

Minneapolis Morning Tribune

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Dan O'Brien Dies; Was Head of Workhouse

Daniel F. O'Brien, former Minneapolis alderman and workhouse superintendent, died Sunday in Dallas, Texas, where he had been visiting for several weeks. He was 66.

He retired July 1, 1956, after 18 years as superintendent of the Minneapolis workhouse at Parkers lake. His home was at



Mr. O'Brien

1218 University avenue NE.

Mr. O'Brien was born in Minneapolis and lived in the city all his life. Following his graduation from De La Salle high school, he worked in a Minneapolis bank and for the fire department.

HE THEN SERVED one term in the state legislature and in 1929 was elected to the city council from the first ward (now the third ward) with endorsement from the ward Farmer-Labor club.

He served on the city council until 1938, and was its president from 1936 to 1938. The ninth ward alderman at that time was Eric Hoyer, now mayor of Minneapolis.

Mr. O'Brien also was the council's representative on the

O'Brien

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public welfare board from 1936 to 1938.

One of the resolutions he introduced in the city council was one calling for repeal of the city's prohibition ordinance.

ON ONE occasion a group of constituents picketed Mr. O'Brien's home, claiming he wanted "a young worker to starve." The disturbance had to be broken up by three police squads.

In 1938, the civil service commission certified O'Brien for the superintendent's post at the workhouse without examination, on recommendation of the public welfare board. He was appointed, over 26 other candidates, and resigned his council seat to take the job amid a flurry of protests and hearings.

His workhouse career was as colorful as his alderman period, with the city council periodically calling for investigations of conditions at the workhouse.

HIS LONG-TIME feud with Mrs. Agnes Lutz Bellew, women's detention home director, broke into the headlines occasionally and also

was the subject of several hearings.

Mr. O'Brien retired last year, having passed the mandatory retirement age of 65.

Survivors include his wife, Lillian, whom he married in 1933; a son, Robert J. Burckley, and a sister, Margaret, all of Minneapolis.

Services will be announced by Kapala mortuary.

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