

[Spencer, James B.]

JAMES SPENCER'S BODY ON WAY NORTH FOR FUNERAL HERE
SUCCUMBS AS WIFE AND SON SPEED TO HIM
KIN HEAR NEWS ON TRAIN TAKING THEM TO FLORIDA
SOUGHT HEALTH

The body of James B. Spencer, 57, former commissioner of public safety, who died early Sunday morning at his winter home in Miami, Fla., left Miami at 7:25 p. m. Sunday and is expected to arrive in Syracuse Tuesday night or Wednesday. It was accompanied by a son, William Earl Spencer. Mrs. Spencer and another son, Harold E. Spencer, who lost a race to Mr. Spencer's bedside, met the train bearing his body in Jacksonville.

The funeral will be held from the family home here. News of Mr. Spencer's death came to Syracuse in messages from Dennis E. Lillis, former deputy commissioner of public safety, who was at the bedside of his former chief almost constantly since he was stricken.

Son With Him

William E. Spencer, a resident of Miami, was with Mr. Spencer when he died. He notified two other children of Mr. Spencer at the home at 118 Kirk av.

Mr. Spencer was on the verge of a nervous breakdown a few weeks before the end of the Walrath administration. Pressure of city business had weakened him, relatives said, and friends feared for his health for some time. The visit of Mr. Spencer to Miami this winter was primarily one in search of health. Miss Marjorie Spencer, a daughter, who accompanied her father to Miami in January, said that he was in a state of exhaustion when he reached the Southern city. The attack suffered Friday left Mr. Spencer's left side paralyzed, but his condition was not such as to cause physicians to abandon hope for recovery. He suffered a relapse shortly before his death, however.

Born in Corning

Mr. Spencer was born in Corning, April 8, 1865, a son of William A. and Hulda J. Olney Spencer. He was educated in the Corning Free Academy and upon completion of his studies in 1890 he began his long residence in Syracuse.

Coming to Syracuse as superintendent of the E. C. Stearns Bicycle Company, Mr. Spencer remained in that position for several years, until he went on the road for the Crucible Steel Company.

Mr. Spencer went with the Crucible Company as a steel expert and traveled for that concern for 14 years. He became known personally to steel men from Maine to California and gained the reputation of being among the best of the steel experts in the country. But experience made him a valuable man in the steel industry and he was offered the position of general manager of the

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United States Hoffman Company, and accepted it. He subsequently was named vice president, which office he held until four years ago.

When Mayor John H. Walrath took office, Jan. 1, 1921, he sought to make up his cabinet from among the leading business men of the city. He called upon Mr. Spencer to assume the head of the safety department. Although realizing it would necessitate his taking a less active interest in the company which he had helped along the way to prosperity, Mr. Spencer felt it a civic duty to accept the portfolio of commissioner of public safety. He was the Democratic candidate for city treasurer in 1921.

During Mr. Spencer's term as commissioner he established a reputation for fairness. All who had dealings with him during his term praised him for the fairness in which he used in directing the affairs of his department.

Member of Lodges

Mr. Spencer was a member of Central City Lodge No. 305, F. and A.M., and was advanced through all the bodies in both the Scottish and York rites in Masonry. He was a member of Center City Consistory, Tigris Temple and Syracuse Lodge No. 31, B. P. O. Elks. He was also affiliated with the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Liederkrantz Club, Turn Verein, and the United Commercial Travelers' Association. He was at one time senior counselor of the local body of the Travelers' Association; was later placed at the head of the State Council, and at the time of his death was a member of the national board.

Mr. Spencer was married in 1891 to Margaret A. Harrington, a daughter of James and Margaret Silvernail Harrington, and a native of Onondaga County. Surviving are his widow, three sons, William E., Harold E. and S. Maynard Spencer, and a daughter, Miss Marjorie E. Spencer.

Syracuse Journal, Syracuse NY, Mon. 22 Feb 1926

[Spencer, James B.]

MANY ATTEND SPENCER RITES
HUNDREDS PAY TRIBUTE TO LATE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Hundreds of city officials, former subordinates in the Department of Public Safety, and friends filed past the bier of James B. Spencer, former commissioner of public safety, who died Sunday in Florida, when his body lay in state Friday afternoon in First Universalist Church.

A detail of 150 firemen in command of Eugene F. Sullivan, first assistant chief, and 90 police under Lieut Peter D. Naumann comprised a guard of honor. The uniformed men accompanied the body from the home at 118 Kirk av. to the church and later marched in S. State st., to Jackson st., where they stood at attention while the funeral procession passed on its way to the cemetery.

The police and firemen viewed the body at the close of the services in the church, then marched in single file, headed by Chief Martin L. Cadin and Chief Charles S. Coombs. The cabinets of former Mayor John H. Walrath and of Mayor Charles G. Hanna attended the services. Mayor Walrath was visibly affected as he viewed the body of his former cabinet member. Mayor Hanna and his cabinet filed past the bier after Mayor Walrath. The Rev. Dr. Frederick W. Betts, pastor of the church of which Mr. Spencer was long a member, preached an inspiring sermon, paying tribute to Mr. Spencer. A quartet from Central City Lodge, 305, F. and A. M., sang during the services in the church and Masonic services in Oakwood Chapel. The active bearers, all firemen and police, were: Patrolmen Harry Featherstone, William Silky, Frederick Arnold and Jason Benson, and Firemen Clarence Austin, Harry Rounds, James Easlick and Frank Kerlin.

Syracuse Journal, Syracuse NY, Sat. 27 Feb 1926

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