

January 2, 1937



ILLNESS FATAL: Ernst M. Wurster (above), former mayor and sheriff, died this morning at his home at 605 E. Jefferson St. He had been ill since September.

Death Takes E. M. Wurster At Age Of 63

Former Mayor And Sheriff
Dies At Home After
Long Illness

FUNERAL IS MONDAY

Ernst M. Wurster, who served the city and county in many capacities including those of mayor and sheriff, died at 4 o'clock this morning at his home at 605 E. Jefferson St. at the age of 63 years. He had been ill since September.

His life was characterized by his public service which began almost 25 years ago with his election to the board of supervisors. His greatest victory in politics was his election as sheriff in 1926, the first successful Democratic candidate for this office in 14 years.

Mr. Wurster was elected to the board of supervisors as a member from the First ward of Ann Arbor in 1913, and was returned to the board for another year in the spring of 1914. In 1915, he was elected president of the city council and automatically became acting mayor after the death in December, 1915, of Mayor C. A. Sauer.

Renamed Twice

His term as acting mayor was followed by two terms as mayor. He was elected in 1917 and re-elected in 1919. His leadership as mayor covered the critical period of the last of the World war and the years immediately following.

He ran for sheriff on the Democratic ticket three times. The first time he was defeated by James W. Robison but ran 7,000 ahead of the Democratic ticket, and this was the factor which led to the party's selecting him to head the county ticket in 1926. That year he won, defeating Richard Elliott. Two years later, Mr. Wurster was a candidate for re-election but lost.

Mr. Wurster's last public office was as city treasurer, a position he held by appointment under Edward W. Staebler, then mayor. Mr. Wurster once was an unsuccessful candidate for probate judge.

Also Road Inspector

The last few years, Mr. Wurster has been employed by the state highway department as a highway inspector. He served in this capacity on the Jackson road construction and on road projects in other parts of the state.

At one time, he operated an army supply store at 217 N. Fourth Ave., and when the building was damaged by fire, he rebuilt into the present modern structure. The second floor of this building was used as temporary quarters for the county jail while the present jail building was under construction.

Mr. Wurster was associated in earlier years with his father, the late Frederick Wurster in the carriage business here.

Affiliating with the Ann Arbor Rotary club in March 14, 1917, a few months after the club was established, Mr. Wurster established a record for regular attendance at club meetings. He often drove in his automobile 50 or 60 miles to be present at a Rotary meeting and maintain his attendance.

He also was actively interested in the Bethlehem church and had served on the building committee. He was president of Bethlehem cemetery at the time of his death. He was active for a number of years in the Red Cross, and was a member of Fraternity lodge, No. 262, F. & A. M.

Born in Ann Arbor

He was born Sept. 21, 1873, in Ann Arbor, and had lived here all his life.

He is survived by the widow; a daughter, Marian, a teacher at Plymouth, a son, Robert at home; his mother, Mrs. Pauline Wurster of this city, who will be 95 years old next May; four sisters, Mrs. Louise Wolpert of Ann Arbor, Mrs. Kepler VanEvera of Hangchow, China, Mrs. Paul Mackenson of Baltimore, Md., and Miss Henrietta Wurster of Chicago; and three brothers, Victor Wurster, Ann Arbor, John Wurster, Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Oscar Wurster, Chicago.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon in the Bethlehem church and will be preceded by private services at the residence. Rev. Theodore R. Schmale will officiate and burial will be in Bethlehem cemetery. Friends may call at the residence until Monday noon.

Six of his close friends will be pallbearers. They are Jacob Wurster, Emanuel Stadel, Charles DeFries, John Seyfried, Alfred Schairer and William Murray.