

## **Soini, Paul**

Paul David Soini, 93, former resident of Bad Axe and Port Huron, died Saturday, Feb. 12, 2000, at Cresmont Nursing Home in Fenton. He was born May 24, 1906, in New York City, N.Y. He went with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Soini, to Port Huron, where he spent his boyhood and graduated in 1923 at Port Huron High School. He became a copy boy with the Port Huron Times Herald on Jan. 24, 1924, where he worked for 47 years. He started as a reporter in November 1924. He was assigned in September 1925 to Bad Axe as Huron County Staff Correspondent, a position he held until he retired on June 1, 1971, the first of the month after his 65th birthday. From April 1944 to August 1946, he served as state, city, telegraph and Sunday editor of the Times Herald. He also wrote a column, "Huron Happenings," of persons and events in the Thumb and also of travels from September 1948 to September 1987. He was a lifelong Methodist, dating back to when the church was Methodist Episcopal to its present name of United Methodist. He served for five years, from 1956 to 1961, as chairman of the official board. He also was chairman of the pastoral relations committee for two years and chairman of the centennial committee in 1981. He was active for many years on the Crippled Children Society from 1963 to 1968. He was president of the Michigan Society for Crippled Children and Adults from 1963 to 1965 and of the Thumb Society from 1966 to 1970. He was a director of the Michigan Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association from 1968 to 1973. He was chairman of the Huron County Building Authority from 1965 to 1986, during which time it constructed the Huron County Building, 1958 to 1965, the Third Floor addition to the Huron County Medical Care Facility, 1977 to 1978, and the Public Health Building 1986. He was Chairman of the Board of Huron County Mental Health Services from 1971 to 1986. He was a life member of the Verona Masonic Lodge No. 365, Bad Axe, since 1928, where he was a member for 70 years where he was worshipful master in 1935. He also was a member since 1984 of Hi-12 Club of New Port Richey, Fla. He was one of the members of the Board of Directors of Catholic Family Services of Bad Axe when it started in 1952. He served as president of the Board during 1964, the first Protestant to hold such a position. There have been many throughout the United States since that time. He was one of the incorporators of the Huron County Historical Society when it was established in 1966, and has been active since then and is a life member of the society. He married Frances Moore on Aug. 18, 1928, in Bad Axe. She preceded him in death on Sept. 12, 1991. Surviving are his son, William A. Soini and his wife, Carol, of Linden; a daughter, Alice Gibson and her husband, Ramon, of Jefferson, Iowa; two grandsons, Brian Gibson and his wife, Barbara, of Rochester, N.Y., and Christopher Gibson and his wife, Valarie, of Madrid, Iowa; five great-grandchildren, Stephany Gibson, Mitchell Gibson, Jacob Gibson, Nicholas Gibson and Derek Gibson; two brothers, Aino (Cap) Soini and Frederick (Sam) Soini, both of Port Huron; four sisters, Aila Germain of Howard City, Helen Soini of San Mateo, Calif., Elsie Teahan of Port Huron and Esther O'Sullivan and her husband, John, of Port Huron; and several nieces and nephews. In keeping with the wishes of the family there will be no visitation or funeral service at this time. A memorial service will take place in the spring. Burial will take place at Colfax Mausoleum, Bad Axe. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Bad Axe or to Huron Memorial Hospice in Bad Axe and mailed to MacAlpine Funeral Home, 302 N. Hanselman, Bad Axe MI 48413.