

[Welch, Anna Louise]

Services Tuesday for Miss Anna L. Welch

Miss Anna L. Welch, for 40 years chief operator in the local telephone office, died in the Warsaw hospital early Sunday morning after an illness of several months.

Always interested in local affairs she held the distinction of being Perry's first woman village tax collector. She was a very active member of the Perry Universalist church, having been superintendent of the Universalist Sunday school for 10 years. She devoted much of her time and effort to building a better and larger Sunday school and church. She was a member of the Friendship Circle of that church and of the Mutual Friends.

Miss Welch was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, a national organization and one of the very few telephone employees with such a long period of service. She marked her fortieth year with the company on August 14 of this year.

She had seen the local office develop from a small exchange to the present modern quarters, completed only a few years ago. She was chief operator of the Perry Telephone Co. until May 1, 1931, and continued in that capacity after that date when the concern passed into the hands of the Rochester Telephone Co.

Anna Louise Welch was one of two children of George P. and Addie Benedict Welch. She was born on the Page road, northeast of Simmons Corners. Her father's duties as a school teacher took the family into many various states.

For six years the family lived in Trenton, Ga., and her sister Alice, who died at the age of 7, is buried in that state. The family then went to Oklahoma, then into northern Texas. Miss Welch and her mother returned to Perry in 1903, coming here from Wichita, Kansas.

Miss Welch received a good part of her schooling in Missouri and graduated from Pleasant Hill high school in that state.

She is survived by her mother, 90 years old.

Funeral services were held from the Universalist church yesterday afternoon with burial in the Perry Center cemetery. Rev. Julia Tobey officiated. Bearers were Henry Havens, Louis Brigham, A.R. Watrous, Clifford Rice, Dr. C.F. Mignin of Castile, and William Kern of Rochester.

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