

B. J. Adams Dead at 74

Earlier Stroke Is Fatal To Pioneer Lansing Industrialist

Birney J. Adams, 74, a pioneer Lansing industrialist, died Friday at a Lansing hospital.

He suffered a stroke at a Williamston city plan commission meeting Monday evening and was taken to the hospital by his personal physician, Dr. Edward Reynolds, also a member of the commission.

Began Career in 1910

He began his long career in 1910, joining W. K. Prudden and Company — forerunner of the Prudden Wheel company — as cashier and bookkeeper.

In 1916, when the firm was reorganized, he became its secretary, and in January of 1920, when Motor Wheel was organized, he became an assistant secretary. He held the post until his retirement in 1952.

Mr. Adams was born in Williamston Sept. 21, 1882, and graduated from Williamston high school and Lansing Business university.

Prior to entering the industrial field he taught commercial courses at Cleveland Business college and in the public school of Ironton, and established the commercial department of the Lake Linden school system.

His background and interest in education led to a post on the Lansing public school board in 1943. In the following two years he served as chairman of the finance and auditing committee, and was instrumental in revamping the financial set-up of the board.

Just before resigning from the board in 1945, when he moved back to Williamston, he completed an extensive survey of insurance coverage for school buildings which led to acceptance by the board of a new valuation report and insurance allocation.

Many Civic Interests

His many civic interests were deployed in other fields in Lansing, and later in Williamston.

Mr. Adams was a president of the ABCD Credit association, made up of automotive parts manufacturers throughout the nation, was a charter member of Lansing Lions club and a president of Walnut Hills Country club.

In Williamston he was a member of the Community Methodist church, the Williamston Kiwanis club and the city council in addition to the planning group.

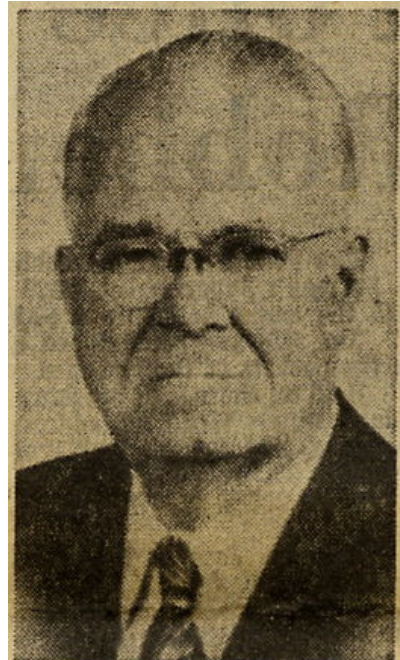
He lived at 301 Wallace st., in Williamston.

Surviving are the widow, Hazel; three daughters Mrs. Richard H. Baker and George E. Wilson of Traverse City, and Mrs. Robert S. Elder of Portland, Ore.; two sons, Paul D. Adams of Perry and Robert J. Adams of Corpus Christi, Tex., and 11 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m., Monday, at the Estes-Leadley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Louis O. Ellinger of the Williamston Methodist church officiating. Interment will be at Deepdale cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Robert J. Adams, Paul D. Adams, Richard H. Baker, George E. Wilson, George L. Paine and Donald Spross.

(Picture on Page 2)



INDUSTRIALIST DIES — Birney J. Adams, 74, former assistant secretary of Motor Wheel corporation and a Lansing and Williamston civic, education and government leader, died Friday night at a Lansing hospital following a stroke. (Story on Page 1).

The State Journal, Lansing–East Lansing, Michigan, Saturday, December 15, 1956, page 1.

