

LOOKING BACK

BY SHIRLEY SCHAPER

Services held in Nevada for Giffert Gutekunst May 27, 1971 State Center Enterprise

Funeral services were held yesterday, Wednesday, in Nevada for John G. (Giffert) Gutekunst, 81, former mayor of State Center who died Sunday, May 23 at Community Hospital West, Marshalltown.

Mr. Gutekunst had lived with his wife at the hospital the past two years.

Services were held from Ryan Funeral Home, Nevada, at 1:30 p.m. with Rev. Irvin G. Wilkins, pastor of United Methodist Church, State Center, officiating. Burial was in Nevada Cemetery.

Mr. Gutekunst was born Feb. 1, 1890 in State Center, a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gutekunst.

He was married to Angie Barker June 30, 1927 in Story County. He was an attorney in State Center, and was mayor from 1936 to 1944, the longest in office for any mayor here. His father also was mayor—1890-91—making them the only father-son mayor duo in the town's history.

Mr. and Mrs. Gutekunst have been credited with establishing the widely-known roadside park in State Center. Mrs. Gutekunst has been a noted flower judge and grew gardens of her own here for many years. Mr. Gutekunst was a member of the Masonic lodge and American Legion post here.

Survivors include the widow and a number of nieces and nephews.

Picture with no headline