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County Council Loses Oldest Member

DEATH OF ALD. E. HAYDEN

A former Mayor of Ryde

A long and exemplary record of public service has been brought to a close by the death on Wednesday at his residence, Weston, North Fairlee, Newport, of Ald. **Edwin HAYDEN** aged 86. His death has occasioned much regret, and sympathy is expressed with the relatives.

Ald. HAYDEN came of a very well known Newchurch family, being a son of Mr. H. W. HAYDEN of that village. He was apprenticed as a carpenter, and became very skilled at his trade, working first for Mr. J. RYLANDS of Havenstreet, later for Ald. J. I. BARTON, of Ryde, and subsequently having his own business as a builder. In 1894, the same year as he opened his business, he entered public life by being elected a member of the Board of Guardians, on which he represented at various times Ryde and St. Helens Divisions until about 1915. He also served on the Ryde School Board, and in 1898 was elected to the Ryde Town Council as representative of the East Ward, continuing as a member with one short break until 1936. He served on all the committees of that council, was chosen as mayor in 1933, and performed the duties of his office with typical enthusiasm. He was elected a borough alderman in 1933, and retired from the council a few years later. During much of this time he served on the St. Helens Council, to which he was elected in 1904, and from which he retired in 1930. He became a County Council representative for the Ryde St. John's Division in 1913, and served until March 1922. After a break he again secured a seat on the County Council as the representative for the Ryde S.W. Division, and from then served continuously until his death. He was appointed a county alderman to fill the vacancy caused by the death of A.J.A. ANDREWS, J.P., in 1942.

A striking figure, with his white beard, fresh complexion, twinkling eyes, and commanding height, the alderman frequently intervened in debate, especially on matters of finance and his contributions were enlivened by colloquialisms which made his the despair of reporters and the delight of his colleagues. He served on most committees of the council, a part of the work to which he devoted a great deal of time and energy, and he was the oldest member of the council.

Ald. HAYDEN was twice married. His first wife was also a native of Newchurch, a daughter of Mr. H. J. JOLLIFFE, and she gave him every support in his public work, notably in her early years as a fellow Guardian. Unfortunately ill-health prevented her carrying out her duties as mayoress of Ryde. After her death he married, in 1937, Mrs. Ellen Rose SMITH, a Ryde resident, who survives him.

The funeral will take place at Ryde today. It will be strictly private at his own request. It is also requested that there should be no flowers.
