

## Beaman Pays Final Tribute To Mayor.

Hosts of friends attend Funeral Rites for "Billy" Weir Thursday afternoon. Buried in Vienna Cemetery on land his family once owned.

Beaman, Oct. 24, 1930.

Hosts of friends gathered here yesterday afternoon to pay their final tribute to William F. (Billy) Weir, mayor of Beaman and a member of the town council for a dozen years, who died Monday following a stroke of paralysis. The services were held in the Methodist church here in charge of Rev. H. R. Schmidt, of Mechanicsville, former pastor here, assisted by Rev. George McMichael, the new Methodist pastor.

Six High School boys, members of the Junior Band which Mr. Weir, an old time musician, recently organized, acted as pallbearers. They were Frank Miller, Jr., Leon Smith, Keith Myers, Keith Rowe, Lawrence Zink and John Henry Nickerson.

The many floral tributes were cared for by Mesdames L. K. Botnen, J. F. Anderson, Charles M. Rowe, Walter Goos, Warren S. Walter and R. M. Reece. There were dozens of floral offerings, including a huge wreath from the local I.O.O.F. lodge, of which Mr. Weir was an active member for many years.

Burial was in the new addition to the Vienna cemetery south of town which the cemetery association recently acquired from the Weir family. The land on which the cemetery is located originally belonged to the Weir family and was part of the old homestead settled in 1882 when Mr. Weir came with his parents to Iowa.

Mr. Weir was the last of his family except a sister, Mrs. D. B. Simms of Beaman. His parents, an infant brother, and another sister, Jeanette Clow, preceded him in death.

Relatives and friends from a distance attending the services were Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Antonides, North Platte, Nebr.; A. F. DePew, Marshalltown; Mr. and Mrs. Lee DePew, Luverne; Leonard DePew, Chris and Glenn Ullrich, Mrs. Stella Rockwood and daughter, Mildred, all of Amboy, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Moudy, Paxton, Ill.; Mrs. M. L. Ford, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Jensen, Fort Dodge; Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Clow, Toledo; Mr. and Mrs. William Weimar and Miss Margaret Simms, Marshalltown; Mr. and Mrs. Reid Imms, Greenfield; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Middleton, Milo and Caryl and Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Middleton, Grundy Center.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Mayor of Beaman, Who Died Monday Figured in Old Grundy County Bands

Liscomb friends of Mayor Will Weir, of Beaman, or "Billy" Weir, as he was called by his friends, were shocked to read of his death Monday at Beaman.

Mr. Weir was one of the old-time musicians of Beaman, and the story of his organizing a fife and drum corps among the members of the city council, soon after taking office as mayor, probably the only organization of it's kind in a city council anywhere in the United States, went from coast to coast, friends in Omaha, California, and in eastern states sending him clippings of the story. The city council fife and drum corps played at the Decoration Day services at Beaman last year.

Recently Mr. Weir had organized a band of seventeen pieces among the younger boys of the Beaman community and he came to Liscomb recently to visit with Elmer Boyd, who has had a wide experience in the organization of junior bands and orchestras, and to discuss with him some problems in bass clef, instrumentation, and other questions that had come up in the work of the band.

### -\*Recall Early Band Days\*-\*

Mr. Weir and Mr. Boyd and his boys had often played together in the Beaman band and also in the Conrad band, and the two veteran bandmen had a good visit. They told of "once upon a time" when they went to Ames to play at some affair at the college about thirty years ago. The Beaman band was just back of the live stock in the grand parade. On those days the college herd was not so sophisticated and at the first boom! boom! of the bass drum, the cattle broke and ran, scattering thru the crowd on the campus, most causing a riot among the spectators.

Weir came to the Beaman neighborhood from Lee County, Illinois, in 1882, when a boy of 14. The family settled in Vienna township on what is known as the old Ertle place, living there until moving to Beaman in 1910. (Cont'd)

### Old Band Formed in '70s

The "Old Beaman Band" was organized in the '70s, probably not many years after the organization of the old Discomb band, and Det Hunter, of Eldora, was it's instructor. Clyde and Kenneth Money, neighbor boys, wanted Billy Weir to join the band. The band needed a solo alto player. Billy got an instrument, was shown how to play the scale, was told "You'll do" and became a full-fledged bandman.

At that time Ed Young was directing the band and old Southwell's music books, three volumes, were used. They had real solo alto parts and Ed Young was constantly playing something different. Billy Weir practiced every spare minute until he could play every piece in the three books. According to old time players, Ed Young was a real solo cornet player and could play all day long and never tire.

### Four Altos Make Band

And both Weir and Boyd declared that every band must have a good alto, and that four good altos make a whole band.

The Ed Young band finally disappeared and a new band was organized which Mr. Weir called the Ed Pettit band. Ed Pettit had been a railroad man and came back to Beaman and took charge of the station. He was a fine cornet player and played grade four music easily. Clarence Pettit, his brother, was in the harness business and played baritone. John and Charley and Claude Nickerson were in this band as were John, Ed, and Frank Miller and Billy Weir and a number of others. George Beery played the bass drum and Asa Middleton the snare. There were no trombones at that time, the tenor horn taking the place of the slide.

### Anderson Formed Band

Ed Pettit was taken sick and died very suddenly, and after he was gone the band died down. But Beaman couldn't get along without a band and another band was organized which Mr. Weir called the "Shine" Anderson band, which flourished for some years. Mr. Anderson moved to this city (Marshalltown) and now has a band among Fisher Governor Company employees. After the days of the Shine Anderson band, a community band was organized with players from both Conrad and Beaman. They played the weekly concerts at Conrad during the summer months for several years, but many of the players moved away and the band has not been playing for over a year.

But Beaman citizens felt that the old traditions of the town must be kept up, and that Beaman should not be without a band. And so Mr. Weir, with his more than forty years experience in the various bands of the community, had organized the junior organization.