

Harry J. Will named Layman of the Year

Harry J. Will, funeral home director active with Lutheran churches and causes throughout his life, will be honored as Lutheran Layman of the Year by the Lutheran Luncheon Club Tuesday, March 6.

Making the award for the 25th year, the club will note Will's many accomplishments and services at a testimonial dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the German-American Cultural Center, 5251 E. Outer Drive, Detroit.

Will, a resident of Farmington Hills since 1968, took over a mortuary business started by Henry C. Schatz 75 years ago and now has funeral homes in Redford Township and Livonia.

He and his family are active members of Grace Lutheran Church of Redford Township.

His pastor there, the Rev. Victor Halbois, was quick to applaud the decision that will bestow the top honor on Will shortly after he returns from a Florida vacation.

"Harry and his entire family are very devout Christian people," the pastor said.

"They all are very active in our parish and give of their time and talents to a large extent. He is most deserving of this honor. He has many friends in the community."

HELPING PAY tribute to Will on his big evening will be the Rev. Wallace R. Schultz, associate speaker for the denomination's radio program, the Lutheran Hour, and the 50-voice Detroit Lutheran Singers, directed by Eric Freidigman.

Those interested in attending the dinner may order tickets at \$12.50 per person by contacting the Lutheran Center, 1557 Harper, Detroit 37-3840. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Lutheran Luncheon Club.

Will was born in 1915 in Detroit and baptized in Bethel Lutheran Church.

Later a member of Peace Lutheran Church of Detroit, he was married there in 1941 to Virginia Heineman.

Will was licensed by the state of Michigan as a funeral director and embalmer in 1937.

He joined the staff of the Schatz Funeral Home, located on Livernois near Michigan in Detroit, after receiving his license and when Schatz retired he was invited to buy the firm.

Later the firm moved north and west and the name was changed to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES have always been an important part of Will's life.

While he and his family attended Zion Church in Detroit, he became ac-

tive in the local Lutheran Laymen's League, the Lutheran Fraternities of America and his church's Men's Club. He also was chairman of the congregation and an active participant in a campaign to raise funds for a new school building at Zion.

He also has been a strong supporter of Lutheran High West, serving on the school board and taking active roles in fundraising for athletic and band programs.

In other church-related endeavors, he served on the early board of directors for Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Cemetery and in 1973 headed a drive that raised more than \$1-million for renovation of the Lutheran School for the Deaf.

At Grace Church, Will has been vice-chairman of the congregation and currently is a councilman-at-large. He

played an active role in helping the congregation raise funds for a new organ.

Will also offered support to his denomination when he invited members of a new Missouri Synod church, Christ Our Savior, to worship in his building until it was ready to build its own sanctuary at Farmington Road and Schoolcraft in Livonia.

The Will family's most recent charitable contribution came late last year when the funeral home noted its 75th anniversary. Dr. Oswald Hoffman, famous preacher on the Lutheran Radio Hour, came to Grace Church to help in the celebration, and a special collection netted \$5,000 to take that program to Taiwan.

Will's family supplemented the fund, so that the operation in Taiwan can run for an entire year.



Harry J. Will, funeral home owner and prominent churchman, has been named Layman of the Year by the Lutheran Luncheon Club.

Bach, opera share Sunday music bill

For the second year, Oakway Symphony Orchestra's and Birmingham Musicals' combined talents will fill out a program of Bach's Concerto in E Minor for Hargischord and Puccini's one-act opera "Sour Angelica" on Sunday, March 4 at 4 p.m. at Seaholm High School in Birmingham.

Featured in the opening portion of the program is Martha Welton performing on a hargischord built by her husband, A. Roger Welch, director of bands at Pontiac Northern High School. She will perform the Bach concerto.

Mrs. Welton is active with the Birmingham and Royal Oak Musicals, the Village Players and the Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. She teaches piano and appears frequently as musical director and accompanist throughout the Detroit area.

The second half of the performance will feature Francisco DiBlasi and the Oakway Symphony Orchestra and Birmingham Musicals' Opera Ensemble under the direction of Alice Engram, in a performance of "Sour Angelica." The one-act opera will be sung in English.

The title role will be performed by Marilyn Hedquist, and the role of the princess by Arlene Koeng.

Mrs. Hedquist is a graduate of Oakland University. Having taught vocal music in Southfield, she is associated with Mike Whorf of WJR radio in the presentation of live Kaleidoscope Presentations.

Mrs. Hoenig, mezzo soprano, is a Birmingham resident and voice instructor at Oakland University. She has appeared in Sousa's "El Capitán" as Dick Shawn's wife. She toured with the Michigan Opera Theatre in Menotti's "Medea" and appeared in many roles for the Birmingham Musicals in addition to radio and television work.

Engram has sung with the New York City Opera, Philadelphia Civic Opera and has directed opera and Broadway musicals in the area for several years. Tickets will be available at the door. General admission is \$5 student and senior tickets \$2. Tickets can also be bought at Hudson's Notland, Westland and Oakland, Royal Music in Royal Oak, Madonna College and Hammel Music in Livonia.

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