

 Obituaries

## Rudolf L. Bauer, retired Westvaco GM

A memorial service for Amherst resident Rudolf L. Bauer, a retired general manager of the Westvaco Co.'s corrugated shipping container factory in Buffalo and active in the community, was held on Monday, June 11, 2007 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Mr. Bauer, 77, better known as "Rudy," died Sunday, June 3, 2007 in Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Bauer attended Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

He started his professional life at American Greeting Card Corp. in Cleveland. After joining Hinde & Dauch Paper Co., later Westvaco, in Cleveland, Mr. Bauer was promoted through the ranks of several sales positions. In 1965, he was transferred to Buffalo in an executive sales capacity, and was named manager of Westvaco's factory. When he retired in 1992, Mr. Bauer was the company's longest-serving general manager.



Bauer

Beginning in 1993, Mr. Bauer was a member and later chairman of the Amherst's Solid Waste Committee. In this capacity, he helped manage the town's recycling program and the collection and safe disposal of hazardous solid waste.

An avid sailor and power-boater, Mr. Bauer was a long-time member of the Buffalo Canoe Club, serving as commodore in 1979. He was chairman of the club's 100th and 125th anniversary celebrations. Mr. Bauer chaired the effort to rebuild the club's landmark outer boathouse after the original was destroyed by fire in 1991.

Mr. Bauer was a past president of the Ascension Lutheran Church congregation in Snyder and a volunteer with the Amherst Lions Club and Theater Williamsville.

Mr. Bauer is survived by his wife of 53 years, the former Julia Stofka; three sons, Mark of Snyder, Martin of East Amherst, and Matthew of Boston, Mass.; a brother, Joseph, of Parma Heights, Ohio; and three grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by John E. Roberts Funeral Home.

## E. Roberta Watson, retired clothing designer

E. Roberta Watson, 82, of Amherst, a retired clothing designer, died Friday, Feb. 23, 2007, in the Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, Cheektowaga.

Born in Louisa, Ky., the former Ethel Roberta Blankenship lived in Amherst for 59 years.

Mrs. Watson was a gifted designer, creating clothing for dance, theatre, opera, airlines, religious orders, magicians, and hundreds of brides. When she retired, her extensive array of patterns was donated to the Betty Williams pattern collection at the University of Rhode Island Library, helping to make it the largest pattern archive in the United States.

Mrs. Watson was a member of the Amherst Community Church. Throughout her life, she devoted a great deal of time to community service. Her leadership positions

included president of the Smallwood Garden Club, Suburban Women's Club, and Ikebana. She also volunteered her time to the PTAs in the Amherst Central School District, arguing persuasively decades ago to provide uniforms for females who participated on interscholastic school sports teams in line with what was already being done for male school athletes.

Mrs. Watson was proud of her Kentucky heritage, co-owning a farm in Louisa, Ky. and was named a "Kentucky Colonel" by the governor of Kentucky in 1992.

She loved to travel and visited several regions of the United States and Canada as well as Japan, the Philippines, Jamaica, and Romania.

Before losing her eyesight, she enjoyed golf, bowling, bridge, and

various arts including painting, stained glass, crochet, and knitting.

Her husband of 59 years, Eric R., comptroller for Westinghouse in Cheektowaga, died in 2002.

Mrs. Watson is survived by two daughters, Winifred Brownell of North Kingstown, R.I. and Pamela O'Brien of Amherst; a sister, Ardella Colley of Cincinnati, Ohio; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Saturday, June 9 in Amherst Community Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Amherst Community Church, 77 Washington Highway, Snyder or Hospice Buffalo, 225 Como Park Blvd., Buffalo, NY.

Arrangements were made by D. Lawrence Ginnane Funeral Home.

## Louise Levi Oblatz, owned antique shops

Louise Levi Oblatz, 86, a former Clarence and Snyder resident who was a former antique shop owner in both towns, died Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at Canterbury Woods in Williamsville.



Oblatz

Born in Buffalo, she attended Buffalo Seminary and graduated from the Park School of Buffalo

in 1939 and Stephens College of Missouri. She stayed active with the alumni associations of each school.

Mrs. Oblatz was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable collector of Quimper and Staffordshire china and figurines and owned antique shops in Snyder and Clarence for over 30 years, including Blue Eagle Antiques on Bernhardt Drive in Snyder and Antiques and Found Objects in Snyder Square.

She was a long-time lover of early American antiques and country pine furniture and was an

expert in American primitives. She also was an antique consultant and active in antique co-ops in Clarence.

As a hobby, her family said, she renovated homes in Williamsville and Snyder for over 30 years then sold them furnished.

For six years, she made her home at Canterbury Woods, celebrating her 85th birthday in 2006. Her family said she characteristically insisted it was her "39th birthday".

Mrs. Oblatz, known by her 13 grandchildren as "Weezy", is also survived by three sons, Stephen of Buffalo, Thomas of San Rafael, Calif. and Douglas of Portland, Ore., and a daughter, Betsy Jones of Portland, Maine.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 16 in the Chapel at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 1411 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, followed at 11:30 a.m. with a reception at the Saturn Club, 977 Delaware Ave.

