

# Andrew J. Brodhecker

Occupant Name: Andrew J. Brodhecker

Location: Section J, Lot 34

Date of Birth: 1869

Date of Death: 1939

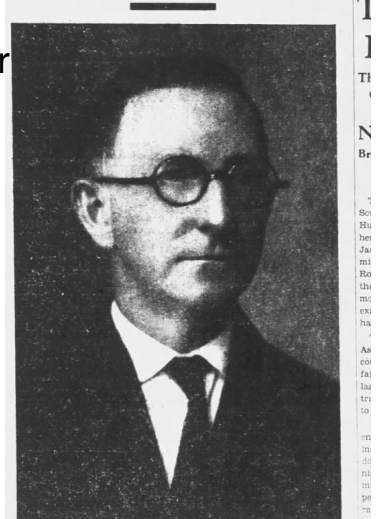
Date of Burial: 1939

Veteran: No

Lot Owner: A. Brodhecker

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:



*"It Matters Not How Long We Live, But How."*

No better statement could fit Andrew J. Brodhecker, Editor of The Brownstown Banner, whose sudden and untimely death Sunday morning deeply shocked the entire community.

Husband, father, brother, confidant, and leader, his place in Jackson county will be hard to fill.

Too often a community waits until after death to pay a just and fitting tribute to one who has served and served well, but for "A. J." the community publicly expressed its appreciation in 1933 during the meeting of the Indiana Weekly Press association. A spontaneous movement on the part of fellow citizens culminated in the presentation of a Silver Loving Cup as a testimonial of the community's awareness of his interest in civic affairs.

Although a man not given to effusiveness, he was deeply moved by the tribute and at times expressed to members of his family the deep appreciation he felt to his fellow townsmen for the visible expression of the esteem in which they held him.

The community expression, engraved on the cup, "A. J. Brodhecker, from Fellow Townsmen, In Recognition of 40 Years Unfailing Interest in Civic Welfare of Your Community. Weekly Press Convention, July 19-20, 1933," was deeply etched on his heart.

He started in the printing business in 1867 as a "devil" working for William Frynsinger, founder of The Brownstown Banner, for the sum of \$6c per week. Thus for more than a half century continuously associated with that paper, except for a few months spent at Crawfordsville, Ind., filing all positions from that of the lowly "devil" to owner and editor.

In the year 1890 he became foreman of The Banner and six years later became managing editor for Mrs. Wm. Frynsinger, widow of the founder.

February 13, 1897 he purchased The Banner, December 8, 1898, he passed the first test of his ability to meet crises when the business block in which his printing plant was located, burned to the ground. All that was saved was his subscription list.

Undaunted he made arrangements with the A. N. Kellogg Newspaper service at Cincinnati, Ohio, to print the paper in their plant there, he writing the local news and soliciting the advertisements and mailing the copy to Cincinnati each week.

Within two weeks he had purchased the equipment of a closed plant at Moores Hill, Indiana, and resumed publication in his own plant.

However, that was under difficulties as the equipment did not contain a newspaper press capable of printing the usual four pages at a time and each edition was printed on a large "job" press, one at a time. Many times he has told of "kicking" the huge press by a foot treadle, printing one page at a time, then refolding the entire edition so as to print another page.

He printed himself that through all times, fire, sickness, accidents, floods and moving he had never missed an edition.

His particular genius as a newspaper man always has been the motivating force that has kept The Banner as one of the outstanding weekly newspapers in the state.

In 1924 he was awarded a Silver Loving Cup by Sigma Delta Chi, honorary journalistic fraternity of Indiana University, for publishing the best weekly newspaper in Indiana. In 1931 he was given another cup by the Indiana Democratic Editorial association for composing the outstanding Democratic editorial of the year.

He was recognized throughout the profession as an able and efficient editor, a good business man and a progressive publisher. His plant was used as a model, and detailed descriptions and blue prints of his equipment and arrangements were published in national trade magazines.

He was never content to leave things alone, but continually re-modelled his plant and building to meet the growing needs of his community that his service might be improved and of the best type available. He continually put into practice the precepts he expounded in his high school graduation essay "Never Too Old To Learn."

He was a forceful editorial writer. The editorials, written rapidly in longhand and with very few corrections or changes, were copied extensively and regularly reprinted, with credit, on the editorial pages of The Indianapolis Star and The Indianapolis News in their "Editorial Of The Day" space.

He was faithful to his newspaper instincts, and, though accurately and fairly reporting the news of the community and expressing his opinions editorially, he never intentionally hurt anyone and invariably handled all adverse news and criticisms with understanding and sympathy. Although kindly almost to a fault, he was never one to dodge an issue, but met each challenge fairly and without fear.

In his family life he was more than just the head of the family. Advisor and counselor, he assumed the burdens of all. His deep and sympathetic understanding of the problems of his relatives, made them all turn to him.

He was of a deeply religious nature, but expressed it with deeds rather than words. For many years he served as a deacon in the Presbyterian church, with which he had united in early life, and although, several times he had been asked to serve as an elder, declined. He was active in church affairs and for years was a member of the choir.

Deceased in his community, faithful to his trust, a leader among men, he truly exemplified a statement made by President Grover

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