

January 4, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

ORVILLE GRONER DIES,  
SERVED BAPTISTS 31 YEARS

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--Orville Groner, 57, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Relief and Annuity Board, Dallas, Tex., died unexpectedly of a heart attack here, January 4. He had not been previously ill.

Groner, who had served the Southern Baptist Convention for thirty-one years, charted the Board's financial growth from \$2,242,325 to the present \$30,000,000 reserve. He was instrumental in stabilizing the Board's finances. Total investment earnings under his direction amounted to \$9,110,697.

A native Texan, Groner was born in Jacksboro, March 21, 1896. He attended school in Jacksboro, Stamford, and Waco, Tex. He graduated from Tobeys Business College in Waco in 1915. He came to Dallas in 1918 and for three months was active in promoting the Seventy-Five Million Campaign which was being conducted in Texas by his brother, the late Frank S. Groner, then the executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Groner came to the Relief and Annuity Board in April, 1923, as general accountant, then became treasurer of the Relief Fund in 1924, and general treasurer in 1933. He served as deacon in the First Baptist Church, Dallas for many years.

"Orville Groner was unique. Few men combine such qualities as he. Simple as a child in religious faith and astute to a marked degree in matters of business, most efficient as the investor of millions of trust funds, and yet modest and unassuming despite success and adulation. Southern Baptists are forever indebted to him. The Relief and Annuity Board has lost its most valuable officer. I, personally, have lost my right arm," Walter R. Alexander, executive secretary of the Board, said in announcing Groner's death.