

Eugene H. Reilly

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of Music in Highland Park College. He retained that position for some eighteen years and the music department under his direction became well and favorably known. In 1918 he went to New York City to become dean of the Aborn School of Opera. In 1921 he left Aborn and went to Hollywood, California, where he taught piano and lectured throughout California on grand opera. His ideals in music were high and he did much to popularize good music in an age that preceded the radio. For many years he was a leader in musical circles in Des Moines. His family were musical and artistic; his son Conrad achieved fame on the legitimate stage and for many years has been starring in motion pictures. A group of former pupils of Dean Nagel known as the Nagel Club still functions in Des Moines.

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EUGENE H. REILLY was born in Dubuque, Iowa, December 8, 1906, and died in Mercy Hospital, Dubuque, July 28, 1937. Burial was in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Dubuque. He was the son of Thomas E. and Margaret (Mahoney) Reilly. He received his early education in St. Mary's Parochial School and his high school education in Columbia Academy. He was graduated from Columbia College with a bachelor of arts degree in 1928. Following his graduation he taught for a year in Loyola Academy, Chicago. He then entered the college of law in De Paul University, Chicago, but transferred to the State University of Iowa and spent the last two years of his course there, receiving the degree of juris doctor from that institution in 1932. The same year he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law in Dubuque, being associated with George T. Lyon. Later he was associated with Al. J. Nelson in the practice. He was but twenty-seven years of age when he made political history in Dubuque County by leading a field of candidates in the primary election of 1934 and winning one of the Democratic nominations for representative in Dubuque County. In the general election of that year he again led the field. Two years later he was re-elected with ease. He attained leadership in the House and was made a member of several important committees. Mr. Reilly sponsored the mortgage moratorium bill and fought hard for a bill to provide teachers with pensions. Preliminary to the organization of the last session he was one of the candidates for the speakership of the House. He helped organize the Young Democratic Club of Dubuque County and was very active in that organization. He was a member of the Dubuque County, the State and American Bar associations, the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Order of Foresters and the national law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta, and numerous other organizations. His career was brilliant and promising and his untimely death has meant a distinct loss not only to Dubuque County but to Iowa as well. He was highly esteemed by both parties and many high tributes were paid to him by Democratic and Republican leaders.

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