

RAYMOND H. GESSLER

Monticello businessman, Raymond H. Gessler, 65, Monticello, died Friday, Feb. 25, 1977, at 6:50 a.m. at University Hospitals, Madison, following heart surgery. He had been admitted Tuesday.

Mr. Gessler was born in Cross Plains Township, Dane County on Aug. 31, 1911, the son of Henry and Louise Marty Gessler and attended the New Glarus Schools. On Oct. 8, 1938 he was married to the former Mary Burrington in Dubuque, Iowa.

For many years Mr. Gessler was employed at the L. R. Pease Hardware Store in Monticello and in 1952 he began his own shoe and men's clothing store in the village, later adding electrical services to the business. In September 1975 he sold his Main Street store building, but continued to operate Ray's Electric Service from his home.

Active in many organizations. Mr. Gessler was a member of Washington Reformation Church, a 30 year member and later an honorary member of the Monticello Fire Department. He was also active in scouting, serving as scout master for eight years in the 1950's.

Mr. Gessler was a member and past master of Monticello Union Lodge 155, a member and former worthy patron of Monticello Eastern Star, a member of the New Glarus Chapter (RAM), a member of a degree team and a member of the Madison Consistory (Scottish Rites Bodies), a member of the Madison ZOR Shrine and past president of the Green County Shrine club.

Survivors include his wife Mary; two sons, Larry, Oregon and Eugene, Madison; a daughter, Mrs. Virgil (Linda) Field. Rockford, Ill.; three brothers, Clarence, New Glarus; Arthur, Chicago, Ill.; and Roy, Woodlawn, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother in infancy. Rev. Duane McDonough, pastor of Washington Reformation Church, officiated at private rites for Mr. Gessler Monday afternoon. Burial was in Highland Cemetery, Monticello. Pallbearers were Paul Duerst, New Glarus, John Matzke, Monroe, Harold Babler, John Stenbrotten, William Meier and Milford Updike, all of Monticello. Masonic services were held at Zwingli Church Memorial Lounge Sunday night.