

Iowa's Notable Dead ...

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"Iowa's Notable Dead ..." *The Annals of Iowa* 35 (1959), 151-160.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol35/iss2/6>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

tional facilities, conservation research, land for reserves and wild life refuges, and use of state parks; served as president of the International Association of Game and Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the Midwest Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the Midwest Association of Game, Fish and Law Enforcement Officers, the Iowa Ornithological Union, and chairman of the Mississippi Migratory Waterfowl Flyway Council; was a member of the National Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Interior on Migratory Waterfowl, attended President Eisenhower's conference on the fitness of American youth at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1956, and received an original etching from the Wildlife Management Institute that has been placed in the Deane Collection of Portraits of American Ornithologists in the Library of Congress; was also a member of the Izaak Walton League and of Masonic orders; survived by his wife, and one son, James F., a medical student at the University of Iowa.

JOHN RANKIN IRWIN, former businessman, state representative, civic official, and community leader died at his home in Keokuk, Iowa August 10, 1959; born of a distinguished Iowa family in Keokuk August 24, 1883, the son of John Nichol and Mary Love Rankin Irwin; attended the local public schools, entered Lawrenceville Preparatory School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey in 1899, graduating in 1902, and received his bachelor of letters degree from Princeton University in 1906; began the study of law in the offices of Ralston & Siddons in Washington, D. C., that fall, attending classes at the National University law school there at the same time; returned to Keokuk the next year to work as a clerk with the Irwin & Phillips Dry Goods Company, established by his grandfather, Stephen Irwin in 1856; became a director of the company in 1908, was subsequently made secretary, and served in both capacities until 1927; traveled widely with his parents meeting many eminent personalities of the day; married Florence V. Johnstone of Keokuk July 9, 1909; enlisted during World War I and took officer's training at the University of Iowa in the summer of 1917, but was rejected for active service because of his eyesight; became a director in the Keokuk Savings Bank and Trust Company, a trustee of the Keokuk public library, president of the Keokuk Country Club; and director of the Y.M.C.A. in Keokuk; a republican, was elected state representative from Lee County in 1928; appointed postmaster of Keokuk by President Herbert Hoover in 1929, and spent the remainder of his life in public service; again returned to the Iowa house of representatives in 1934, 1936, and 1938, being elected speaker in the Forty-eighth General Assembly;

was a member of the Elks Club, and an elder in the Westminster Presbyterian Church; survived by his wife and two sons, Alexander Johnstone of Chicago, and John N. Irwin II of Washington and New York, deputy secretary of defense for international affairs.

BYRON BENNETT BOYD, artist and former architect, died at his home in La Jolla, California July 16, 1959 at the age of 72; born in Wichita, Kansas, and grew to manhood in Denver, Colorado; studied art in high school with private tutors, Jean Mannheim of Denver and Henry Hensche of Provincetown, and at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students' League in New York; received his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and a master's degree in architecture from Columbia University in New York City; came to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1914 to practice architecture in the firm of Boyd & Moore; designed and supervised the construction of the Iowa Memorial Union at the University of Iowa, San Gabriel Monastery, Salisbury House, Warren G. Harding Junior High School, the Insurance Exchange Building, and the Iowa National Bank Building in Des Moines, as well as other business buildings and banks; served with the submarine division, bureau of Yards and Docks in Washington in World War I; by the middle twenties was painting whenever time allowed and his work was being shown in local exhibitions; painting had become his vocation by 1926; traveled and painted abroad six summers in the following years; assisted Boardman Robinson with the frescoes at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and with murals in the department of Justice Building in Washington, D.C., also did the murals at the Osceola and Pella, Iowa postoffices; was associated with Grant Wood in promoting the Stone City art colony, and served as president of the Iowa Artists' Club for four years; his paintings were soon represented in regional and national art shows; gained national recognition in 1933 when his painting "The New God" was placed in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts exhibition, and another of his pictures, a study of the old Mills mansion in Des Moines called "Progress," was also shown there that year; the Corcoran gallery in Washington, D.C., selected another of his works entitled "Speed" to be exhibited in 1937; returned from painting in Mexico in September 1939 to become head of the Drake University art department where his leadership in revising courses and stimulating interest resulted in greatly increased attendance and accrediting of the school; named to the Des Moines planning and zoning commission in 1943; retired from the university because of ill health in 1944; and had made his home in California since 1944; author of four published plays; was a member of the

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.