

Wilbert A. Bontly, 59, Madison, Dies After Long Illness

Aug. 1, 1896 – Aug. 24, 1955

Funeral services for Wilbert A. Bontly, 59 years of age, Madison, who died at 9 a. m. on Wednesday of last week at Lake View sanitarium, were held at 2 Saturday afternoon in the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church here. The Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, church pastor, officiated, and burial was in Highland cemetery.

Mr. Bontly, a patient at Lake View sanitarium since 1934, had been critically ill for two days, heart trouble resulting in his death.

Mr. Bontly was born in Washington township Aug. 1, 1896, the son of Andrew and Mary Babler Bontly. He attended the Monticello schools and Chillicothe, Mo., business college. He was a bookkeeper at the Cedar Valley Nash Co., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, until his health made him inactive.

Accomplished Musician

An accomplished musician, Mr. Bontly played the French horn with the Cedar Rapids Symphony orchestra, and he was equally proficient as a violinist. He formed his own dance band, which played throughout the Middle West, including an appearance in Monticello.

Mr. Bontly was a member of the Cedar Rapids Masonic lodge and chapter and of the Cedar Rapids Musicians local.

Always a jovial, pleasant and friendly individual, Wilbert, in spite of his unfortunate circumstances, had a beaming personality which enabled him to always look at the brighter side of things. He was well liked by all who knew him and news of his death was received with deep and sincere regret by his many friends.

He is survived by one son, William, stationed at the Lake Charles Air Base, Louisiana; one daughter, Mrs. James Williams, Oklahoma City, Okla; one brother, Edward A. Bontly, Monticello; one sister, Mrs. R. A. Bast, Grand Forks, N. D., and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father in 1940; his mother in 1934; two brothers, Jacob, 1931, and John, 1902; two sisters, Marie, 1911, and Rose (Mrs. Edward Marty) in 1934.