

Aubrey Richardson Watzek

1888-1973

Aubrey R. Watzek was born in Davenport, Iowa in 1888, a younger brother of C.H. Watzek who is also memorialized here.

He was graduated from Davenport High School, Yale College, and Harvard Law School, moving to Portland in 1912, where he practiced law for five years and resided until his death, at the age of 84, on January 1, 1973.

In 1917 he was commissioned a First Lieutenant and served with the Field Artillery of the 35th Division, spending a year in France and being discharged at the end of World War I with the rank of Major.

In 1919 he entered the lumber business in Oregon, the Crossett Western Company in Wauna, and later the Roaring River Logging Company in Linn County, Oregon.

He served for 25 years as an Officer and Director of Jackson Lumber Company, Lockhart, Alabama; Fordyce Lumber Company, Fordyce, Arkansas; and Crossett Lumber Company, Crossett, Arkansas.

Mr. Watzek was particularly active in many civic endeavors in Portland and in the State of Oregon, and was named Portland's First Citizen in 1965. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at Lewis and Clark College in 1958. He was a Director of the United States National Bank for 34 years. He served twice on the State Board of Higher Education. He was a Regent and Trustee of Reed College. He was a member of the State Board of Forestry.

He had a lifetime interest in the Boy Scouts of America, receiving its highest awards, the Silver Beaver and the Silver Antelope. He served on the boards of the Portland Library Association, Portland Art Museum, United Good Neighbors, Portland Symphony Society, Doernbecher Hospital, Oregon Historical Society, The Family Counseling Service, and the Sign Review Committee.

He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Arlington Club, University Club, Multnomah Club, Racquet Club, and Mazamas. He was unmarried and is survived by his brother, J.W. Watzek, Jr., of Chicago; a niece, Mrs. John A. Warren, of Eugene, Oregon; and nephew, P.F. Watzek, of Greenville, Mississippi.

Mr. Watzek contributed a lifetime of service to many worthy causes with particular interest in the great outdoors and the preservation of Oregon's natural beauty. He was a student of the wildflowers of Oregon, and seldom let a week pass without a hiking trip into the back country. He did his utmost to leave Oregon a better place for all.