

C. B. Burkhardt Of Homer Dies  
*Homer Enterprise*  
June 1942

C. B. Burkhardt, 74, veteran motion picture exhibitor of Homer, died at 4 p. m Sunday at the Carle hospital, Urbana, after an extended illness.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday in the Homer Presbyterian church with Rev. Herbert L. Miller, rector of Emanuel Memorial Episcopal church of Champaign, officiating. He will be assisted by Rev. W. I. Toussaint, pastor of the Presbyterian church here. Burial will be in the Homer G.A.R. cemetery with Masonic rites

Mr. Burkhardt was a motion picture exhibitor for more than 33 years until his retirement because of ill health in 1940. In addition to operating the historic Pastime theater here—a Homer landmark since 1881—he showed movies in Bement, Sidney and Cerro Gordo.

Mr. Burkhardt was born in Homer March 20, 1868, the son of Gustave and Johanna Burkhardt. Except for a few years, he spent all his life in Homer. In 1899, he went to Chicago to study interior decorating. Upon completing his study he returned to Homer and supervised decoration of several churches in the vicinity.

Nov. 1, 1891, Mr. Burkhardt married Miss Mary Ann Sites of Homer. The couple observed their golden wedding anniversary last year.

In addition to his motion picture work and interior decorating, Mr. Burkhardt and his wife operated Homer park for 25 years, from 1905 to 1930. In 1907, he showed his first movie, and in 1912 he bought the Pastime Theater. In 1940 he sold the theater to Oliver Smith, Homer, who razed the old structure.

Mr. Burkhardt was a member of Masonic Lodge NO. 199, A. F. & A. M. He leaves his widow, an adopted daughter, Sabra Burkhardt, of Peoria, and a sister, Mrs. Terry Johnson, Watseka.

Morehouse funeral home will be in charge of the funeral.

Homer Movie Operator Dead at 74  
*Danville Commercial News*  
June 1942

Homer—(CNS)—Ill several years, Charles B. Burkhardt, 74, veteran motion picture operator, and widely known as manager of Homer park for many years, died at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 14, 1942, at Carle Memorial Clinic, Urbana. A patient in the hospital one week, Mr. Burkhardt died from complications.

Born Mar. 20, 1868, in Homer, he was a son of Augustave and Johanna Burkhardt. He was married Oct. 1, 1891, to Mary Ann Sites. They took over management of Homer Park in 1904, and during the next 25 years made it one of the most popular recreational centers in this territory. Mr. Burkhardt at one time was an interior decorator, and in this capacity decorated many church in this area.

He bought his first motion picture machine in 1907, and for 36 years showed movies a the old opera house here, and Sunday evenings at the park. He retired in 1940.

He was a member of the A. F. & A. M. Lodge 199, Homer.

Surviving, besides the widow, is an adopted daughter, Mrs. Sabra V(D)ivies, Champaign, and a sister, Mrs. Carrie Johnson, Watseka.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday at Homer Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Herbert Miller, pastor of the Champaign Immanuel Episcopal Church, assisted by the Rev. W. I. Toussaint, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, here, officiating. Interment in Homer GAR Cemetery, with Masonic rites. Morehouse Funeral Service in charge.

C. B. Burkhardt, Known Far and Wide As Operator  
Of Homer Park, Dies Sunday In Urbana Hospital; Ill Two Years  
Conduct Funeral Rites Tuesday  
For Prominent 74-Year-Old Homer Man  
Homer Enterprise  
June 18, 1942

Charles B. Burkhardt, esteemed life-long citizen of Homer, died at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 14, at Carle Memorial hospital, Urbana, following an illness of more than two years. Mr. Burkhardt, 74, had been a hospital patient a little more than a week.

Funeral services were held from the Homer Presbyterian church at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday with Rev. Herbert Miller, pastor of Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal church, Champaign, and Rev. Willard I. Toussaint, pastor of the Homer Presbyterian church officiating. Burial, with Masonic rites by Homer lodge No. 199 A. F. & A. M., was in G. A. R. cemetery, with Morehouse funeral service in charge. Masonic brothers carried the casket: J. C. V. Taylor, N. G. Foreman, T. G. Maxwell, John Heppe, L. V. Jurgensmeyer and Garnett Orr.

