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## Otto Bock

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## Otto Bock

Judge Otto Bock of the Colorado Supreme Court died suddenly August 15 at his home in Denver, Colorado. Funeral services were held August 18 at Denver, Colorado, at which time officials of the Colorado Bar Association attended to pay homage to the jurist in behalf of the entire association.

Judge Bock had a notable career at the law, serving both for the bar and on the bench. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on February 21, 1881, and received his early education in private schools there. He was a graduate of the John Marshall Law School of Chicago in 1908 and immediately came to Denver.

Admitted to practice before the Colorado bar in 1909, he began his public career here in 1913 as a justice of the peace. He served only a short time and in 1914 was appointed assistant United States district attorney under Harry B. Tedrow. He served six years under Tedrow and one year under J. Foster Symes, who was United States district attorney before he was elevated to the federal district bench.

In 1911 he married Miss Hilda Schabarum, who, with their five sons, survive him.

Upon leaving the federal district attorney's staff in 1921, Judge Bock engaged in private practice for three years and was appointed to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in 1924 by the late William E. Sweet, then governor. Judge Bock served on the commission until 1931, and in 1927 he was named chairman. As a member of the commission, he won national recognition as an authority on rates and regulations of public utility corporations. His views on rate matters were respected by the interstate commerce commission, and he was known for his fair handling of all public utility matters.

When his term on the utilities commission expired, Judge Bock resumed private law practice and in 1931 he was an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Denver. Governor Edward C. Johnson then named him to the Denver district bench in July, 1933, to succeed Judge E. V. Holland, who had been elevated to the Supreme Court.

He was elected to the district bench in 1934 and re-elected in 1936. Meanwhile, in 1934 and 1935 he served as the public representative on the mountain states regional labor board. In 1938, he was elected a member of the Supreme Court.

Judge Bock was a lecturer on utility law at Westminster Law School from 1922 to 1928 and served on the executive committee of the Democratic party. He was a member of the Denver, Colorado, and American Bar Associations and a past president of the Law Club. He was formerly chairman of the advisory board of the Central Western Shippers.