



MOURNED—Dr. Walter F. Dexter, state superintendent of public instruction and widely known in Pasadena, died in his sleep late yesterday in a Sacramento hospital.

Dr. Dexter's Rites Being Arranged

Funeral arrangements were being made today in Sacramento for Dr. Walter F. Dexter, 54, state superintendent of public instruction and father of L. J. (Pat) Walter F. Dexter, U. S. Navy, at Pasadena, who died yesterday in Butte Hospital in Sacramento after being stricken with a heart attack last Tuesday in his state efforts. Father he developed hypotensive pneumonia, according to his physician, Dr. C. Norman Grant, and yesterday morning lapsed into a coma from which he did not recover.

Lieutenant Dexter was returning in the United States from Paris, France when his father was stricken and was believed to be flying from Washington, D. C., today. Lieutenant Dexter's wife, the former Lucy Lee Gresham of Pasadena, who lives with her father, L. H. Gresham, house at the family home at 1241 North Lee Road, Avenue was in Sacramento with her 21-year-old son, Walter F. Dexter III, at the time of her father's death.

Whittier Ex-President

Born in Chicago and educated at Harvard University, Dr. Dexter came to California in 1912 to become president of Whittier College. He served there 11 years and in 1923 was appointed executive secretary to former Gov. Frank Merriam.

Merriam appointed him State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1927. He was re-elected in 1937 and 1942.

Dr. Dexter, a past international President of the Lions Club, had been mentioned at various times as prospective candidate for governor and U. S. Senator but had never actively sought either office.

Gov. Earl Warren was expected to appoint a successor shortly. Dr. Dexter's term would have expired in 1948.

Nationally Known

Dr. Dexter was a nationally known authority on education. One of the highlights of his career as head of the state system of education, which post he assumed Feb. 1, 1937, was during the Silver-Burdett language fiasco. The State Board of Education signed a series of books and Dexter refused to sign the contract, contending the books were inferior. The contract was never consummated.

In addition to his son he is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ethel Dexter of Sacramento.

Gov. Earl Warren today in Sacramento expressed regret at the death of Dr. Walter Dexter, state superintendent of public instruction, in a statement which read:

"The passing of Walter Dexter is a sad blow to the people of our state. For many years he has led the fight for better schools in California. Every child in our public schools has been a beneficiary of his fine service. It is regrettable that he could not have lived to put into execution his plans for education in the postwar years."