

RICHARD B. EBERLEIN

1914 - 1995

Richard B. Eberlein, 81, Sebawaing native and longtime businessman, retired, died early Saturday, Sept. 2, at Scheurer Hospital Extended Care Wing, Pigeon, following a lengthy illness.

He was born Sept. 1, 1914, in Sebawaing, the son of August Charles and Christina (Ellwanger) Eberlein. He attended Immanuel Lutheran School for eight years, and was confirmed in Immanuel Church in 1929. He was graduated from Sebawaing High School, Class of 1933, and worked in his father's Rexall Drug Store.

He opened Dick's Cigar Store on Center Street, Sebawaing, in 1938, and was in business until his retirement in 1975. During those years he made daily trips to Sebawaing factories and businesses, selling snacks, candies, ice cream and tobacco products. His customer-friends combined their efforts and constructed a three-wheel cycle with attached cooler-chest to handle a larger stock of supplies for the customers who looked forward to his regular calls.

Because the cold Michigan weather affected his ability to pedal his cycle and walk, he retired in 1975 and moved to Florida. During most of those 13 years, he returned to Sebawaing for several weeks during the summer, when he resided with his sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Fred Pommerenke. In October, 1988, he returned to Michigan for fulltime residence and moved to the Scheurer Wing at Pigeon, where he remained until his death.

While physically-able he was active in church and civic organizations. He was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, FL, and Lutheran Laymen's League. One of his main interests was attending the annual LLL fall rally at Camp Lu-Lay-Lee, where he was elected regularly to various honorary offices. He was active in Rotary Club of Sebawaing and of Gulf Beaches, Treasure Island, FL. He was a Paul Harris Rotary Fellow.

His special strength was his ability to meet people and make friends, for which he became well-known in the communities and cities where he resided. His personality and joviality were his hallmark.

Surviving are his brother and sister-in-law, Clayton and LeEtta Eberlein, and his sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Fred Pommerenke, all of Sebawaing, and a number of nieces and nephews.