



R. M. JENSON
1887-1970

R. M. Jenson Dies At Age 82

R. M. "Mel" Jenson, 82, 1015 Campbell Drive, retired superintendent of the City of Grand Forks Water Department, died Monday night at a local hospital where he had been a patient since Jan. 12.

Mr. Jenson retired from the city post on Jan. 31, 1960, after serving as superintendent for 25 years and a total of 31 years service in Grand Forks municipal work.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at United Lutheran Church with Rev. Oscar A. Jordahl officiating.

Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

The body will lie in state Wednesday evening at Hanson-Anderson Mortuary and Thursday at the church for one hour before the time of services.

Robert Melvin Jenson was born Aug. 5, 1887, on a farm near Reynolds, N.D. He attended Americus Public School No. 3 near Reynolds, the former Reynolds High School, now Central Valley High School and was a graduate of the former Union Commercial College in Grand Forks. He was employed here from 1905 to 1920 with the Scandinavian American Bank of Grand Forks, which later became the former Northwestern National Bank here. He held the post of cashier at the local bank and then went to the Citizen's Bank of Ferndale, Wash., where he was vice president until 1926. At Ferndale, he operated a motion picture theater until 1928 and then returned to Grand Forks.

Mr. Jenson served for six years with the city assessor and city engineer's office and in 1934 was appointed superintendent of the water department.

Mr. Jenson married the former Clara O. Dahl on July 12, 1911, in East Grand Forks. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1961.

Two major expansions of the city water plant were completed during his years as superintendent. An enlarged water plant was opened in 1940 and a new plant was constructed in 1958.

Mr. Jenson was presented the George Warren Fuller award of the American Water Works Association in 1960 as "Water Man of the Year" for the North Central section of the association. In 1962, he was elected an honorary life member of the

North Dakota Water and Sewage Conference. He was chairman of the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association which includes North Dakota and South Dakota, in 1950.

Mr. Jenson was a member of United Lutheran Church and a past senior counselor of the United Commercial Travelers.

Surviving are his wife; one son, Donald J. Jenson, Grand Forks; three daughters, Miss Clarice O. Jenson, Grand Forks; Miss Marjorie Jenson, Minneapolis and Miss Geraldine Jenson, Kansas City, Mo.; three sisters, Mrs. Ella T. Moore, Pasadena, Calif.; Mrs. Gladys V. Beck, East Grand Forks and Mrs. F. G. (Florence) Rogers, Lajolla, Calif. and three grandchildren.

One son, Robert and one daughter, Rhoda; one brother, Oscar and two sisters, Mabel and Ella, are deceased.