

Raymond Hefner Fatally Stricken In Office

Dec 1-1953-



RAYMOND HEFNER

Raymond L. Hefner, chairman of the Catawba County Alcohol Beverage Control Board, died unexpectedly at his offices, 605 Avenue, SW, at 11:45 o'clock today. Death was attributed to heart attack.

A Bass-Smith Funeral Home balance was summoned as Mr. Hefner was seized by the sudden attack but he was dead before a hospital could be reached.

The news came as a shock to this entire community, and among the most widely known and most highly respected men of the entire section. He had served his county and his city in various capacities, and had been head of the County ABC Board since the sale of liquor was legalized locally in 1949.

Was City Manager

Mr. Hefner had served as City Manager of Hickory for several years and was commonly regarded as having been very efficient in the business management of the municipal government. Prior to that he served for two decades in the Hickory postoffice, having been assistant postmaster for a long period, and acting postmaster twice during that time.

He was president of the Catawba County Historical Society, and through his urging with the help of others over a long period, a History of Catawba county is soon to be published.

Mr. Hefner was also recognized as the "Daddy of Hickory Municipal Airport," inasmuch as the project was successfully launched during his tenure as City Manager of Hickory.

The son of Josiah A. and Julia Ann Hefner, he was born on March 13, 1885, on his father's farm, six miles Northeast of Hickory, in the Catawba Springs neighborhood.

In 1905 Mr. Hefner left the farm and came to Hickory to live. He first secured a position with the F. B. Ingold store as dray boy and helper in the machine shop.

Entered P. O. 1908

The following January Mr. Hefner accepted a position with the Hickory postoffice and remained there for a period of nearly twenty years. From December 1908 until 1925, Mr. Hefner was assistant postmaster and during two periods, following the deaths of postmasters, Mr. Hefner was acting postmaster of the local office.

The years in which Mr. Hefner was acting postmaster were in 1915, following the death of A. C. Link, and in 1917, following the death of Henry Allen and until the appointment of the late Attorney Chas. W. Bagby as postmaster.

At one time Mr. Hefner was

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FOUR BROTHERS DIE IN MICHIGAN BLAZE

R. L. HEFNER

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candidate for postmaster here and stood first on the eligibility list, made.

According to Mr. Hefner the things in life that he had sought after were denied him, but the best things that had come to him had been unsolicited and were presented "on a silver platter," so to speak.

After leaving the postoffice Mr. Hefner became City Manager while the late S. L. Whitener was mayor, and served in that capacity for two years. He later served several terms as City Manager, a position he filled with trust and integrity.

Varied Positions

Following this period of city managership Mr. Hefner entered a series of business activities. He went with the office of the Catawba Construction company for a short period and then went into the office of the Elliott Knitting mills, leaving there later to become manager of the Carolina Warehouse and Forwarding company. Mr. Hefner then went with the First National bank as teller and remained there until May, 1932, when he again accepted the position of City Manager of Hickory, which he held for several more years.

Mr. Hefner also completed a course in law, and passed the North Carolina State bar examination in January 1931.

Although he was a full fledged lawyer, Mr. Hefner never practiced, except as a tax consultant.

Mr. Hefner was a member of the First Presbyterian church and held the office of deacon. He was a Kiwanian and for five years was secretary of the Hickory Kiwanis club during the period of 1924-28. He also served a number of years as a director in the club.

The only fraternal organization with which Mr. Hefner belonged was the Pythias lodge.

Mr. Hefner is survived by his wife, former Miss Viola Mayo, of Hickory; two sons, Mayo and Bruce, of Hickory. There are two grandsons.

Four brothers survive, also: Perry L. Hefner, Charles E. Hefner, Walter, and Albert, all of Hickory. A sister, Miss China Hefner, passed away a few years ago.