Joseph Argen, One-Man Polio Drive, Dies After Heart Attack in Syracuse

JOSEPH ARGEN

Joseph Argen, Utica's "one-man March of Dimes," died in his sleep, Feb. 26, 1959, in St. Joseph's Hospital, Syracuse.

Death came at 3 a. m., following a heart attack at 2, hospital officials reported. Argen, who was 66, had been operated on Monday for correction of a coronary valve defect.

A pioneer in the public address systems business in Utica, Argen's voice was known to thousands of residents here. He was a Purple Heart veteran of World War I. A former lightweight boxer and all-around athlete, he retained his interest in sports as a boxing and wrestling inspector for the State Athletic Commission.

He was long known for an active part he took as a volunteer street corner solicitor for the March of Dimes. He would take his stand near the Busy Corner for three or four days during each polio drive, with a large milk can and a microphone as his only props.

In 13 years of such soliciting, he collected more than $20,000, with a single-day record of $700.

Argen was born in Danby, Vt., Nov. 18, 1892, a son of the late Carlo and Bernadetta Steppello Acierno. The family moved to this area when he was a youth, and he attended Manlius School for a time.

He later attended Norwich High School, where he starred in baseball, basketball and football.

Before World War I, he compiled a winning record as a lightweight boxer, beginning his professional career in Maennerchor Hall.

Enlisting in the Army in 1917, he went to France with Company K, 310th Infantry. He later shifted to a machine gun company. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

After his return to Utica, he was a cigar and tobacco salesman for many years for Allies & Fisher, Boston, covering the Central New York area.

He began his sound systems business in the early 1930s and has since provided such service at thousands of sporting events and other gatherings. He also operated a mobile sound system for advertising.

He also had conducted the concession stands at Murnane Field and at the Parkway skating rink.

Argen married Irene Blakeney of Norwich in that city in 1920.

He was a member of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church; Utica Council 189, Knights of Columbus; Pardi Post, Italian-American World War Veterans, of which he was a past commander; the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Disabled American Veterans, Order of the Purple Heart; Fort Schuyler Post, American Legion, Utica Chamber of Commerce, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Comity Club, Utica Sports Boosters, Loyal Order of Moose, Izaak Walton League, Manlius "Old Boys" Assn., Sons of Italy and Local 182, Teamsters Union, and Sante Fe Caravan 40, Order of the Alhambra.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Carl J., Utica, and William B., New York Mills; two brothers, Rocco and Ralph, both of Utica; two sisters, Mrs. Vincent Bonomo, Utica, and Mrs. Anna Cupolo, Rochester; two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral wil be at 8:15 Monday morning from the Scala Funeral Home with a solemn requiem high Mass at 9 from St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.

Ritualistic services will be held, at the funeral home by Adrean-Smith DSC Post 368, Veterans of Foreign Wars, at 7:30 Sunday. The Knights of Columbus will hold services at 8:15.

PETER B. WALDBURGER

Peter Bernhardt Waldburger, of 11 Prospect St., died Feb. 26, 1959, in St. Elizabeth Hospital after an illness of six weeks.

He was born in Switzerland, Oct. 7, 1895, son of the late Conrad and Hedwig Lobeck Waldburger.

He attended the agricultural college at Zurich. He came to this country in 1920 and settled at Chatham, N. Y. for a year. In 1921 he bought his owo farm at Waterville.

In 1946, he sold his farm and moved to Utica. Since then he has been a rose grower for Baker Florists.

He was married to Mary Manser in 1920 in Chatham.

He attended the Presbyterian Church in Waterville and was a former member of the Odd Fellows there.

At one time he was county committeeman in the Town of Sangerfield, and a former member of the Waterville School Board.

Mr. Waldburger is survived by his wife, two daughters, Mrs. Donald Pryor, Clinton, and Mrs. Thomas Hyde, New Hartford; a brother, Ernest Waldburger, Douglaston, L. I., seven grandchildren and three nephews.

In World War I, he was an officer in the Swiss Cavalry.

The funeral will be at 2:30 Sunday from the Heintz Funeral Home, Clinton, with the Rev. W. Graham Smith, officiating. Burial will be in Crown Hill Memorial Park.

Wm. Mathews, Operated Store

The fuoeral was held yesterday for a former Chadwicks resident, William Mathews, at Phoenix, Ariz.

Mr. Mathews died Feb. 19, 1959, as the result of a cave-in at Kirkland Junction, near Phoenix, where he and another man were prospecting for gold. He moved to Phoenix about a year ago.

Before moving to Phoenix, Mr. Mathews had operated the Chadwicks Hardware Store.

He leaves his widow, Mrs. Reba Mathews; a daughter, Mrs. Jane Quackenbush of Torrence, Calif.; a son, William R. Mathews of Phoenix; a sister, Mrs. Blanche Loomis of Utica; two brothers, Horatio of Chadwicks, Earl of Salisbury.

Burial was in a Phoenix cemetery.

Other Obituaries, Pages 16 and 21

W. G. Pierce, Utica Real Estate Broker

WILLIAM G. PIERCE

William G. Pierce, 71, of 1563 Kemble St., Utica real estate broker, died Feb. 25, 1959, in St. Elizabeth Hospital after a brief illness. He would have been 72 yesterday.

Mr. Pierce had conducted the William G. Pierce Co. since 1920. His firm also dealt in insurance.

He was born Feb. 26, 1887, in West Pawlet, Vt., son of Griffith and Margaret Williams Pierce and was educated in Vermont schools. He was graduated from the Granville High School and the Albany Business College.

He married Lillian Mira Palmer in Sherrill Aug. 8, 1914.

Mr. Pierce was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. He was also a member of Liberty Lodge 959, F&AM, and the Utica Real Estate Board.

Besides his wife, he leaves three nephews, Charles W. Moyer and Francis W. Palmer, both of Utica; Robert B. Palmer, Cleveland, Ohio.

The funeral will be at 2 tomorrow from the First Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Ray H. Kiely, D. D., pastor of First Presbyterian Church, officiating. Burial will be in the Sauquoit Valley Cemetery.

Members of Liberty Lodge 959, F&AM, will conduct ritualistic services at 7:30 tonight in the Williams Funeral Home.

Funerals

Tobin—Walter Tobin, 203 Lafayette St. Saturday from the Entwistle Funeral Home, 907 Third Ave. and from St. John's Church where a requiem high Mass was offered at 9. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. [illegible] Burial was in Calvary Cemetery with absolution by the Rev. William Donovan.

[illegible] Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

[illegible] Burial

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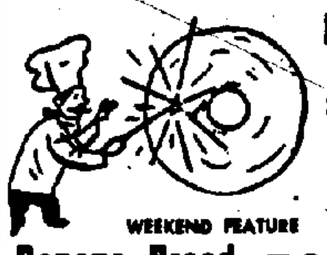

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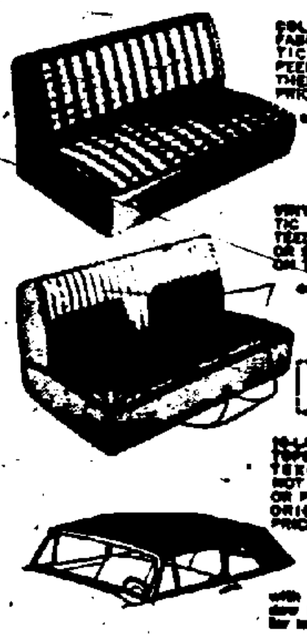

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