, Janet. Member of the Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, Shrine, Consistory, American Legion, Amvets, Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, Iowa Water Well Association, National Water Well Association, and IWWA Board of Directors. Past president of Iowa Water Well Association for two terms and Crusade Chairman of Chickasaw County for American Cancer Society two years. Served as town councilman from 1952-60 and other civic organizations. Serving first term in the Senate, elected November 3, 1970.



**SMITH, Marvin W., Paullina**  
Republican

**2nd Senatorial District—Clay, Dickinson,  
Lyon, O'Brien and Osceola Counties**

Born Feb. 25, 1901, near Ireton, Iowa. Moved with parents to Paullina 1902. Father, Geo. W. Smith, served in Iowa House 1924-30. Graduated from Paullina High School. B.S. degree I.S.U. 1923. Married Mabel Brown June 6, 1925. Three married daughters. Engaged in farming and purebred livestock production 39 years. Taught veterans training 3½ years. Member Presbyterian Church, Lions, F. B. Cyclone Club, Delta Chi Fraternity. Served on County School Board, County F. B. Board, pres. Sioux Empire and Interstate Shorthorn Associations. Chr. County 4-H Club Committee. Elected honorary member Iowa State 4-H Club. Speaker Pro Tempore Iowa House 60th, 60th Extra Sessions. Budget and Financial Control Committee 4 years. President Legislative Research 1 term. Served 12 years Iowa House. Three years in Senate.

MERRELL, NATHANIEL A., born in Copenhagen (Lewis County), N. Y., in 1829, son of Seth and Mabel Sanford Merrell; studied law with his elder brother Eliada S.; admitted to New York bar 1855, Iowa bar 1856; married Mrs. Mary A. Momam Merrell (the widow of a brother) on July 17, 1855; five children; died 1896; buried Elmwood Cemetery.

With Aylett Cotton (see biography) N. A. Merrell is mentioned among those serving in the state legislature in the second half of the 19th century who "had much to do with the development of the state . . . the men who made Iowa." Merrell was mayor of DeWitt for two years (he had come there in 1856), Civil War captain, and a member of the lower house of the General Assembly during its 14th, 20th, and 26th sessions and of the Senate during the 15-18th sessions.

LEFFINGWELL, WILLIAM EDWARD, born in New London, Conn., on Oct. 9, 1822; attended school until age 12; studied in the law office of Judge Hastings in Muscatine; admitted to bar before Territory of Iowa became a state; married Celinda Walrod; several sons; died Aug. 13, 1884, in Lyons.

Although W. E. Leffingwell served as judge of the Seventh Judicial District, it was as legislator that he left a lasting impression on the state of Iowa. He entered Iowa at the age of 17 and was a member of its first General Assembly; in 1846 he introduced the bill for Iowa's first state seal. He was prominent in the third Assembly, and in the fourth (1852-53) he was president of the Senate. The Leffingwells lived at "Sunnyside," their estate in the Lyons hills.

Upon Leffingwell's death, eulogies delivered before the Supreme Courts of Iowa and Illinois (he had practiced in Chicago) included:

"He was one of the ablest and most eminent lawyers of the Western States . . .

"His person was tall, well formed and erect, and his presence majestic; his voice silver-toned and melodious, and his manner of presenting a case clear, logical and eloquent. He was an orator, and as an advocate had few equals and no superiors."

Leffingwell with his colleagues set the style for a generation of the state's leaders, although his Civil War career as organizer and captain of the "Hawk-eye Rangers," was inauspicious (see *The History*); see also the biographies of his son, W. Bruce, and his great-grandson, Robert C.



William E. Leffingwell, Above Left, was judge and legislator.

Roger Shaff, Above Right, became a state Senator in 1966.

SHAFF, ROGER J., born Nov. 19, 1910, in Camanche Township, son of John Ostrander and Gladys Melick Shaff; graduated Clinton High School (1928) and University of Iowa (BA in economics 1932, included a year of law); married Marian Thede (see biography) in 1939; children John T. and Ann S. Frein; resides in Camanche Township when Senate is not in session.

Shaff's roots are in Camanche Township, where his great-grandfather Heman came from Sodus, N.Y., in 1837, where Roger attended Sodus School, and where he and his son continue to farm.

Since his first election to the Senate in 1966, Shaff has served on every interim tax study committee. He represented the 16th district in the 62nd-64th General Assemblies, and in 1972 was elected by the realigned 39th district; he was re-elected in 1974. Shaff, a Republican, was president *pro tempore* in the 65th General Assembly and chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee for several sessions. In October 1976 the *Des Moines Register* placed Roger Shaff on a select list of "non-residents who have power in Des Moines."

Legislation in which Shaff played a major part includes: School foundation plan; tax relief for elderly and disabled; and phaseout of personal property tax. Iowans of both parties acknowledge his expertise on fiscal legislation.

Roger's father, J. O. SHAFF, while serving in the Senate took a leading role in the 1927 reorganization of the State Highway Commission; and Roger's younger brother, DAVID O. SHAFF, who preceded him in the legislature, had an outstanding 14-year legislative career (1953-66) which included a prominent part in reapportionment (the ill-fated Shaff Plan), judicial reform, utilities regulation, and legalizing liquor by-the-drink.

# Individual Record

FamilySearch™ U.S. Social Security Death Index

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 **Roger SHAFF**

**Birth Date:** 19 Nov 1910  
**Death Date:** 4 Jun 2004  
**Social Security Number:** 481-42-9040  
**State or Territory Where Number Was Issued:** Iowa

**Death Residence Localities**

**ZIP Code:** 52730  
**Localities:** Camanche, Clinton, Iowa  
Folletts, Clinton, Iowa  
Shaffton, Clinton, Iowa

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