

DEATH ENDS LIFE OF CIVIC SERVICE

Lucknow and the surrounding district today mourns the death of George H. Smith, who passed away suddenly about five a.m. Monday morning. The realization that "G.H." has passed on grips one, bringing a lump to the throat and a tear to many an eye.

Mr. Smith qualified by a wide margin as Lucknow's No. 1 citizen by his civic pride and zeal. He once said he loved Lucknow and could not do too much for his native village. He spent his life doing it. One can scarcely think of an organization within the village in which George Smith, at one time or another, has not taken an active and influential part. He was Lucknow's "indispensable" citizen. There was only one George Smith. There have been few civic accomplishments during his lifetime, in which Mr. Smith's enthusiasm and energy are not exemplified.

The arena is one of the memorials to his name, and many a proud and happy moment he has spent in it, sharing with the players the excitement of the game; pacing the length of the building, if space permitted, when the going was tough; shouting encouragement to the boys; but always being as good a loser as he was a winner. Since his youth George Smith was an ardent, and true sportsman who played the game, or promoted it, honorably and for the love of the game. Lacrosse was "his" game, but he was also a crack curler and bowler, and has through the years done much for the promotion of hockey and baseball in the Sepoy Town.

Throughout two wars George Smith has worked untiringly. He has been president of the Lucknow and Vicinity Branch of the Red Cross and few if any are aware of the work he did for this organization. He worked untiringly in preparing for Blood Clinics and the packing and shipping of the many thousands of articles made by the local Branch was done almost single handed by him. No patriotic or civic task was too menial. He never hesitated to roll up his sleeves and go to work and the jobs behind the scene suited him best. He shunned opportunities to be in the public eye, and avoided the publicity that he so justly merited by his super activities.

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Columns could be written about George Smith, his civic zeal; his benevolence; his tolerance, for he was sometimes criticized for his enthusiasm to get things done. But he was always a gentleman, a friend to all of high or low estate, with a genial and happy disposition, who took a sincere delight in everything he undertook.

His flower and vegetable garden and home surroundings occupied hours and hours of his time, which the results readily manifest in the beauty of the place.

For many years he was warden of St. Peter's Anglican Church, he served on the municipal council, had fraternal ties, and was actively associated with most every civic organization that has ever functioned here.

Mr. Smith was in his 70th year. He was born in Lucknow on September 30th, 1875, being a son of the late W. H. Smith and Eliza Treleaven. As a young man George entered the employ of the

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accumbd suddenly to a heart attack in November 1939.

In 1913 Mr. Smith resigned the managership of the bank here, and entered the insurance and bond business which he has successfully conducted. In all eight Victory Loans he has put Lucknow over the top single handed and on more than one occasion ranked high in Bruce County for individual sales.

It was on Labor Day that Mr. Smith suffered a severe heart attack. He was much improved later in the week and anxious to get up. About three a.m. on Monday he suffered another attack but responded quickly to medical treatment and dropped off to sleep again. About five a.m. he had another attack and after speaking to his nurse, passed away very suddenly.

A private funeral service was held at his late residence on Wednesday afternoon conducted by Mr. Harvey Parker, who is supplying in St. Peter's Parish. Interment was in Greenhill Cemetery with W. W. Hill, W. B. Anderson, W. A. Porteous, J. C. McNab, Wm. Hornell and F. T. Armstrong acting as pallbearers.

A wealth of floral tributes mutely expressed some of the things we have been trying to say about George H. Smith. Truly a prince among men has passed on—and by his passing Lucknow has suffered an irreparable loss.

Mr. Smith is survived by one sister, Mrs. T. S. (Llora) Reid of Orillia and John Smith of Washington, U.S.A., who is ill and was unable to attend the funeral. Mr. Smith was predeceased by his wife; a sister Edith (Mrs. G. A. Newton) who passed away on September 25th, 1944; by a half sister, Mrs. G. A. (Ida) Siddal and two half brothers, Ed and Frank Rooklidge.