

PERCY GEORGE JENKINS

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 29 December 1956

DEATH OF MR. PERCY JENKINS OF NEWPORT

Island business and horticultural circles lost a popular and esteemed figure on Christmas Day by the death at St. Mary's Hospital, following an operation of Mr. Percy George Jenkins, of Cranleigh, Cypress Road, Newport, for many years secretary and director of the mineral water firm of Messrs. Gould, Hibberd and Randall, and a life member of the I.W. Horticultural Association.

Mr. Jenkins, who was 78, had been in failing health for about a year, and on Sunday afternoon he was taken to St. Mary's Hospital. An operation was performed, but he failed to recover from it.

Percy Jenkins was a native of Ryde and was educated at the Upper Grade School there. On leaving school he joined his cousin in the clerical department of the former well-known Newport firm of builders, Messrs. T. and E. W. Jenkins, of Nodehill, and remained with them until the firm closed down. During the first world war he was food control officer for the Newport district and in 1921 became secretary of Messrs. Gould, Hibberd and Randall, being elected to the board of directors 10 years later. In association with the managing director, the late Mr. George S. Hibberd, who died on December 7th, he was largely responsible for the wide expansion of the firm's activities in the Island, and when he retired from the secretaryship in 1954 he continued his directorship. His experience in the building trade enabled him to give valued advice when the firm's new factory at Church Litten, Newport, was erected in 1931. He was also a director of Messrs. K. Gray and Sons, Ltd., bakers and confectioners, of Shanklin.

A SKILFUL HORTICULTURIST

Although widely known in his business capacities, he was even better known as a skilful amateur gardener, specialising in flowers. In his early days he was one of the local pioneers of sweet-pea culture, winning numerous prizes at exhibitions at the time when this flower became a popular new feature at shows with the development of many new and improved varieties. He was associated in the local popularisation of the sweet-pea with the late Mr. G. H. Burt, who later became one of the best-known sweet-pea specialists in the country as grower to the firm of King's, of Coggeshall, Essex. Later Mr. Jenkins turned his chief attention as a floriculturist to the culture of begonias and primulas. Begonias were his particular love, and the garden of his residence and the greenhouses in a nearby garden which he cultivated were always a delightful spectacle. He was very generous in loaning flowering and foliage plants for decoration of halls for bazaars, concerts, and other events, and he spent almost every moment of his spare time from business in his floricultural activities.

He had rendered outstanding service to Island horticulture as a member of the committee of the I.W. Horticultural Association, his business ability and wide knowledge of gardening being of inestimable value to the organisation. His work in this direction was acknowledged some years ago by his election as a life member of the committee. His contributions to the debates at the monthly meetings of the association, and particularly his happy way of expressing thanks to visiting lecturers, were often pleasing features of the gatherings.

Throughout his life he had been a devoted member of the Congregational church. In all his activities his charming courtesy, willingness to help, and kindly consideration for others won him affectionate esteem. His wife died 13 years ago, since when he had been devotedly cared for by his housekeeper, Miss Griffin. He leaves one daughter, Mrs. D. R. Porter, of Sandown.

The funeral service will be held at the Congregational church, Newport, this afternoon at 3 p.m.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 5 January 1957

FUNERAL AT NEWPORT

The funeral of Mr. P. G. Jenkins, of Cranleigh, Cypress Road, Newport, former secretary and director of Messrs. Gould, Hibberd and Randall, Ltd., and a well-known floriculturist, who died in St. Mary's Hospital on Christmas Day, took place on Saturday. The service at the Newport Congregational Church was conducted by the Rev. G. J. Nelson (pastor of the Ryde Congregational church), who, in a tribute, described Mr. Jenkins as a fine Christian gentleman and a great lover of nature and children. He also referred to Mr. Jenkins's long association with the Congregational churches at Ryde, where his father was for many years superintendent of the Weeks Road Sunday-school. Mr. E. A. English, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O., a close friend of the family, accompanied on the organ the hymns "The King of Love" and "The Lord's my Shepherd" and played Chopin's "Marche Funebre" at the close.

The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Porter (son-in-law and daughter), Miss E. Jenkins, also representing Mr. E. Jenkins (cousins), Miss E. Griffin (housekeeper), and Miss D. E. Porter. The large congregation of friends and business colleagues included Mr. H. H. Gould (senior director), Mr. G. F. Harvey (director), and members of the staff of Messrs. Gould, Hibberd and Randall, Mr. W. W. Butt representing Mrs. I. Hibberd, Mr. H. H. Porter representing Porters (Sandown) Ltd., representatives of Messrs. K. Gray and Sons, Ltd., A. E. Hook and Co., Stevenson and Howell, Ltd., H. W. Morey and Co. Ltd., W. J. Rugg and Co., Ltd., Dabells, and Upward and Rich, Ltd., many members of the I.W. Horticultural Association, and representatives of the former Newport Literary Society, of which Mr. Jenkins was a vice-president, the Newport Gardens and Allotments Association, the Newport Victoria Sports Club, the National Sweet Pea Society, and the I.W. Amateur Cine Society.

The interment was at Newport Cemetery. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

Transcription by Rosemary Stewart for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2021
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>