

Mrs. Lila O. Burton, Prominent in GOP, Dies

18 Mar 1889 - 10 Apr 1969

EAGLE — Mrs. Lila O. Burton, former county board supervisor and prominent Republican party worker, died Thursday night at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. She was 79.

Mrs. Burton had been hospitalized about eight weeks for treatment of a leg injury after suffering a fall.

She returned home but was brought back to the hospital four days ago. An autopsy was to be performed.

Funeral arrangements have been tentatively set for Monday afternoon at the Eagle United Methodist church, with burial in Oak Ridge cemetery, Eagle.

The Mealy Funeral Home, Eagle, is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Burton left no immediate survivors. She was the widow of the late Edward J. Burton and the daughter of Col. Francis Draper and Almira Draper of Eagle.

A lifelong Eagle resident, Mrs. Burton was a graduate of Burlington High school and Spencerian Business College, Milwaukee.

After her marriage to Edward J. Burton, the couple farmed in the town of Eagle for five years. She was then appointed postmaster of Eagle village, a position she held for 14 years until 1920.

Mrs. Burton was a member of the Waukesha County Council for Child Welfare for more than 30 years. During the presidency of the late Mrs. J. K. Lowry, she became a member of the Waukesha Women's club and continued her membership through her life.



Mrs. Lila O. Burton

She was district chairman of the Wisconsin Cancer Control committee.

Always a staunch Republican, Mrs. Burton served the party in many capacities and said she derived much pleasure from its organizational activities.

She was vice-chairman of the state statutory committee, a member of the state voluntary committee and chairman of the Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women.

In 1936 Mrs. Burton was elected a delegate to the national Republican convention in Cleveland, Ohio, to represent the five-county Second

Mrs. Lila Burton Dead

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district. She attended eight national GOP conventions in her lifetime.

In 1940 when Wendell Wilkie was the GOP candidate for president, Mrs. Burton was elected at a joint session of the state senate and assembly to serve as a presidential elector for Wilkie.

She was invited by Wilkie to spend several days at his home in Rushville, Ind., where she attended conferences with outstanding GOP leaders in the nation.

When the late Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected in 1952, Mrs. Burton attended inaugural activities, including a reception and tea given by Mrs. Eisenhower at the White House.

The late Gov. Julius Heil appointed Mrs. Burton to the state board of control, which governed all state hospitals and penal institutions. She also served on the state parole board. When the state welfare department was reorganized, she was made director of pre-pardon procedures.

After her retirement from state work, Mrs. Burton was elected a supervisor from the village of Eagle. She served on the education, mental

health, finance and personnel committees and was chairman of the public welfare board.

She regarded as one of her greatest accomplishments her work on a special county board committee which investigated the Waukesha county home and hospital in the late 1950s.

She later recalled: "It was long and tedious work. One night I left home at 2 a.m., arriving at the institution unannounced to prove a certain question regarding patient care. We submitted a 24-point program for improving the patients' welfare and better management of the institutions."

The county board first rejected the report but later adopted the recommended reforms. "We now have one of the very best county institutions in our state, of which all county residents can be proud," she said later.

For more than 20 years Mrs. Burton was an agent for the Northwestern National Life Insurance Co.

Mrs. Burton left no immediate survivors. In accordance with her wishes, the body will not lie in state.

She was a member of the Eagle Methodist church.

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Obit. - Burton, Lila O
4-10-1969?

Death Notices

Burton, Lila O.

Of Eagle, Wis., Thurs., Apr. 10, 1969, Waukesha Memorial hospital, survived by nieces, nephews and cousins. Funeral services Sun., 1:30 p.m. from the Eagle Methodist church, Eagle, Wis. No visitation. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Eagle Methodist church would be appreciated. For further information, call Mealy's Funeral Home, Eagle, 1-594-2442. Interment Oak Ridge cemetery, Eagle.

Mrs. Burton Rites

FUNERAL services for Mrs. Lila O. Burton, former county board supervisor and prominent Republican party worker will be held Sunday at the Eagle Methodist church at 1:30 p.m.

Mrs. Burton had been hospitalized about eight weeks for treatment of a leg injury after suffering a fall.

She returned home but returned to the hospital. Mrs. Burton was 79.

Funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. Dan Robertson. No viewing of the body is scheduled at the Mealy Funeral home, Eagle. The closed casket will be at the church at noon Sunday.

Memorials to the Eagle Methodist church are requested.

Mrs. Burton left no immediate survivors. She was the widow of the late Edward J. Burton and the daughter of Col. Francis Draper and Alma Draper of Eagle.