

Edward J. Blum Expires While Enroute to Florida; Rites Held

Former Local Postmaster Stricken Near Walton, Kentucky

Funeral services for E. J. Blum, 69 years of age, well known and highly esteemed resident of Monticello, who died at about 6 a. m. Friday morning near Walton, Ky., while enroute to Florida, were conducted at 1:30 p. m. Tuesday in the Voegeli funeral home and at 2 in the Reformed church. He had been ill for the past two months and his sudden demise came as a result of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Rev. A. Muehlmeier, pastor of the church, presided at the services. Interment was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers were Dr. Schindler and Bruce Blum, Monroe; W. E. Blum and Albert Knobel, Monticello, and Fred and Wm. Wild, Belleville. Honorary pallbearers were members of the village board, as follows: C. M. Stauffer, Emil G. Voegeli, Adam Duerst, Jacob Burgy, Henry J. Elmer, and L. R. Pease.

Came as Sad Blow

Mr. Blum's sudden and unexpected death came as a sad blow to both relatives and friends. Shortly before Christmas he became ill with influenza and though this did not appear serious at the outset, several complications developed. He did, however, recover sufficiently to permit being out-of-doors, but with the passing of time did not regain strength as rapidly as was hoped. He was consequently advised to spend the remaining part of the winter in a warm climate and his health appeared sufficiently improved to enable him to make the Florida journey. On February 4, accompanied by Mrs. Blum and his two daughters, he set out for the south by automobile. On Thursday evening, Feb. 4, feeling somewhat tired and uneasy, he retired early and apparently went to sleep, a sleep which unfortunately deepened into a coma from which he failed to awaken.

Native of Washington

A native of Washington township, Edward Jacob Blum was a son of the late Fridolin and Dorothea Stuessy Blum, having been born Oct. 13, 1867. His parents were early pioneer settlers from Switzerland. He was educated in the rural school of Washington township and the Monroe high school. In 1884 he was confirmed by Rev. Etter in the Swiss Reformed church, New Glarus. He was engaged in teaching school in the Voegeli and Klassy schools in Washington township during the winters from 1889 to 1891. He was engaged by Streiff and Lewis of Monroe in 1891 and 1892. On Oct. 15, 1893 he was married to Miss Anna Schindler, New Glarus. Following his marriage he was associated in conducting a general store here with John L. Hirsig. After a year and a half he acquired Mr. Hirsig's interest and continued in the business a sole owner until 1906. At this time he helped organize the People Supply Company together with J. C. Steinman, Fred S. Blum, John Dick and Geo. C. Steinman. In 1917 he acquired an interest in the Monticello Auto Co., with him in this business venture were his son, Fred G. Blum and Henry F. Freitag. After 1919 he was in semi-retirement until he was appointed postmaster in 1925. He officiated in this capacity until 1933. He was elected president of the village board in 1934 and

served in this office for one year.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Blum and another Madison couple are on a vacation trip to Mexico and other points in the south. Attempt to notify the vacationists of the tragedy which had taken place were futile. Consequently, they were unable to be here for the funeral.

The sudden passing of Mr. Blum has removed from our midst a man whose sterling integrity and exemplary character had won him the friendship and respect of countless citizens not only in his home community but elsewhere as well. Not only was he a kind and loving husband and father, but an ideal neighbor as well.

The death of Mr. Blum creates the second vacancy on the village board within the past six or seven months, Mr. Rudy Freitag, also a board member, having passed away last fall.

Mr. Blum was a member of the Reformed church.

Besides the widow, the deceased is survived by two daughters, Mrs. H. E. Theiler Theiler, Monticello, and Mrs. E. P. McKinney, Madison, and three sons, Fred G. and Albert E. Blum, Madison, and Dr. Otto S. Blum, Albany; three grandchildren, Marion and Fred Blum, Jr., Madison, and Grant Blum, Albany; three brothers, Fred S. Blum, Monticello, Sam Blum, Monroe, and John A. Blum, Hampton, Iowa; three sisters, Mrs. Henry Juingst, Monticello, Mrs. Rudy Wild, Belleville, and Mrs. Joseph Fischli, Milwaukee. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Mrs. Verena Pierce, Monticello, who passed away Jan. 21, 1936.

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