Donations may be made in her memory to the Louise Oblatz Memorial Fund at The Park School of Buffalo, 4625 Harlem Road, Buffalo, NY 14226.

Arrangements were made by the Mesnekoff Funeral Home.



### Death

**DAVISON, Sandra J.** of Eggertsville, died Friday, June 8, 2007; wife of William J.; mother of William J. and Melanie J.; sister of Lois Pieta. Services are private. Arrangements were made by the Harry A. Wedekindt Funeral Home. If desired, memorials may be made to the SPCA serving Erie County.

## Memorial service to be held Saturday for former town supervisor Jack Sharpe

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 16 at Calvary Episcopal Church, 20 Milton St., Williamsville for John R. "Jack" Sharpe.

Mr. Sharpe, who was Amherst supervisor for 15 years, died Dec. 3, 2006, in Dade City, Fla., four days before his 81st birthday.

Mr. Sharpe's wife, the former Gloria Keller, said his nephew, David Talley, will give the eulogy and Dan McCue will play "Amazing Grace", one of his favorite songs, on bagpipes at the end of the service.

The Rev. Jerre Feagin, formerly of Calvary Episcopal, now at St. Mark's in North Tonawanda, will preside over the service. Debi Overton will play the organ.

Mr. Sharpe was elected supervisor in 1976 and was re-elected four times.

During his years spent in Amherst, Mr. Sharpe was involved in many organizations. He served on the Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital's Operating Board and the Erie County Industrial Development Agency's Board of Directors. He was a liaison to the Amherst Industrial Development Agency and was heavily involved with the Amherst Museum.

He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 416 and George F. Lamm American Legion Post 622. He also was an honorary member of the Getzville Fire Company and was a past president of the Rotary Club of Williamsville.

Mr. Sharpe served as a member of the 28th Infantry Division and the 2nd Infantry Division from June 1944 until May 1946.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Sharpe is survived by a sister, Mary Lorraine Talley of Harris Hill and a brother-in-law, Frederick R. (Hai) Keller of Clearwater, Fla.

## Richard G. Saffire, ran successful food brokerage firms

Richard George Saffire, 77, of Eggertsville, a mainstay in the food brokerage business and retired owner of Western New York Merchandisers and the Shelly Meat Co., died Sunday, June 3, 2007.

Born in Worcester, Mass., he moved to Buffalo with his family when he was 8. After serving on the USS New Jersey during the Korean War, Mr. Saffire began his sales career with Hunt Wesson Foods, where he worked for 13 years.

In 1960, Mr. Saffire married singer Rosemary Attea. They recently celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Saffire entered the food brokerage business in 1967 as president of Drewitt, Saffire & Engl. With his brother Al, they



Saffire

built the business into one of the area's largest food brokerage firms.

After a brief retirement, Mr. Saffire joined forces with his son John to form Saffire, Gasuik and Saffire, Inc., again becoming a force in the food brokerage community. He later retired as owner of Western New York Merchandisers and Shelly Meat Co.

Mr. Saffire was instrumental in creating the Korean War Soldiers Memorial and was honored by the local Korean community on the 50th anniversary of the war.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Saffire is survived by a daughter, Linda; three sons, Richard, John and Joe; a sister, Marie Snyder, a brother, Albert; and eight grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered Thursday, June 7 in St. John Maron Maronite Catholic Church in Williamsville.

Arrangements were made by Dengler and Roberts Funeral Home.

## John C. Richardson, retired project manager, engineer

John C. Richardson, 78, of Williamsville, a retired project manager and engineer of the Union Carbide's Linde Division in Tonawanda, died Saturday, June 2, 2007, in Weinberg Campus in Amherst.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Richardson graduated from Shaker Heights High School near Cleveland and received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, and civil engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Richardson worked 34 years (1951-1985) in the Linde Division in all levels of design, development, and program management. Highlights of his career include a state-of-the-art hyperbaric oxygen chamber for Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City and being project manager for design and construction of the world's largest oxygen plant in Burns Harbor, Ind.

He was an elder at North Presbyterian Church and sang in the church choir. He also was involved with the Buffalo Schola Cantorum (Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra chorus), the Chautauqua choir, and Motet choir.

He also enjoyed swimming and boating. He is survived by his wife of nearly 55 years, the former Lois J. Hill; three daughters, Karen Roesser of Snyder, Susan Sendziak of Lancaster, and Pamela Colborn of New Market, Md.; a brother, Dr. Robert C. of Greeley, Colo.; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, June 22 in North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Road, Williamsville.

Arrangements were made by Beach-Tuyn Funeral Home.

## Card of Thanks

The family of Ethel B. Henning wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and kind words we received after the loss of our mother.

A special thanks to Sorrentino's for their generosity.

It was very comforting knowing how much our mother was loved and will be missed.

And thank you for respecting her request for a private service. If anyone wishes, donations may be sent to Hospice.