

EX-GOVERNOR FUNERAL SET

Christianson's Long Career Recalled

Funeral services for Theodore Christianson, former Minnesota governor, will be held at Riverside church at Dawson, Minn., Monday at 2 p.m.

Burial will be in Sunset cemetery, Minneapolis, after rites there at the same hour Tuesday.

Shadows of Mr. Christianson were in every part of the state capitol Friday as memoirs of his days there were exchanged among those who knew him.

The 65-year-old distinguished citizen of Minnesota died of a heart attack Thursday night. He was stricken while trying to start his automobile, which had stalled on an ice-glazed road between his farm home and Dawson, where he and his wife had visited during the evening.

He walked to the farm home **Mr. Christianson** of H. J. Hanson, nearby, where



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CHRISTIANSON

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he died shortly after a physician arrived.

Flags at the capitol were ordered flown at half-staff until the funeral.

Like every man ever elected chief executive, Mr. Christianson took the title of "governor" with him when he left the office in which he served from 1925 until 1931. Previously he served in the legislature from 1915 to 1925.

Close friends called him governor even when he served as fifth district congressman in the 73rd and 74th congress.

Only venerable Gunnar Bjornson, chairman of the state board of tax appeal, still referred to him as Ted. They had shared country newspaper publishing experiences together when Christianson published the Dawson Sentinel from 1909 to 1925. Bjornson was publisher at Mineota, 29 miles away.

"What a powerful speaker Ted was," Bjornson recalled of their legislative days together. "When he got up and spoke, you could see every comma and period."

'DICTION WAS PERFECT'

"You'd never have to revise anything he had said extemporaneously, his diction was so perfect."

S. Valentyne Saxby of Duluth, a house clerk when Mr. Christianson was floor leader in 1921, and

State Sen. Charles Orr of St. Paul, who served through the same legislative sessions, echoed Bjornson's tribute.

"He was the gentleman from Lac qui Parle," Saxby said, referring to the custom of recognizing members by their counties. "Even then, he showed ability as a statesman."

"He was inclined to be stubborn," Orr said, "but that is as it should be and I had a great respect for him. His speeches were masterpieces, classics in construction and filled with quotations from Greek and Latin scholars."

Mr. Christianson, a graduate of the University of Minnesota law school in 1909, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, national scholastic fraternity, and never lost his desire for learning. He was the author of a five-volume history of Minnesota entitled "Minnesota—The History of Its State and Its People."

APPOINTED YOUNGDAHL

Gov. Luther W. Youngdahl, who termed Mr. Christianson's death a "severe loss" to Minnesota, mused on one of his experiences with him.

"I was being joshed a lot in 1930 because there were rumors I might be appointed municipal judge by Gov. Christianson," Youngdahl said.

"The telephone rang at our house one evening, and when I answered a man's voice said 'This is Gov. Christianson.'"

"I thought it was another one of the fellows trying to kid me. I made some kidding answer, and again the man said, with a little chuckle, 'This is Gov. Christianson.'

"I became respectful then, and he told me of his plans. The next day when I paid a call at his office, we had a great laugh over it."

Youngdahl said he felt "especially close to him because he started me out on my judicial career" with that appointment.

Maj. Gen. Ellard A. Walsh, state adjutant general, recalled one experience he had with Mr. Christianson when he was serving as chairman of the powerful house appropriations committee.

In 1923, on the last night on which bills could be signed by Gov. J. O. Preus, Mr. Christianson called Walsh to the executive office and questioned the \$210,000 budget for the state's military forces, asking what was the lowest figure the department could operate on.

"'It's \$210,000,' I told him," Walsh said.

"Then, shaking his finger in my face, Mr. Christianson said 'You ought to be the adjutant general.'"

"And I said right back — 'I can tell you, sir, that you ought to be governor'."

Two years later, Mr. Christianson was elected governor and appointed Walsh to the post he still holds.

Mr. Christianson's first wife, whom he married in 1907, died four years ago. He married Mrs. Mayme Bundy of Chicago in 1946. His two sons, Robert J. and Theodore, Jr., are attorneys in Minneapolis and St. Paul, respectively.

After leaving congress, Mr. Christianson had been associated first with the National Retail Grocers association and then the National Association of Retail Druggists and had lived in Chicago until his retirement last October.