

Earl M. Webb
(*photo*)

Berne lost another prominent citizen this morning when Earl M. Webb, 70, school superintendent here for 34 years, until retirement in the fall of 1963, died unexpectedly from a heart attack. Mr. and Mrs. Webb resided at 307 West Franklin street and had been residents of Berne continually since 1929.

Mr. Webb had not been feeling well for two or three weeks, and last evening around 10 o'clock had difficulty in breathing. He was unable to sleep and early this morning a doctor was called. Taken to the Adams County Memorial hospital, he died at 5:15, 15 minutes after being admitted.

Though not in the best of health the past few years, Mr. Webb remained quite active. He was at present chairman of the building committee of the local E.U.B. church of which he was a member. The congregation is planning to build a new edifice and Mr. Webb was very active as chairman of the building committee. On Tuesday he and some other members of the committee made a lengthy trip in connection with the building project.

He was a member of the Swiss Village committee, a charter member and former president of the Berne Rotary club; a member and former president of the Berne Chamber of Commerce; a research consultant on adult education in the area; member of the Northern Indiana Superintendent's club and many school associations. Mr. Webb was active in Scouting for many years and was awarded some of the highest honors given in Scouting. He was a former member of the Anthony Wayne Council of Boy Scouts and active in the Red Cross work in Adams county. He was a trustee of the Trinity E.U.B. church and teacher of the Men's Bible class.

Mr. Webb was born March 22, 1896, in Macon county, Illinois, a son of Charles and Ora Twineham Webb. When he was a lad his family moved to New London, Indiana where he graduated from high school. Later he graduated from Earlham college and then received his Master's degree from the University of Chicago. His first teaching position was at Hollandsburg, Ohio. From there he went to Monroe for one year, then to New London where he was principal for two years. From there he came to Berne and served as principal here for one year, went back to Monroe as principal for three years, returned to Berne in 1929, served as principal for one year then became superintendent and served in this capacity for 34 years before his retirement. He was widely recognized as one of the most able schoolmen in the area and highly esteemed. He was unusually active in school, church, civic and community events and seldom if ever turned down a bid to help on some worthy project or committee. As chairman of the building committee of the church he was looking forward to the start of construction of the proposed new church in the west part of Berne. In 1963 Mr. Webb was honored at the Berne High School Alumni Assn. at its annual banquet, for his many years of devotion to the school.

Mr. Webb also served on the board of the Berne public library for several years and had been president of the board since February of 1965. In tribute and respect to him, the library will be closed all day on Monday.

Mr. Webb was a veteran of World War I and served overseas, being in France for 14 months with the U.S. Medical Corps.

He was married on Jun 28, 1923, at Carthage, Indiana, to Luella Winslow, who survives.

Also surviving are a son, Cameron J. Webb, Fort Wayne; two daughters, Mrs. Benjamin (Margaret) Richer, Lima, Ohio and Miss Eleanor Webb, Fort Wayne; six grandchildren and three brothers, Vern, Kokomo; Norval, Plainfield and Walter, also of Kokomo.

One sister preceded in death.

The body is at the Yager Funeral home where friends may call after 2 p.m. Saturday.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. at the E.U.B. church, Rev. Kenneth Overmyer officiating. Burial will be in the M.R.E. cemetery. The body will lie in state at the church from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday.

Preferred memorials to the Trinity E.U.B. church building fund will be appreciated.

Announcement was made today that local teachers who would like to attend services for Mr. Webb on Monday will be free to go, but students will not be dismissed.

Date of death 30 April 1966

Date of burial 2 May 1966

Yager's Decatur Air

MRE Obit Book 1966-1972

Berne Heritage Room

Transcribed by Ruth Jansen