Flowers were in charge of members of the Eastern Star: Mesdames Maude Smith, Logan Hedrick, T.G. Maxwell, Bertie Bone, Otis Robertson, N. G. Foreman, Edith Krugh, Gordon White and Misses Anna and Jennie Taylor.

Funeral hymns were sung by Mr. Thornton Kirk, Champaign, accompanied by Mrs. Howard Hess.

Mr. Burkhardt was born in Homer March 20, 1868, son of Augustus and Johannah Graymeier Burkhardt. On Oct. 1, 1891, he married Mary Ann (Mayme) Sites, who survives him. In his early life he was a painter, preparing for this work by studying interior decorating in Chicago. Included in the number of edifices he helped decorate is the First Presbyterian church at Bement.

In 1904 Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt took over the management and operation of Homer Park, making of it the most popular amusement park in East Central Illinois. A few years later the Pastime motion picture theatre in Homer was added to the Homer Park business. Later he discontinued Homer Park, but continued business at the Pastime until two years ago when ill health forced him to retire.

Mr. Burkhardt was a natural showman—he liked it and succeeded at it. He acquired considerable Homer real estate in this active life, disposing of much of it in his late years.

“Charley” Burkhardt was honest and straightforward in his dealings—and kind-hearted as he was frank. Perhaps “Unique: best describes his personality—a positive type, but kind and fair and generous at heart. Frankness was characteristic of him, and his many friends and his few, if any enemies knew exactly where to find him on matters that concerned him. He served as supervisor of the Town of South Homer from 1922 till 1924 and was a member of the Masonic lodge of Homer. He attended the Episcopal church.

A large group of friends from near and far attended the funeral rites to honor the passing of this prominent man. Floral offerings were many and beautiful.

Besides his wife, he is survived by an adopted daughter, Mrs. Sabra Vives, Champaign, and a sister, Mrs. Carries Johnston, Watseka.

Among those from a distance attending the C. B. Burkhardt funeral on Tuesday were: Mrs. Carrie Johnston and Mrs. Helen Price, Watseka; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Schroll, Rock Island; Gus Perham, Terre Haute, Ind.; Dr. Jay Johnston, Chicago; Mrs. Mildred Radebaugh and son, Charles, Homer, and Mr. and Mrs. John Palmer, Urbana; Mrs. Herbert L. Miller, Mrs. Louise Decosti, Mrs. G. W. White, Mrs. Heber Smith, Mrs. Fred Broadbent and Fred Summers, Champaign; Mrs. Ray Thode, Broadlands; Mrs. Early Brown and George Davison, Jamaica; Mr. and Mrs. William Floyd Smith, Fithian; Charles Upp and family, Danville, Tele Davis and Mr. and Mrs. James Danforth, Fairmount.

Letters of Mamie Sites Burkhardt

Thu. June 11, 1942

Dear Iva & Bill:

If I remember rightly you said I was owing you? But, this will be only a short letter. We took Charley to the "Margaret Carl" hospital in Urbana Monday at 8 P. M.

I did all I could until he scratched his right heel with his toes on left foot and caused infection which is serious in case of diabetes – was afraid of gangrene and he would get the right care at "Carle."

Mildred R. picked him such a nice cool room on 1<sup>st</sup> floor and has a good nurse, a friend of hers Mrs. Wilcocks, and the best doctors.

Mildred wanted me to stay up at Urbana with her and Canadays out there, but, at this time of the mo. I really have to be here on account of the rents. Then I can sleep better in my own bed. I surely do miss Dad. I have been up there twice and Gertie & Babe are going to take me up to-day at 10 A.M. I was home all day yesterday to show Mrs. Robertson about some work.

I feel like I ought to be up there with him all the time. I am terribly nervous take 3 nerve tablets daily – don't know if I can stand any bad news or not. I try to keep from showing it, but down in my heart it is hard to do. Mildred called up last evening at 6 and said he had a better day yesterday ate a little more at noon and in the evening – but didn't know her although drank some water for her.

They have his foot in a large heating apparatus. Dr. Dalton said they may have to amputate his foot. I said nothing doing, he couldn't stand it!

I think it rained all night.

Hoping both you are well.

Much love

Mame