

Harry F. Kelley, Postmaster at Manitowoc 15 Years, Dead

Former Attorney Active in City Life

MANITOWOC — Harry F. Kelley, a prominent Manitowoc attorney for 30 years, and postmaster here for 15 years from 1933 to 1948, died early Tuesday morning following a lingering illness. Mr. Kelley was 74.

Confined to his wheel chair and bed for the past several months, Mr. Kelley died in his sleep at the home of a son, Postmaster Harry J. Kelley, where he had been residing recently.

Funeral services are to be held at 8:30 a. m. Friday at the Mittenacht Funeral Home and at 9 o'clock at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Louis M. Schorn officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

A son of the late Capt. and Mrs. Timothy J. Kelley, Atty. Kelley was born in Manitowoc in 1877. A graduate of the old Manitowoc North Side High School in 1894, he taught in rural schools of the county for a time before entering the University of Wisconsin in 1899. He graduated with a law degree in 1902 and was admitted to the Manitowoc County bar in 1903.

Active in Civic Life

Shortly after establishing a law practice in Manitowoc, Mr. Kelley joined with Atty. Arthur Wyseman in the firm of Kelley and Wyseman, with offices in the Wood Block on South Eighth St. He continued in the law partnership until retiring from the legal profession in 1933 to accept the appointment as Manitowoc postmaster.

Prior to becoming postmaster, Mr. Kelley had numerous civic duties outside of his law practice. In 1917, when the Wisconsin Tax Commission ordered that an attorney be named in each community as public administrator, Atty. Kelley was appointed to that office by the late County Judge John Chloupek and Edward S. Schmitz. He held that position 22 years.

He was appointed circuit court commissioner by the late Judge Michael Kirwan in 1912 and reappointed by the late Judge Edward Voigt and the present Judge Henry A. Detling.

Much of Mr. Kelley's time and effort was spent in the affairs of the Manitowoc Public Utilities Commission. He succeeded the late Edwin Schuette as a member of the commission in 1926 and later served as secretary and vice president. In all, Mr. Kelley served on the commission for some 13 years.

However, he had been actively interested in the local public utilities for 25 years, having been Manitowoc city attorney under the late Mayor Henry Stolze when final steps in the acquirement of the water works were completed. He also handled the legal proceedings when the municipality took over the electric utility from the Schuette interests a few years later.

In 1939, with his postmaster duties leaving little time for his outside positions, Mr. Kelley resigned from all three of the above posts.

Postmaster in 1933

In August, 1933 Mr. Kelley retired from the practice of law to accept the appointment to the Manitowoc postmastership, succeeding the late William Pflueger. He served as postmaster for 15 years until his retirement in July, 1948, in accordance with the new civil service act which made it mandatory that all civil service personnel retire upon reaching 70 years of age and the completion of 15 years of service. He has since been succeeded as postmaster by his eldest son, Harry J. Kelley.

An ardent Democrat, the late attorney always took an active interest in the affairs of the party, serving in past years as chairman and secretary of the Manitowoc County Democratic Committee.

Mr. Kelley was always active in affairs of the Catholic Church, and in particular of Sacred Heart Parish here which he helped organize, and of which he served as treasurer for more than 40 years. He was also a member of the Sacred Heart Holy Name Society.

A leading member of the Knights of Columbus, the late attorney was a charter member of Manitowoc Council No. 710. He was grand knight of the local council from 1911 to 1912 and district deputy in 1914-15. He had held the office of advocate in the local council for the past 30 years, and was recently made an honorary life member of the council.

He entered the Manitowoc Fourth Degree KC Assembly in 1909 and was a member of the local third degree team, along with his late brother, Atty. Edward L. Kelley, for a number of years.

For more than 15 years Mr. Kelley participated in the affairs of the Manitowoc Kiwanis Club, which he joined in 1925. He served as president of the local service club in 1930.

He was also a former member

of the Manitowoc Elks Lodge.

Five Children

In 1915 Mr. Kelley married the former Kathryn Barzynski of Manitowoc at Sacred Heart Church. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Kelley established their residence in the old Kelley homestead at 717 North Seventh St., where they had continued to live for 35 years.

