

Obituaries

HOWARD D. ALMAS

Howard D. Almas, 97 of Northville, died May 13, 1995, at Huron Valley Hospital in Commerce Township. He was born Oct. 13, 1897, in Kelvin, Ontario, Canada.

Mr. Almas moved from Canada to Detroit in 1924. Before retiring in 1967, he was a self-employed union carpenter. He was a Northville resident for over 22 years.

Surviving Mr. Almas are his daughter, Doris (Dean) Witt of Northville; son, Robert (Elaine) of Alton; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace.

Services were held Monday, May 22, at the Parkview Memorial Cemetery Chapel with interment following. Rev. William Branham officiated at the service.

The arrangements were made by Resurrection Funeral Home, Clinton Township.

At the request of the family, memorials to the Michigan Heart Fund would be appreciated.

DONALD J. LANNING

Donald Jay Lanning Sr. of Salem Township died May 20, 1995, at Huron Valley Hospital in Milford.

He was 79. He was born March 7, 1916, in Northville, to Louis and Dora (Caswell) Lanning.

Mr. Lanning was a lifetime resident of the Northville area. He retired from Ford Motor Co. and was affiliated with the First Baptist Church of Novi. He was president of Novi Christian School and a member of V.F.W. Northville Post No. 4012.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth (Reed); daughter, Mary Lou Lopez of New Hudson; sons, Donald J. Jr. of Redford, Louis H. of Plymouth, and Allan B. of Northville, brother, Louis of Novi, sister, Virginia Lach of Novi; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by three sisters.

Services were held Wednesday, May 24, at First Baptist Church of Novi, with Pastor Cary Elfner officiating. Interment took place at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi.

Arrangements were made by Casterline Funeral Home in Northville.

The family would appreciate memorials to Novi Christian School.

BERNEITA K. EBERT

Berneita K. Ebert of Redford

(previously of Northville) passed away May 18, 1995. She was born July 19, 1904, in Elkhart, Ind., to Jesse and Mabel (Van Wert) Killinger. She came to Northville in 1956 from Ann Arbor.

Mrs. Ebert was the widow of Dempsey B. Ebert, who operated the Ebert Funeral home in Northville, from 1956 until his death Oct. 7, 1972.

Mrs. Ebert had a bachelor's degree in education and a master's in psychology from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and a master's degree in clinical social work from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In Washington she was employed by George Washington University, the U.S. Department of State, the National Institute of Mental Health and others.

In Michigan, she had been employed by the Family Service Society of America and by the State of Michigan in alcohol treatment programs.

After retirement in 1970, Mrs. Ebert opened a private practice as a Michigan licensed marriage counselor.

She was a charter member of the Senior Alliance Inc. and served on the Northville Area Senior Citizens Advisory Council beginning

in 1983. Mrs. Ebert held a membership in Psi Chi National Honorary Society in psychology, the National Association of Social Work, the Academy of Certified Social Workers, First Presbyterian Church of Northville, the Order of the Eastern Star of Michigan Orient Chapter No. 77, Kings Daughters, and Alumni of the University of Michigan.

She is survived by a niece, Mrs. Fred (Doris Killinger) Walters of Elkhart, Ind.; two grandnephews, Dr. Daniel Walters of Seymour, Ind., and Andrew Walters of Ocseola, Ind.; one grand niece, Peggy Jo (Walters) Emeis of Jacksonville Beach, Fla.; and one great grand niece, Rachel Emeis also of Jacksonville Beach.

She was also survived by a step daughter, Mrs. Arthur (Susan Ebert) Silletti; and two grandsons, Michael and Steven Silletti of Livonia. She also has many cousins in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, California, and Florida.

Besides her husband, a brother, Merl Killinger, predeceased her in 1959.

A service was held Wednesday, May 24, at the First Presbyterian Church in Northville. Interment will be at House of Memories Mau-

soleum, Rice Cemetery, Elkhart, Ind.

Arrangements were made by Northrop-Sassaman Funeral home, Northville.

Memorials tributes may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main, Northville, 48167.

ANDREW J. SMOJVER

Andrew James Smojver, 19 of Northville, died May 20, 1995, after a car accident in Green Oak Township.

Andy was born on July 5, 1975, in Livonia, to George and Elizabeth (Goodman) Smojver. He attended Northville High School and was active with the baseball team.

His hobbies were hunting and fishing. He had finished two years at Schoolcraft College and was majoring in hotel management. He had part-time jobs at Novi Pizza Cutter and Northville Downs. Everyone who knew him personally said he had a wonderful sense of humor.

Surviving Andy are his parents, George and Betty of Northville; brothers, George Jr. and Tim, both of Northville; grandmother, Elizabeth Goodman; and numerous aunts and uncles, and cousins.

