

Clarence E. Spurgeon

Occupant Name: Clarence E. Spurgeon

Location: Section 2, Lot 32

Date of Birth: 1/7/1899

Date of Death: 1962

Date of Burial: 1962

Veteran: No

Lot Owner: Clarence Spurgeon

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:



Prominent Local Business Man Dies At Capital

Funeral Rites Set Thursday For Clarence E. Spurgeon, Local Church, Civic Leader And Widely-Known Fraternalist.



Clarence E. Spurgeon

Funeral rites will be held Thursday afternoon for Clarence E. Spurgeon, a grocer in Ewing for more than a quarter of a century, prominent local church and civic leader and widely-known fraternalist.

Mr. Spurgeon, who contracted myasthenia gravis, a nerve and muscle disorder, last April, died at 9:28 o'clock Monday morning in Robert Long Hospital, Indianapolis, where he had been critically ill since being admitted several weeks ago.

The last rites will be at 2:00 o'clock in the Brownstown Christian Church, where he was an elder, in charge of E. Lucy Satterfield, pastor. Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery.

The body will lie in state at the church from 12:00 noon Thursday until the hour of the funeral. Prior to that time friends may call at the Zabel Funeral Home.

Native of Brownstown

Born in Brownstown, January 7, 1899, Mr. Spurgeon was a son of the late James J. and Lillie L. Weathers Spurgeon. His father also was in the grocery business in Ewing for many years.

Mr. Spurgeon was graduated from Brownstown High School, the youngest member of the Class of 1916. His death is the first among the class of twenty-one graduates.

He also attended Central Normal, Danville, Indiana the fall and winter of 1916-17, and later the Seymour Business College.

Forty-two years ago, in 1920, Mr. Spurgeon affiliated with Brownstown Lodge No. 60, Knights of Pythian. In 1950, at the 82nd annual grand convention, he was elected to the highest office in the Indiana Grand Lodge—

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PROMINENT LOCAL BUSINESS MAN DIES

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that of Grand Chancellor. He was a past Chancellor of his home Lodge, served as a trustee for many years and was a past District Grand Chancellor.

At the time of his death he was a Supreme Representative of Indiana Grand Lodge.

He was a past Imperial Prince of the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorason, the fun unit of the Knights of Pythias and was instrumental in the organization of the Knights of Khorason in this area.

He was a charter member of the Brownstown Santa Nomads of Avrudaka, served on the board of directors of the Knights of Pythian Home, Lafayette, and was a director of the Pythian Building Corporation, Indianapolis.

Through his work with the Pythian Order, he became widely known throughout all of Indiana and adjoining states.

Affiliating with the Brownstown Christian Church in his youth, he was a member of the board of elders and, for many years, taught the Loyal Sons and Daughters Bible Class. Prior to his recent illness he had a 15-year perfect Sunday School attendance record.

His place in the church was an important one and his advice and counsel was sought on all major church problems and projects.

In 1934 he entered the grocery store business with his father, and, following his death, in a few months, took over the complete management of the business, then located in a building just west of the present Greger Hardware Store in Ewing.

In 1946 he moved the store to its present location and, as his business grew, made many store improvements.

Thirteen years ago he affiliated with the Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA), the largest independent cooperative food group in the United States, and had operated the business under the IGA name since that time.

Before going into business with his father, he was a clerk in the Niernan & Kuehn Store.

Mr. Spurgeon was instrumental in the organization of Camp Illiana Christian Church religious youth training camp, near Washington, was one of the camp's original directors and was a member of the board at the time of his death.

He was a past president of the Jackson County Christian Men's organization and was, at the time of his death, treasurer-elect of the Indiana Christian Men's organization.

He was a key member of the Brownstown Chamber of Commerce for many years and worked untiringly for the betterment of the community, and was a member of Washington Lodge No. 13, Free & Accepted Masons.

Mr. Spurgeon was twice married. His first wife, Mrs. Fletcher Edith Braden, died in 1943 and in 1949, on October 23, in Indianapolis, he was married to Mary Taylor Barnett.

Mrs. Spurgeon, through her husband and through her own prominence in the Pythian Sister work, is widely known throughout the state. This year she is serving in the top office of the Indiana Grand Temple, Pythian, Sisters.

Surviving, in addition to the widow, are a daughter, Mrs. Fletcher Tabor, of Ewing, two step-children, Mrs. Harriett Howard, of Erie, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Herschel Forgey, of Brownstown, three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren; a brother, Indiana State Senator James W. Spurgeon, and five sisters, Mrs. Hugh Findley, Mrs. Thomas Reinbold and Mrs. Charles DeLong, of Brownstown; Mrs. Edward Miller, of Elwood, and Mrs. Steven Miller, of Connerville.

A son, James Arthur Spurgeon, died in 1941.