

# Arthur Buffington

## Former Maumee Mayor Was Head Of Area Panel

Arthur W. Buffington, 66, of Bradenton, Fla., former mayor of Maumee who also had been chairman of the executive board of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, died yesterday in Blake Memorial Hospital, Bradenton, where he was taken after suffering an apparent heart attack in his home.

Mr. Buffington retired at the end of 1979 after 20 years in public office in Maumee; 8 years on council, including 2 as president of council and then 12 years as mayor.

Mr. Buffington had been named "Citizen of the Year" at the annual dinner of all service clubs in Maumee and also had been an honorary grand marshal of the community's annual Christmas parade during his final days in the mayor's chair in 1979.

Mr. Buffington remained active after moving to Florida in early 1980. This year, he had been serving as chairman of the Manatee County charter commission. Mr. Buffington used copies of the Maumee City Charter as a model in drafting the Florida community's first charter.

### President Of Condo Group

He also was president of the Palma Sola Harbor Condominium Association, directing operations of the subdivisions comprising 163 villa units. He had been president three years after having served one year as vice president.

Born in Toledo, Mr. Buffington had attended elementary school here then moved to El Paso, Tex., where he graduated from high school. He also attended the University of Toledo two years, studying business administration.

During World War II, he served on the staff of Admiral Chester Nimitz, Task Force 58, in Pearl Harbor, and also aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Bataan.

After the war, he was an executive of a farm implement firm in southern Ohio for three years and also served a two-year term on the village council in Carroll, O.

Mr. Buffington returned to the Toledo area in 1951 and was employed by the Central Ohio Paper Co. as an industrial sales engineer for 23 years, resigning when the company moved its operation to Detroit.

### Watched Maumee Grow

He then was sales manager at Maumee Valley Memorials, Waterville, until his retirement.

Mr. Buffington was interested in watching how Maumee added new land, new industry and new housing during his terms as mayor. He was proud of how Maumee established a reputation for living on its own resources with little federal or state assistance.

He cited the construction of St. Luke's Hospital as the greatest accomplishment during his time in office, because it was a cooperative venture involving the city and the hospital board. "St. Luke's has been a great asset to the city, not only in its services, but in bringing in jobs,"



— Blade Photo, 1979

### Arthur W. Buffington

he remarked at the time of his retirement.

The building of the Ford Motor Co., stamping plant and the development of the Arrowhead industrial subdivision also were sources of pride.

Mr. Buffington said his greatest regret was Maumee's failure to build its own water plant to replace the reliance on the Toledo water system.

### Historical Society President

Mr. Buffington had been on the executive committee of the council of governments 10 years and, in addition to his one term as chairman, served two years as vice chairman, two years as chairman of the law enforcement planning committee and also was on the land use and transportation planning panel.

Mr. Buffington was past president of the Maumee Valley Historical Society, and a member of the board of directors of St. Luke's Hospital and the Lucas County Safety Council and was a committee member of the Health Planning Association of Northwest Ohio.

He also was past vice commander of Toledo Post, American Legion; area governor and educational director of Toastmasters 1001, and chairman of the Toledo Zoological Society fund drive. He was a past president of the Maumee Chamber of Commerce, Exchange Club and Wayne Trail PTA.

### Held Church Boards' Posts

He had been president of the board of trustees of First Presbyterian Church, in Maumee, and also was on its boards of deacons and ruling elders.

A 32nd degree Mason, he was a member of the Scottish Rite, Northern Light Lodge, F&AM, Zenobia Shrine, and Zenobia Chanters.

Surviving are his wife, Bettie, former assistant branch manager of the First National Bank of Toledo, in Waterville, and later in Sylvania; son, Gary, and daughters, Mrs. Beth Zentgrebe and Mrs. Kathy Brian.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Maison-Dardenne Mortuary, Maumee, where the body will be after 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Masonic services will be at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in the mortuary.

The family requests that any tributes be in the form of contributions to First Presbyterian Church, Maumee, or the American Heart Fund.