

Ira R. Browning

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the St. Marks episcopal cathedral in Salt Lake City for Ira R. Browning, chief engineer of the State Road commission, for several years and prominent resident of Castle Dale and a former representative to the State legislature from Emery county, who died last Saturday November 27, 1926. Dean W.W. Fleetwood officiated and the regular reticatialic services of the Episcopal church was used. Burial services at the grave in Mt. Olivit cemetery were conducted by the Masonic order.

The Cathedral was filled to overflowing when the hour of the services arrived. The offices and shops of the road commission were closed all day Tuesday in honor of Mr. Browning and when the funeral cortege arrived at the Cathedral from the Evans and Easley undertaking establishment the employees of the commission were lined up on each side of the walk leading to the church. The casket was carried between these two lines of sorrowing friends and associates

Floral tributes were profuse and beautiful. The casket was covered with a blanket of roses and other floral pieces from various friends and organizations were banked about the funeral hier.

Honorary pallbearers were Secretary of State, H.E. Corckett, who is acting Governor in the absence of Governor George H. Dern; state road commissioners, Henry H. Blood, U. J. Parks, and Preston G. Peterson; H. Goodwin, General Huyt agent of the Oregon Short Lines; L.C. Doty, Mark Tuttle, and John Walker, State treasurer.

Acting Pallbearers were: R. Whitney Groo, office engineer of the State Road commission; H.S. Kerr, assistant chief engineer of the commission; C.J. Ulbrich; S.L. Cote, engineer State Road commission; Judge E.F. Corfmin, chairman of the Public Utilities commission, and Justice J.W. Cherry, of the state supreme court.

Mr. Browning was stricken with pneumonia which followed a cold he sustained on an official trip to North Carolina. He lapsed into unconsciousness Friday afternoon and death had been expected momentarily. He died 3:30 O'clock Saturday afternoon with out recovering consciousness. His wife ~~and son~~ and son Lee B. Browning were at his bedside.

~~Mr. Browning~~ ^{He} was born at Alexandria, Va; March 28, 1867. His early life was spent in that City and Richmond. As a youth he spent a part of his time in Washington D.C. as a page in the House of Representatives .

He began his professional career as engineer with the Santa Fe Railroad in Western Kansas. From there he went to Colorado Midland company- 25 or 30 years ago. He came to Utah and soon there after located in Castle Dale.

He was married to Miss May Beebe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Beebe of Castle Dale twenty- two years ago ,

The deceased made his home in Castle Dale for a number of years. He served as town clerk for a time and as county surveyor . Later he was elected to the State Legislator on the Democratic ticket. At that time motor vehicles were taxed only \$2.50 for license and the license was good indefinitely. In association with the secretary of State a new motor vehicle bill was draen , which provided for a motor vehicle tax on parctically the same basis as the law now had in effect and Mr. Browning sponsored this bill through the legislation of 1915.

The law proved to be a good start for financing the good roads cause and in May 1917, Mr. Browning was appointed State Road engineer by governor Simon ~~Ma~~ Bamberger with the amendment of the State highway and in 1921 Mr. Browning resignes as State road ~~en~~gineer and governor Charles R. Mabey later appointed him as the democratic member of the reorganized highway commission. He served in that capacity for more than a year, when the commission resigned in a body. Mr. Browning for a time devoted his efforts to provide business but on February 13, ~~1912x~~ 1926 he was named to act ~~oe~~ state road engineer to succeed Howard C. Means who had succeeded him in 1921. Since that time Mr. Browning had devoted his time and energy to the advancement of the road building program in Utah