

Was Reluctant Mayor

Samuel E. Quackenbush, 90 Today, Can Remember Soldier Of Revolution

By Leader Feature Editor

Former Mayor Samuel E. Quackenbush—he didn't want to be mayor—who celebrates his 90th birthday today, can remember a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Quackenbush, interviewed by an Evening Leader editor at the Masonic Cathedral, where he plays cards nearly every day, said that he can't remember much about the Revolutionary soldier, who was his grandfather, John Quackenbush.

The former mayor was a small boy when his grandfather, a resident of Mitchell Station, Pa., died at the age of 93. John Quackenbush was a tall, spare, slightly bent man with gray whiskers, he recalls. The grandson was never told the details of the man's Revolutionary experiences.

Not a vain man, Mr. Quackenbush would prefer to have his birthday pass without notice. It has been noticed, however, with a host of congratulatory messages coming from several states.

For the same reason, he never welcomed public office, although he was three times elected to serve in the New York Legislature, in addition to his service as Corning mayor and Town of Caton supervisor.

"I never sought office," he told his interviewer. "I didn't want the office of mayor, and I told them I didn't want it, but I finally let them talk me into running once. I said I hoped I'd be defeated. After one term I wouldn't run again."

Mr. Quackenbush was born on the last day of April, in 1858, his birthplace being what was known as the Jonathan Hurd farm in the Town of Caton. After receiving his education at the West Caton School, he farmed for three years and then opened a grocery and general merchandise store in West Caton, which he operated for 19 years. When a post office was established there in 1892, it was located in his store, and he became postmaster. He was elected supervisor in 1899 and served one term.

Moved to Corning

After selling his business in 1903, he spent a year in Williamsport, Pa., as representative of the C. R. Maltby Company, and then came to Corning, where he was a partner for three years in the L. T. Goodridge and Company book and stationery store. The business was located in the eastern half of what is now the office of the New York State Electric and Gas Corporation.

A severe illness, which he said his physician ascribed to the wall paper with which he had been working, forced him to leave his business, and after a brief period with the J. B. Maltby wholesale grocery firm, he opened a real estate and insurance office in 1908, operating it until 1923.

"I've been told that I have been executor of more estates than any other man in Steuben County," he said. His first election as Assemblyman was in 1916, and his election as mayor was in 1921.

On January 9, 1878, Mr. Quackenbush married his childhood sweetheart, Mary E. Barnard of the Town of Corning, the

Receives Congratulations



SAMUEL E. QUACKENBUSH

ceremony being performed at the First Methodist parsonage in Corning. Mrs. Quackenbush died July 21, 1895. On February 9, 1901, he was married to Louise I. Borst at her home in Painted Post. She died December 30, 1940.

Mr. Quackenbush says that he rented the first pew in the present First Methodist Church. He is a 32nd degree Mason, affiliated with Painted Post Lodge 117, but he never accepted any office in the order. He was a member of the Corning Chamber of Commerce, but in general has avoided "joining things."

The former mayor did join the Republican Party, however. "I never split my ticket in an important election except for one candidate," he said. "I supported E. S. Underhill for Congress. He was my friend, and I thought a great deal of him." Mr. Quackenbush is proud of the fact that he has voted in every state or national election since 1879. His Democratic friends say they wish he hadn't.

HOSPITAL NOTES

ADMISSIONS

Thursday: Mrs. Cora Smith, 361 Delaware Avenue, Painted Post, surgical; Mrs. Elizabeth Barger, 29 East Pulteney Street, surgical; Dennis Lynk, Painted Post, R. D. 1, medical; Darwin Ross, Roberts Avenue, medical.

BIRTHS

Today: A daughter to Mr. and Mrs. John Kane, 302 Pritchard Avenue; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Robinson, Campbell.

DISCHARGES

Thursday: Mrs. La Verne Anderson and infant daughter, North Hamilton Street, Painted Post; Jackie Lynch, 14 East Fourth Street; Mrs. Reade Moulton, 53 Bissell Avenue; Mrs. George Tuma and infant son, 319 East Market Street; Mrs. Ray Teachman and infant son, 183 East First Street; Mrs. Edith Cornstock, 244 Sly Avenue; Mrs. Ransford Hawkins, Bradford, N. Y.

FATALLY INJURED

PORTLAND —(A)—The Rev. Claude R. Dye, 67, pastor of the Portland Congregational Church, was injured fatally Wednesday night when struck by an automobile near his home.