

obituaries

LULU W. DUKE
Miss Duke, 91, of Farmington died Oct. 31.
Born in St. Johns, New Brunswick, Canada, Mrs. Duke was a retired secretary for Duke Building and Real Estate.

Survivors include members of the Duke, Ling and McDonald families.
Services were Nov. 3 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Richard Parrott of First Church of the Nazarene officiating. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley.

EDWARD BENJAMIN LASSILA
Mr. Lassila, 53, of Farmington Hills died Nov. 4 in Henry Ford Hospital.
Mr. Lassila was an engineer for Ford Motor Co.

Survivors include his wife, Eva; son, Edward Eric; daughters, Marilyn MacLean, Sharon Evans and Carol Anne; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lassila; brother, Arthur; sister, Elizabeth Pinner; two granddaughters.
Services were Nov. 7 at Antioch Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Gary Johnson officiating. Burial was in Lake View Cemetery, Calumet, Mich.

LILLIAN HUME PILS
Mrs. Pils, 90, of Ossining, N.Y., died Nov. 5.
Born in Liverpool, England, Mrs. Pils was retired from McGraw Hill.
Survivors include her sister, Elsie Mombler; several nieces and nephews.
Burial was in Daley Cemetery, New York.

DOROTHY U. NIVISON
Mrs. Nivison, 73, of Farmington died Nov. 7 in Westland Convalescent Center.
Mrs. Nivison joined the staff of Boisford General Hospital at the time the hospital opened and advanced to the position of assistant executive housekeeper. She retired in 1978.

Survivors include her son, David; daughters, Barbara Schneider and Mary Najjar; brothers, Jack, William and Richard Marsh; sisters, Ruth Heidelberger and Hope Jesse; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.
Services were Nov. 10 at the Wilkie Funeral Home, Detroit. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

Cohn, civic leader, dies

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

The metropolitan Detroit area lost one of its most venerated citizens when Irwin Cohn, 88, of West Bloomfield died Nov. 10.

Best known for his many charitable gifts, Cohn was a member of the Detroit law firm Houtgman, Miller, Schwartz & Cohn. During an interview with The Observer & Eccentric last year he said, "I was interested in real estate, business and law."

He never retired from any of those interests, but always found time to go fishing on Pine Lake in West Bloomfield where he first made his home in 1931.

He once climbed over a fence to go fishing at another lake, and upon catching a four-pound bass, decided to buy the lake. "How did I know 30 years later it would be worth a million?" he joked.

Honored for his contributions to West Bloomfield and other communities, the energetic, enthusiastic man and his wife Sadie dedicated a forest of nearly 14,000 trees to be planted in Israel in 1969.

BORN in Detroit of Lithuanian parents, he told of first seeing Sadie across a room more than 60 years ago. "I told a friend I was going to marry her. I

met her the next day and proposed two weeks later," he said.

Founder of Great Scott supermarkets, formerly Wrigley's, Cohn ascribed much of his success to luck. "People who think they're smart because they're successful are full of hops. Without the element of luck, you're not worth a dime. I call it common sense, not brains."

The Cohn home on Pine Lake is filled with awards and commendations. But he spoke mostly of his pride in his children: his son, Federal District Court Judge Avram Cohn, and his daughter, Rita Hadrow. Also surviving besides his wife are nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A FOUNDER of Sinai Hospital in Detroit and a Livonia Hebrew school, Cohn said he believed in being a good neighbor to all regardless of race, creed or color.

Former president of the Detroit Urban League, a black organization, Cohn didn't wait to be asked. When he saw a need, he volunteered his help.

He gave the land for the old West Bloomfield main library building on Orchard Lake Road and funded the high school radio station.
Cohn died at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. Services were held in Southfield Monday and burial was in Clover Hill Cemetery in Birmingham.



Irwin Cohn community leader

A GRADUATE of the University of Michigan, he lectured there and at University of Detroit, Wayne University and Lawrence Institute of Technology. "I lectured, not from books, but from experience."

Cohn also served as a Detroit House of Correction commissioner, Detroit Planning Commission chairman, Lubavitch Foundation of Michigan and Allied Jewish campaign chairman.

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