Surviving are Mrs. Kelley; three sons, Postmaster Harry J. Kelley of Manitowoc, Paul of Niagara Falls, N. Y., and Robert, who is studying for the Catholic priesthood at the Jesuit seminary in Florissant, Mo., two daughters, Mrs. Ervin Kieckhefer of Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. Anthony Agathen of Macomb, Ill., and nine grandchildren.

Also surviving is a sister, Mrs. M. J. Ryan of Manitowoc, and two brothers, Dr. John M. Kelley of Manitowoc, and Timothy J. Kelley of Beloit.

Friends may call at the Mittenacht Funeral Home after 7 p. m. Wednesday. The rosary will be re-

of Columbus
by and by the
Marie Society

cited by the Knights
at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday
Sacred Heart Holy N.
at 7:30 Thursday evening.

Harry Kelley, Ex-Manitowoc Postmaster, Attorney, Dies

MANITOWOC, Nov. 13—(Special)—Atty. Harry F. Kelley, 74, who practiced law more than 30 years then retired to become postmaster, died Tuesday at the home of a son, Harry J., who succeeded him as postmaster.

The elder Kelley retired as postmaster Aug. 1, 1948. For many years prior to his appointment as postmaster in 1933, Atty. Kelley was active in the Democratic Party. A brilliant speaker, he frequently was called on to appear at political meetings as well as other gatherings.

When a young man he was named city attorney by Mayor Henry Stolze and later he and Atty. Arthur Wyseman formed a partnership which continued until Kelley became postmaster. He served 25 years on the City Public Utilities Commission, and was a Circuit Court commissioner and public administrator.

Mr. Kelley was a charter member of the local Knights of Columbus lodge and was elected to high offices in that order. He was a member of the Manitowoc K. of C. degree team which established an inter-state reputation a quarter century ago.

He was born in Manitowoc, son of Capt. and Mrs. Timothy Kelley, and lived here his entire life.

Survivors are his wife, the former Katherine Barzinsky of Manitowoc; three sons, Harry J.; Paul of Niagara Falls, N. Y., and Robert, a student at St. Stanislaus seminary, Florissant, Mo.; two daughters, Mrs. Erwin W. Kieckheffer of Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. Anthony B. Agathen of Macomb, Ill.; two brothers, Dr. John of Manitowoc and Timothy of Beloit; a sister, Mrs. Matthew J. Ryan of Manitowoc, and several grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Friday morning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Rites for Public Servant

Final rites Friday were held for Harry F. Kelley, prominent in the municipal, civic and political life of Manitowoc for many years. His services will be remembered principally for his work for the municipality as city attorney and later as a member of the important Public Utilities Commission where he served for 13 years.

Attorney Kelley entered the municipal scene shortly after the turn of the century when Manitowoc was engaged in a hotly contested fight over municipal ownership of the waterworks and later the electric utility. He served as city attorney under the late Mayor Henry Stolze, whose campaign for purchase of the private waterworks utility, swept him into the mayor's chair.

Mr. Kelley's task of putting together all the legal angles that eventually ended with the purchase of the plant was an arduous one. He sometimes faced a hostile City Council but his quiet, persuasive way finally smoothed off the rough edges and eventually saw the municipality acquiring the plant. A few years later came the purchase of the electric utility, with the Schuette interests agreeing to turn it over to the municipality at an agreed price.

All these years he found time to continue a private law practice and served as a Circuit Court jury commissioner over a long period and court commissioner in county court. Possessing a fine mind, he had acumen that enabled him to see the other man's viewpoint. He was tolerant and although retiring by nature, his was a judicial temperament.

He always had a flair for newspaper work although strictly as a side issue. He often contributed stories for the Manitowoc Pilot, a weekly newspaper in the early days. His activity for the Democratic Party brought him the appointment as Manitowoc postmaster where he served until reaching the retirement age in 1948.

Mr. Kelley possessed one of the largest private libraries in the state — not the books wealthy men buy and never read, nor fancy priced first editions, but the world's greatest literature and some not so great. For instance one might see between Scott's novels and Stevenson's works a volume on Bob Fitzsimmon's fights and a few rags to riches stories by Horatio Alger. He was a voracious reader.

Flags flew at halfmast this week on Manitowoc buildings, attesting to the high regard held by municipal agencies for the many years of public service performed in Manitowoc by Mr. Kelley.