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Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Greene, William J. Senator Greene,
William J. - Represented Clinton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 29. Jan 1876

2. Marriage (s) date place _____

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Railroad signal man

4. Church membership Catholic

5. Sessions served 34th 35th General Assemblies 1911, 1913 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 36th 37th General Assemblies 1915, 1917 - Senate

A. Local Clinton city councilman - 6 terms; mayor of Clinton 1928-1932 and 1934-1936

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 27 Aug 1965 Des Moines, Iowa;

8. Children _____

9. Names of parents _____

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Democrat

Former Mayor W. J. Greene Dies, Service Set Monday

William J. Greene, 89, a former Clinton mayor, died Friday afternoon in Mercy hospital in Des Moines.

Mr. Greene had moved to Des Moines a number of years ago after the death of his wife and had lived in the Bishop Drumm home.

Requiem high mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Monday at St. Mary's church, with burial in the church cemetery. A prayer service at 8:30 a.m. at the Delaney funeral home will precede the funeral. Friends may call after 1 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home, where the parish rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Long active in the Clinton county Democratic party organization, Mr. Greene had served in the Iowa General Assembly as Clinton county's state representative and later as state senator. He also had served in the City Council six terms as Fifth Ward councilman.

After a few years outside the active political scene, Mr. Greene became the Democratic candidate for mayor in 1928 and defeated George Claussen, the Republican candidate. He was elected to a second term in 1930. He went out of office in 1932 when defeated by Harry Buelow.



William J. Greene

Mr. Greene staged a comeback in 1934 and was elected to another term but in 1936 was defeated by Dick Howes. Greene made another try in 1940 but lost to Harry F. Pape. It was his last political venture.

A small, blue-eyed, smiling Irishman, Mr. Greene was a master political campaigner of the old school. Usually working alone and mapping his strategy, he often confounded his opposition and won the nickname of "The Little Napoleon" because of

his victories at the polls.

In 1914, Mr. Greene was pitted against J. H. Ingwersen, president of the Peoples Trust & Savings Bank, for the Democratic nomination for state senator. He beat Ingwersen and then went on to victory in the general election by defeating Republican C. L. Root.

Mr. Greene's mayoralty victory in 1930 over Republican Otto H. Henningsen was the only time Henningsen suffered a loss at the polls.

While serving in the Iowa senate in 1910, Mr. Greene participated in the last joint legislative session in which a United States Senator was chosen. After that, senators were chosen by direct election and not by the legislature.

Mr. Greene was cited as an example of how a handicapped man could succeed. He had lost a hand in a railroad accident as a young man and had been given a job as a crossing flagman because he was no longer able to continue in train service.

In later years Mr. Greene's flagman's shanty at the 18th Place crossing became the center of Clinton political activity. Anyone who wanted to discuss politics or city business went to the crossing.

When Mr. Greene was elected in 1928 to his first term as mayor it was also the first time in 10 years a Democrat had taken the mayoralty post. His defeat of Claussen, a militant county attorney who later became an Iowa Supreme Court justice and district court judge, was the kind of victory which gave him political fame.

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Fair Skies For Weekend

Weatherwise, the last week-end in August promises to be ideal. Skies will be fair through Sunday with no precipitation indicated until showers and thunderstorms move into the area

night and Monday.

Highs Friday were between 69 at Waterloo and Spencer and 85 at Burlington and Lamoni. Clinton had an official 75 degrees.