

[Fairbanks, Wells C.]

[HEART ATTACK?] FATAL TO WELLS C. FAIRBANKS
Veteran of Telephone Service Had Left Retirement to Take
Position in Busy Auburn Defense Plant

Wells C. Fairbanks, 74, widely known Auburnian and a pioneer in the telephone industry, died unexpectedly of a heart condition Thursday night at his home, 35 Grove Avenue. Mr. Fairbanks worked Thursday at the Auburn plant of the American Locomotive Company and appeared in his usual good health.

After rounding out 50 years of service, first with the Empire State Telephone Company and then with the New York Telephone Company, Mr. Fairbanks retired 10 years ago. One of the top repairmen and installation mechanics, Mr. Fairbanks became widely known, not only in Auburn and Cayuga County but throughout Central New York. Only recently, he came out of retirement to take up defense work at the American Locomotive plant.

Mr. Fairbanks was a member of the First Universalist Church, Telephone Pioneers of America, Ensenore Lodge of Odd Fellows and of Auburn Lodge of Masons. In his younger days, Wells Fairbanks was highly rated as an athlete, cyclist, fisherman, hunter and was a close follower of baseball.

Besides his wife, Mrs. Emma Hemlin Fairbanks, he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Fred Weeks of Syracuse and Mrs. Ralph A. Wyckoff of Auburn; a step-daughter, Mrs. Frank McDonough of Oswego, and five grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the home in Grove Avenue, with Rev. H. J. Wright, pastor of the First Universalist Church, officiating, assisted by Rev. Hal T. Kearns, former pastor. Masonic services will be conducted by Auburn Lodge of Masons. Burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery, Fleming.

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Transcribed on 5 Apr 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY