

Edward R. Potter, Early Local Resident Dies In California

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Herald-Register has been informed of the death July 25 at Los Angeles, Calif., of Edward R. Potter, 90, son of a pioneer Grinnell family and himself a resident of this community for many years.

Known to many friends as "Unca Dick," Mr. Potter was born in Grinnell on November 8, 1867, the son of E. R. and Eliza Potter. Members of his family were among the early settlers of Grinnell and his father operated a store here for many years, selling pianos, organs, and jewelry.

As a young man, after attending Grinnell College, he worked with his father and traveled in this area by horse and buggy selling pianos and organs. He was credited with selling the first upright piano in Grinnell.

Married in 1893 to Minnie Fagan of New Sharon, Mr. Potter continued to operate the E. R. Potter store following his father's death. In 1903, he and his wife moved to Los Angeles.

There he became associated with Bartlett Music Co., later serving as West Coast manager for the Sohmer & Ricca pianos. He retired about 25 years ago, but when World War II broke out he joined the office staff of a California shipyard at the age of 74 and worked during the entire war years. For the last 10 years of his life he was an active sales representative for a firm associated with the construction industry.

Active in Grinnell College affairs, he only recently attended

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H-R

Monday, August 4, 1958

an alumni dinner in Los Angeles. He also almost annually attended the Iowa Picnic held in California, where he visited with many friends from the Grinnell area.

He is survived by his widow.