

Death Takes Ernest Blett

Founded Many Papers in West Michigan

Ernest B. Blett, 72, of 3836 Loraine av., SW, founder and publisher of many newspapers and periodicals in west Michigan and elsewhere, died Tuesday in Butterworth after a long illness.



E. B. BLETT. Mr. Blett retired three years ago after founding and publishing the South Kent News, which was a consolidation of the South Grand Rapids News, the Caledonia Free press and the Byron Center News, all of which he had established.

Mr. Blett was born in Pierson and his first newspaper venture as a young man was operation of the Fenwick News. More than 50 years ago he founded the Belding Daily Bee. Later he re-established the Ravenna Times, which had been burned out. He also established papers at Farwell, Rosebush and Freeland.

Began Poultry Periodical.

Leaving the newspaper field for awhile, Mr. Blett established and published the Poultry Pointer in Lamoni, Iowa, and ran the circulation of that periodical up to 100,000. While in Lamoni he took part in setting up a self-help program for students of Graceland college. As publisher of the poultry periodical he was made a life member of the National Poultry association.

In 1910 Mr. Blett founded the Grandville Star and subsequently founded the United Weekly Publishing House, which printed many west Michigan weeklies. Still later he established weeklies in Marion, Morley and Hudsonville. He organized and for eight years was president of the West Michigan Press association which merged with the Michigan Press association.

Mr. Blett was the first president of the South Kent Kiwanis club and served on the Wyoming board of zoning appeals. He was a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

Surviving are his wife, Bertha; five sons, Donald O. of Mascotte, Fla., George M. of Morley, E. Barton of Detroit and Ray A. and Robert A. of Grand Rapids; two daughters, Mrs. Vernon Baldwin and Mrs. Roland Cole, both of Grand Rapids; a sister, Mrs. Francis Barnes of Mascotte, Fla.; 16 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p. m. at the Vanderpool chapel. Burial will be in Wyoming township cemetery.

Lewis E. Lentz, 92, Of Nashville, Dies

NASHVILLE, Jan. 14—Lewis E. Lentz, 92, Nashville's oldest industrialist, died at 11:15 Saturday evening in the home at 205 E. Maple st. He had been seriously ill only a week.

A resident of Nashville for 86 years, he had served as village president, councilman and for over 60 years was connected with the Lentz Table company. He was born in Palmira, N. Y., June 13, 1859.

At four years of age he came west with his parents, settling in Nashville. In the spring of 1866, his father, cabinet maker and veteran of the Civil war, opened a furniture shop and the name Lentz became identified with Nashville's leading industries. Eventually the son took over.

He was a charter member of Ivy Lodge No. 37, Knights of Pythias, and was given a life membership in 1931. He served as village president from 1902 to 1906, and was director of one of the early banks.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. David Craig Buist of Grand Rapids; one grandson, and two great-grandsons. Services will be conducted Tuesday at 2 p. m. from the Otto funeral home, Nashville, with Rev. Howard McDonald of the Methodist church officiating. Burial will be in the mauseloum, Lakeview cemetery.

(Special to The State Journal)

MISS CORA E. TINKER
VERMONTVILLE, Jan. 12—Services were to be held Saturday at 3:30 p. m. from Kalamo Methodist church for Miss Cora E. Tinker, 71, who died Wednesday at her Kalamo township farm residence, following a heart attack. Rev. Richard Leonard of Bellevue was to officiate. Burial was to be in Kalamo cemetery. She was born Oct. 29, 1880, in Kalamo township, the daughter of William T. and Edwina Tinker. Surviving are a sister, Roxie, and three brothers, Homer, Marshall and Loren, all of Kalamo township.

NASHVILLE—Funeral services for Mrs. Lois Belle Swift, 70, of Woodland Rl., who died Saturday night at her home, will be held at 1:30 Tuesday at Otto funeral home, Nashville. Burial in Woodlawn cemetery, Vermontville. She was the widow of Marion Swift.

Page	
406-8	
735	
172	
172	
419	
429	
431	
537	
540, 546	
421	
429	
431	
537	
540, 546	
100	
101	
449-50	
467	
568-9	
590	
430-1	
732	
595	
567-8	
732	
78-9	
658-61	
729-31	
607	
68, 589	
590	
595	
76-7	
656-7	
727-9	
566	
609	
168-70	
589	
590	
594	
561	
589	
9-603	
593	

310