

C6 The Spokesman-Review Spokane Chronic

# Rites pending for B.K. Ruehl, noted architect

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Longtime Spokane architect Benjamin Karl Ruehl died Friday at his home. He was 87.

Service for Mr. Ruehl is pending at Manito Presbyterian Church, E402 29th, where he had been a member for many years. A private family graveside service also will be held at Riverside Memorial Park with Hazen & Jaeger in charge.

Born in Wisconsin, he came to Spokane as an infant. He graduated from North Central High School in 1918, attended Washington State University and received his degree in architecture from the University of Michigan in 1923.

From 1933 to 1935, he was employed by the Bureau of Reclamation as town site architect in the development of the permanent government engineers' city at Grand Coulee Dam.

Mr. Ruehl then opened his own architectural firm, Ben Ruehl Architects, in the Old National Bank building, where he maintained his office for nearly 50 years. During World War II, he joined the firm of Whitehouse & Price and was one of the team of architects on the Faragut Naval Training Station in Idaho.

He returned to his private practice in 1945 and his projects included designing Coeur d'Alene High School and Madison and Jefferson Elementary schools.

He also remodeled the Webster Grade School — the school he attended as a child.

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Mr. Ruehl ended his active projects in 1965, but maintained his office at the ONB building until about two years ago.

A licensed architect, he had been a member of the Spokane Chapter of the American Institute of Architects since the 1930s and served as chapter president in 1951. He also was a past president and a member of the Associated Engineers of Spokane.

He was a member of York Masonic Lodge 234 and Theta Xi fraternity.

Mr. Ruehl served with the Navy during World War I.

Survivors include his wife of nearly 60 years, Myrtle; two sons, Benjamin John Ruehl and Gordon E. Ruehl, both of Spokane; one brother, Ludwig Ruehl of Spokane; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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