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CHARLES E. ROESCH, FORMER MAYOR, DIES
CITY EXECUTIVE FROM 1930 TO 1934 STRICKEN

Death of prominent figure in Republican politics comes as a shock to Buffalo
TAKEN ILL ON MONDAY

Leaders of both parties join in tribute to former head of city's government
By PAUL P. SCHIFFERLI

Charles E. Roesch is dead.

The man who headed the city government from 1930 to 1934 died last evening in the Buffalo General Hospital a few hours after an operation.

His full name was Charles E. Roesch, but he always insisted that he be called Charlie and the name plate on his desk when he was mayor of the city read simply "Charlie Roesch."

Shock to Community

The sudden death of the former mayor, who put into effect many municipal reforms and economies during his regime, came as a distinct shock to the community. It brought expressions of regret and sympathy from persons of both major political parties and from those who are not concerned about politics and are interested only in good government.

On Monday the former mayor was attending to his private meat business. He had a bad cold and his throat was affected. Yesterday he was taken to the hospital. An operation was performed to remove a pus sack in his leg, caused by the germs that had filtered through his blood stream, but his heart was affected and gave out at 9.35 o'clock.

With him when his death occurred were his wife, Mabel C. (Klinck) Roesch, and his two sons, Charles E. Roesch, Jr., and William Roesch. He is also survived by his parents, Julia and Jacob M. Roesch, and a sister, Mrs. Albert Hertzog.

Mr. Roesch's mother, now well along in years, was shocked when she received the news of the death of her son. Although she has been ill for the last year, a member of the family said she was bearing up well.

Mentioned for Governor

Always a staunch Republican, the former mayor had many friends in the Democratic ranks. Fate seemingly had a hand in the developments which brought him to the high office of mayor. He was mentioned during his term of office as ideal timber for the Republican nomination for Governor but suggestions that he become a candidate were brushed aside with the statement that he had a big job on hand and wanted to complete it before he tackled another.

Until he accepted the chairmanship of the board of health under the regime of former Mayor Frank X. Schwab, Mr. Roesch did not hold a

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prominent position in the political world. The latter, however, refused to bow to the dictates of his predecessor in office. So he was ousted.

The publicity attending the dispute brought Mr. Roesch into the limelight and when the Republican organization in 1929 began casting their eyes about for a candidate to defeat Mr. Schwab, then strongly entrenched with the power of the city departments behind him, they chose "Charlie." After a strenuous campaign, Mr. Roesch was elected over Mr. Schwab, who had captured the Democratic nomination in the primaries. It was the first partisan mayoralty contest held after the scrapping of the old charter.

Champion of Cities' Rights

During his term as mayor, Mr. Roesch was a staunch champion of the rights of cities and advocated state legislation which would benefit the cities. He became active in the State Conference of Mayors, rising to the presidency of that organization, and was well known throughout the state as an aggressive champion of legislation which would ease the heavy tax burden on property owners in cities.

One of the principal things that he fought for, and which gives promise of bearing fruition after his death, was to have cities receive a share of the gasoline and motor vehicle taxes collected within their borders.

On the wall at the entrance to The Courier-Express is a mural. It shows a picture of the first newspaper that was published in the new newspaper plant at Main and Goodell streets. On the front page of that paper is a headline stating that Mayor Roesch Seeks Share of Gasoline Taxes.

Recent reports from Albany indicate that a new fight is being made by the Republicans to carry out his thought.

Only One of Many Plans

This measure was the only one of many state bills that were urged by the former mayor who did not confine his interest to purely local measures, but was concerned about the general situation throughout the state as it affected the taxpayer.

Although the construction work was not done until after he was out of office, the former mayor led the successful fight to obtain state aid for the widening and repaving of Main Street and Park Avenue.

Among his notable victories in his fight against public utilities was when he was instrumental in blocking the attempt by the International Railway Company to raise the trolley fare to ten cents.

The I.R.C., failing to convince the State Public Service Commission that it was entitled to an increase, went to the federal courts with a claim that its property was being confiscated. The plea won the favor of a referee but was bitterly fought by the mayor and former Corporation Counsel Charles L. Feldman with the result that the U.S. statutory court refused to confirm the findings of the referee.

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Opposed Sewer Plan

The former mayor also strenuously opposed the enactment of a measure to create a local sewer authority. He took the stand that the public was suffering from too many taxes and could not stand an added burden. Only recently, Mayor George J. Zimmerman, trying to find a way out of the so-called sewer "mess," made overtures to former Mayor Roesch to accept appointment as one of the members of the authority in the hope that thereby public confidence would be restored.

Former Mayor Roesch's leadership in taking hold of the relief problem in a constructive manner brought wide commendation and his ideas were widely copied in various parts of the country.

The man-a-block system, which was the first relief measure proposed by the mayor, spread throughout the country and gained for the former mayor an exceptional tribute from Walter Winchell, New York columnist.

Under this system a thorough canvass was made on every street in the city with those who were fortunate enough to hold jobs or to have possessions employing one of those unemployed to do odd jobs for them.

Formed Unemployment Group

When the situation became more acute the former mayor organized the Mayor's Unemployment Committee and induced Alfred H. Schoellkopf to serve as its chairman. This committee did much good work to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. Its work was so successful that Mr. Scheollkopf was drafted to head the State Temporary Emergency Relief Agency when it was organized later. The methods that were employed locally were used as a pattern for relief throughout the state.

One of the first big jobs he undertook after his election as mayor was a reorganization of the department of education. An investigation disclosed that materials were purchased on split vouchers. The former mayor insisted that competitive bids be obtained on all purchases. John J. Egan, Regis O'Brien and Edward G. Zeller, his appointees on the board, carried out his economy program, which reduced costs by \$1,500,000. It was said that after he had chosen a board member, the mayor never interfered or attempted to dictate in any way.

The mayor, with the aid of Albert G. Preston, former budget director, inaugurated a financial plan which was designed a financial plan which was designed to keep expenditures down to a minimum so that there would not be a need for issuing deficiency bonds which had been one of the principal evils that brought about the overturn of the old commission form of government.

Provided for Emergencies

Under this plan, the amounts allocated to each city department were divided into thirteen months so that if an emergency arose there would be

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sufficient money left in each department's treasury. Department heads were instructed to keep their expenditures within the allocations and a monthly report showing the expenditures was received and checked.

The former mayor, who was a native son of Buffalo and a lifelong resident of this city, was born on March 31, 1885, at 613 North Oak Street, the son of Jacob M. and Julia Fuhrmann Roesch. Mr. Roesch always lived in the same neighborhood, having moved only once, and that was from 613 to 633 North Oak Street. He had made his home at the latter address since June, 1914.

Graduated from Public School No. [13?] in June, 1901, he became associated with his father in the wholesale and retail meat business, in which he had been engaged since 1915. He was also active in the wholesale poultry business since 1917, and from 1912 to 1928, he devoted his attention, in addition, to the automobile trade.

An affiliated Republican since he was old enough to vote, Mr. Roesch early took an interest in politics. He served on the finance committee of Republican organizations for Erie County. He was chairman of the Buffalo board of health from January to May, 1928. He was elected mayor in November, 1929.

Member of Many Lodges

He was a member of the First Universalist Church, and of Transportation Lodge, No. 482, F. & A.M., of which he served as master in 1918; Hugh de Payens Commandery, Knights Templar, of which he was a life member, and Ismailia Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. He also was a member of the Elks and the Orioles.

Mr. Roesch was married on June 3, 1914, to Miss Mabel C. Klinck. Her father, William H. Klinck was treasurer of the C. Klinck Packing Company until the time of his death.

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