

Deaths

William A. Lang Dies, Had Courier Ties

William A. Lang, who died Nov. 8, 1976, was a mainstay of the Courier-Journal years ago, and a publicist for many diocesan enterprises, according to Msgr. Patrick J. Flynn.

"And he was a man who went to Mass and Holy Communion every day of his life," Msgr. Flynn reported.

Mr. Lang passed away in his Highland Parkway home on Monday morning, Nov. 8, at the age of 68. "He was waiting for his daughter to go to Mass with him. She found him slumped in a chair," Msgr. Flynn said.

The St. Helen's pastor was editor of the Courier-Journal for 15 years. "Bill taught me everything I know about it," he said. "When I went there in 1943, well, I could write a news story, but I knew nothing about makeup or type, as you have to know on a paper that size. He knew all these things. He was an old Hearst man. He worked at the Courier a lot, in a kind of unofficial way in my time. He was then deputy public safety commissioner."

Thomas H. O'Connor of Veldar Park remembers an earlier time.

"I gave him his first job — sports writing for the old Echo — when he was a student at Cathedral High. He was gifted. He was considered one of the best newspapermen in Rochester 40 years ago. I think he got his start handling bowling scores at St. Michael's."

Mr. O'Connor, who is nearing his 83rd birthday, made the Catholic press his life work. He retired from the Courier in 1968, after about 45 years in the news department.

Mr. Lang worked for the Journal American, a Hearst paper, and later for the Gannett Company, O'Connor said.

"He brought professional expertise to the Courier and other things."

For instance, the former news editor continued, "when the appointment of Bishop Kearney was announced in 1937, Bill was able to give us a story I remember that he told us about the bishops' interest in poetry. He had met him Detroit, at Cardinal Mooney's installation. The Times-Union sent Bill to that, so we took advantage of their coverage."

Mr. Lang's funeral was held Nov. 10 at Our Lady of Victory-St. Joseph's. "Probably there, O'Connor observed, "because he always took part in the novenas at St. Joseph's."

People have known of William Lang in the past two decades as a president of Rochester Transit and of Rochester Community Baseball, and since 1970, as publicist for the Automobile Club.

"But they've lost track of his newspaper days," O'Connor observed.

One of Msgr. Flynn's happy memories is of the day this weekly

Knights Host Jamboree

The Knights of Columbus Trinity Council will hold its second annual Country and Western Jamboree on Sunday, Nov. 21, starting at 2 p.m. in the Webster Columbus Center.

Knights Bill Lochner and Ken Blind will join WNYR deejay Bob Kirby to announce ten hours of continuous entertainment featuring New County, Playboys, Good Time Band, Black Velvet, the Ray Fosdick Band and others.

Reservations will be received.

Max Strassner

Max R. Strassner, a Rochesterian associated with early developments in the automobile industry, died Nov. 11, 1976, in St. Ann's Home. He was 88 years old.

The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated last Saturday at Holy Family Church, with burial in Holy Ghost Cemetery.

Mr. Strassner, lately of Lisbon Street, worked with the old Northeast Electric Company early in the century when it was experimenting with the production of automobile starters. He helped install the first demonstration models here. The firm was acquired by General Motors and became the Delco Products Division. Mr. Strassner stayed with it and was among the first employees of the Rochester Products Division when it was opened in 1939. He retired in 1953, after a total of 39 years in production material inventory control. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He was the father of Sister Mary Denise, S.S.J. Other survivors are two sons, Frederick and Maxwell, a granddaughter, Diane, and a brother, Howard Strassner.

paper scooped the dailies, I think."

On the April morning after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1945, Courier subscribers got the story in the morning mail, before they had seen the Times-Union extra. It was a complicated matter of "borrowed" news service copy, of throwing out the Page One that already was rolling, putting the typographers back on the job, having a new plate cast.

"When the radio reported the president's death early in the evening, Bill called me at home and said 'Let's do something,' the former editor recalled. "We're on the press!" I objected, and he replied, "I can stop the press," and he did."

Mr. Lang's survivors are a daughter, Joanne, a son, Dr. Daniel W. Lang of Boston, two brothers, Anthony and Frederick Lang, two grandsons and several nieces and nephews.

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COMMUNAL ANOINTING

A communal anointing of the sick and elderly will take place at Saint Margaret Mary Church during a Mass at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, Nov. 21.

The sacrament will be administered according to the new rite to sick and elderly parishioners and neighbors. A number of guest priests, doctors and nurses will join the parish staff for the special liturgy.

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