

Robert W. Bess, Sr.

June 5, 1897 – December 22, 1963

(From - The Cumberland MD News – Monday, December 23, 1963)

Dr. R. W. Bess, Physician, Dies In Piedmont

One Of The Founders Of Keyser Hospital

Dr. Robert W. Bess Sr., 67, prominent Piedmont, W. Va. physician, died last night at his home, 71 East Hampshire Street in Piedmont.

Dr. Bess graduated from West Virginia University and the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond.

He came to Piedmont in 1926 and was associated with the late Dr. Z. T. Kalbaugh. In 1927 with his late brother, Dr. Thomas E. Bess, the two physicians purchased the Huffman Hospital in Keyser from the late Dr. Kalbaugh and the late Dr. Wilbur Huffman.

After operating the hospital for five years, the two brothers built Potomac Valley Hospital in Keyser.

Dr. Bess served as the physician at the Luke mill of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company for 30 years and was a member of the local state and national medical associations. He was past president of the Piedmont Rotary Club and was a past district governor of Rotary International.

The Piedmont physician also was a veteran of World War I and II. He also served seven years as a member of the Mineral County Board of Education.

In January 1962, Dr. Bess was elected president of the First National Bank of Piedmont. He also was an elder in Piedmont Presbyterian Church, a member of Keyser Lodge 1916, BPO Elks and Kelly-Mansfield Post 52, American Legion in Piedmont, and was a 32nd degree Mason.

A native of Hinton, W. Va., Dr. Bess was a son of the late Charles L. and Mary M. (Napier) Bess.

Surviving are his widow, Margaret (Johnson) Bess; a son, Dr. Robert W. Bess Jr., Westernport; three daughters, Mrs. Robert Campbell, Edgewood Arsenal, Md.; Mrs. Robert Keiser, Richmond, Va., and Mrs. James Kenney, Westernport; two brothers, Herman Bess, Huntington, W. Va., and Dr. Samuel Bess, Freeport, Ill., and three sisters, Mrs. Nellie Nower, Russell, Ky.; Mrs. Flo Canterbury, Beckley, W. Va., and Mrs. Rheba Keim, Erie, Pa.

The body will be at the Fredlock Funeral Home, Piedmont, after 2 p.m. today.

Services will be conducted tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Piedmont Presbyterian Church by Rev. Raymond Gau, pastor. Burial will be in Philos Cemetery. The body will be taken to the church at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

The family requests that flowers be omitted.