

Ralph S. Bowers, ex-Warren freeholder

Ralph S. Bowers, 80, of Hope, N.J., a Warren County freeholder for four terms, died Saturday in Newton Memorial Hospital in Newton, N.J.

He was a retired co-owner of Bowers, Schumann & Welch Insurance Co. of Washington, N.J. He purchased the Rush Insurance Agency of Washington in 1950 and in 1967 the current insurance agency was formed.

He was elected a Warren County freeholder in 1949 and served four terms through 1961. He was director of the freeholders seven times.

He was Democratic state committeeman from 1964 to 1966.

Before entering the insurance business, he worked for the Warren County Engineering Department for 10 years and was a cashier in the First National Bank of Hope. He served eight years as auction master at the Farmers' Cooperative Auction Market in Hackettstown, retiring in 1949.

Born in Hope, he was the son of the late Gideon and Maybelle Swayze Bowers. He was a lifelong resident of Hope.

He was a former director of the Warren County Farmers' Fair for eight years; was a member of the Blairstown Lodge No. 165, F&AM; and served on the Hope Moravian Cemetery Association for 50 years. He was president of the association when he died.

He was also a 50-year member of the Moravian Grange No. 187 and was amember of the state and national Grange.



Ralph S. Bowers
1974 file photo

He was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church in Hope and a member of the church's board of trustees. He was also chairman of the chicken and waffle supper for 49 years.

His wife, Amanda, died in June, and a daughter, Charlotte, in 1986.

He is survived by another daughter, Sharon Bennett of Hardwick Township, N.J., and a granddaughter.

Services will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday in St. John's United Methodist Church of Hope, with interment following in Hope Moravian Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by the Newbaker Funeral Home in Blairstown.

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August 13, 1989

Ralph S. Bowers
Date of death: August 12, 1989