

Former High Court Justice

Emerson R. Boyles Dies at Charlotte

(Special to The State Journal)

CHARLOTTE, Nov. 30—Emerson R. Boyles, 79, who was a Michigan supreme court justice from 1940 to 1956, died Wednesday morning at the home here, 327 E. Lawrence ave. He had been in failing health for the past two years.

He held a number of public offices during a career as a lawyer which spanned more than 50 years. He was born June 29, 1881, in Carmel township, Eaton county, and was graduated from the University of Michigan law school in 1903.

He returned to Charlotte where he set up a law practice and then was elected justice of the peace. He was Eaton county prosecutor from 1912 to 1916, two terms.

He was Eaton county probate judge from 1921 to 1926 but resigned to become assistant attorney general under W. W. Potter, the man he succeeded on the supreme bench.

The late governor Frank D. Fitzgerald chose Boyles as his legal advisor when he was elected to a second term in 1939.

CALLED "VICE-GOVERNOR"

Gov. Luren D. Dickinson retained him after Fitzgerald's death. Boyles soon received the sobriquet of "vice governor" since the aged chief executive



EMERSON R. BOYLES

relied heavily on his advice in political matters.

Boyles received the nickname good-naturedly and said frequently he wished he actually deserved it. Political foes made much of the friendship between the ponderous Boyles and slightly-built Dickinson, and varied

See BOYLES—Pg. 2, Col. 2

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