

Orval Ray Latham

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NOTABLE DEATHS

LEWIS A. COCKLIN, manufacturer and inventor, died in Griswold, Iowa, August 10, 1940. Born on a farm in Pottawattamie County, on August 22, 1878, the son of William and Melissa Cocklin, he led a varied business career. One of the first automobile dealers in Griswold, he also built many homes there for which he himself drew the plans. A number of years ago he perfected plans for the well known Laco oil burner, which through sales abroad he made into a successful business. At the time of his death he was interested in perfecting still further additional designs for burners.

JOHN BROWN HAMMOND, prohibitionist and crusader, died in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20, 1940. Born August 29, 1856, and distantly related to John Brown of Harper's Ferry fame, John B. Hammond carried a strain of that perfectionist character. Before the turn of the century, as a miner at Centerville, Iowa, Hammond began his anti-saloon activities, success there widened his field, and a few years later brought him to Des Moines, 1908. Not only an inveterate foe of liquor, he vigorously fought all forms of vice, being a leading figure in the fight on the white slave rackets in Kansas City and other points to the west coast.

During World War I he was head of the state liquor law enforcement commission, and made the law a constant reality to many a damp goods proprietor. In 1922 he was appointed Chief of Police of Des Moines, and in the two years he remained in that position he gave a whole-hearted energetic service to the city to clean up the dirt of the liquor traffic and associated vice and crime. Never doubting the right of the State to control the liquor business, he even advocated stronger enforcement laws than were current on the books prior to the repeal in 1933, and as late as four months before his death sought to organize to place once more on the statute books a liquor prohibitory law.

ORVAL RAY LATHAM, president of Iowa State Teachers College, died in Iowa City July 9, 1940. He was born in Boone, Iowa, April 13, 1890, the son of David Harrison and Mary Francis Latham. Graduated from the Boone High School in 1907, and receiving his A.B. degree from the State University of Iowa in 1911, he obtained his M.A. degree in 1919, and his Ph.D. in 1928 from the same institution. Preceding his election to the presidency of the Iowa State Teacher's College in 1928 he had served as superintendent of schools at Coggar, Pomeroy, Ida Grove, and Le Mars, Iowa, then, in 1922, went to Duluth, Minn., as director of research, two years later, 1924, he was appointed professor of education in Ohio State University, Athens, Ohio, where in his last year before coming to the Iowa institution he was director of teacher training.

A member of many organizations devoted to the study and advancement of teaching—being one of the seven members appointed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Survey of Tax-supported Higher Education in California, 1932—President Latham's administration was noted for the widened scope of its service and graduate agencies, and for the program of construction and housing completed for the college.

ELMER H. MAYTAG, industrialist and business man, died July 20, 1940, being then just fifty-six years of age. A graduate of the Newton High School, and an attendant at the University of Illinois, he early became associated with his father in the Maytag manufacturing enterprises, in 1903, before the Maytag Washing Machine Co. was formed, and when the company manufactured threshing machines and other implements. Years spent as a salesman for the Maytag company, and other miscellaneous work, led in 1926 to his election as president of the firm, and in 1938 to his election to the additional position as chairman of the board.

Greatly interested in blooded cattle stock, Maytag's Holstein herds were known country wide, he was also interested in real estate ventures and in two banks, being President of the Jasper County Savings Bank and the Kellogg Savings Bank. He in part was also responsible for generous provisions established by the Maytag Co. for the benefit of its employees, including housing, pensions and other forms of employee service.

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