The funeral of Fitch H. Beach will be held Friday afternoon at 2:30 at the Burkhead Chapel. Rev. R. D. Hunter of the Congregational Church will officiate. Interment at Maple Hill.

Stack, Michael J. 602
236

Fitch H. Beach

Nov. 10, 1864 - April 9, 1952

Fitch H. Beach, 87, perhaps Charlotte's wealthiest citizen and greatest benefactor, died at 6 a. m. Wednesday, April 9, at his home at 120 West Stoddard.

Born November 10, 1864 in a sod and plank shanty along the banks of the Mississippi river in Grant county, Wisconsin, his ingenuity and resourcefulness caused him to organize a concern here which became the largest manufacturer of certain items of road equipment in the nation. As a result of his success and prosperity he contributed more than 100,000 to the city in public benefactions.

Moved to Middleville

Mr. Beach was the son of Calvin and Annette (Smith) Beach, who left Lancaster, Wis., and moved to Middleville, when he was four. Until then he had never seen a glass window, oiled paper having been used to let light into their mud shanty. When he grew up, Fitch farmed for a time, then started a small hardware store in Wayland with $500 capital.

In 1900 Mr. Fitch and his brother, Fred, moved here from Lyons, Michigan and organized the Beach Manufacturing Co., which sold road building equipment and materials to every state in the union and foreign countries.

Niece is Only Survivor

The brother Fred died in 1949. The only survivor of Mr. Beach is Mrs. John Beatty, a daughter of the brother, Fred. Mr. and Mrs. Beatty, long residents of Indianpolis, came here serveral months ago to take care of the ailing uncle. He had been in failing health the past year, but was up and about the home and keen mentally until shortly before death.

Remembered His City

A former president of the Eaton County Savings bank, Mr. Beach gave to his adopted city a paved municipal parking lot, made substantial contributions to the Hayes-Green-Beach hospital, built the clubhouse of the Charlotte Country club, gave the city hall to the community, and, in more recent years, intrigued by the growth of aviation, contributed an airport which was named for him. In addition, he donated a clubhouse to the American Legion.

Funeral Held Good Friday

The funeral was held at Burkhead's Chapel Friday, many coming across the street from the city Good Friday service at the Congregational Church, Rev. R. D. Hunter, pastor of the Congregational church, officiating. The pallbearers were O. E. Latchaw, Harry Moore, Robert Collins, Earl M. McGrath, Richard Shaull and Harry Riggs. Interment at Maple Hill.

108, 190

Mrs. Allan V. Kelly

From Seattle, (Wash.) Times, March 30

Rosary for Mrs. Nuncietta E. Kelly, 61, of 7026 Palatine Av., will be said at 8 o'clock tomorrow night in the Joseph R. Manning & Sons mortuary. Requiem Mass will be said in St. John's church at 9 o'clock Tuesday. Burial will be in Calvary.

Mrs. Kelly was the wife of Allan V. Kelly, Seattle insurance adjustor. She had lived here 28 years. She was active in the Altar Society of St. John's church. Mrs. Kelly was born in Charlotte, Mich.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Kelly is survived by a son, Allan L. Kelly, of Portland, Ore.; a sister, Mrs. Claude Hicks, Grand Ledge, Mich.; a brother, Joseph Ottney, Jr., Kalamazoo, Mich., and two grandchildren.