

R. W. WOLFE, 84, DIES; EX-HEAD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Official Played Big Role in Zoning Chicago

Richard W. Wolfe, 84, of 6930 South Shore dr., former commissioner of public works, who was active in business and civic life more than 50 years, died yesterday in the South Chicago Community hospital. Surviving are the widow, Helen, and a daughter, Mrs. Grace McCormack.

Services will be held Monday from the chapel at 7651 Jeffery av. to St. Philip Neri church, where a mass will be celebrated at 10 a. m.

Helped Zone Chicago

Wolfe dropped his active business career in 1927 when he was appointed commissioner. He was a member of the original zoning committee and credited with a major role in zoning the city.

He served without pay on the Lake-to-Gulf [Deep] Waterways commission appointed by the late Gov. Len Small and reappointed by Governors Emmerson and Horner. He said its work resulted in the appropriation of more than 300 million dollars for Mississippi river flood control.

As public works commissioner, he began the straightening of the Chicago river, built a water filtering plant, and was active in obtaining 430,000 signatures to a petition for a city water filter system.

Native of Ireland

He was born in Althea, County Limerick, Ireland, Aug. 21, 1866, and came to the United States in 1885. He settled in Chicago and entered the real estate business and loan business. His first office was near 55th st. and Wentworth av.

He was a member of the South Shore Country and the Chicago Athletic clubs.