

Albert Lee, Unofficial Negro Illini Dean, Dies In Champaign

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Albert R. Lee, 74, who served the University of Illinois for 52 years under seven presidents, died August 24, at his home, 605 N. Walnut st., following an extended illness.

Lee was the oldest University employe both in age and in years of service when he retired July 1, 1947, as chief clerk in the president's office. While he had reached the retirement age of 68 in 1942, he was recalled for duty during the war, serving on an emergency basis in the president's office from March, 1943, until his final retirement last summer.

Funeral services for Lee were conducted Friday, at Bethel AME Church, with Rev. E. Taborn, the

pastor, officiating. Burial was at Mt. Hope cemetery.

The president's office was officially closed during the funeral hours.

In 1895, Lee took a job as messenger boy in the University president's office. Doctor Andrew Sloan Draper, fourth president of the University, was then in office.

Two years later, Lee took leave for a year to study at the University, then he returned to his post at the Administration building. The University enrollment was 300.

Lee was known to thousands of Illini, and in addition to his responsibilities, he took a great in-

terest in students. He was regarded as the unofficial "dean of the colored students," and above his regular duties conducted a counseling service in their behalf. His kind understanding and influence helped many students with doubtful records gain admission, and he also helped both white and Negro students adjust to their scholastic difficulties.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Bernice Brightwell, Champaign; a son, Maurice W. Lee, Mayor of Boley, Okla., who arrived the Tuesday afternoon before his father's death; a sister, Mrs. Phoebe Hogue of Champaign. Also surviving are four grandchildren and other relatives.