

Sebewaing's 'Mr. Music' succumbs at age 92



ALFRED E. SCHEIWE 1902 - 1994

Alfred E. Scheiwe, Sebewaing's "Mr. Music" who treated Thumb music audiences for nearly three-quarters of a century, died Sunday evening in Bay Medical Center, Bay City, at the age of 92, following a brief illness.

He came to Sebewaing as a teacher in Immanuel Lutheran School in 1922 and never diluted his love for the community or his enthusiasm for his church and its parishioners. A gifted organist and musician, he played for his last church service just two years ago, at the age of 90.

He was born June 2, 1902, in Cissna Park, IL, the son of Henry and Henrietta (Kuhlman) Scheiwe.

Following graduation from Concordia Teacher's College in 1922, he was called to teach at Immanuel School in Sebewaing where his assignment included Grades 2 and 3 with a total of 68 students.

During his years, Mr. Scheiwe was the organizer of these original groups at Immanuel—Walter League, adult and children's choirs, school band, bell choirs, marimba bands and various instrumental groups.

He organized the Sebewaing Junior Band and Sebewaing High School Band, and was director of Sebewaing Municipal Band for many years, when Friday night concerts in the park were among the summer's main attractions.

For many years he directed plays, pageants, musicals and skits—many of which he also wrote—for church, school and community events.

He was principal of Immanuel School for 18 years and was also a teacher for 50 years until his retirement from fulltime teaching in 1972. He continued as assistant director of music until recently.

Mr. Scheiwe served as church organist and director of music in the church most of his career and composed scores of musical arrangements. He was music teacher and piano and organ instructor for many years, and his students numbered in the hundreds, with dozens entering into a musical profession. His organ students continue to provide churches with organists in many parts of Michigan and beyond.

Throughout the years, Mr. Scheiwe received many awards from the community and the church. A carillon bell tower was erected in Downtown Sebewaing in commemoration of his position as "Mr. Music." The tower stands as the base for the Muellerweiss Park project which is being constructed now.

An A.E. Scheiwe Music Foundation with a local managing board, was organized and is operating to promote continuing music education for young people in the area.