

Dr. Bach succumbs

Funeral services were held here Monday for Dr. Bert Clarence Bach, 91, who died March 3 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington.

The Rev. James Erwin officiated at the rites, held at the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Burial was in Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, beside the graves of Dr. Bach's brothers.

Dr. Bach was born in the rugged Wicksand area of Breathitt County. He was the oldest son of a hill farmer and storekeeper, Hiram D. Bach, and Mrs. Mary Jane Bach.

In 1907 he entered the Medical College of the University of Louisville, from which he was graduated in 1910. Later

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his three brothers--Wilgus, Luther and Arthur--followed him through the medical college and also became physicians.

Before entering medical school, Dr. Bach attended Lees College at Jackson for two years and served in the Pacific for three years with the Army Medical Corps during the Philippine Insurrection.

The first two years of Dr. Bach's medical practice centered around the logging camp of a narrow gauge railroad in Breathitt County. He walked into an epidemic of babies, he often said, and he literally knew firsthand the expanding population of the mountains. In 1912 he moved to Whitesburg, where he practiced medicine for 58 years until his retirement in 1970.

He came to Letcher County the same year as the railroad and he always took pride in his position as local surgeon for the L&N Railroad.

Dr. Bach was recalled to the army during World War I and was released to return to Letcher County when families here were ravaged by the flu epidemic of 1918.

He rode horseback up every hollow within a 40-mile radius of Whitesburg.

Dr. Bach served on the boards of directors of several schools (including Lees College and Stuart Robinson) and served briefly as mayor of Whitesburg. He was one of the first two members of Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church and he served as a director of the Bank of Whitesburg from its founding until his death. Although he preferred privacy, he was a public figure because of his service to these institutions.

He took great pride in his native land, particularly in Quicksand, Letcher County

and Whitesburg.

Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Rowena Coates Bach, Whitesburg; a son, Bert Coates Bach, Decatur, Ill.; a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Knight, Lawrenceburg, and a sister, Mrs. Lucille Pigman, Milton.

Ray Collins Funeral Home had charge of funeral arrangements.

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