

# Franklin Conklin Dies

## At Newark Home Wednesday

Prominent Philanthropist and Civic Business and Industrial Leader Was Eighty-Five Years Old.

Franklin Conklin, Sr., 85, who maintained a summer residence in South Finley avenue, Basking Ridge, died this Wednesday afternoon at his city home, 375 Mt. Prospect avenue, Newark.

Rev. Dr. Lauren G. Bennett, pastor of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dr. Lloyd Ellis Foster pastor of Old First Presbyterian Church, Broad street, Newark, will officiate at funeral services for Mr. Conklin in the latter edifice this Saturday noon. Burial will be in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Newark.

Mr. Conklin served as an executive of the Newark Welfare Federation, Robert Treat Boy Scout Council and Newark Safety Council. He was a large contributor to the Community Chest and his family was well known for its support of Newark Academy.

Among his larger gifts were those to Newark Beth Israel Hospital, the Newark Museum and the Basking Ridge Library. In the Basking Ridge Library he established a memorial collection for his sister, Miss Phoebe Conklin, who was one of the group that established the library.

Born in White Plains, N. Y., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Conklin, Mr. Conklin moved to Newark fifty-three years ago. He went to work at the age of fifteen to support his mother, his first job being as clerk in a bank. From that he turned to the varnish business as a salesman.

For close to half a century he had been a leader in the varnish industry. With the late Peter A. Flood, he established the concern of Flood and Conklin, the plant of which has been at 132 Chestnut street longer than many Newarkers can remember. In 1907, with the death of Mr. Flood, that family withdrew from the firm. The business since has been controlled by the Conklin family. His sons, Ludolph H. and Franklin, Jr. have assisted him the last twenty-three years. He also was president of the Bigelow Varnish Company of 87 Oliver street.

In 1933, Mr. Conklin was one of the leaders in a drive to collect delinquent taxes in Newark. He was elected vice-president of the Essex Club in March, 1931, succeeding the late Wallace M. Scudder, publisher of The Newark News.

At various times, Mr. Conklin served on the directorates of Newark banks. His knowledge of the banking situation led Secretary of the Treasury William G. McAdoo in 1915 to appoint him to attend the Pan-American financial conference in Washington as banking representative of North Jersey.

He also had an interest in Newark and national politics. In 1917, when

to insure the election of capable city commissioners, it was Mr. Conklin who headed this group.

In May, 1940, Mr. Conklin was presented a button commemorating his fifty years of membership in St. John's Lodge, F. and A. M.

Mr. Conklin's wife, Mrs. Frances Minetta Conklin, died in March, 1937. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ludolph Fullgraff of New York.

For many years he contributed to a club of blind women who maintained a bungalow at Manasquan and in turn, worked for those so afflicted. Every Christmas he gave these club members a dinner and saw that they received gifts. The members were so grateful to him that their club became known as the Franklin Conklin Club.

Another favorite work was with the Boy Scouts. He established a scholarship for the Newark scout who showed the highest rating as a student in his early schooling. He also was one of a group who gave a tract in Warren County for a scout camp.

When broadcasting became general, Mr. Conklin conceived the idea of giving shut-ins of Newark the benefit of the entertainment. He had radio receiving sets installed in the Ivy Hill Alms House, Job Haines Home, Home for Aged Women, Home for Incurables, Bethany Home, Baptist Home, St. Barnabas' Hospital and at Camp Newark.

The Conklin summer home in Basking Ridge, is the site of the historic Widow White's tavern, where General Charles Lee was captured during the Revolution.

The Conklin Newark residence for many years was at 57 Johnson avenue. In recent years it had been at 375 Mt. Prospect avenue.

Mr. Conklin was a trustee of Old First Presbyterian Church, the Y. M. C. A. and Newark Eye and Ear Infirmary. He was a member of the Essex Downtown, Newark Athletic and Essex County Country clubs.

Besides his sons, he leaves a daughter, Mrs. G. Gilbert Brown of Newark, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.