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# Memorial Services Held For Bridge Builder Searcy Slack

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Memorial services were held Wednesday at Decatur Presbyterian Church for Searcy B. Slack, 94, a prominent Decatur citizen who was Georgia's first highway bridge engineer.

Mr. Slack died of a heart attack while conducting some business at a Decatur bank on Monday, July 1. His death came one week short of his 95th birthday.

He was taken to DeKalb General Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Slack was among highway department officials purged from state government by then-Governor Eugene Talmadge in 1933, who appointed his own engineers

in a bitter dispute over control of the department.

Slack formed his own bridge-building company, which he operated until his retirement in 1961, and later was a consultant in many state and local bridge projects. He was often cited as one of the premier bridge-builders in Georgia by present Department of Transportation Commissioner Tom Moreland.

Slack drove his own car into his nineties and later, even recently, walked to meetings of the Decatur Rotary Club of which he was a member.

Mr. Slack had lived in Decatur since 1921. He also was a longtime member of the DeKalb Plan-

ning Commission and had been involved in many local civic endeavors over the years.

Searcy Bradfield Slack was born June 9, 1891, in LaGrange, Ga. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1911, he received a master's degree in engineering from Harvard.

He worked for Troup County in his native LaGrange before moving to the state Highway Department, which had been organized in 1916.

He was a former director of the Atlanta Council of Campfire Girls and donated a health center at a camp in Teocoa for them. Mr. Slack was a former presi-

dent of the Georgia section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and board member of the Decatur-DeKalb YMCA, and was an elder in the Decatur Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Julia Smith Slack of Decatur, a son, S.B. Slack Jr. of Decatur; daughters, Mrs. Eugenia Morse of Decatur, Mrs. Julia Hunter of Atlanta, and Mrs. Ruth Roach of Midway, Ky; 15 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that contributions be made to Decatur Presbyterian Church, 205 Sycamore St., Decatur 30030.

# Searcy B. Slack, 94, state's 1st highway bridge engineer, dies

Searcy B. Slack, Georgia's first highway bridge engineer, who was one of the officials purged from the Highway Department by then-Gov. Eugene Talmadge in 1933, died of a heart attack Monday while banking in Decatur. He was 94.

"He just fell over with a few deep breaths. He was intelligent to the last moment," said his daughter, Mrs. Ruth Roach of Midway, Ky. Mr. Slack was pronounced dead at DeKalb General Hospital.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Decatur Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Slack was a University of Georgia and Harvard graduate, who joined the Georgia Highway Department, now the Department of Transportation, in 1920. He was its first bridge engineer, according to the DOT personnel division.

However, Mr. Slack and other engineers were fired and evicted from their offices by National Guardsmen on orders of Talmadge in July 1933 in a bitter dispute over control of the department and its spending practices. Talmadge later appointed his own engineers. The governor also fired Highway Board and Public Service Commission members and briefly declared martial law at the state Capitol that year.

Mr. Slack formed his own bridge-building company, which he

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operated until his retirement in 1961, and "did consulting work for a lot of the construction work around metropolitan Atlanta," according to his daughter. He also was a long-time member of the DeKalb Planning Commission.

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He worked for Troup County in his native LaGrange before moving to the state Highway Department, which had been organized in 1916.

He was a former director of the Atlanta Council of Campfire Girls and donated a health center at a camp in Toccoa for them.

Mr. Slack was a former president of the Georgia section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and board member of the Decatur-DeKalb YMCA. He also belonged to Rotary and Decatur Presbyterian Church.

Surviving in addition to his daughter are his wife, Mrs. Julia Smith Slack of Decatur; a son, S.B. Slack Jr. of Decatur; two other daughters, Mrs. Eugenia Morse of Decatur and Mrs. Julia Hunter of Atlanta; 15 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that contributions be made to Decatur Presbyterian Church, 205 Sycamore St., Decatur 30030.