

JOHN A. MERRITT

PENSACOLA has lost one of her greatest citizens, a family has lost its loving husband and father, and hundreds of Pensacolans have lost the man they called their best friend.

John A. Merritt is dead.

If a newcomer had asked most any citizen, any time within the last score or more of years, who, in their opinion, was Pensacola's finest citizen, the answer would have been John A. Merritt.

Most Pensacolians know of John A. Merritt's activities in county and city government, of his participation in meritorious civic affairs, and of his willingness to help any worthy cause. These are matters of public record.

But there are scores of persons who know of individual acts of kindness performed by him not of common knowledge. Sometimes these involved financial aid in small or large amounts. Sometimes it was a word or two in the right place. Sometimes it was another chance for someone. These acts made lives secure, saved businesses, started new ones, or mayhap, they gave some worthy boy or girl an education.

John A. Merritt had an abiding faith in the good that is in man. His was such a character that he inspired good deeds. He made those with whom he came in contact better men and better women.

Although he had retired from most of his public activities, Pensacola will miss John A. Merritt. But his memory will not die. It cannot fail to continue to inspire us to greater things.

The News-Journal extends its deepest sympathy to the widow and family.