

January 31, 1952

Fred H. Erdmann, Pioneer, Dies Suddenly on Friday

Fred H. Erdmann, 81, highly respected pioneer resident of this city, died of a heart attack, Friday morning at the home of his son, Alfred U. Erdmann, following a brief illness.

Mr. Erdmann was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin in 1870, and came with his parents to settle on a farm near Verdon in 1886. He married Hulda Urban at Groton on February 10, 1896.

He was first in business in Groton with his brother, Albert, in a blacksmith and plumbing firm. He later was a partner in a shoe business with F. H. Kuehnert. He built one of the first stores in Stratford when the community was founded in 1906, and operated a shoe and clothing business there until 1949. After 1921 his son was in partnership in the business.

Mr. Erdmann was also active in church work, helping to start the new congregation in Stratford and served many years in various offices, and as a teacher in Sunday school. He also took a great interest in school and civic affairs. He served many years as clerk of the Stratford school board and later served 20 years as Stratford town treasurer. He was also active in church affairs as a member of the Lutheran church, Missouri Synod. He was president of the Groton-Ferney Mutual Telephone Co., many years. Mr. Erdmann also installed the first town lighting plant in Stratford in 1914.

Mr. Erdmann was a kind and loving husband and father and friendly neighbor. He was very active despite his advanced age and his friendly greetings will be missed at the electric store, operated by his son, Alfred, in partnership with Walter Erdmann, a nephew, where he spent much of his time.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon. There was a family gathering in the Paetznick Funeral Home at 2:00 p. m., and services in St. John's Lutheran church at 2:30 p. m. The Rev. R. M. Grundmeier officiated. Burial was in Groton union cemetery. Vocal solos were contributed by Walter Erdmann, Ora Schuelke and Robert Schuelke. They were accompanied by Mrs. A. J. Schuelke, Mrs. Eugene Neuman and Mrs. H. W. Iverson. The pall bearers were Paul E. Krueger, A. J. Schuelke, Erich Stange, Earl Erdmann, Gilbert Erdmann and Gottlieb Erdmann.

Survivors, besides his son, include two daughters, Mrs. W. R. Van Walker of Aberdeen and Mrs. Truman Eli of North Hollywood, Calif., and four grandchildren; also three brothers, August of Groton, Carl of Ferney, Emil of Kansas City, Mo., and two sisters Mrs. Emilie D...