

Veteran salesman had many interests

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER

If Rex E. Hatt took a quiet, professional approach to his job in advertising sales, it was probably because he was so passionate about outside interests ranging from politics to classical music, clients and co-workers said Saturday.

Mr. Hatt, a Farmington Hills resident and longtime sales representative for the Observer & Eclectic Newspapers, died Friday in Ann Arbor after a long illness. He was 67.

Visitation is 6-7 p.m. Tuesday with a memorial service to follow at the Schrader Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth.

"He seemed like a quiet man on the outside, but it didn't take a lot to provoke him into a good political discussion," said Peg Kneocap, who worked with Hatt at the O&E in Livonia.

"People knew they could get him talking if they just took the opposite viewpoint."

Jack Padley, classified advertising manager, said Mr. Hatt had a natural gift for sales work and was "a very enjoyable man to work with."

In nearly 20 years with the

newspapers, Mr. Hatt sold retail advertising in Redford, Livonia and Plymouth.

He retired last August. Clients found him easy to work with and a consummate professional.

"As a businessman, people like Rex Hatt are few and far between," said Tom Lackie, vice president of Bergstrom's Plumbing and Heating.

A Detroit-area native, Mr. Hatt came to the O&E in the early 1970s after a stint at a Houston newspaper. He also worked in the circulation department of the Detroit Times, which folded in 1960.

He attended the University of Southern California and served in the Army during World War II.

A lifelong lover of classical music and the fine arts, Mr. Hatt served as general manager of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and continued to write program notes for the orchestra after leaving that job several years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane; and a daughter, Cheryl (Mark) Halpin of Detroit.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

MICHAEL JOHN STEBBINS
Mr. Stebbins, 52, of Farmington Hills died Nov. 9 in William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. Born in Detroit, Mr. Stebbins for the past 27 years worked at Channel 50 as the engineering supervisor-camera man and documentarian. He was a photographer for WJIM-TV in Lansing prior to Channel 50. He was a member of the Detroit Metro News Photographers Association and a Navy veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Carol; sons, Alan and Kevin; daughter, Kimra McKinnon; mother, Marion Vaughan; sister, Susan Mignone.

Services were Nov. 14 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Edward King of St. Luke Episcopal Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Michigan Cancer Foundation or Hospice of Southeast Michigan.

ANNA (ANN) E. VALUTIS
Mrs. Valutis, 77, of Royal Oak, formerly of Farmington, died Nov. 10.

Born in New York, N.Y., Mrs.

Valutis was a retired manager of Merri-Bowl Lanes. She was a member of the Farmington Elks.

Survivors include her husband, Tony; sons, Ronald and Ernest; daughter, Kay; brother, William Welden; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were Nov. 14 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Nicholas Herbatas of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church officiating. Cremation was at Evergreen Crematory, Detroit.

Memorials may be made to the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

ANNA EILEEN BURTON
Mrs. Burton, 92, of Farmington died Nov. 11 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Markdale, Ontario, Canada, Mrs. Burton was a homemaker.

Survivors include her son, Leo; daughter, Della Weber; sisters, Selma, Agnes and Della; brother, Edward; 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Services were at the O'Brien Chapel/Ted S. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi, with the Rev. Richard Elmer officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

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Laurel Park Place

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6:30 P.M.

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Keepsake Photos with Santa in the North Court Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
(November 20th: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and December 24th: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Holiday Hours Beginning November 27th: Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
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