

WALTER JOSEPH CAMPAU
(1918-2001)

Pennant No. A-1520



Walt Campau was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 14, 1918, the youngest of six children. He was a direct descendant of Joseph Campau, after whom the well-known street in Detroit & Hamtramack was named. Walt attended and graduated from old St. Joseph High School in 1936.

During World War II, Walt joined the U.S. Army as a member of the Signal Corps in the Pacific. He had a role in the establishment of a provisional government in Korea for which he received a letter of thanks from the government.

After discharge from the U.S. Army, Walt attended college at the University of Detroit. He graduated in 1952 with a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering. His working career included a stint as a clerk at Detroit Traffic Court and for a time ran his own radio repair business. He also worked for Long Manufacturing, Swedish Crucible Steel, Ford Motor Company, and eventually Chrysler Corporation, where he spent the major portion of his working career. He spent ten years at Chrysler's Indianapolis facility and then another ten years at Chrysler's Highland Park location, where he retired in 1980.

Walt married the former Dorothy Trepte at St. David's Catholic Church on Detroit's eastside on August 28, 1949, and had recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. They had one daughter, Judith Ann, who married Michael Jagenow in 1974. They gave Walt and Dorothy two grandchildren, Michael Walter and Stephanie Ann.

Walt had many interests which he nurtured during his very active retirement years - camping, fishing, hunting, reading, bowling, and travelling, especially to annual gatherings of his two favorite organizations, the Michigan Historical Society and the International Shipmasters' Association. His travels included the length of the Alaskan Highway, cruises on numerous inland and east coast waterways and many places off the beaten path.

Walt was a member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 for 25 years, having joined the lodge in March, 1976. He was assigned pennant number A-1520. After his retirement in 1980, he and his wife Dorothy were a well-known couple at ISMA gatherings, attending ISMA Conventions and the annual lodge dinner dances in Port Huron and Detroit virtually without fail.

Walt passed away suddenly on March 15, 2001 while bowling with his St. Joan of Arc bowling team. His cheerful and sunny disposition will be sorely missed by the lodge. We will remember with fondness Walt's ready smile and kind manner with everyone he came in contact with. He was a gentleman of the highest caliber.

To: Members of Detroit Lodge No. 7

I regret to inform you that long-time Lodge Member Walter J. Campau suffered an apparent heart attack and passed away very suddenly this past Thursday, March 15, 2001.

Walt, who was retired from Chrysler Corporation, was a member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 for 25 years, having joined in March of 1976. He and his wife Dorothy were active in many of the activities of our lodge, and attended many ISMA conventions over the years. We will miss seeing him at our lodge meetings.

Funeral arrangements are very abbreviated. There will be a brief visitation at 11:15 am Monday, March 19, with Mass to follow at 11:45 am, at the St. Joan of Arc Church, 22412 Overlake St. (at Mack Ave., 2 blocks north of 8 Mile Road) in St. Clair Shores.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to a charity of your choice.

Condolences may be sent to Dorothy at 1462 Hollywood; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1308.

Fraternally,

Paul M. Jagenow
Secretary-Treasurer
Detroit Lodge No. 7



Walt Campau at the 1977 ISMA Convention in Dearborn



Dorothy & Walt Campau at the 97th Annual Lodge Dinner Dance in 1988
Bayview Yacht Club