

Necrology of Notable Iowans ...

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Register-News to William Wilcox of Adel in 1958; was director of the Farmers Savings Bank, the G. W. York Company, the Red Ball Company, City State Bank in Madrid, member of Grant Club in Des Moines, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, charter member of the Madrid Lions club, and 50-year member and past master of the Masonic lodge; served as Sunday School superintendent and member of the board of the Congregational Christian Church for many years; survived by two daughters, Mrs. Kathryn E. White, Mrs. Lillian R. White, and one son, Robert L. Lucas, all of Madrid; Max L. Lucas, his oldest son, died in 1947.

CLARK WOOD, retired country newspaper editor, died at Vancouver, Washington January 5, 1960; born in Monona County, Iowa June 7, 1869, and came west with his parents by mule train in 1871; went to work as a printer's devil on the *Western Leader* at the age of 13, worked as a reporter and city editor of the *Pendleton East Oregonian*, and was on the staff of the *La Grande Chronicle* before buying the *Leader* in 1896; published it for 51 years before it was merged with the *Milton Eagle* in 1946; wrote, set in type, and printed much of the paper himself; his pithy editorial paragraphs came to be quoted all over the world, especially in the *Literary Digest* and on motion picture screens, few realizing the widely publicized *Leader* was a weekly, one-man operation in the small town of Weston; retired in 1950; had never married and is survived by a cousin, Mrs. Charles W. Myers of Portland.

STANLEY WATTS, funeral director, farm owner and former state legislator, died at Chariton, Iowa, November 20, 1959; born at Kilbourne, Iowa, January 3, 1894, the son of Amos and Anna Watts; attended country school in Van Buren County, graduated from the Birmingham high school in 1912, and studied at Iowa Wesleyan College, the State University of Iowa, Iowa State Teachers College and the Williams Institute of Embalming; taught school five years, working in chautauqua shows during the summer; served in France during World War I as a member of Hospital Unit R from August 8, 1917 to March 12, 1919; married to Fannie Eide of Des Moines at Fairfield December 15, 1917; went into business at Birmingham around 1921, serving four years as mayor; elected state representative from Van Buren County on the Democratic ticket, 1931-1932; removed to Murray, Iowa around 1934, operating a funeral and furniture business in Murray, Lorimor and Macksburg; became active in civic affairs and Clarke County Democratic circles, acquired farm interests in Clarke County, specializing in the breeding of Corriedale sheep; took a partner in the operation of his business which became Watts-Soll

Furniture store and funeral home; returned to the state legislature in 1956 as the representative from Clarke County, and after apparently winning re-election in November 1958, lost his seat on a contested vote soon after the legislature convened in 1959; was past president of the Iowa Pure Bred Sheep association and secretary of the Iowa Corriedale association; held the French medal of honor, was American Legion post commander, member of the Methodist Church, Masons, Eastern Star and Lions Club; survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Virginia Miller of Waterloo, and a son, David Watts of New York City.

ROBERT B. CARSON, attorney and former state legislator, was fatally injured in an automobile accident near Bondurant, Iowa March 10, 1960; born March 30, 1920 at Moulton, Iowa, the son of D. Craig and Mae (Black) Carson; graduated from the Moulton high school in 1937; served over three years in the army during World War II, and was stationed in the Central Pacific 34 months; received a B.A. degree from Parsons College at Fairfield in 1947; married to Shirley Delores Sinn of Independence that year, both obtaining their law degrees from the Drake University law school in 1950; began the practice of law at Independence in February 1950; was Buchanan County attorney three terms, 1950-54, and was a charter member and one of the first directors of the National Association of County and Prosecuting Attorneys, 1952-53; served as finance chairman and chairman of the Buchanan County Republican central committee; elected to the state legislature in 1954, appointed to the agriculture, appropriations, bank, highways, insurance and judiciary committees, and following his re-election in 1956, was chosen Republican majority leader in the House; did not seek re-election to the 58th General Assembly; traveled abroad during the summer of 1957 and fall of 1959; had been actively campaigning for the Republican nomination for governor of Iowa since January, William O'Connell having become an associate of the family law firm; was president of the Buchanan County Bar Association, member of the Iowa State Bar Association, past president of the Independence Rotary Club, and a trustee of the Iowa United Fund organization; became council member-at-large of the Wapsipinicon area council of the Boy Scouts in 1953, recently was named county chairman of the Crusade for Freedom, and was also an active member of the Masons, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Elks Club, and a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church; survived by his wife.

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