

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Bents, Willard Alfred Senator _____

Represented Howard County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 7 Oct 1897 near Cresco, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Sadie Evans 1932 Melvin, Illinois

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Member of the Out-Door Hunters Association;

B. Civic responsibilities Mayor; Grand Walton League

C. Profession Nurseryman

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 51st and 52nd General Assemblies 1945 and 1947

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State Wrote for the Iowa State Conservation Commission and served as a member of that commission; served on the Iowa Agricultural planning committee

C. National _____

7. Death 30 Jan 1949 Cresco, Iowa; buried Oak Lawn Cemetery, Cresco, Iowa

8. Children Cheryl Ann; James Willard; a step-daughter Mrs. D.S. Bailey

9. Names of parents Alfred E. and Ella (White) Bents

10. Education Educated in the Cresco, Iowa
public schools

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____

- As a young man he helped in the fruit growing and nursery business begun in Cresco by his father in 1877. He took over the business after his father's death.
- He did landscaping in many north Iowa and southern Minnesota communities over the years.
- He was a trapshooting champion, holding the tri-state championships of 1929, 1930, 1932 and Iowa champion in 1943

PROFESSOR
SCHOOL
SPILLVILLE

W. A. Bents, Conservation Leader, Died Here on Sunday Following Year's Illness

Former Member of Conservation Commission, Legislator. Funeral Services Held Yesterday.

W. A. Bents, age 51, former member of the Iowa state conservation commission and former state representative, owner of the Bents Nursery, died in the Mercy hospital in Cresco Sunday morning.

Mr. Bents, better known to his many friends in Cresco and throughout the state as "Bill", was active during his life in the affairs of the community and in the conservation of natural resources of the county and state. He was an active participant in many out-door organizations.

Despite failing health for the last year, Bill maintained an active interest in community affairs, his favorite sports, conservation and politics. He underwent an operation May 5 in the Mercy hospital and was later released. He entered the hospital for the last time January 14.

Funeral services were conducted in the Congregational church in Cresco, by the Rev. E. F. Byers, pastor. Burial was in the Oak Lawn cemetery.

Members of the Masonic lodge and Royal Arch Masons of Cresco, attended the funeral in a body, and the Masonic rites were conducted by L. C. DeNoyelles.

Willard Alfred Bents was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred E. Bents, early pioneer settlers of Howard county. He was born near Cresco, October 7, 1897.

He attended the Cresco public schools and when a young man helped in the fruit-growing and nursery business, which was begun in Cresco by his father, in 1877. Bill took over the business after his father's death.

Mr. Bents did landscaping in many north Iowa and southern Minnesota communities. Much of the recognition gained by Cresco through the years as a community of beautiful homes and lawns was the result of the efforts of the Cresco nursery-man.

In 1944 and again in 1946 the Cresco man was elected state representative from Howard county. That he was regarded highly in the legislative circles was proved by his appointment to serve two years on the interim committee of the Iowa legislature.

Because of failing health, he was



W. A. BENTS

not a candidate for the office of representative in 1948.

The Cresco horticulturist wrote for the Iowa State Conservation Commission and served as a member of the commission for several years, having been appointed by Governor George Wilson. He was also a member of the Out-Doors Writers' association and served on the Iowa Agricultural planning committee.

He was a member of the Masonic lodge and Royal Arch Masons, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Cresco Wildlife club. He belonged to the Congregational church in Cresco and was also a member of the Isaac Walton League.

The Cresco man was a marksman of ability. He held the tri-state trapshooting championship

in 1929, 1930 and 1932 and was Iowa champion in 1943.

Mr. Bents is survived by his widow, the former Sadie Evans of Lanesboro, Minnesota, to whom he was married in Moline, Illinois, in 1932.

Also surviving there are his two children, Chryl Ann and James Willard Bents, a step-daughter, Mrs. D. S. Dalley of Oceanside, California, and five sisters, Mrs. May Taubman of Rutledge, Minnesota, Mrs. Ella Finkbinnar of Dutton, Montana, Mrs. Edna Pierce of Minneapolis, and Mrs. Charles Meyer and Mrs. Edward Lewis, of Cresco.

He was preceded in death by his two sisters, Mrs. Ward Curtis of Cresco and Mrs. Hattie Hewell of Florida.

Funeral Services at
Cresco Church
Monday
Survived
Brother.

Mikesh, until last
of the mathema-
of the Lawrence-
Lawrenceville, New
Monday morning at
Lawrenceville.
ness. He was the
the last Monday
partially paralyzed.
Martin A. Mikesh,
his death.

on a farm in Spill-
e son of the late
Mikesh, and edu-
ly years in local
the Decorah insti-
h later attended
Minnesota, where
1908 with a B. A.
major interest was
ys. mathematics.

le of publica-
Mikesh has been
wide as a stimu-
lative teacher.

d by a brother,
sh of Lawrence-
sters, Mrs. Emma
of Spillville, Mrs.
f Fort Atkinson.

es will be held
ing, February 2,
at the Saint Wen-
in Spillville with
djoining cemetery
t. The Rev. J. P.
clate.

ded in death by
sisters, Mrs. Mary
toinette Schreidel;
Anton Mikesh,
and Joseph Mik-

ins Camera



Wa Tan Ye Club Plans
Benefit to Maintain
Cresco School Nurse

This is the eleventh year that

Protivin Boys, Cresco Assumption Girls
Win Championships in Parochial Tourney

Honors of the county parochial
high school basketball tournament,

(boys)—High scorers—Protivin, Ed-
die Shimak, 12, and Elma, Ray