

# Fire Chief Dies Doing Kindly Act

## Graves Decorated By Ralph Burdo Of Maumee Annually

Ralph Burdo, veteran Maumee fire chief, who for 40 years followed a custom of decorating graves of fellow lodge members every Memorial Day, collapsed and died Monday night while performing his annual service.

Chief Burdo became ill after leaving Springfield Township Cemetery on Airport Highway. Two companions, Elmer Easterwood and George Snyder, attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as they drove him to Maumee where a police first aid squad was summoned. He was dead on arrival at Maumee Valley Hospital.

### Dean of Area Chief's

Chief Burdo, 72, a native of Maumee, and a member of the Maumee fire department 54 years, had been chief for 32 years marking him the dean of fire chiefs in the Toledo area.

He had operated his own plumbing business 23 years, but retired in 1961 to become full-time fire chief, chief of the fire prevention bureau, and head fire and heating inspector for the city.

Chief Burdo's direction of the Maumee fire department, and its training program in particular, two years ago brought a special commendation from the Ohio Inspection Bureau when it approved a change in classification which resulted in reduced fire insurance rates for the city.

Chief Burdo served as an officer of many of the firefighter's organizations in this area. He was instrumental in drafting and promoting the first county-wide mutual aid pact in Ohio by which all fire departments in Lucas County can be joined together for emergency duty.

He served eight years as Maumee councilman in the 1920s and 1930s.

He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was past master for the Northern Light Lodge, F&AM, and was a 50-year member of the Maumee Lodge of the Odd Fellows, for whom he was decorating graves. He also belonged to the Rebekah Lodge.

He was a member of the International, Ohio, and Lucas County Associations of Fire Chiefs, Northwestern Ohio Firemen's Association, and Ohio-Michigan Firemen's Association.

### Anniversary Observed

He and his wife, the former Lila Wick, observed their 50th wedding anniversary in 1965.

Also surviving are his sons, Fred, of Maumee, and Richard, of Whitehouse; daughters, Virginia Burdo, Mrs. Thelma Sechler, Mrs. Naomi Bryant, and Mrs. Helen Womack, all of Maumee; Mrs. Lora Sherrouse, of Winter Park, Fla.; and Mrs. Marilyn Dean, of Perrysburg; sister, Bessie Burdo, of Maumee, 30 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

The body is in the Maison-Dardenne Mortuary, Maumee. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in St. Paul's Episcopal Church with burial in Riverside Cemetery.

The family requests that any tributes be in the form of contributions to St. Paul's Episcopal Church memorial fund or to the Heart Fund.