

Rites Held Saturday For H. L. Karlen, Local Lumberman

Dec. 5, 1874 – July 13, 1955

Funeral services for H. L. Karlen, 80 years of age, who passed away at the St. Clare hospital, Monroe, on Wednesday morning of last week following a gradual decline in health, were held at 2 Saturday afternoon in Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church here.

The Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, church pastor, officiated, and burial was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers were six nephews, John W. and Howard R. Steinmann, Monticello; Frederick R. Steinmann, Milwaukee; Gordon K. Steinmann, Madison; Melvin Lynn, Jr., Eau Claire, and Kenneth Hoesly, New Glarus.

The son of Rudolph and Magdalena Klossner Karlen, he was born Dec. 5, 1874, on the Karlen homestead in Washington township. He had lived in Monticello and the surrounding area all of his life except for 10 months on a farm near Royalton. He attended the Marty rural school and an agricultural short course at the University of Wisconsin. On April 18, 1899, he was united in marriage to Lena Steinmann.

Pioneer Lumber Dealer

A lumber dealer here for nearly 55 years, Mr. Karlen first entered business here Oct. 1, 1900, as a partner of F. K. Studley and also was in the feed and stock buying business with O. J. Persons. In 1904, J. C. Steinmann, Sr., and son, Fred, joined Mr. Karlen in the lumber business and the firm has since been operated as the Karlen & Steinmann Lumber company. In 1912, J. C. Steinmann, Jr., became a partner, and after his death in 1944, his sons, John and Howard became partners. Frederick R. Steinmann also was a partner but sold his interest to the remaining partners.

Saw Community Grow

A creative individual, H. L., as he was best known to his many friends, took a keen interest in the progress of the community and figured prominently in its growth. Always planning and looking ahead he would, upon occasion, pick up an artist's pencil and sketch a building for a prospective customer.

Mr. Karlen built the Karlen & Sons Ford Garage in 1917 and in 1920 he added a second story to the big brick building, which has served as Karlen's hall for many purposes. Mr. Karlen set up a theater in the hall during the silent movie days and the hall has also been the scene of many a thrilling basketball game. H. L. had no hobbies, but he always took a deep interest in sports and recreation for the young people of the community. He promoted baseball teams in Monticello from 1908 to 1913.

The community has lost a most valued citizen, a progressive merchant, and a good friend. He will be deeply missed, not only in the firm which he founded, but by his many friends and acquaintances as well.

Mr. Karlen was a member of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church and served on the church consistory for one term. He was also a member of the Monticello Community club.

Surviving are his wife; two sons, Royal W., and Cloyance W., Monticello; one daughter, Mrs. Richard Dugdale, Monticello; two brothers, Jacob, Glendive, Mont., and Fred A., Monticello; two sisters, Mrs. Frieda Thompson and Hulda, San Bernardino, Calif., and eight grandchildren.