Mass was held Wednesday, May

24, at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Northville. Interment took place at Rural Hill Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home, Northville.

Memorials to the charity of choice would be appreciated by the family.

EVA L. SEARS

Eva Lillian Sears, 97 of South Lyon, died May 19, 1995, at Martin Luther Home, South Lyon. She was born July 1, 1897, in Ewart, Mich., to Rufus and Anna (Brown) Mapes.

Mrs. Sears moved to Northville in 1910 and was a resident on Main Street for 50 years. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bert J., and sons, Kenneth and Harry.

Services were held on Sunday, May 21, at Casterline Funeral home in Northville with Dr. Douglas Vernon, First United Methodist Church, officiating.

Interment took place at Maple Valley Cemetery, Ewart, Mich.

Transportation reform occurs regularly in region

By TIM RICHARD
Staff Writer

Public transportation in southeastern Michigan is much like the weather. If you don't like it, wait a few minutes and it'll change.

Actually, the changes - that is, major reorganizations - occur every few years. There are five distinct chapters in transit's history:

1. Pre-1968 - private. Detroit operated its DSR (for Department of Street Railways, so named in the 1920s) in the city and a few miles into the nearby suburbs. The suburbs were served by a disconnected series of private bus companies - Bee Lines, Martin, Great Lakes and the like. Besides being disconnected, much of their equipment was shabby, indicating a less than robust profit picture.

2. SEMTA I. The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority was designed under the aegis of Metropolitan Fund, a think tank bankrolled by industrial, utility, labor and civic leaders. Metro Fund also begat the regional Transportation and Land Use Study (TALUS), a health council and SEMCOG, the Council of Govern-

ments and the San Francisco Bay. Only buses would be in southeastern Michigan's future.

According to the state law creating SEMTA, it was to merge with Detroit's system, now called D-DOT. Negotiations broke down, however, because Detroit was subsidizing its system, the suburbs weren't, and Young wasn't about to let D-DOT marry a pauperized SEMTA.

3. SEMTA II. In the late 1970s,

county officials began flexing their political muscles and decided they, not SEMCOG, should run the show, since they had capacity to raise money and SEMCOG didn't.

Then-state Sen. Carl Pursell of Plymouth designed a bill that allowed counties and Detroit to pick most SEMTA board members.

Moving on to Congress, Pursell manipulated a federal "demonstration grant" that gave downtown Detroit an elevated, railed People

Mover. It became a victim of its own popularity. Politicians and business people insisted on budget-busting design changes, changes and more changes, resulting in cost overruns.

The People Mover drained several years worth of SEMTA's money for new buses. SEMTA finally gave up and turned the books and keys over to Young's administration. By 1994, new Mayor Dennis Archer had to shut it down for repairs

4. SMART I. In the mid-1980s, the region's Big Four - Young, Oakland Executive Dan Murphy, Wayne Executive William Lucas and the chair of the Macomb County board - decided they needed (1) to cooperate generally and (2) forget about a seven-county-Detroit regional system.

They designed SMART (for Suburban Mobility Authority - Rapid Transit).

INVITATION TO BID COMPUTER PROJECT

Sealed bids will be received by the Clerk of the Charter Township of Northville, Northville, Michigan up to 10:00 on June 2, 1995 and publicly opened and read aloud at that time on the same day in the Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices for Computers and Software.

Specifications may be obtained from the Township Clerk's Office, located at 41600 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan, (810) 348-5800

All bids shall be addressed to the attention of:
Charter Township of Northville, Sue A. Hillebrand, Clerk, 41600 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan 48167.

Send the bid in a sealed envelope which clearly states the name of the bidder, the date of the bid opening and the words PC network Proposal

The Charter Township of Northville reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted or to waive any minor informality if, in the judgement of the Township Board of Trustees the best interest of the Township would be served.

No bidder may withdraw their bid after the hour set for the opening thereof, unless the award of the contract is delayed for a period exceeding Ninety (90) days. (5-25-95 NR)

SUE A. HILLEBRAND, CLERK

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COME SEE FOR YOURSELF

But don't take our word for it. Take it from the women who have already enjoyed a Providence Park New Life Center experience. Here are just some of the things they have to say:

- "We had no idea what to expect, but delivering here was the best experience of our lives. The personal attention we received made this a very positive experience."
- "My experience couldn't have been better. The staff was fabulous! They were so helpful, friendly and comforting. I really felt that they made my experience the best it could be. The room was beautiful, clean and comfortable. Everything was wonderful!"
- "Absolutely wonderful! I was so pleased I would rate it right off the charts!"

Call 1-800-806-BABY for an appointment to see what the New Life Center at Providence Park has to offer expectant families.

Only pregnant women who have been pre-screened and assessed as low risk by a Providence physician are eligible to deliver at the Providence Park New Life Center.

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