

# *William Edward Carroll*



WAKEFIELD, Mich. — William Edward Carroll, 80, a resident of Wakefield, died Friday afternoon, June 11, 2004, at Gogebic Medical Care Facility of Wakefield.

He was born on May 9, 1924, in Wakefield, the son of the late William E. and Amanda M. (Saarikoski) Carroll. Bill was a 1942 graduate of Wakefield High School.

He was drafted in 1942, in the first 18-year-old draft. He served in the 509th Composite (Atomic) Bomb Group that carried out the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He received an honorable discharge in 1946.

On May 21, 1949, Bill was united in marriage with the former Rauha S. Maki in Wakefield. She preceded him in death on June 17, 1984.

Bill was a 1951 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a bachelor's degree in political science. He continued his education and received a master's degree in administration and economics from Michigan State University, and did graduate work at the University of Minnesota.



Bill was a very active member of the Finnish community, and supported the cultural arts of his heritage. He was a member of All Saints Lutheran Church in Wakefield, Wakefield American Legion Post 11, Wakefield Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9084, and the Wakefield Historical Society. He also was a member of the UW alumni, director of the National Finnish American Festival Board, member of the Irish-American Partnership Committee, Salvation Army and the Mediation Board, both in Ironwood, Mich., member of the Musicians Union Local 30 in the Twin Cities, member of the board of directors for

United Way, and was chairman of the Martti Talvela Scholarship at Finlandia University in Hancock, Mich. Bill helped organize the Silver Street Preservation Band in Hurley, Wis., was a national member of the American Federation of Teachers, chairman of the Miners Memorial Fund for the miners that died in the mines of Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, and was a former member of the Wisconsin Arts Board, and the Michigan Public School Employees Fund Board.

Bill spent his first two years teaching at Crivitz, Wis., and Middleton, a suburb of Madison, before spending eight fruitful years with the Bessemer, Mich., School System under E.J. Oas. One of Bill's sweetest memories at Bessemer was serving as debate coach.



After his Bessemer hitch, Bill took a swim in political waters, and worked for Democratic Congressman Ray Clevenger. He was always more than willing to share his Democratic views and beliefs. He worked tirelessly for many Democratic



candidates and was a firm supporter of the working man. His knowledge base was a resource for many, and his door was open to anyone who needed help.

A job as Gogebic County Superintendent of Schools followed before he went to teach political science for seven years at Northland College in Ashland, Wis., where he came under the influence of Dr. Dailey. He followed that with 14 years at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, Wis., where he taught American government, English and economics.

His passions were books and music, and his interests were diverse. He especially loved jazz and classical music. His home was filled with music and books.

Survivors include his companion, Julie Abramson of Wakefield; son, John (Evelyn) of Eau Claire; a daughter, Susanna Carroll of Richfield, Minn.; five grandchildren, Christopher Hogan of Cornucopia, Wis., Erika (Frank) Pearson of Superior, Wis., Kate Hogan, Joanna Hogan and Adrianna Hogan, all of Richfield, Minn.; great-grandchildren, Louis, Dominic and Mary Pearson; cousins, Martha Nurmi, Lila Nieminen, Karen Reynolds, Harriet Harris, Margaret Dale, Dorothy Hall, Maxine Naslund and Jim and Al Santarone.

His grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the joy of his life.

Besides his parents and wife, Bill was preceded in death by a brother, Michael, in infancy.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 15, at All Saints Lutheran Church, 1202 Putnam Blvd., Wakefield, with Rev. Joyce M. Heintz officiating. Interment will follow at Lakeside Cemetery in Wakefield, where full military rites and a flag presentation will be conducted by Wakefield American Legion and Wakefield VFW.

A visitation before the service will be held at 10 a.m. at the church, with an honor guard beginning at 10:15 a.m.

Casket-bearers will be Christopher Hogan, Carl Kinnunen, Norman Hongisto, Ossi Laitamaki, Eero Haukkala and Frank Pearson.

Memorial contributions may be made to Finlandia University, 601 Quincy St., Hancock, MI 49930, or the National Finnish American Festival, Inc., (Little Finland), P.O. Box 352, Hurley, WI 54534.

Arrangements are with Lakeside Memorial Chapel Inc., Wakefield, Mich.

