

# Grace Small dies at 91

Grace Burrell Small, 91, Kankakee, died at her home Wednesday night after an illness of eight months.

Mrs. Small was the widow of Leslie C. Small, former publisher of The Daily Journal, and the daughter-in-law of the late Illinois Gov. Len Small of Kankakee, who served from 1920 to 1928.

Her two sons, the late Len H. Small and the late Burrell L. Small, were long connected with publishing and broadcasting.

Len Small was publisher of The Journal and chief executive officer of six daily newspapers in Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota, and a weekly newspaper in Iowa. He was killed in an automobile accident March 10, 1980.

Burrell L. Small was president and chairman of the Mid America Media Group, which operates 11 radio stations and two cable television stations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Oklahoma and South Carolina. He died Feb. 22 after a long illness.

Mrs. Small's late husband was a banker, businessman, farmer, politician and former state official. He became publisher of the forerunner of The Daily Journal in 1913.

Mrs. Small was born June 20, 1890, in LaSalle, a daughter of William C. and Emily Westwood Burrell. When she was a year old, the family moved to Chicago where she attended the first seven years of school. The family moved to Kankakee when her father opened the Burrell Mfg. Co., a foundry. The Burrell family lived at 753 S. Greenwood Ave. and then at 622 S. Greenwood Ave. in Kankakee.

Mrs. Small continued her education at Steuben School in Kankakee, and was graduated from old Kankakee High School in 1908.

She spent her first years after high school as a teacher in Kankakee County. Her first assignment was a rural school in the St. Anne area where she lived with a family during the week, returning home on weekends.

The trip home meant walking to Wichert and boarding a train for Mokence. After a wait at Mo-



Grace Small: 1890-1981

mence, she would board another train to Kankakee. The trip took nearly five hours.

Mrs. Small later taught at Butz School in rural Limestone Township and at Franklin School in Kankakee.

Mr. and Mrs. Small were married on Oct. 30, 1912 at the Burrell residence at 622 S. Greenwood Ave. Mr. Small died on Jan. 11, 1957.

Mrs. Small was active in numerous clubs and organizations. She was a longtime member of Asbury United Methodist Church and the Judy Williamson Circle. She was a member of Zonta International, Lyric and Travel Club, Kankakee Country Club and the Kankakee County Historical Society.

See MRS. SMALL, page 6.

Thursday, December 10, 1981

## Mrs. Small

Continued from page 1

She was also a member of the National Federation of Republican Women of Kankakee County, Riverside Medical Center Auxiliary, the Colonial Club, Thimble Club and Tau Beta Phi, at one time the oldest sorority in Kankakee.

Her husband was active in the Hartley Hitches, a social club formed in 1908 at old Kankakee High School, and Mrs. Small participated in the annual reunions it held for many years. She was a 50-year member of Kankakee Woman's Club and had been awarded life membership. She was a charter member of the Kankakee Cultivators.

In recent years, she presented the Grace B. Small Young Artists Award, given annually after competition among outstanding young pianists. The winner presents a concert each year with the Kankakee Symphony Orchestra.

She was a vice president and a director of the Kankakee Daily Journal Co., which publishes The Journal, a director of Times Press Publishing Co., which publishes the Streator Times Press, and a vice president and director of the Ottawa Daily Times at Ottawa.

She was an officer and director of the various Mid America Media companies, and an assistant treasurer and director of Mid America Audio-Video Inc. which operates radio station WKAN in Kankakee. She was an assistant secretary and director of Kankakee TV Cable Co. and was a vice president and director of Imagery Inc.

Among the contributions to the community by Mrs. Small and her husband were the Centennial Room at Gov. Small Memorial Park and the large stained-glass west window at Asbury United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Small is survived by six grandchildren: Len Robert Small of Moline, Thomas Putnam Small of Davenport, Iowa, and Jennifer Jean Small of Washington, D.C., children of Jean Alice and the late Len Small; Leslie Small of Kankakee, Susanne Bergeron of Bourbonnais and Stephen Small of Kankakee, children of Reva and the late Burrell Small; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Her husband, sons, parents, brother, Edward Burrell, and sister, Mrs. Ernest Canham, are deceased.

Visitation will be at Schreffler and Sexton Funeral Home, Kankakee chapel, at 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. Friday.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Asbury United Methodist Church, the Rev. Arthur Runyon

and the Rev. Fred Cramer officiating. Burial will be in Mound Grove Gardens of Memory.

Memorials in Mrs. Small's name have been established for Asbury United Methodist Church and the Kankakee County Historical Society.

As news of Mrs. Small's death became known, friends and relatives remembered her as a warm and gracious woman.

Jean Alice Small, editor and publisher of The Journal, said today, "Grace Small was my mother-in-law of 41 years. Although she was feminine in appearance and delicate in manner, she was in truth, a very strong lady.

"Like everyone else, she had many blows throughout her life, but none greater than losing both her sons, her only children, within a year.

"She was gallant in grief and although she lived more than 91 years, she never grew old.

"We shall all miss her."

Her other daughter-in-law, Reva Small of Kankakee, president of Mid America Media, said, "Grace personified her name in every deed and action. She was at all times a lady in every sense of the word. Her passing signals the end of an era of gentility, charm and warmth. I shall miss her, for she was more a mother than a mother-in-law."

Stanton M. White, president and publisher of the Daily Times, Ottawa, said, "Mrs. Small will be missed by all who knew her. She was a kind and caring person, always concerned about the welfare of others. Her passing will leave a void in many lives."

Marion Blackmore of Kankakee, a longtime friend, said today, "She was a very sweet, kind and thoughtful person, devoted to her family and also interested in local civic matters. She will be greatly missed."

Another longtime friend, Cora Speicher said, "She was the closest, most sincere friend anybody could have in the world. There was nothing about Grace but sincerity. I'll never forget her as long as I live."

Frances Rollison, also a close friend, added, "She was my best and dearest friend."

Jane Zimmerman, another friend, whose late parents were also close friends of Mrs. Small, said, "She was a lovely, gracious lady at all times. She was very special to me. I have loved her all these years."

State Rep. Edward McBroom said, "I viewed Mrs. Small as an intelligent and gracious lady that I have known since I was a little boy. It was a special privilege in my life to have been so close to her and her late husband."