

A. F. CLAUSS RITES HELD

Ex-Head Of Arundel GOP Group Died Wednesday

Services for Albert F. Clauss, a former chairman of the Anne Arundel county Republican State Central Committee and a former member of the county Liquor Board, were held yesterday in Glen Burnie.

Mr. Clauss, who was in the retail clothing business, died Wednesday. He apparently suffered a heart attack while driving through Harmons, Md. He was 68 years old.

Thursday night, while the family was at the funeral establishment, thieves ransacked his house at 104 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard, taking money and valuables.

Was Born In Glen Burnie

He was born in Glen Burnie, the son of William O. and Clara Clauss. His father was a mechanic on Pullman cars for the Pennsylvania Railroad at the time.

After going to the public schools of Glen Burnie, he attended Strayer Business College in Baltimore.

His first job was with a furniture store. Later he went to work in the clothing business, and was in that business for more than 40 years.

Interested in politics since his late teens, Mr. Clauss served on the Republican State Central Committee for many years. He was a member of the majority faction of the committee, known as the "Old Guard," in the early 1960's when a power play was begun by another faction.

Mr. Clauss was also chairman of the Liquor Board in the 1950's.

He was a member of the Elks Club in Annapolis and was a Rotarian in Glen Burnie.

Survivors include his wife, Viola; a brother, George J. Clauss, of Glen Burnie; three sisters, Mrs. Elsie Klug, of Pasadena, Md.; Mrs. Clara Dyas, of Linthicum Heights, and Mrs. Dorothy Cockran, of Baltimore.

In the early 1930's, he started his own retail clothing store in the back of his house on the Baltimore-Annapolis boulevard.

William Preston Lane

Hagerstown, Feb. 11 (AP)—The body of former Gov. William Preston Lane was laid to rest today following a funeral attended by more than 400 persons.

Mr. Lane, Governor from 1947 to 1951, died Tuesday at his home here after suffering a heart attack.

Governor Agnew and Mayor McKeldin, a former governor, were among the State's political dignitaries who attended the services at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Lane had served as a warden and vestryman in this same church.

Following the simple ceremony, conducted by the Rt. Rev. Harry Lee Doll, Bishop of Maryland, the coffin was carried from the church between an honor guard of twenty State policemen and sixteen members of a World War I veterans organization.

A 50-car funeral procession followed the hearse from the church to the 100-year-old Rosehill Cemetery, where Mr. Lane was buried in the family plot.

Charles E. Benson

Preston, Md., Feb. 11 (Special)—Charles E. Benson, a member of the three-man board of Preston town commissioners and a retired naval engineer, died today in Easton Memorial Hospital. He was 67.

Mr. Benson had served in the Navy for 30 years and saw duty in World Wars I and II. He retired with the rank of chief electrician's mate.

From the time of his Navy retirement until 1964, he worked in Bainbridge as a civilian naval engineer, moving back to Preston where he was born following his retirement from Bainbridge.

Back in Preston, he became the town's engineer as well as a member of its board of commissioners.

He belonged to the World War I Veterans of Caroline county, the Preston Lions Club and a Masonic lodge in Hamilton, Bermuda.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Bessie M. Benson; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Margaret Creighton and Mrs. Bettye Welch, both of Cambridge; a brother, Creighton Benson, of Riverhead, N.Y., and a half-brother, Benjamin Wright, of Orange, N.J.

Services will be held at noon Tuesday at the Chapel of the Epiphany in Preston, of which Mr. Benson was a member. He will be buried in the Bethesda Methodist Church Cemetery here.

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