

# Deaths

## R. W. THOMAS, FORMER RIDGEWAY MAYOR, DIES

Robert Walton Thomas, Sr., 77, died Friday, May 8.

Born in Ridgeway March 22, 1910, he was a son of the late Robert Charlton and Rosa Woodruff Taft Thomas. He attended The Citadel and was an honor graduate of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., where he was later a university trustee. Mr. Thomas was a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Ridgeway, having served as a senior warden and treasurer, and on the standing committee of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

He was former owner and president of Thomas Company, Inc., a family owned mercantile business in Ridgeway. He was also a former director of Bank of Ridgeway, chairman of the Fairfield County Board of Education, member of the board of Fairfield Memorial Hospital, vice-president of Ridgeway Investment Corp., and director of Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Association. He was a Rotarian and Mason.

Mr. Thomas served on the Ridgeway Town Council and was mayor from 1958 to 1971. He was the husband of Ridgeway Mayor Laura Muller Thomas and the father of Lee M. Thomas of Washington, D.C., director of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Also surviving are a son, Robert W. Thomas, Jr. of Ridgeway; a daughter, Mrs. James (Eleanor) Parrish of Camden; a brother, Charles E. Thomas of Greenville; sisters, Mrs. E. Frederic (Eleanor) McCullough of Greenville, Mrs. Alexander M. (Henrietta) Sanders of Columbia and Mrs. J. Benjamin (Rosa) White of Winnsboro; and grandchildren. A daughter, Mrs. Jonathan (Laura Thomas) Crisp, died December 12, 1983.

Services were held on Sunday at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, conducted by the Rev. Kenneth I. Mosser and the Rev. Graham Butler-Nixon.

Pallbearers were John Earl Jones, Jr., Alex M. Sanders, Jr., Robert W. Law, Jr., William J. Barnett, William D. McGuirt, and Boyd A. Milling.

Memorials may be made to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church or York Place at York.

Pope Funeral Home was in charge.